



Founded in 1899

ONEIDA MOUNTAINEER

Education for Time and Eternity

A bi-monthly newsletter of Oneida Baptist Institute

September/October 2009

Melody Dimerson wins Brad Dorough Friendship Award



Melody Dimerson was the winner of our 2009 Brad Dorough Friendship Award. This is the only major honor awarded to a student that is voted on by his/her peers. The award was established in 1990 by the family of a former student, Brad Dorough, and provides a full room/board scholarship to the recipient for the following year.

Melody is a senior from New Jersey in her fourth year at OBI. She has been involved in Student Government Association, basketball and choir, and made All-Festival Choir last year. This year Melody is working in our grill. She said she probably wouldn't be doing any of these things if she'd stayed at home. "I'm really shy," Melody explained. "My friends motivate me to do most of the things I do."

Despite being shy, a majority of her peers found Melody friendly and helpful enough to vote for her. **Julia**, a junior, said, "Melody is nice, and she's not rude." **Tundun**, a senior, stated, "Melody's one of the few people who talks of how Oneida has helped her and how she does better here than she does at home. She's also very sweet." □

Introducing some of our Most Improved

Each spring our faculty, school administrators and houseparents meet to vote on the recipients of our Most Improved awards. These may be students who have made progress in attitude, character, study habits, academics or self esteem. They may also be those who have worked hard to overcome personal difficulties. "Most Improved" indicates that these teens have responded in a positive way to the instruction, discipline, patience and love we have tried to share with them. Following are the stories of some of our Most Improved students from 2008-09.

William was voted Most Improved seventh-grade boy. Though these awards usually go to our dormitory students, William is a day student from Clay County. This is his second year at OBI.

When his name was called out in chapel for winning the honor, "I wasn't sure they were saying my name," William recalled. "My friend punched me and said, 'That's you!'"

William admitted that his early days as an Oneida student were not the best. "At the beginning I was a little wild," he said. "I've calmed down now." His misbehaviors included misusing school property, being uncooperative and being disrespectful to adults.

By the end of the school year teachers and administrators observed that William had brought his grades up some and had improved in the areas of attitude and cooperation. **Mark Palmieri** is one of our middle school teachers. He stated, "I think William is an awesome young man who I've seen work extra hard. But even more than hard work, I've seen his character. His exceptional attitude, especially toward his peers, is outstanding." William said, "It was a little hard" to make positive changes. But after several detentions and nearly getting suspended, he knew he needed to act differently.

William is the first in his family to attend OBI. "I heard it would be a good school with nice teachers," he said. "Some of my friends have come here." He enjoys much about Oneida -- "the people here, my friends, the teachers, the principals," adding, "and the food is good."

This year William hopes to raise his grades even more. "They're in the A to C range," he explained. "I'd like to bring some of them up." □



Read more stories about Most Improved students on pg. 3

Also in this issue:

- Ag success at the fairpg. 2
- Campbell's labels change..pg. 2
- Fall play adpg. 2
- "Do the math".....pg. 3
- Fall choir schedule.....pg. 4

Ribbons from the Laurel County Ag Fair

By Jennifer Griebenow, Assist. Farm Manager, FFA Advisor



In June a number of our agriculture students participated in the Laurel County Ag Fair. We go to the fair each year, but this time we experienced a number of "firsts."

This was the first time we had ever competed in the dairy show, though we have had a Holstein calf program since 2002. A total of 15 students showed dairy calves. **Olivia Bevil** won Reserve Champion in the heifer division, while **Kimberly Withrow** took first place in the Senior Showmanship Class.

A record six Oneida ag students also took part in the fair's Skill-a-thon and Livestock Judging competition. The Skill-a-thon was a quiz with agriculture-based questions about livestock equipment, meat cuts, feed identification and livestock breeds. For the livestock judging portion of the contest, participants individually ranked dairy calves, market steers, market hogs, breeding ewes and meat goats. Kimberly Withrow won first place overall at the Skill-a-thon and Livestock Judging contest.

Another first for OBI was participating in the District Goat Show. In the past we have only competed at the county level. We took 21 goats to both goat shows this year, competing in both market and showmanship classes.

We took 18 show pigs, 11 show steers and two show heifers to the hog and steer shows. **Sara Goforth's** steer was named Grand Champion, weighing 1,260 pounds after gaining 3.4 pounds per day. Olivia Bevil's steer was Reserve Grand Champion, with a weight of 1,330 pounds at a gain of 3.5 pounds per day. This was the first time OBI has won both Grand and Reserve Champions. Our show pigs also competed very well. We had several class winners for the showmanship competition and for the market hog division.

Another contest at the fair was the beef calf project book. Students recorded feed intake and monitored weight gain, beginning when the show calves were weaned the fall before the fair. Our students finished four project books and received high marks.

The highest honor awarded at the fair was the Cornett Award, based on combined individual performances throughout the week. Kimberly Withrow placed second with five other OBI students placing in the top 10 -- another first. □



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 they will still accept 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. They will be appreciated!

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¢.

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The
Oneida
Players

present



Come have
a howlingly
good time!

by Dana Proulx

October 29, 30, 31 — 7:00 p.m. — OBI Chapel

“Do the math”

By Michael Spencer,
OBI Campus Minister

6
+5

Here’s a question for parents of teenagers: How much does it cost for you to have your child at home for a month? Driving? Eating out? Going to movies? What does it cost for a student to be at OBI for that same time, where the maximum spending money allowed from the student bank is \$60 per month?

Oneida is one of the least expensive private schools in America, with a cost of \$545 per month for a U.S. boarding student. For many families, it will be less expensive to have a child here than living the typical American suburban teenage lifestyle at home. (Do the math and see for yourself!)

OBI provides education, work experience, social life, sports and spiritual development all in one package. Students must all work or be in a sport or a fine art. Every student attends church and chapel. Unless the student is on honor roll, he/she is in study hall. We also provide tutoring, access to the computer lab, opportunities for enrichment programs, special campus events and optional involvement on Oneida’s farm. Our students may not realize it, but they are richly blessed to have safety, security, activity, spiritual nurture, social outlets, vocational training and many other experiences available to them in one setting.

OBI is a collection of the best experiences any student can have, at a great price and in a great environment. Of course, the greatest unseen blessing is the fact that the Holy Spirit is active and at work on our campus. Students are saved, encouraged and disciplined every week. Many who have never heard the Gospel are evangelized. That may not make the evening news, but it’s important to our heavenly Father, to our many friends and to those who are ultimately changed. □

Reprinted from the OBI column in the Western Recorder January 27, 2009. Used with permission.

More of our 2008-09 Most Improved

Sharelle was named Most Improved freshman girl. She came to Oneida from Canada at the start of her ninth-grade year.

Sharelle said she was “really surprised” to hear her name called in chapel as the award recipient. She admitted that there was definite room for improvement at first. “I’m more easy-going now,” she said. “I get along better with people. I’m more calm.”

“Calm” was not a word Assistant Principal, **Connie Belcher**, would have used to describe Sharelle initially. She recalled, “When Sharelle was sent to my office for discipline, I knew she was coming because she was very boisterous in the hallway. She wanted everyone to know she was in trouble. She wanted all the attention.”

Sharelle said, “I talked with my mom and we decided something had to happen. That motivated me to do better.”

Now Sharelle admits when she’s wrong and seeks ways to do better. Her goal for 2009-10 is to bring her C average up to honor roll status. “She has come a long, long way,” Belcher noted. “Sharelle has been really receptive to what the school has given her.” Belcher added that she has seen continued improvement so far this school year. “I don’t know if ‘Most Improved’ does Sharelle justice,” she said. “She needs to be Extreme Most Improved!” □



Brandon was our Most Improved eighth-grade boy. From eastern Kentucky, Brandon enrolled at OBI at the beginning of last year because the private school he had been attending stopped accepting middle school students.

His first year at Oneida got off to a very rough start. Brandon had numerous incident reports and detentions. He slept in class, didn’t do his schoolwork and was suspended for fighting.

When Brandon was threatened with expulsion for his behavior both at school and in the dormitory, he finally “actually started trying in school.” He made the academic honor roll third quarter.

Sharon Grant, Tutoring Lab Director, oversaw Brandon’s progress in the lab. “Last year he did well,” she remembered. “He improved a lot in his reading ability. He realized he was capable and we held him accountable. He realized he could be a success with a little more effort on his part, and he wanted to get on the honor roll.”

Houseparent **Jady Rankin** noted Brandon’s improved behavior in the dormitory as well. “It was a remarkable change, and he’s continued to improve even more over the summer. I’m real pleased with the strides he’s made,” Rankin said.

This year Brandon’s goal is to make the honor roll all four quarters. “I continue to have really high hopes for him,” Grant said. “He’s a great kid, and I think OBI is a great place for him to reach his potential.” □

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Fall 2009 OBI choir schedule

The Oneida school choir will soon be putting the rubber to the road and traveling to Baptist churches across Kentucky. Are any of these locations near you? The students would love for you to come and hear them sing.

10-11-09

Willmington Baptist Church
15472 Madison Pike
DeMossville, KY 41033
Service: 11:00 a.m. EST

10-18-09

Silver Creek Baptist Church
1784 Big Hill Road
Berea, KY 40403
Service: 10:45 a.m. EST

10-25-09

Poole Missionary Baptist Church
9295 U.S. Hwy. 41AN
Poole, KY 42444-0091
Service: 10:45 a.m. CST

11-1-09

Rineyville Baptist Church
5629 Rineyville Road
Rineyville, KY 40162
10:30 a.m. EST



11-8-09

West Corbin Baptist Church
100 Walden Street
Corbin, KY 40701
Service: 11:00 a.m. EST

11-15-09

Northside Baptist Church
161 Miller Road
Lebanon, Ohio 45036
Service: 10:45 a.m. EST

11-22-09

Blue Ball Baptist Church
1482 Blue Ball Church Road
Elizabethtown, KY 42701
Service: 11:00 a.m. EST

11-29-09 NO CHOIR TRIP

12-6-09

Pilot Knob Baptist Church
8091 Battlefield Memorial Hwy.
Berea, KY 40403
Service: 10:45 A.M. EST

To schedule the choir in your church, call **Kay Underwood** at ext. 203. The choir stays booked approximately one year in advance, so reserve your date early!

Summer snapshots



TOP: OBI president **Dr. W. F. Underwood** (OBI '63) was surprised to be named a Kentucky Colonel at our 2009 Homecoming on June 27. **Diane Burns** (wife of Frank Burns OBI '60) and **Clayton Arnett** (OBI '49) presented the award.

MIDDLE: At its peak our summer school enrollment reached 69, while 61 participated in the summer work program.

BOTTOM: This summer our farm purchased 37 new goats to bring our total up to 76.

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.

