

THIS IS ONEIDA HOMECOMING 2014

We recently celebrated Homecoming with two days full of festivities and fun. On Friday, June 27 we had our first annual OBI alumni and friends golf tournament fundraiser at Crooked Creek Golf Club in London, Kentucky. We had 56 golfers that day and raised some needed funds to restart our golf team this coming school year. We had many sponsors, friends, and volunteers who took part in this wonderful event, and we plan to make this an annual event the day before our Homecoming. The winning team shot a 51, 21 under par, in the scramble format. My team finished tied for third with a score of 60. In order to win, perhaps I will need to find some ringers to play for my team in next year's tourney.

On Saturday, June 28 we had 396 registered guests on our campus for Homecoming, and I am sure we had a few who didn't register, so I am going to say we had well over 400 folks return to their alma mater. This was over 100 more guests than attended last year. Included in that number of guests was Ruby Baker, who is 100 years young, and has known all 12 OBI presidents. We also had one alumnus who came all the way from Germany for his fortieth class reunion.

Our alumni director and activities coordinator worked tirelessly to organize a wonderful day of activities for our guests. There was a petting zoo, some beautiful Shire horses provided by the Dan Midkiff family via the Kentucky Horse Park, garden tours, a hymn sing at Oneida Baptist Church, a contemporary worship service in our chapel, a tasty lunch and dinner, swimming pool time for the kids, and old pictures and articles to view. There were also Athletic Hall of Fame recognitions for Rick Coffey, who coached at OBI from 1978-1993, and the state championship women's fencing teams of 1979 and 1984. Anniversary classes were recognized and *The Offering*, a book written by Judy Ratliff Powell about Barkley Moore and his time at Oneida, was unveiled. In general, it was just a great time of visiting and reminiscing.

One of my favorite parts of the day was the rededication and re-opening of Anderson Hall. Anderson Hall was built in 1911 and is the oldest structure on our campus. Anderson Hall was named after Elizabeth Milbank Anderson, who donated \$5,300 in 1909 after hearing James Burns speak at Madison Avenue Baptist Church in New York. She followed him to the elevator and asked, "Mr. Burns, what is it you want?" He replied, "I want a farm for our boys." The following day, Burns received a check for \$5,300 from Mrs. Anderson with a note saying, "Here is your farm." Several years later, when the school wanted to build a new building to house the single women teachers and a domestic science classroom, Mrs. Anderson gave the \$11,000 needed for this building. The remodel began on September 28, 2007 and thousands of volunteer labor hours went into the remodel of this beautiful home. It contains seven bedrooms with individual bathrooms and can sleep up to 19 guests. Pat Hignite, a long-time OBI employee who served as the hostess of Anderson Hall for many years, cut the ribbon and our guests then went through and toured the house.

Make plans to attend our next Homecoming, which will be on October 24, 2015!



Larry A. Gritton, Jr.
OBI President

*First printed in the Western Recorder July 29, 2014.
Reprinted with the permission of the Western Recorder.*