

**THIS IS ONEIDA  
TELLING THE ONEIDA STORY -- POOL SIDE**

I have often chronicled some of my experiences telling the Oneida story, but most of those have been stories from my adventures in Kentucky. I recently had a great out-of-state experience. Oneida has long had a week-long fall break that typically falls in late September or early October. On this year's fall break, I sandwiched a vacation for my family at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina between some school duties. After attending a wedding and a state tournament soccer game and speaking in a local church, my family headed for the beach.

During our visit to Myrtle Beach, my family enjoyed some pool time, beach time, and valuable time together. Since I was "off the clock," I didn't shave for a few days. I wore my swim trunks and OBI t-shirt, and kicked my feet up. On our last day there, a guy floating around the lazy river noticed the OBI t-shirt I was wearing. He asked me if I attended school there and if I would tell him about my experience at Oneida. I told him I had attended school at OBI and would be glad to tell him about my experience. I also told him that my take would be pretty biased because I was also the president of the school. After we chatted for a bit, he called his wife over and I called Angie over. This couple shared that they had recently looked at Oneida online and that they were considering the school for their child. As we walked away the wife said, "This must have been a God thing!"

We left Myrtle Beach the next morning and headed for Alabama, where I would be speaking in a church. During our hotel stay in Alabama, I noticed quite a few folks with Kentucky shirts on. As I passed by one breakfast table I said, "Go, Cats." As we talked, I shared that I was the president at Oneida and one of the gentlemen at the table said, "I knew I recognized you. I met you at the WMU annual conference in Winchester last year." As we talked about Oneida, another lady mentioned that her church loves and supports Oneida.

I am amazed, no matter where my travels take me, at how often I encounter people who know of this little place called Oneida. So many folks have been connected to Oneida in so many different ways. Whether the connection is having been a student, staff member, volunteer, donor, friend, etc., this place becomes a part of you. It hooks you. It finds its way into your heart.

If you want to become a part of the Oneida family, please call me or visit soon! I promise you won't regret it, and I might even see you at the beach or pool somewhere far away.



**Larry A. Gritton, Jr.  
OBI President**

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