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ALUMNI NEWS

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Education for Time and Eternity

A newsletter for alumni Oneida Baptist Institute

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Barkley Moore, ninth president of OBI, 1972-1994



Glenn Barkley Moore, son of **Ralph Elwood Moore** and **Evelyn Ponder Moore**, was born on August 8, 1941, in Detroit, Michigan. Barkley's parents were displaced Kentuckians who had gone to Michigan to find work. His father was from western Kentucky and his mother was from Clay County. The Ponder family was associated with **James Anderson Burns** before he founded OBI. While teaching in a county school on Rader's Creek, Burns lived with **Bill and Mary Ponder**, Barkley's great-grandparents. Their son, **George L. Ponder**, married **Lucy Hensley** (Barkley's grandparents), who both attended Oneida, as did their seven children, including Barkley's mother, Evelyn. **Squire Hensley**, father of Lucy Hensley Ponder, was on our first Board of Trustees.

Barkley was the third generation of his family to attend Oneida Baptist Institute. In 1947, his family moved from Detroit back to Oneida, and he enrolled in the school's primer (first grade) class. In high school he was in-

involved in BSU, Student Council, Boys' Dorm Council, Debate Club, manager for basketball and softball teams, year-book staff, and *Campus Echo* (school newspaper). His senior year, without a faculty sponsor, he organized an Alumni Staff of students and published a newspaper called *Alumni Record*. By the end of the year, Barkley had found all but 44 of the living graduates of the school. Without telling "**Papa**" and "**Mai Mai Sparks** (the president and his wife), he wrote to all five men in OBI's first graduating class of 1908, inviting them to graduation to celebrate their fiftieth anniversary. All five spoke at Barkley's graduation in 1958, the first time in 50 years they had been together on Oneida's campus. After getting over the initial shock of having five unexpected guests, Papa and Mai Mai were delighted.

Even with all of Barkley's extracurricular activities, he was a straight A student. Barkley graduated valedictorian of his class and also received the title, "Mr. Oneida." At age 20, having completed the work for his B.A. degree and one year of law school at the University of Kentucky, Barkley returned to OBI and served for two years, 1962-1964, as Assistant to President **David Jackson**.

While Barkley lived in Carnahan Hall in high school, one of his roommates was **Manoutchehr "Ardy" Ardalan**, from Iran. Ardy's father was the Iranian Ambassador to the United States and their Chief Delegate to the United Nations. When Barkley learned in the summer of 1964 that the Peace Corps was looking for volunteers to send to Iran, he applied and was accepted. After a crash course in the Farsi language and six weeks of intense physical training at the Peace Corps Training Center,

Barkley and 51 other volunteers were deemed ready to go. When they arrived in Tehran, Iran on September 24, 1964, waiting at the Palace Hotel to greet Barkley was his friend, Ardy, who at age 23 was the youngest member of the Iranian Diplomatic Service.

What began as a two-year assignment to Gonbad Kavous grew into a stay of six years and four months. Gonbad was a city of 20,000 people in northern Iran, 250 miles northeast of Tehran and 50 miles from Russia. Barkley's official assignment was to assist the city in community development. The first thing he was asked to do was teach some English classes--not at all what he had envisioned. He had no books and no prior experience teaching English, but he rolled up his sleeves and went to work. Beginning with objects in his classroom, Barkley pointed at each one and had his students say the name over and over. His classes were in such demand that after a few weeks he was teaching day and evening, 50 hours a week.

Barkley's accomplishments in Gonbad and the surrounding area were legendary. The building of the first library in Gonbad grew into 31 smaller libraries. The starting of a private kindergarten grew into a second one, plus four private elementary schools and two private high schools. The more than 1000 students who enrolled in these private schools made it possible for another 1000 to go to the public schools. A science lab was added to a public high school, a sports center was renovated and much-needed equipment was purchased. Barkley's favorite project was the house and

(See **Barkley**, page 4)

OBI Teacher Jerry Smith Retires After 43 Years of Service



Jerry Smith, one of six children of **Claude** and **Dorothy Smith**, was born in Weeksbury, Kentucky, September 26, 1932. When Jerry was four, his family moved to Calhoun, Kentucky in McLean County. His dad was a businessman and his family was active in the Calhoun Baptist Church.

Jerry has always known of Oneida Baptist Institute. His father was familiar with OBI's history and work. His mother was active in WMU and heard about this Baptist school in eastern Kentucky. Then a neighbor gave Jerry a page from a 1932 Louisville newspaper that had an article about OBI with a picture of the campus. Mr. Smith commented, "I have that page in a frame at home."

Jerry graduated from Calhoun High School in 1950. He received an Associates Degree from Campbellsville College in 1953. He went on to Eastern Kentucky State Teachers College in Richmond, earning his AB degree in business and social studies in 1955.

Several of Jerry's EKU professors had gone to school at Oneida. They strongly encouraged him to seek a teaching position at the school. His pastor (First Baptist in Richmond), **Rev. E. N. Perry**, brought Jerry for his first visit to OBI. Then fellow student **Floyd Bryan** brought him for a weekend visit. Mr. Smith had break-

fast with "**Preacher Sparks**" (President Chester Sparks) who took him on a tour of the campus. Later, Jerry received a letter from Sparks saying that all positions had been filled, but perhaps there would be an opening sometime in the future.

For the next decade, Jerry taught in public schools back home in McLean County. In August, 1965, his pastor, **Rev. Bill Tichenor**, saw an ad in the *Western Recorder* saying that Oneida needed a teacher. Rev. Tichenor brought Jerry to Oneida September 3, 1965 to inquire about the position and the rest is history. The door which closed in 1955 was now open. Jerry was the new OBI business teacher. For several years he taught Typing I & II, bookkeeping and general business.

In 1968, President **David Jackson** asked Jerry to serve as Dean of Boys as well as teach, the equivalent of two full-time jobs. After eight years of supervising the boys' work program after school and on Saturday and teaching a full schedule Monday-Friday, he was given the responsibility of the work program and teaching one class of Bible. Later, the school requested that he give up the work program and teach Bible full-time. Over the years, Jerry taught 14 different subjects in middle school and high school. Since 1996, he served as a substitute teacher and assisted in the high school office. Jerry taught at OBI under the last three presidents.

Jerry taught Bible 23 of the 43 years he served at Oneida. He said "Bible has definitely been my favorite class...Some [students] remember me for the business classes, which they are still using in their careers today. Others who have gone on to the military remember the history I taught, but by far most students who come back to visit will mention something that they learned in Bible class."

Like many other OBI teachers, Jerry met his wife, **Fronia Hensley** ('60) here. She was the Dean of Girls when they met and had previously taught English. They were married in 1970 in Anderson Hall. Fronia later

became Director of Food Service. Fronia attended Georgetown College for one year, and completed her degree at Eastern Kentucky State Teachers College.

In addition to being a teacher, Jerry is a Baptist minister. He was licensed to preach in 1951 by Campbellsville Baptist Church but was not ordained until he became the pastor of Crane Creek Baptist Church in 1992. Jerry has done much church work in Clay and surrounding counties and has preached innumerable sermons in the OBI chapel. Perhaps all those sermons in chapel along with all the thousands of students he taught in his Bible classes from all around the world will be his greatest legacy that will last into eternity.

How does Jerry feel about retiring? He said, "The Lord has blessed me greatly with a loving wife of 38 years. We have had a wonderful life, working together in the Lord's vineyard." ■

Dear Friends,

Homecoming 2008, June 28, is just a few months away. We had planned to unveil the portraits of two Oneida presidents, **Charles Goins** and **Barkley Moore**, at Homecoming this year. However, realizing that this year was the fiftieth anniversary of Barkley's class (1958), we will focus on honoring Barkley and will then honor Charles Goins at Homecoming in 2009.

Jeff Minor ('78), former OBI choir and band director, will be leading the hymn sing at the church. The alumni basketball game will be played after lunch in the Sparks Gym. If you would like to play and graduated in an even-numbered year, bring dark colored shorts and shirt. If you graduated in an odd-numbered year, light colored.

Finally, don't forget to send in Athletic Hall of Fame nominations by April 1.

Sincerely,
Myrtle Webb Cooke ('60)
Alumni Director

Larry Arnett--OBI class of 1965



Larry Arnett was born on Big Bullskin Creek about four miles from Oneida to **Melvin** and **Beatrice Roark Arnett** on November 26, 1948. He attended one-room schools for grades 1-4, fifth grade on OBI's campus (the county elementary school), and beginning with the sixth grade attended the newly opened Oneida Elementary School. Larry, along with his brother, **Victor**, was an OBI day student for his high school years, 1961-65, riding the bus to school every day.

After their high school graduation, both Larry and Victor, following in the footsteps of their parents, attended Eastern Kentucky University from 1965-69, each obtaining a BS in Elementary Education. Larry was also in ROTC and received an officer commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U. S. Army.

While waiting to go on active duty, Larry was asked by the superintendent of Clay County schools to teach in a one-room school on Upper Teges. Larry entered active military service as an infantry officer in October 1969. Trained as a helicopter pilot, he was assigned to Vietnam in 1970-71, serving with distinction as an Aircraft Commander, Air-Mission Commander, and Instructor Pilot. Upon reassignment in the United States, he served as a Company Commander prior to leaving active service in 1973. Larry entered the Kentucky National Guard in 1973,

becoming one of the youngest officers to command at Battalion and Brigade levels. He retired from active Guard service in 1999, after a distinguished 30-year military career.

After leaving active service in 1973, Larry began a whole new career in Kentucky state government, serving a total of 27 years. From 1988-1992, he served as the Director of Veterans Affairs, where he directed the construction of the Kentucky Veterans Center, a 300-bed long-term-care facility for veterans, and implemented the Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Bonus Program. Larry also served as the Director of Air Transportation from 1992-1994.

In 1995, Larry embarked on his third career when he wrote a book, *Call to Arms -- A Collection of Fascinating Stories, Events, Personalities and Facts about Kentucky's Military History*, which was published by The Kentucky Publishing Company. In 2005, he compiled a book, published by the same company, entitled *A Bibliography and Collector's Guide of Kentucky Authors and Their Books*. A third book on Kentucky military history is due to be published in 2008.

Larry married **Mary Hensley** from Bar Creek in 1970 and they have two children. Their daughter, **Heather**, has her PhD in Neuroscience and works as a senior research scientist in Seattle. Their son, **Jeff**, is a Captain in the Kentucky Army National Guard and was activated in February for a second combat tour in Afghanistan. Jeff and his wife have two children—**Hunter** (age 9) and **Allyson** (age 4). Mary retired from teaching elementary school when her granddaughter was born.

Currently, Larry volunteers as the Director for the Joint Executive Council of Veteran Organizations of Kentucky (JECVO), an umbrella organization comprised of 24 veteran service organizations.

In addition to Larry and his brother Victor, their younger brother, **Lonnie**, graduated from OBI. Larry believes that the foundation they received at Oneida contributed greatly to their success in their varied careers. ■

In Memoriam 2007

Eunice Roberts Baker '28
 Ola Davidson Morgan '28
 Calvin Britton '41
 Barbara Davis Denny '44
 Charles D. Baker--student '41-'42
 Eli Cope '47
 Joyce Kilmer Roberts '49
 Connie Roark Hyden '69
 Elizabeth Britton Hatton--former student
 Dwain Keley--former student
 Fanny Hensley Murrell--former staff
 Ellen Brough--former staff
 Wendell Adkins--former staff
 Neal Pauline--former staff

Homecoming 2008

The following classes will have special reunions at Homecoming on **June 28**:

1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003.

Individual class letters will be going out soon.

The Oneida Players present



THE MOUSE THAT
ROARED

Adapted by Christopher Sergel,
 based on the book by
 Leonard Wibberley

April 10, 11, 12 at 7:00 p.m.
"Alumni & Friends Dinner"
April 12 at 5:45 p.m.

Both the meal and the play are free of charge, but we do need to know if you plan to attend the dinner. Call Myrtle Cooke: (606) 847-4111 ext. 268 or e-mail myrtlewebbcooke@yahoo.com

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(**Barkley**, continued from page 1)
support he provided for his 14 foster boys who otherwise would not have been able to come to Gonbad for their education.

After his stay in Iran was extended twice, Barkley decided it was time to return home. Much to his surprise, the city of Gonbad planned a farewell party for him the night before he left. The town hall was packed with over 700 people. The mayor presented him with a certificate making him an honorary citizen of Gonbad. The women presented him with handmade gifts--carpet bags, prayer rugs, and larger rugs. Many had his name woven into them. One said "We never forget Barkley."

When he returned to the United States, the Peace Corps honored Barkley for having served the longest term in Peace Corps history. He was asked to stay on to recruit other workers. The media viewed him as a celebrity as he traveled around the country. Then in August 1972, Barkley accepted the call to return to Oneida to become the ninth president of Oneida Baptist Institute.

One of Barkley's first acts as president was to remove the tuition fee charged to local students. This was done in recognition of Oneida's earliest commitment, which was the education of Kentucky's mountain children. Some other changes made to the school's program were: a full-time guidance counselor was added to the high school staff; the band program was reinstated; the middle school grades were added; summer school classes were offered; drafting, auto mechanics, welding, and computer classes were added; Advanced Placement classes were offered; a class for kindergarten through fifth grade for the children of Oneida faculty and staff was started;

and the athletic field, which includes a regulation track, tennis courts, baseball, softball, and soccer fields was added.

Following are some of the buildings that were constructed during Barkley's administration: Sylvia Russell Hall that houses the Melvin Davidson Chapel, the Floy DeJarnette Library, two computer labs, two classrooms, and the President's and Admissions offices; John Henry Walker Hall, four townhouse faculty apartments; Tolman Burns-Luther Wells Hall, another faculty apartment building on the site of the old hospital; the Bertha Johnson Prayer Chapel, provided by the churches in Booneville Association; Bige and Rachel Hensley Hall, housing the school's maintenance shop; Preston and Ruby Baker Hall; Larry and Linda Gritton Hall; Rick and Jennifer Coffey Hall, our middle school building, given by the Red Bird Mission School; and Hannah Sanderson Hall, housing our tutoring lab. James A. Burns Hall was also enlarged to include a second dining room and grill.

Though the list of new buildings may be impressive, as is the fact that by 1994 Oneida's budget had grown from \$200,000 to \$3,850,000, far more significant are the students who received an education "for Time and Eternity" on our campus. Barkley saw 1,366 students receive their Oneida diplomas, plus thousands of others who were ministered to for whatever time they were on our campus. For over 100 years the Oneida students and faculty have taken time out of their school day to worship God and thank Him for His daily provisions. Barkley was faithful to acknowledge that God's hand was on the school and to give thanks for His many blessings.

The morning Barkley died, January 25, 1994, **Michael Spencer**, Campus Min-

ister, spoke to OBI students and faculty in chapel. Some knew of Barkley's death but many did not. In part, Michael said, "Barkley Moore believed in God's timing. He got up every day and watched what God would bring into his life. Perhaps it was a new student--a student who could be turned around and fulfill his God-created potential. Maybe it was a new staff member. He looked at all of us who serve on staff as special people, capable of doing what no other staff member could do. He inspired us by his confidence. What would Barkley Moore say to us if he were standing here this morning? He would tell us not to quit...In Christ we have no reason to quit. He would certainly tell us to believe in what God is doing at OBI...that this is God's mountain and He sovereignly designs to bless it. If we are here in the center of His work, doing His will, we will know God's blessing."

Barkley lived and breathed Oneida the 22 years he served as our president. He worked 18-20 hours a day, seven days a week, and seldom left campus except to speak at church services about Oneida. After Barkley died, **Rev. Joel Rackley**, pastor of Oneida Baptist Church, 1979-1992, wrote a poem about him--"My Oneida Friend." Following is one of the verses: *"To his Oneida School he gave his all, He truly answered duty's call. Just fifty-two years and he is gone, But his memory lingers on."*

Barkley's sister, **Gloria**, and her husband, **Ronald Bowling**, are both OBI graduates, class of 1977. Their son, **Will** (Barkley's nephew) graduated in 2001. Their daughter, **Veronica** (Barkley's niece) graduated in 2004. Barkley's mother, **Evelyn Moore**, lives on the Bowling farm one mile from Oneida. ■