



Founded in 1899

ONEIDA MOUNTAINEER

Education for Time and Eternity

A bi-monthly newsletter of Oneida Baptist Institute

November/December 2012

Oneida cross country team sends two to state competition

On November 10 two Oneida athletes represented our school at the 1A state championship race in Lexington.

Freshman **Eric Grant** (pictured, far left) qualified for state by placing third overall at the regional meet November 3. Seventh-grader **Mianna Baker** (fourth from left) earned a spot at the state contest by finishing fifth in the regional girls' race.



Joey and Megan Jaspersen were our 2012 cross country coaches. They shared that the regional championship was the best race of the season, with several runners achieving their personal best times. Eric's regional 5K time of 18:08, while not his personal best, was his best time of the 2012 season. Mianna ran 22:17 at regionals, which was her personal best.

"Though Eric didn't beat his personal best time this season, he did make strides and managed to shave over a minute off his time from the first event of the season," Mr. Jaspersen noted. Eric explained, "I wasn't quite up to par because I'd had an injury."

This was Eric's third year in a row to advance to the state competition. Cross country is his primary sport, though he also played tennis last year

and he hopes to play baseball this spring. Eric likes running because, "I enjoy the competition," he said.

Mianna began the season competing at the middle school level. "By the third meet of the season, however, she was competing at the varsity level and continued to improve from there," according to Jaspersen.

He continued, "Mianna's success has not been a surprise to us. We knew from her natural athletic ability, competitive nature, and strong work ethic that she would be contending with the best in our region."

Mianna said, "Last year I wanted to run varsity but I was too young. This year I started in middle school and I wanted to go to state. To do that, I needed to run in four varsity meets. I did my four meets and just never stopped running varsity." Mianna stated that she liked the longer distance of the varsity races -- 3.1 miles instead of

middle school's 1.8 miles. "It's been a rewarding season," Jaspersen said. "Oneida's program suffers from the disadvantage that we do not begin our season until mid-August. At that point many schools have been training for a month to two months. For that reason, as well as others, we made our motto,

'Improvement. Not perfection.' Our athletes embraced this idea and tried to be faithful to the idea of improving on their times rather than chasing the competition. Over the course of our 11 weeks together we were able to see steady improvements, which culminated at our regional championship where five of our six runners ran their best times of the season."

Freshman **Jordan Cochran** (third from left) commented, "I liked the synergy of the team since it was so small this year...and it was an opportunity to keep in shape for swim team."

Jaspersen concluded, "Whatever success we achieved this season was largely due to working with a group of great student athletes who adhered to the concepts of working hard, being faithful to their commitment and applying a positive, fun spirit to the task. It was a joy to coach this team." □

Nominations accepted soon for the OBI Athletic Hall of Fame

Be watching for criteria and a nomination form in the January/February *Oneida Mountaineer*.



Also in this issue:

- OBI food service A-rated ... pg. 2
- 2012 Yearbook Queen..... pg. 2
- A diverse ministry team pg. 3
- Letter from an alumna pg. 4
- Fall volunteers pg. 4

OBI food service scores an "A"



Dean Abner and Geneva Couch are two members of our food service team.

Inspectors look at food sources, expiration dates, temperatures, storage, handling, and disposal, among other things. They also check hygiene, lighting, ventilation and other factors that affect food and personnel safety. Taylor explained that a green "A" signifies that the food service department earned the rating on the first inspection. A black "A" shows that the rating was achieved on a second inspection.

When Taylor was the Assistant Food Service Director, she attended Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) classes. This instruction focused on "critical points in the preparation and service of food" with the goal of serving safe food to our students. She introduced these principles gradually upon her return. "We took baby steps to implement the program," she remembered.

In addition to maintaining a top rating with the health department, the OBI food service team recently received a compliment from the student body. In our end-of-the-year student surveys, "For the first time the food went from the negative side to the positive," noted **Susette Clark**, Student Coordinator. Usually it's the nature of students to complain about school food. After all, it's never quite the same as mom's home cooking, or as the fast food they are accustomed to. Last spring, however, students began listing the food as something they liked about OBI. "They really like the new fish we've been serving," Taylor said.

She attends food shows and evaluates new items for affordability and feasibility. What else do our students particularly enjoy? "Anything with chicken," Taylor responded, "any way you fix it. And they really like the new soup recipes we're using; they like anything that reminds them of home." □

The big, green letter "A" hangs proudly outside the OBI food service office. Food Service Director, **Martha Taylor**, said, "We've been earning A's since before I came here in 2005." She was referring to our sanitation rating with the Cumberland Valley District Health Department.

Our food service department is inspected twice a year. Visits are a surprise, so the food service team must be ready at all times.



Meet the winners of our 2012-13 Oneidian Yearbook Queen Pageant: **Beimnet Kebede**, first runner-up; **Natalie Thomas**, Yearbook Queen; **Taylor Hazelton**, best talent; **Rebekah Roughton**, second runner-up. The pageant is open to all senior girls. Eight young ladies participated this year.

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.

Choir schedule on the web site

Check out the school ensemble/choir schedule on our web site:

www.oneidaschool.org

Will they be coming to a church near you? If so, our students would love for you to hear them sing. Support them by going to the concert. Bring a friend and introduce someone new to our ministry.



*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year*

Thank you for supporting our ministry in so many different ways. It is because of your love that we are truly blessed.

“Different kinds of working” on the OBI ministry team



Wilson



Orr



Foster



Parkhouse



Nichols



Perkins



Bowling



Pierce

There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

~ I Corinthians 12:6

“Diversity” is a word we use frequently in describing our student body, for they come from around the world and from a host of different situations. Our adult ministry team, however, is also a diverse group. Some join our faculty/staff fresh out of college, while others are retired. Most team members live in campus housing, but some commute to work each day. Our ministry team includes the single, divorced, widowed, couples, and families. God has brought each one to OBI through His “different kinds of working.”

Like the students, our adults hail from various parts of the United States. **Ginny Orr** and her husband, **Keith**, came to us from California in January 2011. Ginny is a tutor in the Tutoring Lab, while Keith is on the new construction team. Jenny said, “This move was extremely difficult to make. I left three kids, two stepkids and two grandchildren. It’s a long way to California; visits are few and far between. But God has been gracious and has blessed us with several visits.”

By contrast, **Hazel Bowling**, Health Care Coordinator, is a native of neighboring Leslie County. She has served at OBI since 1984. Her family owns land that has been passed down for 200 years. “The Bowlings helped pioneer and settle this area,” Hazel explained. She saw coming to Oneida as “an opportunity to work close to home and still stay in my own backyard. I enjoy my family and I love being outdoors.”

Education is another difference

among our ministry team members. **Dr. Dean Wilson** has a PhD in Community Colleges and Supervision from Mississippi State University. He teaches U.S. History and his wife, **Nona**, teaches our staff children in grades three, four, and five. Dr. Wilson is back in the classroom after retiring from a 15-year career as a public school principal—and loving it. “I’m having the best year I’ve ever had in my life,” he said. “I’ve never had a class as good as the ones I have now.”

Unlike Dr. Wilson, **Dan Nichols** struggled in school. “I failed the sixth grade and I was in a downward spiral by the ninth grade,” he recalled. Dan enrolled at OBI as a freshman and repeated ninth grade the next year. His turn-around came through the student work program. “Problems I faced in the classroom seemed easier to solve if they related to work,” Dan explained. “I didn’t know if 1/2 was greater than 7/16, but I knew that a 1/2-inch wrench was larger than a 7/16-inch wrench.” Dan graduated in 1994 and joined our new construction crew. Today he directs that department. His wife, **Missy** (OBI ’93) is our Donation Coordinator and Daycare Director.

Some team members are quite familiar with ministry from past experience. **Steven Foster** and his wife, **Christian**, are Oneida houseparents. Steven said, “I have been involved in ministry most of my life.” He has been a youth Sunday school teacher, an assistant youth pastor, a youth pastor, an AWANA commander and a Gideon. He has also run a church kitchen and has served on a Kentucky Baptist mud-out crew. Steven even volunteered at OBI before moving here in 2011.

Kirbee Parkhouse and her hus-

band, **Todd**, started a young couples’ group in a former church, and Kirbee was a leader in Mothers of Preschoolers for several years. Her profession, however, is nursing. In her 20-year career, Kirbee has worked as a community health pediatric nurse, a WIC breastfeeding coordinator, a visiting nurse lactation consultant, a Lamaze instructor, and a pediatric emergency room nurse. It is quite a switch for Kirbee to now be teaching biology in a Christian school. “Being in full-time ministry is very rewarding,” she shared. “As a nurse, it was great to help people and make them feel better. But in ministry, when you help someone and they make that decision for Christ, you know that is for eternity.”

The OBI ministry team includes adults who have served with us for decades. **Jerry Pierce** has been the school’s Business Office Manager since 1989. “I never had any thoughts about how long I would be staying here,” he recalled. “I just knew God wanted me to work here. I have stayed because I continue to believe God wants me to serve here.”

While Jerry has been on staff at Oneida for 23 years, houseparent **Terry Sue Perkins** joined the ministry team only four months ago. As a former youth leader and mentor, Bible counselor, and correctional officer, Terry Sue is now “enjoying OBI very much. It keeps life real,” she said. “What I see here confirms God’s Word pertaining to why the institution of family is in the Bible. I see the need for parental guidance, but some students have not had that time invested in them. God’s counting on me to take up the slack and give them what was given to me.” □

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been 24 years since **Dr. Barkley Moore** presented me with my diploma. That was a bittersweet day as I looked forward to all that the future held, but realized all I was leaving behind. I had come to Oneida as a freshman a little more than three years before, a difficult and strong-willed girl of 14. My two brothers and I had worn our parents' patience very thin. One brother was already attending another boarding school and I, not to be outdone, jumped at the chance to be "on my own" as well. Little did I realize that I would be trading the attention and instruction of two parents for that of dozens of "parents."

Once I made the decision to come to OBI in February, my mother told me that I had to finish the year. She was a wise woman; during the adjustment period I would probably have gone back home if Mom had allowed it. Two distracted parents were much easier to deal with than several attentive ones. By the end of my freshman year in May, however, I was hooked. I looked forward to returning to Oneida from every homegoing after that.

I was not a model student by any stretch of the imagination. I made mistakes, got into trouble and learned some valuable lessons. I complained a lot, about most of the same things that students today complain about -- the rules and discipline, the structure that so many OBI students need and on which they thrive. I did not realize how much of that structure and discipline was motivated by the genuine love and concern of the adults all around me, a love that originated in Christ, who first loved us.

I do not like to imagine where I might have ended up if I had not come to Oneida those many years ago. Even after being here for three and one-half years, attending daily chapel services and seeing Christ modeled by faculty and staff all around me, I left this place and started down a very destructive path. However, God's Word does not return to Him void. Each of those "parents" had planted a seed, seeds that eventually resulted in my turning back to Him. I not only came back to Him, I have now come back to Oneida to serve Him here with my family so we can give something back to the ministry that gave so much to me.



Oneida is a special place full of special people. Children as I once was attend here, live, learn and grow here because of the generosity of churches and individuals who understand the need for this ministry. Those children benefit from the attention, instruction and love of the many "parents" who serve God by serving them. We are grateful for every financial contribution, donation, and student referral that comes our way. Please remember us in your prayers, for ultimately it is God who sustains us.

In Christian love, *Amy Nelson*
Amy Nelson, OBI faculty and Class of 1988



*On October 18 our New Construction Director, **Dan Nichols** (OBI '94) presented plaques to **Velma** and **Jake Carrol** for their 16 years of volunteer service at Oneida with Alabama Campers on Mission. Below are other Alabama COM in action during their two-week stay with us in October.*

