Almost every summer, a number of OBI students are privileged to attend special programs designed to enrich their lives and equip them to make a larger positive impact in the world.

This summer, OBI had outstanding representatives at the Kentucky Governor’s Scholars Program (GSP), the Kentucky Governor’s School for the Arts (GSA), the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership program (HOBY) and the University of Kentucky’s Class of Kentucky.

Once accepted to GSP, seniors Anna Davidson and Beimnet Kebede joined top scholars from across the Commonwealth for a five-week program emphasizing leadership and academic excellence.

Anna attended GSP on the campus of Centre College. She reflected, “In addition to meeting a lot of wonderful and thoughtful scholars, I also had some first-class professors who really challenged all their students to be informed citizens...and to reason out the tough issues and decide where we stood based on our knowledge and personal convictions.”

Anna was both surprised and pleased to meet a number of Christians at GSP. She explained, “I expected to be, at the very least, in the minority...Praise God! I was wrong. Not only did I have a Christian roommate and Residence Hall Advisor, but also the vast majority of girls on my hall were unshrinking witnesses for Christ. In the discussions that my classes had on tough issues, these individuals firmly...supported Judeo-Christian principles. I also attended a scholar-initiated and -led prayer group that was full of teens passionately in love with Jesus.”

Anna concluded, “Participating in GSP this summer has...broadened my horizons, deepened my love for Kentucky and her citizens, and heightened my desire to be a leader in my school in Kentucky, and throughout this great United States and world.”

Beimnet attended GSP at Bellarmine University. She most enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with a group of highly motivated young people with exceptional academic and moral standards. “There were a whole bunch of amazing people all in one place. That never happens. Most of the people were Christians. They had manners; the gentlemen were gentlemen and the ladies were kind. Now I know that there are good people out there,” she said. Class discussions “changed my whole perspective on life,” she added.

Beimnet enjoyed experiencing things she never would have been able to do outside of GSP. “The most fun thing we did was work with Habitat for Humanity and build a house in three weeks. Everybody had a part. I put siding up. I loved the trips that we took like going to an opera and a musical. The astronomy class brought in their telescopes, and we got to see the moon and Saturn,” she said.

Beimnet said being accepted as a Governor’s Scholar “was the first time I felt like I accomplished anything with my life. They addressed us as ‘scholars’ and reminded us that our generation are future leaders. We are hardworking people who need to change the world. It made me realize that with God’s help I can do anything.”

After auditioning with a prepared monologue, Junior Jacob Bortell

(continued on page 2)
landed one of only 29 spots in the drama section of GSA. Jacob began acting in plays at OBI in 2009. He said, “I had two minor parts and barely spoke, but that was all it took to get me hooked. Last spring, my [OBI] directors suggested that I apply for GSA.”

Advance GSA literature informed Jacob that he would have the “time of his life” while feeling like he was at “boot camp” during the three-week program at Transylvania University. He agreed, “It turned out to be all true! We were in the studio at least eight hours a day doing things that were uncomfortable, new and difficult.”

GSA participants attended daily performances by guest artists. Jacob said, “We were exposed, enlightened and encouraged by the amazing talents that were presented to us.”

He continued, “My life has been changed through all the hard work, artistic immersion and community of outstanding people. I am excited to use what I have learned...So much love and passion have been shared with me, both at GSA and at OBI. I can’t wait to give it all back.”

Junior Taylor Cochran attended HOBY, a three-day seminar held at Transylvania University. “Inspiring speakers taught us steps for becoming great leaders, setting smart goals and overcoming prejudices,” she said.

The 189 HOBY ambassadors were divided into small groups which performed community outreach projects in downtown Lexington. “We were taught that one of the main aspects of being a leader is volunteering and getting involved in community service. My small group had a lot of fun, and I learned so much about how to be a good leader and what it really means to be part of a team.”

Taylor also represented OBI at the one-day “Class of Kentucky,” which honors one top sophomore from each Kentucky high school. Taylor said, “It was a great experience to meet people from all over the state who lead completely different lives but who come together in one place because we share the same goals and values.”

One OBI teacher’s year-round ministry to teens

Each May, when most other teachers are looking forward to summer vacation and a break from students, Emily Kelley is preparing for a full summer of ministry to thousands more teenagers.

A middle school math teacher at OBI since 2003, Kelley became a FUGE staffer in 2007. FUGE represents a variety of Baptist summer camps which began in 1979 at the Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina and has since expanded to include campuses in several states. Over a million young people have attended FUGE camps. Kelley recalled, “I attended Centrifuge camp with my church for four years while I was in the youth group. I loved camp because it gave me a place to feel accepted...FUGE [promotes] ‘intentional ministry.’ The goal of staffers is to make every young person feel special, to spend time talking to every student.”

Kelley spent five summers as a FUGE Bible study and recreation leader. This year, she applied for and was accepted to the position of Development Director at the Mississippi College campus. In addition to communicating with churches, accounting for 500-800 campers several times daily and training Bible study leaders, a big part of Kelley’s job was staff encouragement.

“We work 16 hours a day at camp. My job was to check on each staffer and make sure they were staying healthy both emotionally and physically. I also helped them find strategies to use when a camper had special needs. Seeing a staffer smile, having the ability to get them whatever they needed, knowing that they were able to impact students because everything had been prepared and they were well trained was awesome! I loved my job and I have already applied to do it next summer,” Kelley said.

What makes her want to minister year-round to teenagers? Kelley responded, “Teens face a very sensitive time in their lives. By showing them the love of Christ, I pray that they will be stronger, make better decisions, and live lives that pursue Christ and serve others. If I can help even one student realize that we have an amazing God who loves them, it’s worth it.”

2012 Brad Dorough Friendship Award

The Brad Dorough Friendship Award is the only major honor given to a student that is voted on by his/her peers. It was established in 1990 by the family of a former OBI student, Brad Dorough, after his death. The award provides full room/board for the following year.

Our 2012 Brad Dorough Friendship Award winner is Stephanie Refuse. She is a junior from New York who has been an Oneida student since her eighth grade year.

Stephanie said being a friend to her peers is something she does intentionally. “I’m always helping other girls in the dorm, trying to make them feel better. Some of the girls even call me ‘Mom,’” she stated. “Every other day someone asks me for advice; ‘What would you do?’ I get asked that a lot, even by some boys.”

Sophomore Emery Taylor agreed. “Stephanie is always giving advice,” she said. “If you’re down she’ll try to cheer you up. To me she’s a role model. Anything you need, she’s there. She puts other people before herself.”

Yujay Proctor, also a sophomore, added, “Whenever I’m feeling down Stephanie will know what to say. She tells us to pray about things, too. She always helps the other kids in the dorm.”
OBI Drama presents...

The Twelve Months of Christmas
by Scott Icenhower

December 6, 7, 8 at 7:00 PM in the OBI Chapel
Admission is free!

Ag students excel at Laurel County Ag Fair

In July our agriculture students took part in the Laurel County Ag Fair and Skill-a-thon. Moriah Bevil (pictured) was Class 4 Grand Champion, first in Junior Showmanship, first in Class 2 Market Feeder, third in Junior Showmanship, and second in Market Hogs. Class 4 Reserve Champion was Emma Nelson, who also won second place Junior Showmanship and first place Class 3 Market Feeder. Olivia Bevil took first in Senior Showmanship and second in Class 3 Market Feeder. Lily Wynn was second in Senior Showmanship, Class 2 Market Feeder and Senior Class Showmanship. Lily also took two first-place honors and one second place in the Skill-a-thon.

Gabrielle St. Ives earned first place in Class 1 Market Feeder, third in Senior Showmanship Feeder Calf and fourth in the Skill-a-thon. Amber Wolford was second in Class 1 Market Feeder, third in Class 3 Market Feeder and seventh in the Senior Division of the Skill-a-thon. Sylvia Bevil was first in Junior Showmanship and third in Class 3 Market Hogs.

Caitlin Kelly earned first place in Class 3 Market Hogs, second in Junior Showmanship and sixth in the Junior Division of the Skill-a-thon. Alexia Turbeville was second in Class 3 Market Hogs, fifth in Junior Showmanship, fourth place in the Skill-a-thon for both Junior Division Goat and Junior Division Hog, and eighth overall in the Junior Division.

Reagan Walker took several Skill-a-thon awards: first in the Junior Beef Division, second in the Junior Sheep Division and first overall in the Junior Division. Alex Reed earned third place in the Skill-a-thon Senior Goat Division and fourth in the Senior Sheep Division. Joshua Barnes came in second in Class 5 Market Hogs, while Joe Barnes took fourth place.

Farm manager Marty Bevil said, “The farm staff were very proud of all participants for their hard work and dedication.”

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.

Do you know of a teen in grades 6-12 who could benefit from OBI?
If so, tell the family about Oneida. Direct them to our web site for more information. www.oneidaschool.org telephone: 606-847-4111

Are you receiving duplicate mailings from us?
If so, help us save on postage. Send us the label of the address you want us to delete and mark it “cancel.” Or e-mail: peggy.jackson@oneidaschool.org Include your name, the address you want to cancel and the 5-digit number above your name on that label.

OBI is an institution of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. 9% of our funding is from the KBC Cooperative Program, 61% from individuals, churches and groups, and 30% from student fees.
Introducing two of our Most Improved students

Every spring OBI faculty, houseparents and school administrators meet to decide on the recipients of our major student awards. They vote on a boy and a girl from each grade for Most Improved, Most Outstanding, and Most Studious. Most Improved winners may be students who have made progress in attitude, character, study habits, academics or self esteem, or those who have worked hard to overcome personal difficulties. We would like to introduce you to two of our 2011-12 Most Improved students.

**Ben Johnson** earned the title of Most Improved by a unanimous vote. Ben is a Kentucky student and is a seventh-grader this year. Problems the adult ministry team members noted early in Ben’s sixth-grade year included low grades, excessive tardies, talking too much in class, skipping detentions, multiple suspensions, and low effort. By April, however, he was making B’s, being less disruptive with talking, arriving at class more promptly, demonstrating more maturity, and wanting to help others.

Ben believed that his initial low grades were mostly because he wasn’t trying. He gave credit for his turn-around to his grandfather and to **Sharon Grant**, OBI Tutoring Lab Director. Ben explained that things got so bad that his grandfather feared he would get expelled. Though he had lived with his grandfather since age five, his grandfather told Ben that if he lost his opportunity to attend OBI he would have to live with another family member. “I love my grandfather,” Ben said. “I wanted to keep living with him.” Still, “It was kind of hard” to make the necessary adjustments, he admitted.

Grant said, “Ben has made great improvements. We’ve seen growth in academics, behavior, and his socialization in the dorm. Now he’s had success and he realizes he can do it; it’s motivated him to do better.” Yet Ben readily confessed, “I still need to work on my maturity.” He also said he hopes to raise his grades even more and make the honor roll this year.

**Michelle Monje-Juarez** was our Most Improved sixth-grade girl. She began the year with D’s and F’s, partly because she had difficulty understanding English. Though she came to us from North Carolina, Michelle was raised in Mexico.

Teachers and school administrators found Michelle to be “defensive and aggressive.” She explained, “At first I didn’t care about anything.” She had grown up in an atmosphere of gangs and violence. “In my other school I’d beat people up or say words [against them]” Michelle recalled. “But I didn’t want that kind of life for myself. I wanted to change and be happy for once.” At OBI, “Everyone here was happy,” she said. “I learned how to interact with other people.”

As Michelle’s English skills improved her grades came up to A’s and B’s. Ministry team members noted that Michelle showed concern for her peers. She put forth more effort in her classes and was even willing to stay after school to finish her work. Michelle’s most profound change, however, was a spiritual one. Over Christmas break last year, her aunt led her to Christ.

**Sheryl Baker**, Michelle’s teacher last year, said the difference in Michelle after that break was “like night and day.” Baker noted that Michelle’s countenance and attitude changed profoundly. “She smiled. She said, ‘I like this place!’” Baker recalled. “I knew she must have had some kind of God experience.”

This year Michelle plans to continue working on her attitude, and hopes to improve her relationships with family.

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Check out our 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 tell others about OBI.