



Founded in 1899

ONEIDA MOUNTAINEER

Education for Time and Eternity

A bi-monthly newsletter of Oneida Baptist Institute

March/April 2009

OBI student goes to state art show



Oneida junior **Tyler Ruprich** (pictured) earned first-place honors at the Bluegrass Regional Art Show at Eastern Kentucky University in March. His graphic design advertisement for the *Textile Expo 2010* will advance to the state competition in June.

Tyler was one of five OBI commercial arts students and seven Oneida fine arts students who entered work in the regional show.

For the eighth consecutive year OBI commercial art students took multiple wins in graphic design. **Cameron Nutter** placed third in graphic design with his ad for an event at the fictitious *L'Histoire* museum. **Caleb Waslewski** also earned third place with a banner for his *El Mexicano Museo*.

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Boys' dorm blessed by renovation

After nearly two years of dreaming, planning and construction, our new boys' dorm lobby and office are open for business.

The generous lobby boasts three video game areas, a wide-screen television, four semi-private telephone booths, an ice machine, tables for board games and puzzles, and two sinks--one with a faucet that runs 190-degree water and another with a strainer. Boys can now cook noodles or instant soup, oatmeal, etc. simply by running hot water over the food, and they can empty excess water into the second sink.



Along one wall of the lobby a glass partition separates the lounge space from the dormitory office. The divider was needed to reduce the noise level in the office. Houseparent **Pat Pratt** said, "The glass wall really does help hold down the noise."

The renovation gave the dorm staff more space, too. Follow the hallway behind the office and you will discover a large medication cabinet, a restroom with shelving for extra linens, a coat rack, plenty of storage space plus a kitchen. An additional room houses tables, chairs and computers used for late-night study hall.

The new lobby and office began as the dream of **Jim Price**, Dean of Boys. When a houseparent mentioned that there was only one wall separating two areas of the building, Price envisioned how much space would be created if the wall came down. He took his new dream to OBI president, **Dr. W. F. Underwood** (OBI '63). "I'm so glad Dr. Underwood was supportive," Price said, "because at first he couldn't really 'see' it." When Price consulted with **Dan Nichols**, Director of New Construction and **Michael Kelley**, Director of Maintenance, he got a surprise. On the building's blueprints, the original label for that area was "lobby." Price was happy to know his plan resulted in the space being used for what it was first intended to be. "God really did it," Price said of how it all worked out. "I'd never had any sort of vision before."



It didn't take long for Price's vision to catch on with the students. "Jim put heart and soul into this," Pratt recalled. "He and the boys did a lot of the demolition. They were super excited about it."

Not only did countless hours of volunteer labor go into the project, but generous donors helped fund the renovation. A

(See **Boys' dorm**, page 3)

“A work for the Lord” -- Meet our full-time volunteers

We frequently write about our short-term volunteers, and we are forever grateful for all that they do for us. But did you know that we also have full-time volunteers?

Generally retired people, our full-time volunteers may stay with us for a couple of years or for an indefinite period of time. Most come as volunteers in the beginning, but some are former paid staff members who have converted to volunteer status. All are highly appreciated. “These wonderful people fill positions that we would otherwise have to fill with salaried staff,” said OBI president, **Dr. W. F. Underwood** (OBI '63). “They also remind us that our work is worthy of their time and talents. Plenty of ministries would love to have them, but they chose us. How blessed we are!”

Bill Atto (far right, OBI '62) has served at OBI for 24 years, but he just became a volunteer last spring. Bill moved to Oneida from Ohio with his parents, “**Pal**” and **Donna**, when they became faculty/staff members in 1984. Bill fills the snack and soda machines all around campus, and has worked in the Carnahan Store, where students may purchase school supplies, snacks and personal items. Anyone who knows Bill sees in him a deep love for Christ. He said of his job, “It’s a work for the Lord.”

Like Bill, **Myrtle Cooke** (OBI '60) ministered in a paid faculty position for 20 years. She was our guidance counselor and also served as a teacher. When she retired, Cooke took on a new job as volunteer Alumni Director. (Full article in the July/August 2004 *Oneida Mountaineer*.)

George and **Kathy Goeddey** have a different story. For nearly a decade they came to OBI as short-term volunteers with a group from Illinois. Upon retiring they decided to volunteer full-time. George became our volunteer coordinator and Kathy began assisting the Student Coordinator as the campus “runner.” (Story in the September/October 2004 *Oneida Mountaineer*.)

One of our newest volunteers is **Roy Taylor** (left). Roy and his wife, **Dorothy**, came to OBI in June of 2007 from Mississippi. He had retired from Bell South 13 years prior, and had since worked for Adelphia Cable for eight years. The Taylors discovered Oneida on the internet job search site, Intercristo, and drove up to visit the campus. When their daughter, **Tammy Terburgh**, and her husband, **Bill**, later joined our faculty, the Taylors decided to come on board.

They were interested in volunteering from the start, but wanted to wait and see how things would work out financially. After six months they agreed that Roy could switch to volunteer status. Roy is one of our maintenance staff, specializing in telephones, internet wiring and electrical work. Dorothy is a substitute teacher and part-time secretary in the high school.

Roy said they have been happy so far at Oneida. “We enjoy the people, the kids,” he stated. How long do they plan

to be here? “We hope to stay three more years at least,” Roy said. “By then I’ll be bumping on 70.”

Dr. Dean Wilson and his wife, **Nona**, (center) also first came to Oneida in 2007. They had heard of OBI, but didn’t know much about it until they volunteered with a church group that summer. “When we left here, we felt called to return,” Nona recalled. They were coaching golf at their local high school, so waited until the season ended before they came back for another stint as short-term volunteers. For two months Dean helped with new construction and Nona worked in the gift shop. By Christmas break they still didn’t feel God wanted them to leave, so they spoke with Dr. Underwood again. This time he told them that what he really needed them to do was teach.

They agreed to try it, but with some hesitation. Both came from lifetime backgrounds in education, but Dean had been in principal and assistant principal positions and had not taught in the classroom for 25 years. The Wilsons made the fourth quarter of the school year their trial run. He took on U.S. history, while she divided her time between K-2, fourth grade and sixth grade. “We really enjoyed it,” Nona said. “We had missed getting to know the kids at first.”

Now Dean continues to teach U.S. history, and Nona teaches language arts, math and PE to our K-5 “staff kids.” They said they will serve at Oneida “until we feel God’s telling us to do something else.”

Nona spoke of a benefit full-time volunteers receive beyond their meals and housing. “It’s a different closeness we feel to people here,” she explained. “It’s like we’ve known these people all our lives. I think the friendships we’ve found here will be lasting.” ■



2009 poetry slam winners were **Kiersten Zimmerman** (2nd), **Bailey Owen** (3rd), **Emel Curtis** (1st) and **Hannah Worcester** (4th).



In our annual Culture Fair 18 different student groups represented cultures from around the world. The cuisine included samples from Mexico, Korea, Ethiopia, Liberia, Russia and more.



Bits and tidbits

Mark your calendar:

Homecoming 2009 will be Saturday, June 27. Plan now to attend!

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We are collecting labels

OBI is participating in three special promotions:

- Tyson's "Project A+"™
Send us the entire labels from specially marked Tyson chicken products and our school can redeem them for 24¢ each.
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(Art show, continued from page 1)

Hirut Yimer placed second in fine arts with her drawing titled, *Biohazard Bob & Radioactive Raychle*. **Jaiye Kamson** was awarded third place in mixed media with her *Chaotic Collage*. Also in mixed media, **Hannah Worcester** (pictured) received two distinguished honors for her piece titled, *Reaching Levi Blue*. She earned the Art Education Student Association Award and the ASID Interior Design Award. This was Hannah's second year to earn regional honors. ■



Hannah and her artwork on display

(Boys' dorm, continued from page 1)



church group visited the dorm while volunteering on campus. They told Price, "Give us a list of what you need." The congregation designated all of their Vacation Bible School offering to OBI and then voted to contribute another \$5,000. "I was flabbergasted," Price admitted. "It shows that when God wants to do something, He'll do it His way!"

A particular blessing among the church gifts was a handcrafted medicine cabinet made by one of the gentlemen who toured the dorm that day. The church paid for the wood--a beautiful walnut that was not usable for retail cabinets because of its color--and the cabinet maker donated his time and talents. Price recalled, "He made it down to the tiniest detail just from a sketch."

At one point a mother of one of the boys encouraged Price to apply for a Wal-Mart grant. A Wal-Mart employee herself, she helped with the paperwork and the result was another \$500 toward the goal. "I didn't have to ask Dr. Underwood for anything," Price said.

The boys had really needed some sort of common area in their dormitory. Our girls have a TV room with a microwave on each floor, a TV room near the dorm office and a lobby. They also have access to the adjacent faculty dining hall if they need additional space for study or special activities. The boys, however, had no place to gather except the office, which quickly became cramped and noisy. "I often had to ask the guys to be quiet when I was on the phone," Pratt remembered. She loves the new facility. "This is awesome!" she exclaimed. "What more could you want?"

Boys' houseparents can already see the difference the lobby is making in the lives of their students. Price explained, "Social interaction is such an important part of learning how to get along in society. I saw this as an opportunity for them to enjoy TV and games with supervision and limitations that would help them learn how to treat each other. It has far surpassed my expectations in achieving everything I thought it needed to achieve."

Houseparents agree. "You never see just one or two boys playing a video game," **Gary Garrett** noted. "It's always a whole group of them." Pratt added, "I'm surprised at some of the ones who play board games and do puzzles. Before, they could only play video games in their rooms and they couldn't socialize." "The boys are ecstatic," Price said. "They spend all evening in the lobby... It's all been an affirmation that this is what God wanted from the beginning."

Price is looking forward to the donor church visiting OBI again this summer and seeing the renovation for themselves. ■



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My OBI Volunteer Experience

Several years ago a group from Hillview Baptist Church toured the Oneida Baptist Institute facilities. The day was spent learning about its history and the mission of many wonderful and dedicated people. I was very impressed with the work that was being done with the children and the very concept of the birth of OBI. I vowed at the time, if ever I had the opportunity, I would go back and do whatever I could as a volunteer.

The year 2008 was a sad year for me. In June I lost my mother, whom I had cared for in our home for many years. I was witness to her courageous fight against two relentless enemies - dementia and Alzheimers.

When God had put the finishing touches on her heavenly mansion and invited all her loved ones for a reunion, he called Mother home. I know she is happy, but I miss her very much.

I was in despair, dreading the first Christmas without her. Then I received Dr. Underwood's Christmas letter and right away I remembered my promise to return to OBI. The timing seemed perfect. I contacted Dr. Underwood about coming at Christmas time and explained that I had lost my mother and needed to get away. He and Mrs. (Kay) Underwood were kind and gracious. They made arrangements for me to come the week before Christmas to help out in the Friendship House located on campus.

The whole atmosphere at OBI from staff and volunteers is one of love, respect, and discipline for the children. Emphasis seems to be placed on each child as they are taught they can succeed. I went to meals with staff and kids, attended their Christmas program, watched and observed the kids in action on the farm located just below the guest house where I was staying.

All the staff were devout and dedicated to the Lord. I met several volunteers (mostly couples) who had retired and moved to OBI. Their stories about how they ended up at OBI were a blessing to me. I was also blessed by an invitation to observe the baptism of a young OBI student. This was a confirmation of the continuous movement at OBI to lead children to Christ and plant the seeds of life while they are students at OBI.

I pray that God will allow me to return and that He will continue to bless OBI as only He can.

Phyllis Mitchell, Hillview Baptist Church
Louisville, Kentucky

Line up for Homecoming!



Homecoming 2009 will soon be here, so mark **June 27** on your calendar.

This year we plan to unveil a portrait of OBI's fourth president, Charles Goins. All alumni who were students during the years that Goins served as teacher or president will be recognized--1915-1941.

Our Homecoming will have all of the usual features: a hymn sing at the Oneida Baptist Church, a coed alumni basketball game, recognition of all anniversary classes (2004, 1999, 1994, 1989, etc.), group photos of anniversary classes, time to visit with old friends, shuttle buses to take visitors around campus and to the farm, special children's activities, a delicious barbecue lunch and a tasty grilled supper.

We invite alumni, former students, faculty and staff plus friends of the school to join us for Homecoming 2009. Questions? Contact our Alumni Director, Myrtle Cooke:

(606) 847-4111, ext. 268

or

myrtlewebbcooke@yahoo.com