



Founded in 1899

ONEIDA MOUNTAINEER

Education for Time and Eternity

A bi-monthly newsletter of Oneida Baptist Institute

November/December 2011

Dr. W. F. Underwood announces retirement from OBI presidency



On September 13 **Dr. W.F. "Bud" Underwood** (OBI '63) announced his plan to retire as president of Oneida Baptist Institute, effective March 31, 2012. He made a personal statement to the Board of Trustees accompanied by a written letter and also sent a letter to all OBI faculty/staff. Underwood's wife and administrative assistant, **Kay**

Atto Underwood (OBI '63) will also retire at the same time.

By March 31 the Underwoods will be completing 28 years at Oneida. Dr. Underwood has served the last 18 of those years as president.



The announcement came as no surprise with the exception of the date. Underwood wanted to retire earlier but the trustees asked him to stay when the economy took a severe plunge. He had lately made it known that he planned to retire in June, 2012, but then told the Board that it would be earlier. In his letter to the faculty/staff he explained: "I simply do not have the energy to do another graduation and Homecoming and spend adequate time with my successor in order to help prepare him/her for my job."

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, **Rev. Ken Bolin**, said the Board

"regretfully accepted" Underwood's letter. The trustees have formed an executive committee to actively search for a new president. Their goal is to have a new leader in place before March 31 so Underwood can orient his successor to the many job responsibilities. Underwood stated, "Some members of the Board have told me they think I should spend as much as three months sharing some of the information I have gained during the past 28 years."

If Underwood can train the next president he will be giving his successor a valuable experience he never received. He was asked by the trustees to accept the presidency after then president **Dr. Barkley Moore** (OBI '58) died unexpectedly in 1994.

Underwood is the tenth president Oneida Baptist Institute has known since the school was founded by **James Anderson Burns** in 1899. □


 from the students,
 faculty and staff of
 Oneida Baptist Institute


See You At The Pole
On September 28 our Baptist Campus Ministry sponsored "See You At The Pole." (right) Some 30 faculty, staff and students gathered around the flag pole in front of our administration building at 7:30 A.M. for prayer.

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Cross country sends two to state; soccer finishes first in district



The runners get into their starting positions at our last home meet.

The OBI cross country team ended the season with two runners qualifying for state competition. Eighth-grader **Eric Grant** and junior **Matthew Tedla** both earned the right to run in the state meet on November 12. Eric was second overall in the regional contest with a time of 18:35. "He's a great runner," noted coach **Lance Nutter**. This was Eric's second year in a row to qualify for state. Matthew was fourteenth overall at regionals with a time of 20:03. Nutter said, "Matthew worked really hard all season to better himself."

At first it looked as if Matthew had not made the cut to go to the state competition. "He was heartbroken," Nutter recalled. Then Nutter received an e-mail saying there had been a mistake. Because two other teams had tied for third place more runners could advance to state, including Matthew. "He was incredibly happy," Nutter said.

This was the first year Matthew had ever run cross country. He joined the team because, "I wanted to do better in basketball." So how did he explain his cross country success? "I just stuck with it," he said with a smile. Matthew discovered he likes to run; he said he plans to do track/field in the spring and run cross country again next year. He and Eric provided valuable competition for one another throughout the season. "They challenged each other all season," Nutter explained.

Eric moved up a slot in regional competition from his third-place rank last year. He improved his personal best time this season, too -- from 18:39 to 17:38. His parents, **Steve** and **Sharon Grant**, are OBI teachers who do a lot to encourage him. Eric estimated that he runs in 10-20 races per year in addition to the cross country meets. He said the most exciting thing for him about going to state is, "looking at my overall rank there."

Our soccer team finished the season first in the district in regular season play, making OBI the "top seed." This gave us an advantage in the district tournament bracket. We received a "bye" for the first round and automatically advanced to the second round, which the Oneida Mountaineers lost to North Laurel High School. OBI Athletic Director,



Laura Stockton (OBI '86) said, "We had beaten North Laurel during the regular season and felt confident we could beat them again. But North came to play and were probably extra energized from their first night victory which they weren't 'supposed' to win anyway." This was the first time our soccer team had made it to the regional tournament since 2008. □

Nominations accepted soon for the OBI Athletic Hall of Fame

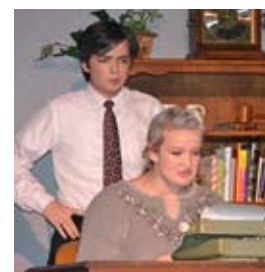


Be watching for criteria and a nomination form in the Jan/Feb *Oneida Mountaineer*.

Successful fall play and fine arts 'swap' with public school

The Oneida Players produced their fall play—Murder By Indecision, by Daniel O'Donnell—on October 27-29. In lieu of the regular final dress rehearsal, we hosted a matinee performance for Oneida Elementary, a neighboring public school.

In September, the Oneida Elementary School principal, **Steve Burchfield**, invited OBI students to his school to see a play by a troupe from the Lexington Children's Theater. Our K-5 staff children plus sixth grade day and dorm students attended. □



Commercial art lab upgraded

Our commercial art lab underwent a major upgrade this year after using the same software for 11 years. Thanks to the generosity of a software company, we were able to purchase the latest version of our software at a very modest price. We also bought new computers. Now students are learning to use the computer to do original, freehand artwork for their designs. OBI commercial art instructor, **Sheri Nutter**, worked with the company on developing the updated application.



Nutter spoke of how graphic design is changing: "The industry has undergone a huge transformation. When people used to ask me to make a banner, they meant an actual banner. Now it is web banners. One of the reasons I asked for upgrades was that we needed to change directions. My curriculum needed to include more print/logo design. We will still make signs for the school, but the students will focus on making original artwork they can sell online."

"We needed to change directions."

Commercial art students do gain experience in selling their work. One classroom assignment is to start their own graphic design business. Some have won contests, too. Last year the classes participated in a T-shirt design contest sponsored by a church youth group. The contest director told Nutter, "I have never seen the level of ability in high school students I have seen with these entries; they are all fantastic and very professional!"

Noting "a huge insurgence of jobs available on line" in recent years, Nutter said the new software "has broad appeal for many of our students, teaching a valuable career skill." She added, "The new computers and program upgrades will more fully prepare them for the ever-changing graphic design industry."

Nutter hopes the upgrade will also help her students with commercial art competitions. She stated, "With our new programs and computers our ability to compete will be stronger than ever!" □

2011-12 Yearbook Queen crowned



Hye Been Choi, Oretha Shannon and Yearbook Queen Kaitlin Jones

On October 15 **Kaitlin Jones** was crowned Oneida Yearbook Queen. Ten young ladies participated in the pageant, which was sponsored by the yearbook staff and open to all senior girls. **Oretha Shannon** was first runner-up and **Hye Been Choi** was second runner-up. **Chameca Helm** (not pictured) won best talent. □

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 these special programs:

Campbell's "Labels for Education"™

Send us the entire label. Look for "Labels for Education"™ not only on Campbell's foods, but also on their other 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 and other items for our school.

Tyson's "Project A+"™

Send entire labels from specially marked Tyson chicken products. These are worth 24 cents each, and 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 our ministry?

If so, tell the family about OBI. Direct them to our web site for more information and admissions forms. Phone: (606) 847-4111
Web: www.oneidaschool.org

Our mascot has a name!



This fall our athletic department took ideas from staff and students for a name for our Oneida Mountaineer mascot. "The plan was to pick the top five suggestions and put them to a campus vote," explained athletic director **Laura Stockton** (OBI '86). "But when the suggestions were sorted...there was no need for a vote."

So what are we calling our mascot? "Obi," pronounced "Oh-bee." □

ONEIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE
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ONEIDA KENTUCKY 40972-0067
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Oneida's ACT math scores beat state average



Each year, OBI receives a summary of the American College Test (ACT) scores earned by our students as well as the state averages. In mathematics for the 2011 academic year, the average score for Oneida students who took the ACT exceeded the state average.

Six years ago, the Kentucky Board of Education mandated that all Kentucky graduates, beginning with the class of 2012, must complete four years of math in high school. The OBI administration immediately made adjustments in the math program to ensure that our graduates were prepared. As the 2011 ACT scores reflected, Oneida graduates are not only meeting but exceeding state expectations.

"Our math teachers and tutors have worked diligently and tirelessly in order to better equip our student body to use and understand the importance of mathematics in daily life," said OBI principal **Dan Stockton**.

Stockton honored the OBI math department by reporting the news from the ACT summary during a chapel service in August. (pictured above) □

Campers fulfill mission



In October we were blessed again to host the Alabama Campers On Mission for two weeks. This is the largest group of the 600-700 volunteers we have each year. The C.O.M. assisted our gift shop, main office, construction crew, Friendship House and donations department. Volunteers play a vital role in the Oneida ministry.



Autumn at OBI



In September the Student Council sponsored flag football and volleyball tournaments.



In October the Student Council brought us a Fall Festival, complete with pumpkin painting, tug-o-war, an obstacle course, face painting, a hayride, flag football, a petting zoo, a cookout supper and a game show -- plus snacks!



The chapel steeple dwarfed workers as they prepared to lift it to the top of the roof by crane. The steeple had been temporarily removed and completely refurbished while the roof of the chapel building, Sylvia Russell Hall, was replaced.