



Founded in 1899

ONEIDA MOUNTAINEER

Education for Time and Eternity

A bi-monthly newsletter of Oneida Baptist Institute

March/April 2010

OBI freshman attends national sewing contest



Melissa models her winning outfit.

Melissa Swaar is a freshman from Illinois in her first year at OBI. She has a unique talent in sewing for someone her age with only four years' experience. Her skill level made her a top competitor in the "Make It With Wool" contest sponsored by the American Sheep Industry

Earning first place at the state level of "Make It With Wool" qualified her to advance to nationals, which she has accomplished twice. Last year, she and her parents enjoyed an all-expenses-paid trip to San Diego. This past January, she joined representatives from 32 states in Nashville.

Melissa modeled her outfit--plaid bell bottom pants with coordinating jacket--and answered questions for the judges in three different sessions. She recalled that her judges were impressed with the work on her pants pockets.

"It took me all summer to finish this outfit, but it turned out really good. Knife pleats are hard; you have to match the plaids perfectly. The first year I did it, my mom told me it was the best

matching of plaids she'd seen...Sometimes sewing can be really frustrating. You can't work too long or you end up making mistakes and having to rip out seams. I've had to do that a couple of times," Melissa said.

Melissa did not win a national award but considers it an honor to compete at this level. "It's fun being able to go places you've never been. The best part is staying in the nice hotels," she said with a smile.

Melissa has already started her next outfit. "We're going to try a few new things, like bound button holes. I'm not sure what those are, but my mom said she'll show me," she added. If she wins at state again, she will compete at nationals in Reno. "This is going to be my best outfit, because I really want to go!" she said. □

Student Government Association uses food for cultural exchange, disaster relief



Above left: Our Korean chefs looked everything over to be sure all was ready before the beginning of the 2009-10 Culture Fair on January 30. The SGA-sponsored Culture Fair has been an annual event since 2001. It gives our international students a chance to cook food typical of their cultures and share it with faculty and peers. **Above right:** On February 9 the SGA was busy again with a silent dessert auction to benefit Haiti's earthquake survivors. The benefit raised \$1,831. One of the highest-bid treats was staff member Jennifer Griebenow's mocha cheesecake, which sold for \$100. Proceeds went to Haiti via the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. □

Also in this issue:

- FFA gets statewide recognitionpg. 2
- Outstanding sophomorepg. 2
- Swim team faces unique challenge pg. 3
- OBI staffer to Haiti pg. 4

OBI FFA highest fundraiser in the state



The Oneida Baptist Institute FFA chapter sponsored a campus bake sale October 9 and raised \$836.50 to help support a unit of the Kentucky National Guard stationed in Afghanistan. The unit is deployed on an agricultural mission to help Afghan farmers. (See story in the November/December 2009 *Oneida Mountaineer*.)

The effort was part of a state-wide "Support Our Troops" FFA fund-raiser and our group raised more money than any other chapter. Twenty-six Kentucky FFA chapters donated a total of over \$3,600 to the cause.

On December 11 **Olivia Bevil**, **Jessica Vires** and **Kim Withrow** (pictured above) represented the school's chapter at a press conference at the Kentucky National Guard headquarters in Frankfort, where the proceeds were presented to **General Ed Tonini**, Adjutant General of the Kentucky National Guard (pictured). Oneida Baptist Institute was recognized as having the highest-raising chapter.

All participating "Support Our Troops" chapters will be recognized at the state FFA convention in June. Oneida's group will receive a medal for raising the most funds, plus \$100 for being the highest-raising chapter in the state. Our FFA voted to return their cash prize to help the second National Guard unit going to Afghanistan. □

Outstanding sophomore

Overdue congratulations to **Evan Bracewell**, who was chosen as OBI's outstanding sophomore for the University of Kentucky's 2009 "Class of Kentucky." Evan is pictured with his family, **Nikki**, **Ken** and **Eden**. His parents are OBI teachers.

UK's Class of Kentucky program, now in its sixth year, recognizes some rising all-stars in the classroom across the Commonwealth. Every school selects their top sophomore not only for their academic standing, but also for their leadership qualities, community service and involvement.

Honorees and their families are invited to the University of Kentucky campus for a recognition ceremony during the summer. Class of Kentucky students also are recognized on the field during a UK football game in the fall. □



Bits and tidbits

Remember to clip and save Campbell's "Labels for Education"™

Campbell's still accepts all UPCs from participating products regardless of points 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. Give us the entire label and we'll clip it to the program's specifications. Ask family and friends to save labels, too!

OBI is also still participating in two other special promotions:

- Tyson's "Project A+"™
Send entire labels from specially marked Tyson chicken products, worth 24¢ each.
- General Mills "Box Tops for Education"™
Specially marked General Mills box tops are worth 10¢.

Are you receiving duplicate mailings from us?

If so, help us save on postage. Send us the label of the address you want us to delete and mark it "cancel." Or e-mail:

peggy.jackson@oneidaschool.org
Include your name, the address you want to cancel and the 5-digit number above your name on that label.

Receive the *Mountaineer* by e-mail--and in color!

We have over 200 e-subscribers! If you want to help us save on postage by getting the *Mountaineer* as a PDF attachment, 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

Want to contact us?

Phone: (606) 847-4111
To schedule a tour: ext. 248
Fax: (606) 847-4496
Web: www.oneidaschool.org



Spring is a wonderful time to visit Oneida!

Come and bring a friend. Or make it a trip for your missions group or Sunday school class. Call ext. 248 to plan your visit.

Swimming without water



The Oneida Baptist Institute swim team has finished its 2009-2010 season -- without a drop of water in our pool. The school's pool was shut down one day before the end of last year's season due to leaking pipes flooding the downstairs area. Coach **Scott Self** (OBI '93) said, "We were eagerly hoping the pool would be back in operation for summer, but no such luck."

When swimmers began asking him about the immediate future of the team Self recalled, "This got me thinking about possibilities for a proposal on how to have a successful swim season, circumventing the obvious obstacle of no water."

Self suggested to Athletic Director, **Laura Stockton** (OBI '86) that they commute to Hazard once or twice per week and she thought it was worth a try. OBI president **Dr. W.F. Underwood** (OBI '63) agreed. Self lined up two willing bus drivers and carefully selected 12 swimmers to be on the team. "I needed veteran swimmers because there wouldn't be enough pool time to teach a beginner," he explained. "I chose swimmers who finished last year in good standing and had a desire to rough it out with our given circumstances."

The only pool time that Hazard Pavilion could offer was early morning. So an average of twice per week the team commuted at 4:30 A.M. and returned to campus 10 minutes before the start of school. "On days we didn't travel we had the athletes on a weight lifting program and what we call a 'dry land training program,'" Self continued. "Dry land consisted of cardiovascular training, lifting weights, plyometrics and calisthenics." He credited assistant coach, Cindy Waslewski, for the students' positive response to the situation. "She always seemed to have the right way of encouraging the swimmers," he noted.

Self stated, "The athletes responded very well to our extreme lot and really pulled together with team spirit and cooperation. Some shocked the rest of us as they turned in their personal best times, despite not having significant training time in the pool." He concluded, "I hope the swimmers take many fond memories from this season as well as a practical lesson in 'Where there's a will, there's a way.'" □

Homecoming 2010 will soon be here!



At Homecoming this year on June 26 we will be honoring our school's founder and first president, **James Anderson Burns**. We are looking for direct descendants of Burns who can be here that day to unveil his portrait in our afternoon chapel service. **Richard Burns**, a great-great-nephew and former OBI band and choir director, will lead the hymn sing that morning at Oneida Baptist Church.

Other features of the day:

- Alumni basketball game
- Recognition and group photos of anniversary classes
- Shuttle buses around campus and to the farm
- Children's activities
- Barbecue lunch
- Grilled supper

We invite all friends of OBI to join us on our special day!



This winter we had an unusual amount of snow for Kentucky. Several times our campus was transformed into a winter wonderland. But since we are a boarding school, we go right on with classes. No such thing as a "snow day" at OBI!



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.



ONEIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE
PO BOX 67
ONEIDA KENTUCKY 40972-0067

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Oneida, KY
Permit No. 4

OBI staff member serves in Haiti



On February 20, **Christa Bevil** joined a medical mission team to serve for a week at a hospital in Haiti.

As a certified RN, Christa was assigned to the ER—a tent with no electricity. From 7:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. she treated “never-ending patients” whose traumatic injuries and illnesses resulted from the January 12 earthquake. “They were still standing in line when we left each evening. There were guards to keep the people from mobbing the building,” she recalled.

Christa’s team worked alongside some 600 displaced Haitians living in shelters made of sheets, cardboard, plastic and sticks. She witnessed many local people displaying faith in God and singing praises each night even in the midst of destruction. “They had nothing but an immovable faith,” Christa said.

The Bevils—**Marty**, Christa and their four children—moved to Oneida two years ago. Marty and Christa serve on the OBI farm staff. “Being involved in foreign missions has been a vision in my heart for over ten years,” Christa said. When she got a call from her former church in western Kentucky telling her about the opportunity to serve on a team going to Haiti, “I thought, ‘Lord, I hope I can go!’”

Elated to learn that her savings was enough, she became discouraged when travel costs increased. She could not stop the tears as she related, “God just started providing money. I didn’t even ask for money, but money from OBI staff and volunteers and family back home started pouring in. I ended up with enough money to pay for the trip, buy supplies and even donate what was left to an orphanage in Haiti...I was willing to sacrifice my savings, but God wanted to supply above and beyond what I needed. That’s just God...It was a great experience.”

Christa did put the word out that she needed to take certain medical supplies. Numerous people dropped off sacks of purchased items—pain medicine, bandages, baby formula, hydrogen peroxide and more. With some of the donated money and a generous local pharmacist who sold them at cost, she was able to purchase two much-needed pulse oximeters which are used to check a patient’s blood oxygen level.

The supplies far surpassed the 50-pound weight limit, but Christa left the extra items at the ministry’s home-base in western Kentucky to go with another group to Haiti.

“Nothing came back with me other than what I wore,” Christa stated. “I left everything I had—clothes, flashlight, headlight, mosquito repellent, bag, Bible, two Haitian Bibles bought by OBI staff members—and they were so tickled to get it. Everything that was given to me to take over there was left or will be going. It’s so wonderful to know such big-hearted people who give ‘til it hurts. That’s mainly what OBI people do; they give sacrificially.” □

