

After Two-Year Hiatus, OBI Has Homecoming

Ed Roberts Joins the OBI Athletic Hall of Fame



OBI alumnus **Ed Roberts** attended Oneida from 1966 until his graduation in '68. He was a dorm student from Leslie County and played basketball and baseball. Roberts was named Most Valuable Player at the Christmas tournament and also made All-District and All-Region. Finally, Roberts was named Honorable Mention All State in 1968.

Roberts is proud of his wife, **JoAnn**; their 51 years of marriage; daughter **Heather**; and five grandchildren.

After graduation from OBI, Roberts worked in manufacturing. He has also been involved in school and community work. He was a United Way coordinator for 25 years, and worked with Child Welfare for 17 years.

(Hall of Fame, continued pg. 2)

New Dining Facility Dedicated, Named for Dr. W.F. "Bud" and Kay Underwood

It was OBI's distinct honor and privilege to dedicate our beautiful new dining facility in Dr. W.F. "Bud" and Kay Underwood's honor on Saturday, October 22, 2022.

Bud and Kay Underwood are 1963 Oneida graduates. The Underwoods met as students at OBI and then returned to serve on our staff in 1984. Dr. Underwood served as Dean of Boys and Work Program Supervisor and Mrs. Underwood served as an administrative assistant to Dr. Barkley Moore.

Dr. Underwood was called to serve as Oneida's 10th president in 1994 and served in that capacity until retiring in 2012. Following Dr. Barkley Moore as OBI president was a major undertaking and Dr. Underwood did so with great dignity, resolve, and faith. The Underwoods worked tirelessly to lead Oneida. Faculty and staff housing was greatly improved during their tenure. They also helped bring Oneida into solid legal standing, but perhaps their greatest legacy was establishing and growing an endowment that would provide Oneida



financial stability for many years to come. This commitment to savings enabled Oneida to make this much needed improvement with a new dining facility.

The Underwoods were hands-on leaders and tireless servants. Students and staff from Dr. Underwood's time as president can most assuredly recall him often standing at the exit of the dining hall to help

(Underwoods, continued, pg. 2)



Staff Service Awards

Every year, OBI recognizes faculty/staff members who have served the school for five years, ten, fifteen, etc. This year **Mrs. Denise Spencer** (pictured below) was awarded for 30 years of service.

Mrs. Spencer came to Oneida in 1992, accompanied by her husband (**Michael Spencer**) and their two children -- **Noel** (7) and **Clay** (4). Then-president **Dr. Barkley Moore** had asked Michael to come and be the Campus Minister. He and Mrs. Spencer were available for counseling, and got Baptist Student Union (now Baptist Campus Ministry) up and running.

When Dr. Moore passed away suddenly, **Dr. W.F. "Bud" Underwood** asked Mrs. Spencer to help with some of his extra duties, such as writing columns, publications, and public relations. When Mr. Spencer later died, Mrs. Spencer continued on at Oneida. "I love my work and I believe in this ministry," she said. She was happy to see both of her children graduate from OBI, and her daughter and son-in-law later taught at Oneida for eight years.

Mrs. Spencer said she has always appreciated how helpful and polite our students are. "They keep me young," she added. □

Homecoming (continued)



Homecoming (continued)



Homecoming always begins with a hymn sing at Oneida Baptist Church.



(Hall of Fame, continued)

In all that he does, Roberts loves to spread the word about Oneida. Mr. Gritton introduced him as "My friend, OBI ambassador."

Roberts made good grades at Oneida. "We didn't have any other choice," he chuckled.

His mother died when Roberts was seven. "It was a hard life," he recalled. "Sometimes I ate with my friends before I went home just to be sure I could have a supper that night."

He tried college for a year, but decided it wasn't for him. He worked construction in Indianapolis, Indiana and later settled in Ohio, where he worked for Champion International.

Roberts loves to tell others about OBI. "As you get older in life, things come back to you," he remembered. "We were a small school; there were 28 in my class. I got my values from Oneida."

His work with United Way and Child Welfare helped Roberts build relationships with families. He loves helping others. "I just give back," he said. □

You, too can be an ambassador for OBI. Tell others about our unique ministry. Bring them to visit us. If you know a teenager who is struggling, tell the family about Oneida.

In memoriam



Dr. Ralph Bowling

Class of 1947
<https://obituaries.richmondregister.com/obituary/dr-ralph-bowling-1086507702>

Marjorie Blanton

Graduate of OBI
<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/kentucky/name/marjorie-blanton-obituary?id=36635123>

James Perry

Class of 1948
<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/elkhardttruth/name/james-perry-obituary?pid=202517178>

(Underwoods, continued)

ensure food wasn't wasted. The Underwoods gave 28 years of faithful service to OBI and are quite worthy of this great honor. OBI has great respect, appreciation, and admiration for all the Underwoods gave in their many years of faithful service to OBI.

Underwood Hall, much like recently constructed Carnahan-Daugherty Hall and Huang Hall, isn't granite, marble, or top-of-the-line accommodations. It will, however, be a place we can be proud of and a place that will reinforce with our students what we strive to instill in them every day - "You are somebody and God loves and cares for you." Nearly every person who spends even just a few hours or long enough to enjoy a meal on the OBI campus in the next 50-60 years will be blessed to benefit from this wonderful facility. God certainly is good to OBI!

Underwood Hall Information and Features

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Design Began in 2017 | Nearly 3 Years to Construct |
| 18,000 Square Feet | Inside Seating for 480 |
| State of the Art Kitchen Equipment | Fire Pit |
| Grill for After Hours Food Service | Outdoor Courtyard (KBC funded) |
| Storm Shelter/Basement | 550+ Total Seating |
| Generator (KBC funded) | |

Larry A. Gritton, Jr., President

2022 Homecoming



2022 Homecoming (continued)

