



Founded in 1899

ONEIDA MOUNTAINEER

Education for Time and Eternity

A bi-monthly newsletter of Oneida Baptist Institute

July/August 2012

OBI students compete at state level in athletics and art



Great in graphic design

In February five Oneida students entered artwork in the Graphic Design category of the Bluegrass Regional Art Competition at Eastern Kentucky University. Three placed in the top three. **Jesse Jackson** (pictured) won first place with his

design, titled "Bean Stalk". **Adam Stockton** earned second place with "Hydro Energy", while **Nathan Cahall** was third with "Meridian."

Jesse's win sent him on to the state competition in April, where he again took first-place honors. Commercial art instructor **Sheri Nutter** stated that in 12 years this was only the fourth or fifth time she's had an Oneida student judged at the state level. Jesse's design immediately bore fruit on campus, too. It was used as part of the set for our spring play. "Jesse has so much potential," Nutter said.

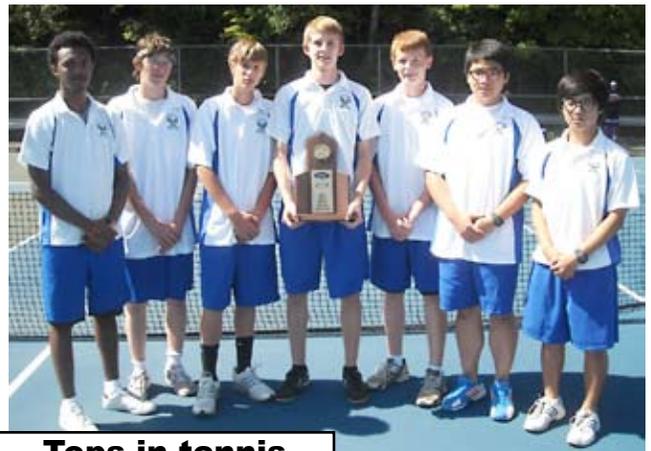
It was Jesse's first year to study commercial art. What did he think when his work won the top prize at state? "I was really surprised," he admitted. "It was just awesome. When I first found out, everybody in the cafeteria started cheering!" Jesse brought home \$75 plus a ribbon.

Lina Arigaw and **Hohet Getu** were the first OBI students to ever enter children's books in the contest. The girls did completely original illustrations using the computer's "Inkscape" application. Their illustrations were based on traced images of photos. Nutter estimated, "It took half a semester's worth of work to do those illustrations." The girls also entered pieces in fabric design. "Their entries were amazing," Nutter stated.

Our commercial art computers and software were upgraded last year. "We can now do gradient blends and transparencies," Nutter explained. "That's made us more competitive." □

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Tops in tennis

This spring four of our athletes represented OBI at the state tennis meet--**Jin Woo Jeong** and **Sherman Weatherby**, boys' doubles; **Barnabas Kim**, boys' single and **Anna Davidson**, girls' single (see below).

When the team participated in the KHSAA 14th Region Tennis Championships, the above-named players earned the right to advance to the state level in Lexington. Our boys' team tied with another team for the regional championship. The boys--even those who had earlier been eliminated from the competition--had to play a tiebreaker of four additional matches.

Our team won, giving them the title of 14th Region Boys' Team Champion and making them eligible to represent our region in the sectional competition. The team included (above L-R) **Mikyas Tesema**; **Donald Chick, Jr.**; **Isaac Waslewski**; Sherman Weatherby; **Eric Grant**; Jin Woo Jeong and Barnabas Kim.

Athletic Director **Laura Stockton** (OBI '86) said, "It is an honor for any school to represent their region at the state tournament, but it's an extra-special achievement when it is a small school like us. We are proud of how the boys and Anna represented us." The 2012 tennis team was coached by **Cindy** and **Mike Waslewski**. □



“It takes G.U.T.S. to follow Jesus”



For a number of years we have had a girls' dormitory devotion ministry. This year several faculty/staff joined together to start a similar outreach to our boys. “G.U.T.S.” meets weekly on Friday evenings. Co-leader **Mike Winters** suggested the name. He saw it used by another ministry years ago

and was told, “It takes guts to follow Jesus.”

Winters manages the OBI grill. He became interested in a boys' ministry when he learned how involved our Farm Manager, **Marty Bevil**, was in sharing the Gospel with students. “God laid it on my heart to partner with Marty,” Winters stated. Meanwhile, one of our teachers, **Todd Parkhouse**, asked Bevil if he'd like to start a boys' Bible study. The two prayed about it and were soon joined by Winters and staff member **Bobby Nelson** (pictured). “We're all from different areas of the OBI ministry,” Winters said. “God spoke to us separately and brought us together.”

The four men take turns leading the group, and at least two of them attend each Bible study. They teach from a specific curriculum and take time for questions each week. Every study is opened and closed in prayer, and the boys are given an opportunity to respond to the message.

Typically 8-10 young men attend the meeting each week, choosing to come to the Bible study rather than spend time with their friends at Free Time. The very first week two students made personal decisions to follow Christ. In the spring six boys gave their lives to Jesus as a direct result of the study. “Some got saved and then they brought their friends and *they* got saved,” Winters recalled.

He sees the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the lives of these teenagers. “They're making better decisions and have better attitudes,” he stated. “I can see the love of God inside them.”

Jamark was an eighth-grader who attended G.U.T.S. “It helped me learn about Jesus,” he explained. He was already a Christian -- “but not that good.” Jamark said the study helped him live a better Christian life, and he appreciated the fellowship.

Winters noted that when students leave Oneida they take their experiences with them. “God is impacting the world through OBI,” he said. □

A fond farewell



*Hundreds of people--students, staff, trustees, family members and guests--bid farewell to outgoing president and first lady **Dr. and Mrs. W. F. Underwood** (OBI '63) on March 31. At left, Mrs. Underwood expressed her deep appreciation as Dr. Underwood listened.*

Bits and tidbits

Our mission statement

The mission of Oneida Baptist Institute is to provide a Christian living, learning and working environment in which each of its students, Christian or non-Christian, is diligently challenged to grow mentally, physically, socially and spiritually in order to acquire an *Education for Time and Eternity*.

OBI continues to participate in: **Campbell's Labels for Education™**

Send us the entire label. Look for *Labels for Education™* not only on Campbell's foods, but also on products such as Vlasic®, Franco-American®, Prego®, Swanson®, Pace® and Pepperidge Farm®. These labels earn points for us that we can redeem to get free educational equipment.

Tyson's Project A+™

Send entire labels from specially marked Tyson chicken products. Worth 24 cents each, they return to us as a cash reward.

General Mills' Box Tops for Education™

Send specially marked box tops. Each is worth 10 cents, and this program also turns points into cash.

Do you know of a teen in grades 6-12 who could benefit from OBI?

If so, tell the family about Oneida. Direct them to our web site for more information.

www.oneidaschool.org

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OBI is an institution of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. 9% of our funding is from the KBC Cooperative Program, 61% from individuals, churches and groups, and 30% from student fees.



Meet some of our Most Outstanding and Most Studious students

Every January OBI faculty, houseparents and school administrators meet to decide on the recipients of some of our major student awards. They choose a boy and a girl from each grade for Most Outstanding and Most Studious. The 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. We would like you to meet two of these special young people who were honored for their achievements during the 2011-12 school year.

Regina was our Most Studious and Most Outstanding seventh grade girl. This was her first year at OBI. Regina is a day student. She chose Oneida over public school because she didn't want the long bus ride and she wanted to be in smaller classes. Regina has many family ties to OBI. Her father and grandfather are both alumni; her grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt have all worked in our food service department.



Though she did not live in the dormitory, Regina found it "pretty easy" to make friends. She liked OBI and said she wants to study with us all through high school.

One of Regina's teachers, **Joy Godbold**, said, "Regina always does top-notch work. But it is her positive, cheerful, and compassionate attitude that one always notices about her."

The OBI faculty got high marks from Regina. "The teachers don't give up on you," she explained. "Even if you think you can't do it they say, 'Yes. Yes, you can!'"

Godbold spoke to the fact that Regina was named Most Studious: "Regina was not the fastest student to accomplish her work. In fact, she worked carefully and methodically to do her best in each assignment. She was always on task." Regina stated that her math grade in particular really went up last year; "I went from C's and B's to mostly A's." She cited math teacher **Emily Kelley** as one of the primary reasons for this turn-around. "Miss Kelley really helped," Regina said. "She worked with me one-on-one and explained it better."

Regina is looking toward the future at Oneida. She said someday she might like to be in the choir. □

Joshua was voted both Most Outstanding and Most Studious junior boy. From Senegal, he enrolled at the beginning of the second quarter of the 2011-12 school year.

His sister, **Marignima**, was already a senior here. Joshua said he and Marignima are close, but he also wanted to come to OBI because it is a Christian school and so he could attend an American high school. "Marignima told me this was a good school," he explained. "And I needed a little bit of freedom from my parents."



Since Joshua was not yet eligible for sports in the U.S. he worked on one of our cleaning crews and became a dormitory work program supervisor.

Making friends was "a little bit hard at first," Joshua said. "There were the cultural differences and my English was bad. Also, I'm a little shy, and I missed my parents." Joshua's language skills improved, however, and he soon learned that "in a boarding school people really get to know each other." Now he has friends, and one of his favorite features of Oneida is the cultural diversity.

Both here and back home Joshua has always made good grades. He maintained a 4.0 GPA through third and fourth quarters. He said the work usually comes easily for him; "In my family we learn really fast."

Dean Wilson was one of Joshua's teachers. "He's so conscientious about everything," Wilson stated. "He will take the time to do things right. He has a good attitude and a good personality. Joshua is a wonderful young man. It's a pleasure to have him in class."

Joshua plans to return to OBI in the fall. He hopes to get involved in sports, BCM and Student Council. □

Ready to retire

On April 14 the school hosted a retirement dinner in honor of **Pattie and Dan Midkiff**. The event was part of our annual "Alumni and Friends" dinner held on the last night of the spring play.

Pattie served OBI for 30 years, the first two and one-half as day care director and the rest as our main office receptionist. Dan worked at Oneida for 22 years. He started out helping on the farm and two years later became the director of transportation.

The Midkiffs were presented with their service award plaques and a clock. They plan to continue living in Clay County and volunteering on campus as needed.



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The news in pictures



(L-R) The Student Council sponsored its twelfth annual Culture Fair on April 7. Approximately 70 students participated, representing 14 different cultures. They cooked in the kitchens of staff sponsors, then came together so staff and students could taste samples from around the world.

Assistant Principal **Connie Belcher** received a surprise in chapel April 23 -- the news that she had been named a Kentucky Colonel. **Dan Stockton**, Principal, made the presentation. Congratulations, Mrs. Belcher!



The Godbolds have raised four sons while serving at OBI. Now they continue to minister to the teenagers God sends our way.



Blake and Joy Godbold were honored in chapel April 23 for 25 years of ministry at OBI. Blake is one of our assistant farm managers. Joy teaches in the middle school and was our choir accompanist for many years.

Baptist Campus Ministry sponsored a silent dessert auction on April 16. Faculty and staff donated baked goods, chicken dinners and other items -- even handcrafted jewelry. The event raised \$524 to aid Kentucky tornado victims through Christian Appalachian Project.



On May 19 we observed our 104th Commencement. Forty-one students received advanced diplomas and seven earned standard diplomas. The Class of 2012 included teens from 12 states and 11 countries. Pictured: **Adam Stockton**, class president.

Our annual Homecoming celebration was June 30. We featured a new event this year--a garden tour led by OBI groundskeeper **Morton Bortell**.