



Founded in 1899

ONEIDA MOUNTAINEER

Education for Time and Eternity

A bi-monthly newsletter of Oneida Baptist Institute

July/August 2013

OBI President Dr. Paul Davidson resigns

On June 11, 2013, the Board of Trustees voted to accept the resignation of **Dr. Paul Davidson** as President of Oneida Baptist Institute. We wish to express our appreciation to Dr. Davidson and his wife, **Diane**, for their years of service as educators helping shape the lives of the diverse student body at Oneida Baptist Institute. In further action, the Board appointed **Dennis S. Raisor** to serve as Interim President until a new President was chosen.

The Board and the entire staff of OBI will work tirelessly to assure that Oneida Baptist Institute will continue to provide an education in a Christian atmosphere for the students who are led to our campus.

Marvin Cress, Chair,
OBI Board of Trustees

Larry Allen Gritton, Jr. to be next President



The Oneida Baptist Institute Board of Trustees announced on July 9 that **Larry Allen Gritton, Jr.** had accepted their offer of the position of President of the school.

Gritton is an OBI alumnus from the class of 1993. His wife, **Angie**, graduated from Oneida in 1991. Gritton completed his undergraduate studies at Montreat College in North Carolina in 1997. He earned a Master's in Education Leadership from Eastern Kentucky University in 2003.

The Grittons returned to OBI to serve from 1997-2004. He taught U.S. History and was our Athletic Director. Mrs. Gritton taught health and physical education, and they each coached several sports.

The family has lived in Ft. Myers, Florida since 2004. The first four years, Gritton served as Athletic Director at Southwest Florida Christian Academy, and two of those years he was also Dean of Boys. Since 2008, he has been Athletic Director at Evangelical Christian School. He has also coached basketball most of the time he has served at these two schools.

For the past two years, Gritton has additionally pastored New Hope Baptist Church of Ft. Myers. The Grittons have three children--**Larry A. Gritton III** ("**Trey**"), age 11; **Madison**, age nine; and **Alexander** ("**Alex**"), age seven.

In an e-mail to OBI faculty and staff, **Marvin Cress**, Trustee Chairman, stated, "Rest assured that much prayer and discussion has taken place before making this decision...The Board joins the faculty and staff in wishing the Grittons Godspeed as they prepare for the leadership responsibilities facing them." □

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this summer!
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to schedule
a tour.*

Both tennis and track/field go to state

In May, nine members of the OBI Tennis team competed in the KHSAA State Tennis Tournament in Lexington. Coach **Mike Waslewski** said, "They represented OBI and themselves very well. We are very proud of all of our players, but especially those who made the trip to state. It was an honor to be their coaches." Coach **Cindy Waslewski** noted, "This year topped the most members of the OBI tennis team who have gone to state in recent years."

Our boys qualified for state competition after earning the title of Fourteenth Regional Boys' Team Champions. **Barnabas Kim** was the singles champion in the region, while **Luke White** and **Isaac Waslewski** were the regional doubles champions. The boys' team also included **Jin Woo Jeong**, **Donald Chick**, and

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Sports to state, cont. from p. 1



Matthew Tedla

Joshua Souane.

Three OBI girls, **Anna Davidson, Nirina Walters** and **Mianna Baker**, also qualified for the state contest. Anna was a singles player; Mianna and Nirina played doubles. The other girls on the team were **Maria Stamatis, Taylor Cochran,** and **Mana Tanajantaporn.**

Cindy Waslewski stated, "We are so blessed to work with tennis players who really love the sport." We try to teach them that working hard in practice will reap winning rewards, but most importantly the peace of serving our Lord Christ. We are thankful for His work through all of us."

Also in May, six Oneida students made it all the way to the state competition in track and field. Since the state meet fell on the date of OBI's graduation, we sent two substitute runners for the 4x800M relay. **Eric Grant, Alex Quarshie,** and subs **Jacob Nichols** and **Trevor DeMaria** finished in twenty-third place with a time of 10:40.60. **Moses Vincent** placed twenty-fourth in the discus with a time of 92-05. **Essence Wilson** finished sixth in the 100M dash with a time of 13:03, fifth in the 400M dash with a time of 1:00.61, and fourth in the 200M dash with a time of 26.51.

Track and field was coached this year by **Joey** and **Megan Jaspersen.** "We are extremely proud of all of the athletes," Mrs. Jaspersen said. "Although many students had not previously participated in track and field, they learned quickly and experienced a great deal of success."

Essence had earned first place in all three races at the regional level. Eric, Alex, **Matthew Tedla,** and **Firaol Deyasa** took second place in the regional 4x800M relay, while Moses finished second in the discus throw. Our boys' team came in third place overall at regionals, and the girls' team ended the day in fifth place.

Mrs. Jaspersen continued, "The students endured many difficult practices and were able to glorify God with their talents throughout the season. Their hard work and dedication paid off, as we have seen marked and steady improvement. It has been a pleasure and a joy to coach this team." □



Mianna Baker

2012-13 long-time service awards



Congratulations to **Hazel Bowling** (left) and **Dean Abner** (right) for 30 and 35 years of OBI ministry, respectively. Ms. Bowling is our Student Health Care Coordinator, and Mrs. Abner is part of our Food Service Team. A total of 20 ministry team members were honored in chapel in April for their years of service. We appreciate them all! □

OBI's 105th Commencement service was May 18. The Class of 2013 joined faculty, staff, family members, and other guests in the Melvin Davidson Chapel to celebrate their achievement. Of our 45 graduates, 39 earned Advanced Diplomas.



The class was introduced by class president, **Beimnet Kebede.** Our valedictorian was **Anna Davidson,** and the salutatorian was **Rebekah Roughton.** Above, **Betty Tilahun** got a hug from a staff member in the post-graduation receiving line.

Meet some of our “Mountaineers of Noble Distinction”

Every year OBI faculty, houseparents and school administrators meet to decide on the recipients of our major student awards. The “Mountaineers of Noble Distinction” for the 2012-13 school year were judged on character, attitude, academics and conduct. We would like to introduce you to three of our outstanding young people.



Mana was a junior this past year. It was her second term at Oneida. She came to OBI from Thailand because she wanted to study in the U.S.

Mana has earned many honors in her first 24 months with us. She was named an Outstanding Worker for her job in food service. She made the All-District volleyball team, got an award for swimming, earned the Coach’s Award in tennis, and received numerous academic awards.

Ethel Bennett, Dean of Girls, said Mana is a very caring girl. “She will see me carrying something and she’ll say, ‘Mrs. Bennett, let me help you with that.’ She is helpful, thoughtful, and an all-around wonderful young lady.” □

Trevor

joined us in 2012 as a sophomore from Maine. He had been home-schooled and lacked motivation. Trevor’s sister had come to OBI for a year, so he decided to try it, too.

He likes participating in sports and music at Oneida, and was in the advanced guitar class. Trevor also helped lead worship for Baptist Campus Ministry meetings, and shared both musical and dramatic talents through Creative Ministries.

Trevor received an Outstanding Christian Leadership Award in cross country and the Coach’s Award for basketball.

Sid Bennett, boys’ houseparent, described Trevor as, “consistent, thoughtful, and a real gentleman. He works hard.” □



Gabriella

enrolled at OBI in 2011 as a freshman. She is from central Kentucky.

She wouldn’t keep the rules, however, and returned home after just two months. Gabriella attended several other schools that year. Finally, in a Christian program in Tennessee, “I found God,” she explained.

Gabriella re-enrolled at OBI as a sophomore. “When I came back, everything was different,” she recalled. “I love chapel...I love how we are free to express our love for God here.”

She has worked in our food service department and has participated in drama, choir, and track/field. Gabriella earned the Director’s Award in choir, the Best Newcomer Award for drama, and awards in track/field.

When asked why she thought Gabriella was named a Mountaineer of Noble Distinction, houseparent **Christian Foster** said, “When she left and then came back, there was such a dramatic transformation. It was a visible work of God.” □



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*.

OBI continues these programs:

Campbell’s “Labels for Education”™

Send us the entire label. Look for “Labels for Education”™ not only on Campbell’s foods, but also on their other products, such as Vlasic®, Franco-American®, Prego®, Swanson®, Pace® and Pepperidge Farm®. These labels earn points that we can redeem to get free educational equipment and other items.

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.

General Mills “Box Tops for Education”™

Send specially marked box tops. Each is worth 10 cents, and this program also turns points into cash.

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Send your name, mailing address, e-mail address and the 5-digit number above your name on this issue’s mailing label to

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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.

Does your church have a web site?

If so, ask them to link to OBI:

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OBI.KY?ref=ts&fref=ts>

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Homecoming Highlights 2013

Myrtle Cooke, Alumni Director, retires



At our June 29 Homecoming, we celebrated **Myrtle Cooke's** (OBI '60) 29 years of service to our school. Mrs. Cooke worked as Guidance Counselor for 20 years, retiring in 2004. She had also served as yearbook sponsor, newspaper advisor, French teacher, and ACT coordinator.

In 2004 Mrs. Cooke became our Alumni Director as a full-time volunteer. She maintained regular contact with alumni; published a newsletter, the *Alumni News*, three times a year; and coordinated our annual Homecomings.

Mrs. Cooke is retiring and relocating to Louisville. We honored her at the Homecoming chapel program and with an evening reception. □

Michael McMonigal inducted into Oneida Athletic Hall of Fame



At our Homecoming on June 29, **Michael McMonigal** (OBI '85) was inducted posthumously into the OBI Athletic Hall of Fame. McMonigal enrolled at Oneida as a freshman in 1981. He joined cross country, swimming, diving, and track/field, earning many awards at regional, sectional, and state contests.

McMonigal placed twelfth in the state in the one-meter diving event his senior year. That year he also finished first at sectionals in the pole vault, qualifying for the state meet.

After graduation, McMonigal became a plumber. He married and had two sons, Andrew and Shayne. Andrew attended OBI for grades six through eight. McMonigal lost his wife to cancer in 2006, and died of cancer himself in 2009. □

See more of what we've been doing



(Left) The month of April brought us the thirteenth annual Student Council-sponsored Culture Fair. Some 80 students prepared food using recipes from over 14 countries, including Brazil, Ethiopia, Germany, Greece, Japan, South Korea, Liberia, Nigeria, Thailand, and Scotland.

(Right) In May, 58 Oneida students and faculty/staff members marched in a parade in London, Kentucky to help the Laurel River Baptist Association Women's Missionary Union celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of the WMU.

