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ONEIDA MOUNTAINEER

Education for Time and Eternity

A bi-monthly newsletter of Oneida Baptist Institute

May/June 2018

Heed the Call: Support the 2018 Father's Day Offering for Oneida

The materials for the **23rd annual Father's Day Offering** for Oneida Baptist Institute were packed and labeled by volunteers from Kentucky and Illinois in April and mailed to Kentucky Baptist churches in May.

This year's theme is "Heed the Call." We believe that God calls the students, staff and volunteers to Oneida who need to be at Oneida. Here are other ways young people and adults heed the call to OBI:

OBI students heed the call ...

- **To learn** by achieving their academic best.
- **To thrive** by exploring talents and interests.
- **To work** and gain life skills.
- **To worship** God as they grow deeper in their knowledge of Him.

Adults heed the call ...

- **To love** teens as a faculty or staff member.
- **To serve** as one of hundreds of volunteers who visit campus each year.



The 2018 Father's Day Offering poster. Each church on our mailing list receives a poster, fliers, offering envelopes, a dvd and a letter.

- **To give** as the Lord leads.
- **To pray** for the OBI ministry.

Our hope and prayer for the Father's Day Offering is that churches would open their boxes and make the information about OBI available to congregations and potential students. Because of hundreds of individuals and churches who "heed the call" to invest in Oneida, young people from around the world have the opportunity to learn, thrive, work and worship at Oneida Baptist Institute. □



Volunteers counted fliers and envelopes for over 2,000 Father's Day Offering boxes mailed in May.

Meet some of our 2018 graduates

Maddy made a "total 180 turn-around"



Maddy grew up in the St. Louis, Missouri area. It was during her sophomore year when she recalled, "I got in really big trouble about something, and my mom told me about Oneida. I understood that I had consequences for my actions, but I was totally unprepared for this. It was a big shock, because I had never been away from my family. I was scared, because I didn't know anything about it [except that] it was some boarding school eight hours away in another state!" She enrolled after spring break in 2016.

A positive first impression of Oneida helped Maddy's adjustment to being so far from home. She said, "I came in the spring, so driving down here the trees were all purple, and it was really pretty. When I got here, the staff were really nice to me."

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(Maddy continued)

The fresh start proved to be exactly what Maddy needed. She said, "Oneida changed me so much! I'm a completely different person! I'm more outgoing and friendly!" Her family relationships also improved. "I became more respectful to my family. I get along with them so much better, and I don't have a bad attitude toward them anymore," she said.

Academically, she transformed from a failing student to a straight A student who earned Academic Excellence awards from her OBI teachers. She said, "Before, I wasn't motivated to do anything. At OBI, I was willing to do the work. I was more focused in this environment."

Maddy has been a member of the OBI choir since her first year. She said, "I've been singing my whole life. I enjoy the class overall, and I like to get off campus."

For her after school job, Maddy started out on cleaning crews in the kitchen and dormitory. She was quickly promoted to supervisor. Her junior year, Maddy worked in the campus grill and was trained on every station. She said, "It was my favorite job! That was my get-away place. I could get away from the dorm and kitchen [areas] to do my job. People were always complimenting me on my cooking," she smiled.

Maddy accepted Christ while at a summer camp in the eighth grade. At OBI, she enjoyed guest speakers in chapel and Bible class discussions. She was excited to share her Bible knowledge with a roommate this year. "It made me feel really good, because I got the opportunity to share what I believe with someone and it made me feel like I had helped somebody

Though she could have returned home, Maddy chose to graduate from OBI. She explained, "Even though my mom didn't like me being so far from home, they loved the idea that I was here because I made a total 180 turnaround. I made so many friends here. This was the third high school I had been to, and I didn't want to start all over again. I wanted to finish strong. It's been a really positive thing in my life," she explained. Maddy is planning to study biology and premed at the University of Kentucky this fall. □

Seth found the truth in Jesus at OBI



He found himself struggling with questions about his faith, so he chose to attend Baptist Campus Ministry. "I just wanted to find out what the truth was. ... They gave me scripture and taught me that it's where my heart is and not my works. Piece by piece, I finally understood," he said. Seth experienced a breakthrough when he accepted Christ in 2015. "After I got saved, I had a better outlook on life. I've learned to be more loving and open to people, because I realized that God made everybody, and God loves everybody," he said.

Returning to OBI for high school, Seth said, "I made a lot of friends, and I joined every club that I could! If you try different things, you find out about yourself. I found out I really had a passion for tennis by trying it here." He received the Most Improved award in tennis, and he was a captain on the academic team and the vice president of FFA. Other activities included pep band, drama and speech and debate. A five-year member of the OBI choir, Seth said, "I love singing, and I loved being able to visit new places. It's really cool to meet all the people and make connections. The food, of course, is really good!"

Seth will attend the University of Kentucky this fall to major in political science and prelaw. He explained, "I love politics, and I have wanted to be a lawyer since I was young. I feel like everyone deserves to have a fair chance in life, and I want to help people and give them that second chance." □

Oneida was the "best place" for Charmaine



Charmaine has attended OBI the longest of the dorm students in the Class of 2016. She enrolled as a sixth grader from northern Kentucky. Adopted at age nine, Charmaine said that she and her mother did not get along. She said, "My mom said it was best for me to come here, so I could get used to them."

Charmaine stayed active in sports at OBI including volleyball, soccer, cheerleading and track and field. Her soccer awards include Best Newcomer, MVP and Best Defensive Player. She was named MVP in cheerleading. Charmaine also worked as a cleaning crew supervisor and a Resident Assistant in the dorm.

While her parents were always strong Christians, Charmaine said, "I wasn't as serious about my faith as I am now. I've learned more about God here than I did going to church at home, because it's more real to me." When her brother died two years ago, she said, "That's when I really reached out to God, because that's what got me through that time."

Charmaine noted that she gets along better with her mother now. She said, "I think our relationship improved a lot, because we had space between us. Being at Oneida and being on my own made me mature a lot. I realized I can't rely on [my parents] for everything. I knew that this was the best place for me to be." □

Jamie learned English, excelled in sports



Oanh, known as Jamie at OBI, is from Vietnam and enrolled at OBI as a freshman. She wanted to attend school in the U.S. because “the education is better here, and I wanted to learn English.” Her extended family in Pennsylvania helped to research U.S. boarding schools. They chose Oneida because it was a Christian school and “the tuition is not bad,” Jamie said.

During her first year at OBI, Jamie sometimes became frustrated at her after school job in the dining hall because of the language barrier. “I didn’t know what ‘mop’ was! I didn’t

know what ‘sweep’ was! They always had to show me,” she recalled. She gained fluency quickly thanks to her English as a Second Language class and by getting help from friends in the dorm. “I listened to people,” she said.

Beginning her sophomore year, Jamie participated in sports including golf, cheerleading, swimming and tennis. She was named the golf team’s Player of the Year for three years. She was enrolled in choir for two years. “I loved it! I got more confident, more social. When I sing, I am being myself!” she said.

Having grown up in the Catholic church, Jamie said, “I didn’t know there were other Christians besides Catholics. I found out that Baptists believe in God and worship God like us.” In daily chapel services, Jamie connected with certain speakers or topics. “It was really good. I would take it to heart,” she said.

Jamie chose to complete all four years of high school at Oneida because of her friends and relationships with staff members. She said, “In the dorm, we all live together like family. Whenever we need help, the staff is always there.” Next fall, Jamie will begin a nursing program at a college in Pennsylvania. □

Noah thrived in academics, cocurriculars



From eastern Kentucky, Noah was 14 when he and his two sisters were adopted by their foster parents. He recalled, “I was put into care when I was nine, and they had been trying to adopt us since I was 10.” In 2015, the family moved to Florida, and Noah and his younger sister, Ally, enrolled at OBI.

Before coming to OBI, Noah explained, “Mom was home schooling us, but I was really behind in English and math and I had trouble understanding.” They tried public school but Noah said, “People were picking on me. I was very anti-social and shy. ... My grades

were slipping, because I never really turned in my homework.”

Joining activities at OBI helped him to make friends. “I got better at being social,” he said. He played the trumpet in the pep band and joined track and field before finding his niche in drama. He stated, “I tried out for drama twice and didn’t make it, but that motivated me to try harder. I like to play the different personalities and see how they think.” Noah acted in four OBI Drama productions and received the Best Actor award his senior year.

OBI’s “Friends of Mo” discipleship group is open to students who have been in foster care or adopted. Noah joined because, “I understand how hard it is, and I wanted to let other people know they weren’t the only ones.”

Noah graduated on time by making up classes during summer school at OBI and learning self discipline when it came to his homework. After graduation, he plans to work and spend time with his family before considering college plans. “Being here has helped me to get ready for the future,” he said. □

Chloe gained independence at OBI



Chloe’s family moved from Florida in 2013 when her parents joined the OBI staff. Chloe’s aunt and uncle served at OBI, and Chloe recalled, “They were always talking about us moving here jokingly, but I didn’t think it would ever happen,” she said.

When they visited OBI, Chloe and her three younger siblings attended OBI classes. Chloe said, “We really liked it. We had been home-schooled our whole lives. Oneida was different, but I liked it. I’m not the best at making friends, but I made friends just from [visiting] for two days!” A diabetic, Chloe noted, “Going from ‘mom is always there’ to ‘I’m on my own!’ was a big change. I had to make sure I had what I needed when I went to school.”

Chloe enjoyed participating in activities including drama, cheerleading and choir. She sang with the All Festival Choir, a regional honor choir, for three years. “I like to sing, but I had never had the opportunity to be in a choir,” she said. She received the 2018 Fine Arts Department Service Award.

The Class of 2018 salutatorian, Chloe had the opportunity to earn college credit by taking dual credit and advanced placement classes. Her junior and senior years, she worked in the OBI daycare as part of the Career Placement program. She plans to major in elementary education at Eastern Kentucky University. She said, “I love children, and I enjoy teaching them. I thought this was the perfect fit.” □

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www.oneidaschool.org

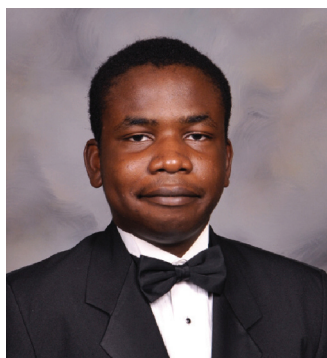
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Uchechukwu was accepted at OBI



Uchechukwu, "Uche" for short, enrolled at OBI in 2014. From Nigeria, Uche explained, "I am here because of my accident that happened. There was no school in Nigeria that would take me." At the age of 12, he accidentally came into contact with an electrical line due to a broken power pole. He was badly burned, and his arm had to be amputated. Uche stated that in Nigeria, patients are not allowed to leave the hospital until their bill is paid. After several months in the hospital, Uche met a chaplain who worked for the government. This man helped to pay his remaining balance and made arrangements for him to attend OBI. "Someone like me with one arm cannot go to school in Nigeria," Uche reiterated.

At first, Uche did not want to leave home, but it bothered him to know that his friends were progressing in school. "I hate skipping out of school. I thought, maybe I can catch up with them," he said. When he arrived at OBI, he was very shy and would not speak to anyone. He had to adapt to doing many things like navigating the serving line in the dining hall. He found students and staff members always willing to help. "When I first came here, I was thinking I would not have friends. I have so many friends now, and they care for me!" he said.

Uche said that having room chores and required after school activities is a "positive" for students. "It's a good thing to have jobs," he said. Uche worked on cleaning crews in most campus buildings. He became a manager for the soccer team as a sophomore. He joined the soccer team as player the following year. His senior year, he played the bass drum in the pep band and acted in a school play. When asked if he ever worried about being limited in work or activities because of his arm, he replied, "Nope! I know I can do it!" □

Second Annual Oneida Pastors' Conference & Retreat

All pastors and their families are invited to join us **July 23-25, 2018** on the OBI campus for worship, seminars, family activities, food & fellowship! There is no charge! For more information, email: OPC@oneidaschool.org

Mark your calendar for Home- coming 2018 on October 20th!



OBI Drama performed their spring play, *"If the Good Lord's Willing and the Creek Don't Rise"* by Pat Cook, April 5-7. The leading role was played by OBI math teacher, Stephen Grant.