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ONEIDA MOUNTAINEER

Education for Time and Eternity

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Oneida student granted internship



OBI senior **Hirut Yimer** was awarded an eight-week "Internship Experience" this summer with the Commonwealth Foundation at its headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. She was one of three young people selected nationally for this honor.

Several of Oneida's low-income students are sponsored by Pathways to Success, a division of the Commonwealth Foundation that supports educational programs and projects assisting disadvantaged youth. Pathways supports Christian boarding schools that

teach young people how to work. They also provide one-time grants.

The Commonwealth Foundation described the purpose of the internship as: "To provide students the opportunity to engage in the work of the foundation while gaining a better understanding of the nonprofit sector and the link between education and poverty."

Internship eligibility was extended to Pathways students who were in good standing with both Pathways and their respective schools. Applicants had to be 2009 graduates or rising seniors.

Hirut was first chosen by our Dean of Girls, **Billie Faye Hoover**, and OBI Principal, **Dan Stockton**. They looked at which students lived in the general vicinity of Silver Spring. They wanted a student who would be responsible and would represent Oneida well. "Hirut was our choice hands-down," Ms. Hoover said.

To apply for the internship, Hirut completed a written application, wrote an essay, listed references and interviewed with a selection committee at the Commonwealth Foundation headquarters. Ms. Hoover noted, "They were extremely impressed with Hirut and they wanted her right away." Hirut was the first one of the three interns hired.

The internship is a temporary paid position. Interns work 37.5 hours per week. They must pay for their own transportation to and from work as well as meals and living expenses. Hirut lives in Virginia and planned to access public transportation to get to work.

She said she was looking forward to the experience because "the atmosphere will be very professional. It will also give me a chance to be dedicated to something, since it will cost me a bit of money to get there every day." ■

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Tennis team competes at state



Zunilda Lynch (left) squared off against teammate **Miriam Waslewski** in a match to determine which one would be first place in the region.

No one on campus can remember the last time OBI students went to the state tennis competition as a team. Athletic Director, **Laura Stockton** (OBI '86) said, "We're not sure how long it's been since we won first place in the region as a team, but this is the first time in recent memory."

Eight OBI athletes went to the state tennis tournament at the University of Kentucky May 21-23.

The Oneida girls' team qualified for state by finishing first in the region, while our boys' team was first runner-up. The girls earned 10 points at the regional match on May 9-10, four more

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Shelby Lynch was voted Most Studious sophomore girl for 2008-09. From Tennessee, Shelby enrolled at Oneida Baptist Institute in November 2007.

Our Most Studious award sometimes goes to straight-A pupils, but at other times is given to the students who work hardest for their grades though they may not make all A's. Shelby said she has always had good grades, and usually makes A's and B's. She added, however, "I do have to study to get the grades I have."

Shelby thought she most likely earned the Most Studious award because both teachers and houseparents had taken note of her efforts. She recalled helping to clean and set up for a dorm devotion retreat this year -- while using flash cards to study with another girl as they worked.

Michelle Barnes was Shelby's English II teacher this year. She commented, "Shelby's a student who, if she doesn't completely understand, will ask questions so she has full comprehension...She does work hard for her grades and is willing to do whatever it takes." ■



Kortu Diafor was our Most Studious freshman boy. He has been at OBI for one year. Kortu came to us from North Carolina. His family wanted him to do well in school, but by the end of his eighth-grade year Kortu was making F's. His aunt had a friend who told her about Oneida.

At OBI Kortu made A's and B's. "It makes me feel important to make good grades," he said. "I know I can do it if I just focus." Keeping his focus is what Kortu believed accounted for his academic improvement. "At home I watched TV, played games and slept," he recalled. "But here I don't watch as much TV or play as many games. And I see my friends doing their assignments."

Kortu said he thought he was named Most Studious because the faculty and staff knew that he studied a lot. "I study hard," he said. "I stay in my room during 'Free Time' and study."



Noel Cordle (OBI '03) taught Kortu in English I -- his favorite class. She stated, "Kortu is an amazingly driven young man. He may not always earn the highest grade in the class, but he has always worked extremely hard to earn the grade that he does receive. He is not content until he knows he has done his personal best." ■

Meet some of our Most Outstanding and Most Studious students

Timothy Davidson

was named both Most Outstanding and Most Studious boy in the eighth grade this year.

Timothy makes mostly A's and B's, and he admitted that the grades usually come easily

for him. Language arts and social studies teacher **Matthew Coldiron** said, "Timothy is a very intelligent young man and is very consistent in getting his work done."

Emily Kelley taught Timothy in algebra concepts. "Timothy was not the best math student," she said. "He definitely had to study to pass math, and he fought to get a C. But he always had his homework done. If wasn't finished it was because he didn't know how to do it."

Timothy is one of our day students, and this was his second year at OBI. "All of my grandparents came to school here," he said. His parents wanted Timothy to attend Oneida Baptist Institute rather than going to public school, and Timothy said he likes it at OBI. ■



Jennifer Skaggs

earned the title of Most Outstanding freshman girl for 2008-09. She enrolled with us three years ago and is from Tennessee. She said she wanted to come because she had been skipping school and as a result was getting into trouble

and losing ground with her grades.

Once she came to OBI, it didn't take Jennifer long to improve her grades. "I've been on the honor roll the whole time I've been here," she said.

Melissa Coldiron was Jennifer's health teacher. "She's a fun kid," Coldiron remarked. "She seems to care about other people, and she asks good questions in class."

Jennifer thought she might have been awarded the Most Outstanding honor because "I do the work and I don't cut up in class. In the dorm I don't get in trouble that much."

What does Jennifer like about Oneida? "Friends, school life, and sports -- definitely," she replied. She has taken part in track, soccer, swimming and tennis. ■



Did you know that Oneida Baptist Institute is one of the agencies and institutions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention? Nine percent of our funding comes from the KBC Cooperative Program. Another 35 percent is from student fees, while the remaining 56 percent comes from individual people, churches and other groups who support our ministry.



FFA members take proficiencies to state



Kim Withrow, Jessica Vires and Wesley Sharp (holding plaques) placed first in the regional FFA proficiency judging. **Emily Mazur** (back row, left) and **Derick Evans** (back row, right) finished second in the region. Also pictured: **Rachel Victory and Jared Vaughn**.

Two Oneida FFA members placed in the state FFA proficiency judging this spring. **Kim Withrow** and **Wesley Sharp** took second and third places, respectively. Kim's area was Diversified Livestock Production, while Wes specialized in Ag. Mechanics Repair and Maintenance.

Our students' work on proficiencies began with a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) comprised of several different programs. FFA members filled out "placement" proficiencies, meaning at this point in their high school education they want to work for someone else when they graduate and enter a work field. Then the students kept track of their work in order to reach one goal. For example, Kim Withrow's long-term goal is to become a large animal veterinarian. FFA advisor, **Jennifer Griebenow** (OBI '02) is working with a local veterinary clinic to get Kim a summer internship. "The basic concept is for FFA members to gain experience and knowledge in an area of agriculture that interests them," Griebenow explained.

So what exactly is an FFA proficiency? "After keeping track of their hours, jobs, job descriptions and days in their areas, the students had to tally that information," Griebenow said. "All of this record-keeping added up equals the FFA proficiency." Proficiencies are over 20 pages long.

FFA members started filling out their proficiencies when they returned from Thanksgiving break in November and didn't finish until early March. They were judged on the regional level and results were handed out at the FFA Regional Banquet in May. Kim, Wesley and **Jessica Vires** all placed first in the Kentucky River Region. **Emily Mazur** and **Derick Evans** placed second in the region. Jessica's proficiency area was Beef Production. Emily focused on Swine Production, and Derick worked in the area of Diversified Ag. Production.

From there the first-place proficiencies went on to the state FFA review committee to compete against the other winners in their proficiency areas from other regions of Kentucky.

The farm provided an incentive program for proficiency competitors "as encouragement to keep pressing on!" according to Griebenow. Everyone who entered a proficiency would have the opportunity to show their heifers at the Kentucky Beef Expo in Louisville over their spring break.

The FFA State Convention was June 9-11 in Lexington. Though the students already knew the results of the judging, Griebenow said, "They still wanted to go, to represent the school and for the experience."

Congratulations to our hard-working FFA members! ■

Bits and tidbits

Upcoming change from Campbell's "Labels for Education"™

The look of Campbell's UPC code section of their labels will be changing, but Campbell's will still accept all UPCs from participating products regardless of point value or logo featured. Any logo that does not specify a point value is still eligible for redemption. So send in those labels just like you always have, old or new, and they will be much appreciated!

OBI is also still participating in two other 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¢.

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The news in pictures



In April four of our staff members were given 25-year service awards: **Dr. W. F. Underwood** (OBI '63), **Kay Underwood** (OBI '63), **Bill Atto** (OBI '62) and **Myrtle Cooke** (OBI '60). We congratulate these special servants.



The annual senior banquet in April was an opportunity to enjoy a special evening in style.



The mood grew quiet and reflective before our seniors marched in for Oneida's 101st commencement on May 16. 32 of the 54 graduates earned advanced diplomas.

Homecoming highlights

Homecoming 2009 was a definite success. Over 300 guests joined us for the day. We had an abundance of food, and activities for all ages.



(Tennis, continued from page 1)

points than those earned by the girls' runner-up team. They earned first place by beating the four-time regional champions.

OBI athletes **Miriam Waslewski** and **Zunilda Lynch** played off for first place in the region. Officials let the girls play the match on our own court. It was Zunilda's only loss all season.

Coach **Ken McCain** was proud of his team's success. "I've had local teams who didn't want to play us this year," he said. "The girls' team this year is home-grown. They've learned to play here. When some of them first picked up a racket, I thought they were going to trip over it, but they've really built up their skills. I've had Miriam in tennis since the fifth grade and now she's a junior." McCain noted that the average length of time on the team for the girls was four years.

Other girls who qualified for the state team were **Anna Davidson**, **Samantha Cahall**, **Kim Withrow** and **Jennifer Skaggs**. Additionally, two Oneida boys advanced to the state contest as a doubles team. McCain mentioned the diversity of the team. "They were a mix of staff kids, day students and dorm kids," he explained.

Our star athletes combined skill with diligence to rise to the state level. "They worked really hard and they were always down at the courts practicing," McCain recalled. "That's what it takes." ■

Congratulations to junior **Tyler Ruprich** for placing third at the state art contest in graphic design. Tyler earned the right to compete at the state level by winning first-place honors at the Bluegrass Regional Art Show in March. For more details see the March/April 2009 *Oneida Mountaineer*. It's online at www.oneidaschool.org.