



Founded in 1899

ONEIDA MOUNTAINEER

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Education for Time and Eternity

A bi-monthly newsletter of Oneida Baptist Institute

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Well represented by our youngest

In November at the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, OBI was represented by an unexpected group -- our students in grades 2-5. In years past, the president has used his allotted time to speak, sometimes taking upper school students to do a skit or to give their testimonies. President **Larry A. Gritton, Jr.** (OBI '93) stated, "I wanted to use my presentation time this year to highlight our local outreach, and I thought having the little ones come and sing might also touch some hearts."

He chose the song "Thank You" by Ray Boltz. Music teacher **Penny Akers** "made it all happen," Mr. Gritton said. Mrs. Akers was quick to thank **Tim Cochran**, **Cassie Couch**, and **Jennifer Monday** for their help. Mrs. Akers worked with the children on the song for two months during their regular weekly music time. When the big day came, "I could not have been more proud of their performance and their behavior," she stated. "They present-



ed themselves so well, and sang beautifully!"

Mrs. Akers reported, "Some of the individuals attending the convention were deaf. Since our students used American Sign Language in the presentation, the performance was particularly meaningful for those delegates."

"It went over really well," Mr. Gritton recalled. "The kids were given a standing ovation. There were lots of teary eyes." □



Happy holidays at OBI



Clockwise from below:



Thanksgiving dinner is always a special meal. At the "Walk to Bethlehem," the innkeeper directed guests to the manger. Our guitar class was one of many groups that performed in the chapel Christmas concert. OBI packed 80 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse's "Operation Christmas Child." Students participated in a packing party. Four of our staff worked in a Samaritan's Purse warehouse, and three of them even got to meet **Franklin Graham**, president and CEO of Samaritan's Purse. □



All-Festival Chorus -- "A great experience"



Seniors **Seth Smith** and **Akkarachai "Win" Prommanok** represented the OBI choir in the 2018 Southeastern Kentucky Music Education Association's All Festival Chorus in November. Over 200 top singers from 20 regional schools sang in either the Mixed Chorus or the Women's Chorus. Two and a half days of rehearsal with guest conductors culminated in a concert on November 20th at the First Baptist Church in London, Kentucky. Other OBI choir members attended the concert.

Win and Seth both sang in the Mixed Chorus, which was conducted by **Jerry Wright**, (far right) recently retired minister of music at London's

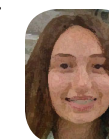
First Baptist Church. Oneida choral director, **Tim Cochran**, (far left) noted, "Jerry Wright has helped the All-Festival Chorus tremendously through the years."

This was Win's second time to participate in the All-Festival Chorus. He said he enjoyed Wright's teaching and conducting, and even found the warm-ups to be very helpful. He recalled the energy he felt just before the concert; "I thought, 'We're ready for this!'"

Seth is now a four-year All-Festival Chorus veteran. He described it as "a great experience," adding, "There were a lot of really good singers this year." In his four years of attending, Seth said, "This was the best music we've ever sung. It was all Christian music. The solos were powerful!" □

YOU can make a difference in a young life!

Do you know of a child in grade 6-12 who could benefit from the ministry we provide? Tell the family about OBI. Sometimes a teen's life is turned around because someone like you took the time to care.



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A Man of the Word



Mr. Jerry Smith, who served on our faculty for 43 years, received his eternal reward late last month. He wore many hats during his tenure, but will be remembered by most students who passed through our halls as their Bible teacher. I had Mr. Smith for Bible during my junior year and learned much about God's Word during that year, but it was my senior year that I learned the most from Mr. Smith. Heading into my senior year,

I only needed a couple of credits to graduate. My father was the principal and decided that I would take an independent Bible study course with Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith decided I would study the book of Job during that semester. I learned so much during that semester as Mr. Smith guided me through one of the most fascinating books in God's Word. I cannot even begin to tell you how many times in the last 20 years that I have drawn from the book of Job for guidance, encouragement, and life lessons. I have drawn from it as a parent, teacher, coach, pastor, husband, friend, father, and student.

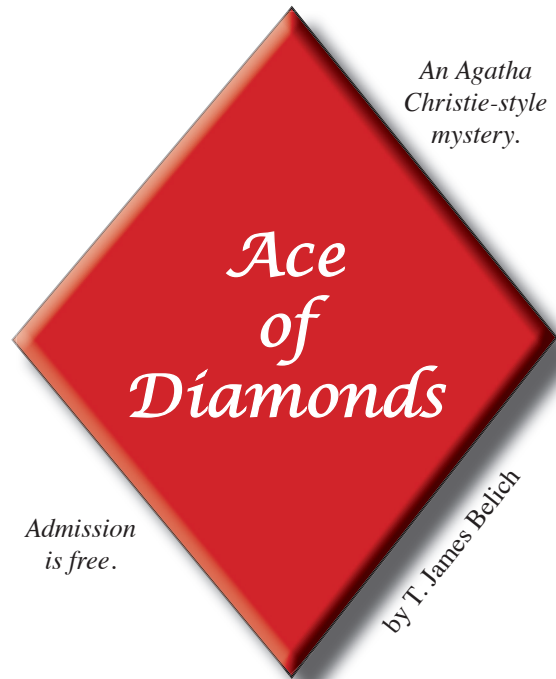
As a faculty member, I also learned many biblical principles from Mr. Smith. He was an encouragement to me as I began my ministry at Oneida. In addition to encouraging me, he also corrected me when necessary. One morning I had a rather rambunctious history class in the library doing research. Mr. Smith happened to be there as well. Some of the boys in my class were goofing around and I found what the boys were doing to be amusing and was enjoying their deviant behavior. Mr. Smith looked at me and said, "Looks to me like the students aren't the only ones who need to be punished."

I can't even begin to tell you how many times as a young pastor I called Mr. Smith and asked for guidance when preparing a sermon. Often times I would have a sermon topic in mind but wasn't sure where scripture related to that topic could be found. The internet was a newer thing at that time, and I couldn't google a topic or verse and find it as easily as you can today. I would call Mr. Smith and he would rattle off multiple scriptures where I could find reference to such topics and he was always 100% correct. At one point I said something to Mr. Smith about his amazing knowledge of the Bible. He responded, "I know very little of God's Word. I have only scratched the surface." He knew more of God's Word than anyone else I knew, but he humbly and brilliantly admitted that God's Word is so much bigger than any of us.

Mr. Jerry Smith will be missed on this earth and on our campus. □
~ Larry A. Gritton, Jr., OBI President



OBI Drama
presents



Admission
is free.

March 28-30, 2019
7:00 PM
OBI Chapel

Here's an updated peek at how our new girls' dorm, Huang Hall, is coming along.



Do you know
someone to
nominate for
our Athletic Hall
of Fame? It can be

an athlete or a coach. Watch for full criteria & a nomination form in the next *Oneida Mountaineer*. Inductions will be at our 2019 Homecoming on October 19.



Can you share a memory?

We are collecting stories about **Dr. Barkley Moore**, Class of 1958 and OBI president from 1972 - 1994. Do you have a memory to share? It might be a funny story about something he did or said. It could be something inspirational that he said in a message or to you personally. Share how he impacted your life with his love for God and for OBI. Please e-mail memories to denise.spencer@oneidaschool.org or mail them to Denise Spencer, Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, Ky. 40972.

"Come to the Table"

Through stories, we are celebrating our OBI community as we look forward to the W. F. "Bud" and Kay Underwood Dining Hall.

Lyn Claybrook (OBI '49) enrolled at OBI at the start of his senior year when his father, **Rev. Lyn Claybrook**, was called to pastor the Oneida Baptist Church. Over Christmas break that year, the Claybrooks were invited to a special dinner in the OBI dining hall. The family sat at a table with **Irving Reynolds**, the founder and chairman of the Franklin Ice Cream Company. Mr. Reynolds inquired about young Claybrook's education and future plans, and invited him to visit him in Toledo. "I did, and he offered me a job in Cleveland," Claybrook stated.

He returned to Kentucky, where he graduated from Berea College and got married in 1954, then moved to Cleveland to begin working as the supervisor of seven retail ice cream stores. Some years later, he took a similar job with another company in Richmond, Virginia. This led to the opportunity to become the Agricultural Representative for the Virginia Electric and Power Company, where he worked for 25 years. "It all started with a Come to the Table invitation at OBI," Claybrook concluded. □

~ Lyn Claybrook, Class of 1949, as told to
Tamara Cochran, OBI publications

For more information about the new facility and the Underwoods' Oneida ministry, and to read submitted stories, visit: <http://www.oneidaschool.org/the-bridge.shtml>

Feel free to share your story about fellowship in the OBI dining hall via e-mail: tamara.cochran@oneidaschool.org

Thank you, Paul and Sharon Detro



With much gratitude we say "goodbye" to Paul and Sharon Detro as they retire from full-time volunteer service. "We served for 20 years," Paul recalled. "We came to OBI on a mission trip and knew that God had led us there."

Sharon started painting and then went to the Gift Shop, where she worked on her own and also supervised many short-term volunteers each year.

Paul began in new construction and then worked on the farm. Farm Manager **Marty**

Bevil said, "Paul Detro is a man of integrity. He is passionate about the work at the OBI farm and how it is used for ministry and education of students. You give Paul a job and you can consider it done."

"We liked working with the people and the kids," Paul said. "We hope our service helped them to come closer to God. We thank God for sending us to OBI and for all the people who are there."

Now the Detros look forward to spending more time with their family in Ohio. Thank you, Paul and Sharon. We appreciate you! □

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*.

Need to contact us?

Phone: 606-847-4111 Fax: 606-847-4496

Does your church have a web site?

If so, ask them to link to OBI:

Web: www.oneidaschool.org

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

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Oneida_Baptist

Connect with Mr. Gritton:

<https://twitter.com/lgritton>

Want an easy way to give?

Go to our web site and click the "Give/Volunteer" tab, then the "Donate now" button to give via credit card, debit card or PayPal: <http://www.oneidaschool.org/support.shtml>

Want to receive the *Mountaineer* or *Alumni News* by e-mail?

Send your name, mailing address, e-mail address and the 5-digit number above your name on this issue's mailing label to: diane.dimsey@oneidaschool.org. Let her know if you'd like the e-Mountaineer or e-Alumni News or both. **IMPORTANT:** Be sure to add mountaineer@oneidaschool.org to your contact list in your e-mail program, or it may reject our publications as spam.

OBI continues these programs:

Tyson's "Project A+"™

Send entire labels from specially marked Tyson chicken products. They are worth 24 cents each, and return to us as cash. <http://projectaplus.tyson.com/>

General Mills "Box Tops for Education"™

Send specially marked box tops, each worth 10 cents with points-to-cash. <http://www.bboxtops4education.com/>

Oneida Baptist Institute is proud to be an institution of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

