



Founded in 1899

ONEIDA MOUNTAINEER

Education for Time and Eternity

A bi-monthly newsletter of Oneida Baptist Institute

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Meet some of our 2011 graduates...

Chelbe explored talents, learned independence



Chelbe (center) and her older brother arrived in 2009 as international students from Tanzania. Her brother graduated with OBI's class of 2010. Chelbe's two younger siblings and one of her cousins all enrolled in 2010.

Chelbe has several relatives who live in the U.S. and one of her aunts found OBI on the internet. "She liked the work program and said it would make us grow up and be independent. [She also liked] the fact that OBI was a Christian school," Chelbe added.

It took Chelbe a while to get used to the rules and to stop getting into trouble for breaking them. OBI's daily required job was not one of her favorite aspects of being a student here. Later, she changed her mind. "I think the work program is good. It keeps people busy," she said.

Her first year, Chelbe worked on the kitchen and dormitory cleaning crews and received an Outstanding Worker award. This year, a friend convinced her to join the volleyball team as a manager. At the end of the volley-

ball season, Chelbe received a Highest GPA award from her coach and joined the basketball team.

She was always a good student but had allowed her grades to slip a little at home. At OBI, Chelbe said, "I wanted to make my parents proud. I started focusing on my studies more." She enjoyed the challenge of advanced placement classes and appreciated the one-on-one help she could get from her teachers at OBI. "Here, people actually help you when you don't understand," she said. Chelbe plans to major in pre-law in college.

A member of the OBI choir for two years, Chelbe enjoyed learning more about music. She said, "I liked how choir helped my voice and taught me better breathing techniques and how to read music...Mr. Cochran took the time to teach what we didn't understand." She received the Most Improved choir award her first year in choir. As a senior she was selected to participate in All Festival Chorus, a regional honor choir.

Chelbe accepted Christ when she was nine years old and agreed that attending OBI has benefited her spiritual life. "I learned from my teachers more about God's forgiveness," she explained. She said she had struggled with feeling "judged," but she learned that God does not see her that way.

Chelbe reflected, "At first I didn't like coming to OBI but as I got used to it I liked it. Now, I can do things on my own. Before, I relied on what my parents thought. Being here made me more of an adult." □

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?

Matthew 16:26

We've all heard the ongoing reports about our precarious economy. Rather than worry, why not take stock of more eternal investments, like those being made every day at Oneida?

At Oneida, students hear the gospel message daily, and many come to Christ each year. When they graduate, they take the good news of Jesus' love with them wherever they go.

Building on this spiritual foundation, teenagers in grades 6-12 are given tools necessary for a successful life—academic support, daily chores, opportunities to explore talents and recognition for a job well done.

As many of you know, each June we promote the Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute in churches across Kentucky. This will be the 16th year of the offering, approved by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Father's Day is a great time to remember the Oneida ministry and to consider making an investment that will last for *Time and Eternity*.

