

Two Go To State For Track/Field

Two of our athletes were contenders at the state level for track and field this spring.

Brayden Thomas, Class of 2021, was the region’s 6A champion in the 3200m run and the regional runner-up in the 1600m run. He represented OBI in both events at the state track/field meet. Brayden also ran his personal best time of 4:56 in the mile. This was Brayden’s second time to compete at state this school year; he advanced to the state cross country meet in November.

Our second state contestant was senior **Madison Gritton**. She placed third in the discus event at the regional track/field meet. It was Madison’s second time to go to state for track/field. What was this experience like? “I’m not going to lie,” she said. “It was very intimidating. But I was thankful for the opportunity and I had a great time.” Madison threw her personal best in discus this year with a measurement of 89 feet, 9.5 inches. “My goals for next year are to beat my personal record and hopefully make it to state for the third time,” Madison shared. □



Alumnus Grateful For Changed Life And For OBI



Chris Rogers (OBI '93) knows OBI as a job site, his alma mater, and a rich part of his family’s history.

He came to campus this summer with a crew from his business, Jacob’s Ladder Caulking, LLC. They pressure-washed the Chester Sparks Building exterior, painted it, and did caulking and repairs.

Chris grew up in Oneida very near the school, and was the first student to be a fourth-generation OBI graduate. His parents, **Beverly** and **Will** (both '73) met here, and Will was honored to be “Mr. Oneida,” one of our highest senior awards. Chris’s great-grandmother, **Bertha Davis Davidson**, carried meals to our school’s founder, **James**

(See **Rogers**, continued. page 2)

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Homecoming Anniversary Classes

Our October 23 Alumni and Friends Homecoming will be here before we know it. Let’s take a look ahead at the classes who will be celebrating their anniversaries. We will include this year’s classes AND last year’s anniversaries, since we did not have Homecoming last year.

Class of 2016.....	5 years	Class of 2015.....	5 years
Class of 2011.....	10 years	Class of 2010.....	10 years
Class of 2006.....	15 years	Class of 2005.....	15 years
Class of 2001.....	20 years	Class of 2000.....	20 years
Class of 1996.....	25 years	Class of 1995.....	25 years
Class of 1991.....	30 years	Class of 1990.....	30 years
Class of 1986.....	35 years	Class of 1985.....	35 years
Class of 1981.....	40 years	Class of 1980.....	40 years
Class of 1976.....	45 years	Class of 1975.....	45 years
Class of 1971.....	50 years	Class of 1970.....	50 years
Class of 1966.....	55 years	Class of 1965.....	55 years
Class of 1961.....	60 years	Class of 1960.....	60 years
Class of 1956.....	65 years	Class of 1955.....	65 years
Class of 1951.....	70 years	Class of 1950.....	70 years

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend! If you are in one of these anniversary classes, try extra hard to join us, and encourage your classmates to come, too. As you can see from reading this issue, big changes have been happening on campus, and more improvements are on the way! You don’t want to miss this chance to see firsthand how our campus is growing and developing. □

Mark your calendar!
HOMECOMING 2021
is scheduled for
Saturday,
October 23rd!



Think Homecoming's
not for you?
Think AGAIN!

Yes, Homecoming is for alumni, former students, current and previous faculty/staff, volunteers, donors, and friends of the school. That’s pretty much everybody!

Come and see the campus, especially our many improvements. Visit with friends both recent and “old.” Eat good food! Attend the hymn sing. Bring a friend to introduce him/her to Oneida. Shop for OBI merchandise. (Great for gifts!) We hope to see YOU here!

(Rogers, continued. from page 1)

Anderson Burns, when he was older and living in Anderson Hall.

Chris became friends with current OBI President, **Larry A. Gritton, Jr.** ('93) when the boys were in preschool together. Chris loved to play basketball, and he still holds **Coach Larry A. Gritton, Sr.** in the highest regard.

Raised in a Christian home with a strong church background, Chris nevertheless "started dabbling in things I shouldn't have," he said. Alcohol and marijuana led to cocaine and a variety of pills. Because of the drugs, "I lost everything -- my job, my truck, and my home."

Chris's father gave him an ultimatum -- "If you're going to live in this house, you have to keep my rules" -- but he wouldn't comply. His parents prayed endlessly for his safety and healing. Beverly is still thankful for friend **Linda Gritton**, who, with some other ladies, joined her in prayer.

"I prayed that the drugs wouldn't harm his mind," Beverly remembered. "And of course, I tried to fix him." God showed her that only He could heal Chris, and she put her son in God's hands.

Then, after 14 years, Chris gave it up. "I was 30. I had nothing. My friends were all either in prison or dead. I knew that if I was lucky, I'd be in prison, too. And if I wasn't lucky, I'd be dead." The only other option was to change his life.

There were no substance abuse facilities nearby, so Chris withdrew from drugs in his parents' basement. Beverly recalled, "It wasn't pretty." Yet he succeeded, and returned to God and to the church. He got his former job back, hired on as a foreman of his own crew. He married a young Christian lady, **Denise**, and they are active in their church. Now they have their own business, named after their 12-year-old son, **Jacob**, who loves basketball like his dad.

Chris loves doing work for OBI, saying, "I take special pride in working on that gym." Of his changed life, he is quick to say, "God was merciful. He forgave." □



Ground broken for new athletic complex May 6. *Mr. Gritton introduced Bob and Susan Walker and explained the locations of the planned components of the outdoor athletic complex. The new track will start just past the existing tennis courts. Would you like to help pay for this major campus improvement? You can be a part!*



It's not too late to make a contribution to help us finish our campus improvements.

Above right: Dr. W.F. "Bud" and Kay Underwood Hall will be dedicated at Homecoming! Those attending our Homecoming celebration on October 23 will be the first to enjoy a meal in our brand, new dining facility! (Dedication contingent on construction progress)

Right: Would you love to have a feature of our athletic complex named for someone?

OBI Athletic Complex Naming Opportunities

Baseball Field
\$250,000 Donation

Softball Field
\$250,000 Donation

Swimming Pool
\$150,000 Donation

Fieldhouse/Concession
\$100,000 Donation

Questions? Email: president@oneidaschool.org
Telephone: 606-847-4111

Oneida Athletic Hall of Fame

The purpose of the OBI Athletic Hall of Fame is to recognize and honor our outstanding coaches and athletes. Nominations may be made by any person. The inductees will be chosen by the Athletic Hall of Fame Committee.

Requirements for eligibility for nomination of an athlete:

1. The nominee must have been outstanding in one or more sports while a student at OBI.
2. The nominee must have left OBI in good standing.
3. A nominee must have graduated from high school—not necessarily from OBI—at least five years before he/she is inducted into the Hall of Fame. Only his/her OBI achievements will be considered.

Requirements for eligibility for nomination of coaches:

1. Any coach whose team wins a KHSAA-sanctioned state championship is automatically considered for induction.
2. Any other coach to be considered must have been a varsity head coach at OBI for at least three years.

Additional requirements for eligibility for nomination:

1. Nominee must be present at the induction ceremony. If unable to attend due to illness, the nominee may be represented by a family member.
2. The nominee may be someone already deceased. In this event, he/she will be represented by a family member at the induction ceremony.



Please submit nominations via email to:

michael.hawley@oneidaschool.org

You may also mail a nomination to:

OBI, Attn. Athletic Director, PO Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972



All nominations must include:

- ☐ Name of nominee & sport(s) participated in or coached
- ☐ Decade of participation in OBI sports
- ☐ Explanation for the nomination to include nominee's awards, records set, etc.
- ☐ The nominator's full name, address and phone number



Chapel pews reupholstered ahead of schedule!
Thanks to our faithful supporters, this much-needed project was able to be completed in June, 2021.

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*.

Connect

Web: www.oneidaschool.org

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/OBI.KY>

Twitter:

https://twitter.com/Oneida_Baptist

President Gritton's Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/lgritton>

Email:

president@oneidaschool.org

admissions@oneidaschool.org

Phone: 606-847-4111

Want an easy way to give?

Visit the OBI website at:

www.oneidaschool.org

Click the "Give/Volunteer" tab.

Click the "Donate now" button to give via credit/debit card or PayPal.

Want to receive OBI newsletters via email?

Send your name, mailing address, email address and the 5-digit number above your name on this issue's mailing label to:
diane.dimsey@oneidaschool.org

More ways to support OBI:

• **Tyson's Project A+™**

Labels are worth 24 cents each!
<http://projectaplus.tyson.com/>

• **GM's Box Tops for Education™**

Box Tops are digital!

<http://www.boxtops4education.com/>

• **Amazon Smile**

Earn and send 0.5% of your eligible purchases for OBI.

<http://smile.amazon.com/about>