



ONEIDA MOUNTAINEER

www.oneidaschool.org

A bi-monthly newsletter of Oneida Baptist Institute

May/June 2022

It's time for the annual Father's Day Offering

Now more than ever, Christian education is crucial. Following God's direction, OBI expanded its lower school program to reach as many children as possible. Over the last five years, we have seen a 38% increase in enrollment of our local day students in grades K-12. This gives us many more opportunities to demonstrate Christ's love not just to the students while they are at school but also to their families as we connect with them in the community.

Last summer, COVID was still causing uncertainty for schools. Out of caution, OBI restricted the number of dormitory residents for the 2021-22 school year. Those who were able to come were grateful, and our day students were glad to have international students plus those from other parts of the U.S. back on campus. It's one of the things all of our students love about Oneida—the diversity of students.

Father's Day is a great time to support the ministry of Oneida Baptist Institute as Kentucky Baptist churches participate in the annual Kentucky Baptist Convention Father's Day Offering for OBI. Here are ways you can be involved:

- **Pray** for God's continued provision for OBI.
- **Give** as you are led. Sixty-five percent of our financial support comes from individuals, churches and other sources.
- **Share** the Oneida story with families who may need our ministry and point them to the OBI website: www.oneidaschool.org.
- **Offer** to speak about OBI and the Father's Day Offering in your church or small group.



The Class of 2022 graduation exercises took place May 14, 2022. This year's graduating class was comprised of four local day students. Of our dormitory students, four were from Kentucky, three were from other states including New York, Louisiana and Colorado, and seven international students from Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Korea, Thailand and Togo.

Meet some of our 2022 graduates

Aliceson achieved academic distinction despite disability



Aliceson

was awarded the highest scholarship honor at Asbury University, the John Wesley Hughes Scholarship. This scholar-

ship awards full tuition for four years including a stipend for a study abroad experience. Only four incoming freshmen received this top honor. To earn the prestigious scholarship, Aliceson competed in Asbury's invitation-only, academic-based national SEARCH Scholarship Competition, a two day event which included: a panel interview, a speech, a résumé and a written essay expounding on a quote by E. Stanley Jones, an illustrious Asbury alum. The competition event also included attending classes, meeting professors and academic deans and staying overnight in the dorm.

When asked about this life-changing opportunity, Aliceson stated, "I want to give God all the credit for this accomplishment. Giving a speech during a scholarship competition with so many remarkable competitors was very nerve-racking, and I know that I could not have done it without

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Him. I plan to major in Equine Studies and English at Asbury University with the goal of attending law school ... to become an equine attorney. OBI has helped me tremendously to get to where I am now, and I will continue to rely on the academic and spiritual knowledge that I have gained during my time at Oneida as I begin a new chapter in my life."

In addition to receiving the John Wesley Hughes Scholarship, Aliceson was selected for the competitive Asbury University Honors Program.

Aliceson enrolled at OBI as a day student in the seventh grade. She chose OBI because it was a Christian school. "I really wanted a Christian foundation before I went off to college and the work force," she stated.

School has been challenging for Aliceson who was born with retinitis pigmentosa, a rare genetic disease that affects her vision. She explained, "On a good day, my vision is 20/50, but it's the peripheral vision that's the main issue." She described her OBI teachers as "nice, supportive and accommodating."

She earned straight A's while taking honors, advanced placement and dual credit courses in high school. Her school work requires extra time and special tools to help her read but Aliceson noted, "God really blessed me with a very good memory. If I pay really close attention to the class lectures, I can retain it." She put her talent to use as the OBI Academic Team Captain for three years. She also participated in the FFA and worked as a farm assistant in the Career Placement program.

Graduating as the Class of 2022 salutatorian and named the Most Studious senior girl, Aliceson summed up her OBI years with a smile saying, "It's been awesome!" □

Family and friends connected Gracia to OBI



Gracia hails from Togo making French her first language. Her parents wanted her to attend high school in the U.S.

to learn English and get a better education. "It's all about the opportunities that America can give me," she said. Her uncle graduated from OBI and recommended it for Gracia. "My parents were happy I would still be around Christians, so nothing bad would influence me," Gracia said.

To become more fluent in English, Gracia spent a year with her uncle and his American wife in Senegal before enrolling at OBI as a freshman. When she arrived on campus, she recalled, "I was worried about my academics and making friends. It was confusing, but thankfully I had a lot of help. I didn't feel as alone as I thought I would."

Her second year at OBI started

with excitement, because the new girls' dormitory opened. It ended in disappointment when the dorms closed in March, 2020 and Gracia had to finish her sophomore year online.

Because of a divine connection, Gracia had a place to stay. After graduating from OBI in 1999, Moses Mivedor, Gracia's uncle, attended Clear Creek Bible College where he became good friends with David Fralix. Fralix became a pastor in central Kentucky, and Mivedor became a missionary with the International Mission Board. Later, they worked together to bring the two sons of another missionary to OBI. When Gracia needed a place to stay, the Fralixes opened their home. Several weeks later, Gracia's uncle and aunt came to the U.S. on furlough, and Gracia went to stay with them.

Gracia completed her junior year online with OBI from her home in Togo. She was happy to return to OBI this year and see her friends as well as the Fralixes who joined the OBI staff this year. Gracia plans to attend college and pursue a career in the medical field. □

Thomas learned lessons, became a leader

Thomas enrolled at OBI in 2018 as a freshman from western Kentucky. "I live with my grandparents, because my dad travels and works. I was getting in trouble at home, and they wanted to find a place with more structure for me," he explained. He continued, "I was against the idea at first, but now I'm glad I came. I've grown up and learned a lot of lessons here."

Thomas developed leadership skills in the after school work program. He started out assigned to a cleaning crew and recalled, "I had a mean supervisor!" When the older student went to another activity, Thomas asked if he could take his spot. Though young for a student supervisor, he said, "I didn't let my friends slack off, and I tried to make the work fair for everyone. I learned how to talk to people who were working under me instead of just being bossy." His sophomore year, he became the supervisor of the cleaning crews in the boys' dormitory.

After spending the 2020-21 school year online, Thomas stated, "I wanted to come back to OBI and complete my education here. This is a much more structured environment. It's easier to get your homework done here. Plus, my friends are here." After graduation, he plans to work for his grandfather's HVAC company before joining the military. □



Would you like to contact us?

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Isaiah matured with help from teachers, coaches, mentors

Isaiah was living with his aunt in Tennessee when he began having problems in middle school. "I was getting in trouble, mostly at school. ... I was not doing my school work, and I was not listening. My aunt told me I needed to go to a new school," he recalled. He enrolled at OBI as a seventh grader.

He did not get along with his roommates, so he was moved into a room with boys who could mentor Isaiah. "They showed me how to live at OBI, and I began to feel like I had more independence, more freedom," he said. As a freshman, Isaiah was named the Most Improved in the dorm. "I wasn't acting how I acted in middle school. I had changed a lot," he reflected.

Isaiah noticed a big difference in the academic environment at OBI compared to his old school. He said, "The teachers were a lot nicer, and they didn't show favoritism. It was nice to be in a class with only 10 people. It was easier for you to focus on what the teacher was talking about." When he made the honor roll for the first time in high school, he said, "I was proud of myself."

Isaiah had played basketball when he was younger, but at OBI, he got to play on a team. He joined baseball for the first time and said that sports impacted his grades and his behavior. "I wanted to play basketball, and if I was getting in trouble, I wouldn't be able to do that. I had to keep up my grades, too," he explained. Isaiah earned his OBI athletic letter jacket this year.

Isaiah attended a military school last year and was happy to return to OBI for his senior year. He stated, "It's the people. I felt like I belonged here." He plans to attend Alice Lloyd College next fall to major in education. □

ChangHyeok enrolled for academics, stayed for people

From South Korea, ChangHyeok, known as "Paul" at OBI, was dissatisfied with the quality of education at his school in the Philippines. He was happy that his parents would allow him to come to the U.S. as a freshman. "I always wanted to come to America to study, but I did not think it would be so early," he said. He chose OBI at the recommendation of his pastor.

Paul experienced homesickness his first year but overcame it by making friends and joining sports. By his sophomore year, "I told my parents I wanted to stay here all of high school. I liked the people here. Even when I didn't understand English, I felt like they cared for me," he said.

Though he joined sports initially to avoid being assigned a cleaning job, Paul learned that he enjoyed playing team sports and had natural ability. He participated in soccer, tennis and swimming.

Paul completed his junior year from home with OBI's Online Academy. "For me, it was harder than in-person class," he said. He was named by his OBI teachers the Most Studious sophomore boy and the Most Outstanding junior boy.

Returning to OBI in person this year meant attending daily chapel services. Paul said, "My parents were Christians, so going to church was always a part of my life. I think it's good to go to chapel every day. When there were times that I was barely praying or communicating with God, chapel helped me."

Graduating in the top 10 percent of his class, Paul plans to attend the University of Kentucky to major in finance. □



Opportunities in school, sports led to scholarships for Madison

Madison has positive memories of moving to Oneida when her father became the president of OBI in 2013.

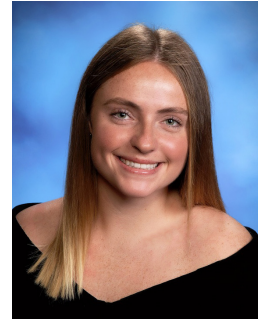
"I was so excited that I was going to see snow in Kentucky!" she said. Born in Kentucky when her parents were on staff at OBI, their high school alma mater, her family moved to Florida when she was still a baby. Growing up, she heard about OBI and said, "It sounded interesting. We were going back to the place where my parents were raised." Madison's older brother, Trey, graduated from OBI in 2020. Her younger brother, Alex, just completed the tenth grade.

Following in her parents' footsteps, Madison got involved in sports at an early age. She joined volleyball, basketball and softball as a seventh grader. A knee injury during eighth grade threatened her athletic career, but after physical therapy, she went on to complete two seasons of volleyball and two seasons of track and field.

In volleyball, Madison was named to the Regional All Tournament Volleyball team two years in a row and competed at the state volleyball tournament in 2019. Madison advanced to the state track meet in the discus field event in 2019 and 2021. She earned the KHSAA Academic All State Award for both sports. Her senior year, she was awarded the WYMT Mountain Classic scholarship.

When the pandemic interrupted many of our sports seasons, Madison became the editor of the school yearbook her junior and senior years.

An academically gifted student, Madison benefited from advanced and dual credit classes offered at OBI. "I



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took classes that would challenge me. I always strive to do the best that I can," she said. Voted by the OBI faculty the Most Outstanding girl in her class in grades 9-12, Madison graduated the valedictorian of the Class of 2022. She won the Cartis and Merkie Carpenter scholarship through the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky and received a four-year academic scholarship to the University of the Cumberlands where she plans to earn a degree in sports and exercise science before entering UC's newly-added physical therapy program. She explained her career choice saying, "When I was in PT for several months, I realized that's what I wanted to do. I think that was God's calling for what He wanted me to do for my life."

A Christian since age seven, Madison stated, "I was already a believer, but I definitely think Oneida has helped grow my faith." With chapel services, Christian staff and biblical principles incorporated into classes, "The opportunity is there if an unbeliever does not know Jesus. They hear it enough to know what it's about. I'm definitely grateful for that, because I'm a firm believer. I know what I believe and why I believe it, and OBI has played a big role in that." □



The annual Junior-Senior Banquet on April 16th, 2022 was the first banquet since 2019. As a special treat for the seniors, it was held in the W.F. "Bud" and Kay Underwood Hall, OBI's new cafeteria.

Bits & Tidbits

Time to enroll for 2022-23!

If you know of a young person who may like to come to OBI, share this contact information with their family.

Email:

admissions@oneidaschool.org

Telephone: 606-847-4111 ext. 233

OBI Homecoming

October 22, 2022

"If the good Lord's willing..." we will have Homecoming this year!

Alumni & Former Students

We want your email address to make it easier to stay in contact! Please email our alumni director: alumni@oneidaschool.org

Follow us on Facebook

We post a lot of day-to-day items and student achievements on our social media pages.

Take a look!

