

Faculty and staff honored for long-time service

Ada Abner, known affectionately to OBI staff and students as “Granny,” was presented a 35 year service award at the OBI chapel in May. Ada recalled that **David Jackson** was the president of OBI when she started. Only one other current staff member has worked at OBI longer. Even more impressive is the fact that Ada has spent her entire time at OBI in food service. “It doesn’t seem that long,” Ada said, “but when I get to thinking about all the hard work, it’s been a long time. Everything was really hard when I started here.” She said there was no air conditioning, and the cooks ground all the sausage and hamburger, froze and canned vegetables, snapped beans for hours with the girls, and killed chickens. “I’ve done all of it here,” she laughed.



Food preparation has been modernized over the years, but the number of people to feed has increased significantly. One lunchtime serving line has expanded to three. “When I started there were 50 students and three cooks,” Ada said. Now OBI has a kitchen staff of 20 serving 300 students plus 150 faculty and staff and their children.

What has kept Ada at OBI for so many years? “I just like to work with the kids, and I like to cook,” she said. OBI president **Dr. W. F. Underwood** (OBI '63) noted, “Working in the kitchen is a challenge. To survive there 35 years is remarkable. Ada always has a very positive spirit . . . and a smile.”