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ONEIDA MOUNTAINEER

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A bi-monthly newsletter of Oneida Baptist Institute

September/October 2024

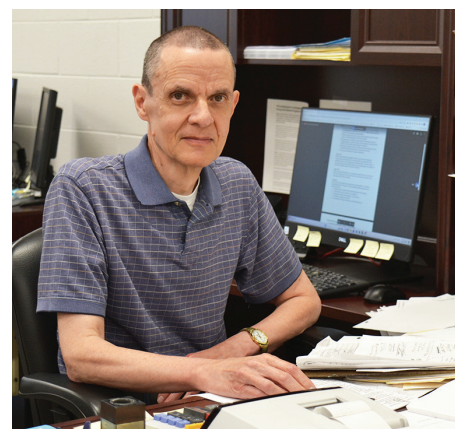
Celebrating 125 years of Education for Time and Eternity



OBI HOMECOMING OCTOBER 19, 2024

11:00 AM—Hymn Sing at Oneida Baptist Church
12:00 PM—Lunch in Underwood Hall
1:00 PM—Alumni Recognition Program
2:00 PM—Special J.A. Burns 125 Year Celebration
Lecture given by President Larry A. Gritton, Jr.

—35 Years of Service— OBI Business Manager Jerry Pierce



Jerry Pierce was honored for his 35 years of service during the annual staff meeting in August. Jerry has faithfully served this ministry through four OBI presidents, many campus building projects, annual audits, changing tax laws, the implementation of internet and the transition from paper to digital records, the 2008 financial downturn, a pandemic and more! One thing has remained the same: OBI's steadfast commitment to sharing the gospel with students from near and far; to provide *an Education for Time and Eternity*.

At the 2023 staff meeting, Jerry shared his personal testimony of surrendering his life to Christ and being led by God to serve at OBI. As a young man, he had chosen banking as a career. He stated, "After college, I got a job at a bank in my hometown and decided I would like to accumulate a lot of money." Having grown up in church,

(Jerry Pierce continued p. 2)

Back-to-School 2024-2025



We pick up and drop off approximately 150 local students from our four bus routes daily!



Our favorite subject is lunch!

Let the learning begin!



First chapel service of the year. Grades 6-12 attend a chapel service before lunch four days a week. The Lower School meets one day a week for a chapel service and have daily Bible lessons. Once a month, grades K-12 and staff meet together for a time of worship.



OBI friends are the best friends!

(Jerry Pierce continued)

Jerry was faithful in attendance and tithing, but he knew something was missing. Embarrassed to admit this in front of his church, Jerry said, "I continued to put off God for many years. ... I began to worry that I had rejected God too many times and God had given up on me."

One day, overwhelmed with this burden, Jerry opened his heart to God on his lunch break from work. He told God, "I don't want to live this way anymore, and I give you my future." His life began to change, and about three years later, he said, "God began to plant in my mind that He wanted me to do something different. My first thought was maybe to be a pastor, but God showed me that I was not designed to be a pastor." Around this time, his church organized a missions trip to OBI, and Jerry decided to go. While there, he learned that there was a staffing need in the school's business office. Jerry believed that God was asking him to use the abilities he had been using at the bank for OBI.

Jerry met with OBI President Dr. Barkley Moore about the job but put off the decision for another six months. "I kept telling myself eventually I would do it, but that was just a way of saying 'no.' I made myself miserable," he recalled. When he was approached by his pastor who had spoken with Dr. Moore, "I finally said yes, and I am thankful that God did not take this opportunity away from me. God has blessed me abundantly in my time here. I get to work in a place where our mission is to honor God by reaching young people with His love and His Gospel," he said.

Jerry concluded, "I have a new life goal: I want to get to God's standard of loving Him and loving others. I will not get there by will power but by pursuing God." □

Would you like to contact us?

telephone: 606-847-4111

email:

president@oneidaschool.org

Meet some of our seasoned staffers . . .



ALLEN & BECKY KENDRICK

25 years at OBI

Allen is the purchasing agent in the business office and has taught high school math for many years. Becky has taught a variety of classes and grade levels depending on the need. This year, she is teaching 5th grade.



RANDY & TRICIA SCHMITTENDORF

15 years at OBI

Randy is the OBI Maintenance Director. Tricia teaches high school English.



ED & KIM BOWERS

10 years at OBI

The Bowers retired from OBI in August and will be missed. Ed was athletic facilities caretaker, and Kim served in admissions.



KESHIA WOODS

20 years at OBI

Keisha assists with donations.



DAN WOODS

10 years at OBI

Dan serves on the campus grounds crew and in donations.

. . . Welcome a few of our new-comers



MATTHEW LANGDON

Middle School Math & Computer Teacher, Bus Driver

I try my best to be committed to the leadership and direction of the Lord in everything I do. I believe that God has guided my path to education and OBI. I love learning new things and sharing my love of knowledge with those around me.



EMILY & ZAC KEMP

High School Science Teacher (Emily)
3rd Grade Teacher (Zac)

Emily: My husband and I decided to send our littles to OBI and realized we were also called to serve on staff. As a teacher, I love doing hands on activities and experiments to bring a deeper understanding of the lessons.

Zac: I hope to accomplish many things this year but most importantly I want to help the students grow in all areas of their lives including spiritually, academically, mentally, and emotionally.



KATIE DODGE

First Grade Teacher

I have ten years of experience teaching grades K-9. When I learned about the mission and ministry behind OBI, I knew that I wanted to be a part of it. First grade has always had a special place in my heart because I love teaching kids to read!

Charles Goins, a “Builder of Oneida”



Born in 1882, Charles Goins was reared in a windowless one-room log cabin on Beech Creek in Clay County. He was an uncle to Kentucky Governor Bert T. Combs.

An avid learner, he attended district schools at every opportunity but these were often open only a few weeks a year. He was 17 years old when a teacher offered to pay his way to OBI. Goins wrote, “The dawn of a new and brighter day opened for me. On the \$16.00 my teacher gave me, I went to school for two terms at Oneida. I soon learned that a fellow was in no danger of being run off from that school just because he didn’t have enough money.”

Goins went on to graduate from Union College at Barbourville. He started teaching in 1902 and gained a reputation of being one of Clay County’s best teachers. In 1915, he was recruited by his former professor, James A. Burns, to teach at OBI. Goins wrote at the time, “[Oneida] enabled me to appreciate some of the things in life which God has so wonderfully prepared for his people. ... They have enabled me to work in the school that saved me from an absolutely hopeless life of slavery to ignorance and deprivation, in order that I may try to impart to other boys and girls the spark of an ambition for a new and better life.”

Goins was baptized in 1922 by Rev. Burns when he joined the Baptist church in Oneida.

During the years of Sylvia Russell’s presidency (1922-1928), Goins served as secretary and treasurer, assisting Mrs. Russell in navigating the school out of debt. In 1932, Goins left OBI to become Supervisor of Schools for Clay County. Two years later, he was called by Prof. Burns to return to OBI, this time as vice president. Just a month later, Burns resigned. He wrote of Goins, “His thinking, his sympathies, his hopes and aims are more nearly reflections of my own than anyone we have ever trained in the school. He knows the home life of our people thoroughly, and his heart yearns for a chance for them to free themselves through Christian education from the bonds of poverty and dependence.”

As OBI’s fourth president from 1934-1942, Goins labored through the years of the Great Depression, the start of WWII in which three of his four sons served in the Army, and a flood in 1939 described at the time as the worst flood in Oneida’s history.

Reflecting on his time as president, Goins stated, “Literally and physically this Institution has been saved from the day of its inception to the present moment through faith in the cause for which it was founded, faith in Him who holds the destiny of nations in the hollow of His hand, that having begun a good work here for these isolated people, He will continue it until His purpose and will are fulfilled.” □

Dorm boys in 1937—At the top of the photo is J.H. Walker, the first college graduate to join OBI’s faculty. He was principal from 1903-1920 and returned in 1928 to serve as Dean and help Oneida through the Great Depression. President Goins said in 1936, “Mr. Walker has been of inestimable worth to me.” In 2023, we dedicated the Susan and Bob Walker Athletic Complex, made possible by the Walkers’ generous donation. Bob Walker is the grandson of J.H. Walker.



Brad Dorough Friendship Award



Congratulations to OBI senior **Grace Sugplang**, winner of the 2023-2024 Brad Dorough Friendship Award.

Since 1990, the students of OBI have voted to award the Brad Dorough Friendship Award to a classmate. During a chapel service in May, students in grades 6-12 are instructed to vote for a person who has been sensitive and understanding of the needs of other students, a person who made them feel welcome at OBI.

The award includes a scholarship to attend OBI the following school year. Brad Dorough attended OBI in the 7th-9th grades in the mid-1980s. In 1989, he was killed in a car accident. His parents had often heard him talk of his fond memories of his friends at OBI and wanted to establish a friendship scholarship at OBI in his honor.

This year was unique in that it was Grace’s third year in a row to receive this award. OBI President Gritton added that it was a “wide margin” between Grace and the person with the next highest number of votes.

Grace came to OBI her freshman year in 2021 from Thailand. She stated, “I wanted to gain a lot of new experiences, and the education system in the U.S. is excellent. My parents are pastors, so they picked OBI because it is a Christian school. Grace was humbled at being selected for the award. She said, “I am not a perfect girl, but I want to live a life where others can see God’s grace through me. I am pleased and feel grateful to God. All I know is God provided me with this award.” □



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Fall Sports in Full Swing



Above: Girls' Volleyball with got off to a great start with several early wins. Boys' Soccer advanced to the All A State Tournament on September 21st after winning the regional and sectional games.



Right: The Lower School Cross Country team proudly displayed the medals they earned at their September meet in Booneville!



We were blessed to have **Dr. Todd Gray**, Executive Director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, as our guest speaker at the annual OBI Faculty and Staff Worship Service on August 5th, 2024.

Bits & Tidbits

Update your contact info

If you have a change of name or address, please let us know. Email: diane.dimsey@oneidaschool.org
Call: 606-847-4111 ext. 230

OBI Homecoming October 19, 2024

Share the date with your OBI friends!

Alumni

Help us stay connected—scan the QR code and fill out a short survey.

