



Founded in 1899

ONEIDA MOUNTAINEER

Education for Time and Eternity

A bi-monthly newsletter of Oneida Baptist Institute

May/June 2013

Potential.

We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

Hope. Untapped resources. Hidden treasure. At Oneida Baptist Institute, part of our ministry to teenagers is to help them discover their fullest potential. That journey begins with Christ.

At OBI, Christian and non-Christian teenagers are reminded in a variety of ways, including required daily chapel services, that they were created by a loving heavenly Father who desires a personal relationship with them through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus. Their faith grows as they discuss God's word with houseparents, teachers and coaches and plug in to optional devotion and Bible study groups like Baptist Campus Ministry.

When students achieve their best academically, they are filled with hope for a successful future. We offer smaller class sizes, caring teachers, required study hall, Tutoring Lab and advanced placement courses to help young people realize, and often exceed, their academic potential.

Our students are encouraged to explore interests in sports, fine arts, work, elective classes and other activities like FFA and Student Council. Many young people discover talents they did not know they had simply because they had access to opportunities.

God, like a potter, leaves His fingerprints on the lives of young people who come to Oneida. We hope you enjoy reading about a few of our 2013 graduates and that you would pray for these and their classmates as they begin the next phase of their lives.



Meet some of our 2013 graduates

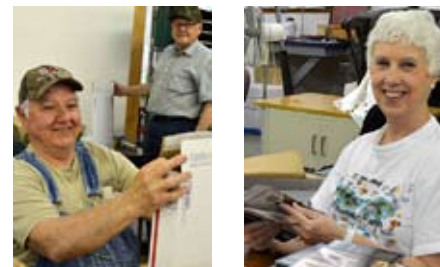
"You can know God's will."

Rebekah's parents made the decision to join the OBI Ministry Team in 2012. Her younger sister, Rachel, was moving with them, but Rebekah, a senior, was given a choice to stay with her older brother at their home in North Carolina. She recalled, "I decided

(asdf continued p. 2)



2013 Father's Day Offering for Oneida



With with the help of volunteers from Illinois and Kentucky, we mailed some 2,300 boxes to Kentucky Baptist churches (and a few to our friends in other states) in time for churches to promote the Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute.



Our hope and prayer is that churches open their boxes and make the enclosed materials accessible. Many of our students learn about OBI from a friend, coworker or family member. Spreading the word about Oneida may help a teenager live up to his or her full potential.



(Rebekah continued)

that I wasn't going to come. It was my last year, and I had been there since kindergarten." She visited Oneida with her family for their interview last summer and noted, "I knew this was perfect for my family. ... My parents wanted to be in full-time ministry with kids. I never thought I'd be in the picture, though."

Before their move, Rebekah agreed to pray about it and said, "It seemed like this was His will."

Her top priority as a student at OBI was to be a positive witness for Christ, and she felt that joining cocurriculars like Student Council, cheerleading and drama gave her more exposure to students. "I'm more involved in this school, so I feel I can make more of a difference," she said.

Rebekah flourished in fine arts opportunities. She traveled to Kentucky Baptist churches with the vocal ensemble. "I've been in chorus since the fourth grade. Ensemble class challenged me to do better in reading music and harmonizing, and I got to sing a solo here. I never had a solo before," she smiled. She also enrolled in instrumental music class, piano and art and appreciated the chance to join classes regardless of her ability. "I could just come and get better," she said.

Her move to Oneida was an adventure that brought her closer to God and to her family. She explained, "It made me see that you can know God's will. God can change your life and do something unexpected. ... I think we gained a lot [as a family] when we came here. Back home, my mom never saw me, she never got to come to my performances ... because of her work schedule. Here, she could be there. She was awake when we were awake, and we could talk to her. ... Maybe that's [why] God sent us here, so I could be with my mother during my last year before I leave home."

Rebekah plans to attend a Bible college after graduation. "I still consider North Carolina my home, but Oneida is also my home in a different sense," she said.

Josh got a second chance to graduate on time



Josh transferred to OBI as a senior from central Kentucky. He said, "I wasn't passing classes. I came for summer school [at OBI] because I had failed English III. If I didn't get my act together ... I probably would not graduate on time; I probably would have to get my GED, and I didn't want that and my family didn't want that for me."

Josh was apprehensive about leaving home. "I wasn't sure if I would be homesick all the time, but I wasn't. ... It was different. College will be easier now," he added.

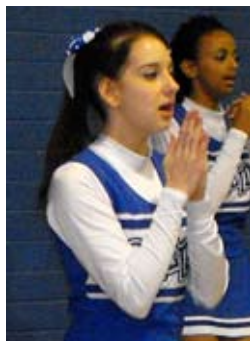
He found the academic support he needed at OBI to complete his senior year and graduate. "[At home], I wasn't focused. I didn't do my work. I was lazy. Here, it's different because you have study hall and people to help you. It's harder to be lazy. There's so much down time ... you may as well do your homework," he said.

Josh gained work experience during his time at Oneida. He started out on a dormitory cleaning crew and was quickly made the supervisor of his crew. He accepted a small role in the fall play but kept his dorm job. After Christmas break, he was promoted to dormitory hall monitor. Josh said with a smile, "I was working my way up the corporate ladder!"

Raised in a Christian but non-Baptist household, Josh said that he learned more about the Bible at Oneida. "I hadn't delved into scriptures as much as I did here. I didn't know all the books; I only knew the main ones like the gospels ... [At OBI], I learned scripture, and I learned what it meant in context," he said.

Josh would like to study nursing or social sciences in college. "I like interacting with people. My parents are both nurses, and I like what they do. I like working with people and knowing what people are thinking and why," he said.

Smaller classes made it easier to pay attention



Selena enrolled as a freshman from central Kentucky. Her older brother was already attending OBI. She said, "I wanted to come here. Where I'm from, most girls ... don't do anything with their lives and I didn't want to be like that. ... I had to talk my parents into it."

Meeting new people at OBI was challenging for Selena. "I'm really quiet," she said. Living with other girls helped her to improve her communication skills. She thought the rules were strict, but, as a Christian, she agreed that they help students stay on the right track. "You know you can't do certain things, which you know you're not supposed to do anyway," she said.

Selena's grades improved when she came to Oneida. "People actually help here. You can actually ask questions, because it's a small class," she said. She explained that because most students pay attention in class, it makes it easier to focus and to feel comfortable speaking up.

Selena, earned an Outstanding Worker award for her after school job in the campus grill. She earned athletic letters for four seasons of softball and three seasons of cheerleading. She also received the High Flyer award in cheerleading and the Hustle Award and 110% Award in softball.

Selena played the flute in middle school and decided to take a piano class this year. "I was pretty excited about getting back into music," she said.

Her family moved this year to New York to be near her grandmother. Selena would like to attend college in Kentucky and major in business.

“I wish I would have been here longer.”

When Taylor’s parents divorced, she recalled, “I stopped caring about anything. I started hanging out with the wrong people. I had bad grades, and my credits got messed up.” Her dad graduated from OBI, and Taylor realized that she was not going to graduate on time if she stayed at her old school in Ohio.

She was nervous when she arrived as a junior but said, “After I got here and met everybody, I [found] a whole bunch of kids who were just like me. Everybody here just became like family.”

Taylor made the honor roll and said, “I made the best grades I ever made. ... The teachers really do care about their students. Knowing a teacher cared helped me get my grades up.” She made up classes during summer school. “I’m all caught up!” she smiled.

Taylor attended church when she was younger, but as a teenager, she said, “I didn’t really think about it.” Since coming to OBI, “I’m starting to believe [in God] and it’s a new idea for me. I realize that He is there. I’ve started praying, and I enjoy going to chapel and hearing about God,” she said.

This year, Taylor worked after school as a “mop crew” supervisor in the dorm and a cook in the campus grill. She won the Talent Award for singing in the Yearbook Queen pageant, and she sang a solo during the senior girls’ praise night hosted by the girls’ dormitory devotion group.

Taylor plans to become a nurse like her mom. She has just one regret about her time at Oneida: “I wish I would have been here longer.”



Summer learned to be independent



Summer and her older sister, Lidia, enrolled at OBI when Summer was a sixth grader. The girls were from Ethiopia but have family in California. Summer said, “My aunt went here, [and] she thought it would be a good place for us. I wasn’t happy at first, but ... it made it easier that my big sister was here. She helped me a lot with laundry and stuff, but when she graduated, I had to do it myself. I definitely learned to be independent.”

Summer needed help with her fluency in English when she first enrolled. She took English as a Second Language class in sixth grade. Summer has been on the honor roll every year at OBI.

Summer worked after school in the dining hall in middle school. “I definitely did not like having a job at first,” she laughed. “I guess it makes sense. It teaches you how to not be late and how to do your job,” she said.

She joined sports in high school. She played volleyball for four years and received the Most Improved award. She received the Coach’s Award after three seasons of cheerleading. She participated in track and softball each for one season. She earned her varsity athletic letter jacket this year.

A Christian before she came to Oneida, Summer had much to learn about the Bible. She noted, “Now, I know a lot that I did not know before. Being at Oneida definitely impacted my faith in God.”

Summer plans to attend a community college for two years and choose her major later.

Ways Kentucky Baptists Can Support the Father’s Day Offering

1. **Inquire** if your church received a box of materials from OBI.
2. **Offer** to order a box or more materials if needed.
3. **Ask** if the fliers may be displayed even if the church does not wish to promote the offering.
4. **Pray** for our students and Ministry Team.



Timothy got out of his “comfort zone”



Timothy lives about a mile from campus and has been attending OBI as a commuting student since the seventh grade. Even though his parents “made” him attend OBI, Timothy said, “Personally, I’d rather go here. There’s more culture. I get to know people from around the world.”

When it comes to academics, Timothy admits he can be a “procrastinator.” Being at Oneida helped him to earn above average grades. “Normally, my grades are A’s to C’s. They are as good as they are probably because of

the smaller classes. The teachers can more easily help you, because there aren’t 22 kids in their classes. A lot of teachers here are really, really nice,” he said.

The class that challenged him the most was his senior English class, because it emphasized class discussion. Timothy described “nerve-wracking” shyness when it comes to interacting with others. By the end of the year, he said, “I actually enjoyed the class. It got my out of my comfort zone.”

“I’m not really a person to go to church,” Timothy said. Daily chapel is where he learned about the Bible. “It’s kind of my daily church. Over the years, I became more and more [interested] in chapel,” he said.

Timothy’s long-term goal is to become a writer.

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Meet some of our 2013 graduates

Positive peer pressure at Oneida helped Nicole academically and spiritually



Nicole enrolled at OBI at the start of her junior year. She is from central Kentucky and said, "My aunt was already concerned about my grades, but when I got into some trouble my sophomore year for skipping school a couple times and she found out about it, she suggested [OBI] to my mom," Nicole recalled.

"I thought it was ridiculous at first," she added.

She did not adjust very well when she first arrived at OBI. She continued having problems following the rules and was invited to not return after Christmas break. "I realized this was the best decision when I went home, because there were so many distractions and the same influences [as] before," she said.

During that first semester of her junior year, Nicole had been struggling with faith issues. It helped her to be able to ask questions of students and teachers. "People are more open to talk about [God] here, so it's easier," she said. Her roommate "told me a lot about God that I had never known." With the help of a few friends in her dorm room, Nicole prayed to accept Christ.

Allowed to return to OBI at the beginning of her senior year, Nicole did not waste her second chance. "I decided to get my grades up for graduation," she said. She found the afternoon schedule helpful in her improvement and making the honor roll. "Even if you're not in study hall, you have that time to do your homework while everyone else is in study hall. ... It helps that everyone is trying to do their homework," she said.

This semester, Nicole joined the nighttime floor waxing crew so she could have her evenings free. "It's one of the more difficult jobs ... It really taught me a good work ethic; you have to do it right or they make you do it again," she said.

Congratulations! Juniors Jacob Bortell (right) and Taylor Cochran (center) were accepted to the Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program, and junior Savannah Fallis (left) was named an alternate to the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts in art.



Would you like to contact us?
www.oneidaschool.org
telephone: 606-847-4111

Just a reminder...
OBI Homecoming: June 29

Pond came to study English, learned about Jesus

Sutthichon, known by his nickname "Pond," came to Oneida from Thailand three years ago. "I wanted to practice my English," he said.



Pond's sister lives in California, and her friend told them about OBI. Adjusting to living in the dormitory was not difficult for him. "The dorm was not hard; it was just normal. I had a good roommate every time," he said.

For his after school job, Pond worked on the chapel cleaning crew. He said, "It's really good. I feel happy when I work for the school. I have friends to work with and to talk to." He also played soccer and basketball.

Despite a language barrier, the gospel was made clear to Pond in chapel. "Chapel is really good. We need to teach the students to trust in Jesus Christ. ... I starting believing [as a] Christian two years ago," Pond said. Bible class gave him time to ask specific questions about scripture. He noted that his sister encourages him to attend church when he is visiting her or when he is at home in Thailand.

Pond is pleased with his education and time at Oneida. "I have lots of friends and good memories here. It made me improve myself," he said. He plans to major in business in college.