



Founded in 1899

ONEIDA MOUNTAINEER

Education for Time and Eternity

A bi-monthly newsletter of Oneida Baptist Institute

July/August 2008

All aboard our brand, new buses



In March three brand new school buses rolled onto our campus, largely courtesy of our generous supporters.

This is the first time OBI has bought new full-sized buses. Except for four new mini-buses purchased in 2000, we have always bought used buses. We tried to buy used mini-buses eight years ago, but were unable to find pre-owned ones of the quality we needed to transport our students. So at that time a dear friend of this ministry provided the funds for the purchase of four new 15-passenger buses.

For some time we had also seriously needed newer full-sized buses, but we were unable to find good used ones that met Kentucky safety standards. Bus driver trainer, **Tim Cochran**, explained: "For some time now our drivers have been Kentucky-certified, but our buses have not been. The bottom line was that we wanted Kentucky-certified buses."

Because OBI is a private school, we are not required to have state certification on our buses. Here in the eastern Kentucky mountains, however, our students often travel two or three hours one way to get to competitions and other off-campus events. That makes safe, reliable transportation a priority. The problem was that public schools generally keep their buses for 14 years, so relatively new ones were unavailable.

OBI president **Dr. W. F. Underwood** (OBI '63) knew that three new buses would cost approximately \$225,000. Oneida Baptist Institute seldom asks for monetary donations specifically, but Underwood decided to make an appeal in his 2007 holiday letter. "It is a rare event when we bring a request to our friends, but we are in a very special situation," he wrote. "...Since we rarely ask our friends to provide a gift to help with a special purchase or project, it is not easy for me to break with that tradition!" he continued. "The scriptures,

however, remind us that we are to make our needs known..."

As soon as we publicized our need, it wasn't long before donations began flowing in. At one point the business office called the print shop to ask, "What was in that Christmas letter? We're getting lots more donations than usual for this time of year!" Approximately \$125,000 came in to help us toward the purchase of the buses.

Most of the special funds came from individuals, but churches, missions groups and Bible study classes also contributed. "We could tell from their contribution history that these people gave way more than they usually give," Underwood noted.

Gifts ranged from the very small to the very large. Some gave \$5.00, while one donor sent \$10,000. "Large or small, I've learned to appreciate them all," Underwood said. "I never know the resources of the people who gave \$5.00."

Underwood continued, "We're glad that our drivers are Kentucky school bus certified, and that for the first time in our history all of our buses will be Kentucky school bus certified as well."

The school plans to sell its older buses, possibly in an auction. ■

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Oneida Baptist Institute is one of the agencies and institutions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Art students win honors at state level



OBI submitted 16 student entries to the 2008 Bluegrass Regional Art competition held at the EKU campus in Richmond, Kentucky in March--seven in graphic arts and nine in fine arts.

Four of our students placed at regionals and three advanced to the Kentucky Art Education Association All-State Art Show in Lexington. Junior **Hannah Worcester** (pictured, left) placed third at state after winning second place in the regional competition. Hannah's creation was a four-piece self-portrait titled, "Connexion," incorporating acrylic paints on canvas and other media. She entered in the fine arts category of mixed media. Hannah also received the Art Education Student Association award.

Junior **Pachara Supanprakan** (pictured, right) earned a third-place win at state after taking first prize in the regional cultural heritage/diversity fine arts category. He was additionally the recipient of an AIGA award. Pachara used colored pencils and ink pens to create an illustration titled, "Over the River--Wat-Phra-Kale Temple," depicting an ancient Thailand barge carrying a king.

"All of the Bluegrass entries from Oneida art students expressed a high level of talent and creativity," said OBI art teacher **Sandra Anderson**.

Senior **Wayne Hawk** placed first in graphic design at the Bluegrass competition with his piece entitled, "Gardening Workshop." He advanced to the state art show and received an honorable mention. Senior **Ellie Kendrick** took third place at the regional show with her product label for a body wash, "Quench."

Commercial art teacher **Sheri Nutter** said, "This is our seventh year with multiple wins in the top three places at regionals. For a small student body, we seem to have a large concentration of talent!" ■

Athlete competes at state tennis match

Miriam Waslewski represented the OBI tennis team at the state match held at Berea College on May 22. The sophomore competed as a first seed in singles and placed second at the regional match.



This was her second year to qualify for state. Last year she went as part of a doubles team. Miriam was eliminated after the first round of this year's state contest but was confident she played her best.

"I would have done better if I were more consistent," she said. She plans to keep practicing and try again next year.

Coach **Ken McCain** was impressed that Miriam has made it to state twice from two different regions--the thirteenth last year and the fourteenth this year--and in both singles and doubles competition. "You don't see many kids compete in both," he said. "Usually a player is strong in either singles or doubles. To make it to state as a singles player is kind of a bigger honor. She did all that and she's still only a sophomore."

He noted that by qualifying for state, Miriam was among the top 64 tennis players in Kentucky. McCain credits Miriam's hard work, love for the sport and character for her success.

"She's a quality person," McCain stated. "Miriam is typically very generous to the other opponent. Hard work, good calls and countless hours on the court even after the tennis season is over...and she loves it...that pays dividends in the long run." ■

OBI celebrates 100th graduation



Valedictorian **Amy Yan** shared a smile with OBI Student Coordinator **Susette Clark** after our 2008 graduation.

On May 17 Oneida Baptist Institute celebrated its one-hundredth graduation. The valedictorian and salutatorian, Amy Yan and Summer Kim, were both international students. Of the 56 young people in the class of 2008, 34 earned advanced diplomas and 22 earned standard diplomas.

OBI has actually been celebrating commencement services for 108 years. Founded in 1899, the school held its first commencement in 1900 and continued to have services every year to promote students from one grade to the next. The first real graduation was in May 1908. Five young men earned their diplomas and the speaker for the occasion was Oneida's proud founder, James Anderson Burns. He recalled, "The first morning our school opened we had a senior class. That is, we had five boys who could read and write a little and the remainder of the students couldn't. So we called these boys the senior class and the name stuck—for eight long years."

We congratulate all of our brand, new alumni from the class of 2008! ■

Bits and tidbits

School starts August 18th

Our 2008-09 school year will begin August 18. Dorm students will arrive on August 17. Do you know of a young person who needs our ministry? Tell the family about Oneida!

Want to receive the *Oneida Mountaineer* by e-mail?

If you want to have the *Mountaineer* sent e-mail as a PDF attachment instead of to your regular mailing address, send your name, mailing address, e-mail address & the 5-digit number above your name on this issue's mailing label to:

peggy.jackson@
oneidaschool.org

(We will still keep your "snail mail" address in our files.)

We are collecting labels

OBI is participating in three special promotions:

- Tyson's "Project A+"™
Send us the entire labels from specially marked Tyson chicken products and our school can redeem them for 24¢ each.
- General Mills "Box Tops for Education"™
Specially marked General Mills box tops are worth 10¢.
- Campbell's "Labels for Education"™
Send us the UPC codes from Campbell's soups and other food products with the "Labels for Education" symbol. (For some soups and sauces, send the lids.)

Want to contact us?

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Meet some of our Most Outstanding and Most Studious students

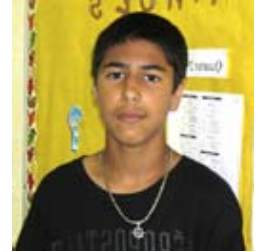
Every spring OBI faculty, houseparents and school administrators meet to decide on the recipients of our major student awards. Most Outstanding students are judged on character, attitude, academics and conduct. Most Studious students may not necessarily make the best grades, but work hard to achieve.

Andres was one of our Most Studious seventh graders. This was his first year at OBI. He came to us from Florida. Andres said he adjusted to Oneida quickly. "It took me a week, if that long," he said.

"Studious" was not a word that would have described Andres a year earlier. He came to OBI because "in sixth grade I failed almost everything." His academic performance prior to sixth grade was good. He believed his low grades that one year were probably due to his parents' divorce.

Andres made a quick turnaround at Oneida, making the honor roll the first two quarters. He admitted that good grades "kind of come easy," adding, "I do work hard at what I do." His favorite subject is history.

Andres likes OBI. "It has a lot of opportunity," he said. One of the opportunities he took part in was tennis, playing for the first time here. Andres does plan to return to Oneida next year. ■



Julia

was honored with the title of Most Outstanding Freshman. She is from North Carolina, and has been at OBI since the sixth grade. "I think

the thing that's kept me here has been my friends," Julia said.

Oneida's smaller class sizes are one of the things Julia likes about our school. "I also like how there are not just certain ethnic groups in one sport," she added, "but everybody's in it together." Julia has been in basketball, Student Government Association, step team, track, choir and the work program.

Last year Julia was named Most Studious, so she was surprised to be the Most Outstanding girl in her class. "I strive to keep my grades up," she said. "I don't like getting bad grades, especially not in high school, because I know colleges will be looking at me." This year Julia had straight A's every quarter except the second.

When she's home, Julia likes to go to the mall, see movies and talk on the phone--especially to her OBI friends. "I try to keep in touch," she said. ■

Jackson

was named Most Outstanding freshman boy. He is one of our local students, and first enrolled at OBI in the seventh grade.

One of Jackson's cousins was at Oneida, and most of his friends attended here, too, so Jackson chose to come as a day student. He knew it would be a good move academically because of our smaller class sizes. "I don't really pay attention in a big class," he confessed.

In addition to our smaller classes, Jackson likes OBI's teachers and students. He also enjoys the daily chapel service. "It's cool," he said.

Basketball has been Jackson's area of co-curricular involvement on campus. Outside school "I hunt a little bit," he said. "And I like to ride around town and go to movies."

Though he wasn't surprised to get some kind of award this spring, Jackson did not expect to get the Most Outstanding title. He surmised that he was most likely chosen because of his grades. "I make straight A's, mostly," he explained. "I work for them. I have to pay attention and listen in class." ■



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Two honored for long-time service



Dean Abner was honored this spring with an award for 30 years of service at OBI. She is part of our food service staff. She has seen many changes over the years, noting that the kitchen staff has nearly tripled. "We have better equipment now," Dean added. "There's also a lot of pre-prepared food and donated food. We used to start from scratch with everything." She also cited the daily salad bar and a bigger variety of food as improvements she's been a part of.

Dean enjoys her special place in the Oneida ministry. "I get to meet so many kids," she said. ■



Hazel Bowling received a 25-year service award. She started in our tutoring program and then worked in the gift shop during its earliest days. Hazel later managed the student store before eventually becoming our Student Health Care Coordinator.

Hazel's office is in the girls' dorm, and a big part of her ministry is mentoring and listening to the students. "My office becomes a venting place," she said. Sometimes the girls need to talk about a problem with a roommate, but often they share feelings of homesickness.

"They talk about their families, about loneliness," she explained.

What has kept Hazel at Oneida for 25 years? "I take pleasure in seeing the children find their niche and start blossoming, whether it's on the farm, in the work program, or maybe in a friendship with a roommate," she said. ■

In April OBI Campus Ministry sponsored our fourth annual "Silent Desert Auction." Staff and students contributed desserts of all sorts plus more unusual donations, including a teriyaki chicken dinner and birdfeeders made by our welding students. We raised a grand total of \$2,240 for a sister Baptist school, Tennessee's Union University. Union is recovering from a tornado that hit in February.



Homecoming Highlights



Participants and spectators enjoyed our basketball game--odd vs. even anniversary years.



***Deborah Ledford Gross** (OBI '88) was inducted into our Athletic Hall of Fame by Athletic Director, **Laura Stockton** (OBI '86).*



*The fiftieth anniversary class was the class of 1958--class of our former president, **Dr. Barkley Moore**. The class posed with the just-unveiled portrait of Dr. Moore.*