



ONU Celebrates 138th Commencement



Above: Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher, third from left, meets graduating seniors, from left, Christina Wenning, who sang the National Anthem, Meghan Davlin, who presented the graduating student remarks, and Stephen McIntosh, who led in the singing of the ONU Hymn.



Right: Honorary degrees were presented to, from left, Suzanne Eastman-Wuest, doctor of pharmacy; Robert L. Gronlund, doctor of business administration; and Charles K. Alexander, doctor of engineering.



ONU President Kendall L. Baker presents a diploma to Autumn Steiner, Bluffton, Ohio, a professional writing graduate.



Faculty and students process toward the field house.



John Rhodes Named Men's Basketball Head Coach at Ohio Northern

John Rhodes has been named the men's basketball head coach at Ohio Northern University.

Rhodes comes to Ohio Northern after a one-year stint as an assistant coach at NCAA Division I Northeastern University and brings 13 years of coaching experience and eight years of experience playing professional basketball to the Polar Bears.



"Getting the opportunity to coach at Ohio Northern makes this the most memorable Memorial Day for my family and I," Rhodes said. "It is a humbling experience to follow in the footsteps of such great coaches as Gale Daugherty, Joe Campoli and Jeff Coleman. I'm excited to grow the passion for ONU. The reputation of this school precedes it. I started looking at ONU and it didn't take long to figure out that this is a great place to be. We look forward to helping our young players reach

their potential. We are going to play hard and have some fun."

Northeastern finished the 2008-09 season with a 19-13 record and a third place finish in the Colonial Athletic Association with a 12-6 mark.

Prior to his time at NU, Rhodes spent nine seasons as an assistant coach at his alma mater, Ohio University, from 1999-2004 before being named the associate head coach prior to the 2004-05 season. While at Ohio, Rhodes helped lead the Bobcats to winning seasons in seven of his nine years, including four seasons in a row from 2004-08.

Ohio made the postseason twice in Rhodes' tenure, winning the Mid-American Conference (MAC) Tournament and advancing to the NCAA Tournament during the 2004-05 season and earning a berth to the inaugural College Basketball Invitational in 2007-08.

Rhodes' primary responsibilities at Ohio were recruiting, scheduling, game preparation and on-court teaching. On the court, he worked specifically with post players. In his nine seasons, Rhodes helped produce seven all-conference forwards, including three-time First Team All-MAC selection Brandon Hunter, who was a second-round draft choice of the Boston Celtics in the 2003 NBA draft. Prior to joining the Bobcats, Rhodes was an assistant coach for two years at St. Bonaventure University and one year at the University of North Florida.

Summer Camps at ONU

This summer, Ohio Northern University will host a number of academic and athletic camps that will bring to campus thousands of middle and high school students from across the region.

Students will find a variety of opportunities to combine new discoveries with plenty of fun.

The schedule begins with Bear Tracks 101, orientation for new ONU students, on June 19, 22 and 26.

For a full list, go to www-new.onu.edu/node/19139

Before coaching, Rhodes played professional basketball in Europe for eight years, making stops in Germany (1988-89), France (1989-91) and Iceland (1991-96). In 1992, he was named the Icelandic Basketball League's Most Valuable Player, and in 1993, he earned the Athlete of the Year Award from the city of Hafnarfjörður, Iceland. Rhodes also coached youth basketball clubs in Iceland and was the head coach of the I.R. Club Team in Reykjavik, Iceland, from 1994-96.

Rhodes was a four-year letterman for Ohio from 1984-88. A star center for the Bobcats, Rhodes served as team captain and was named Second Team All-MAC in his senior year. In the Ohio career record books, he ranks third in field goal percentage (.567), fourth in blocked shots (121), and 10th in rebounds (744).

A Milwaukee native, Rhodes graduated from Ohio in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in journalism and public relations. He and his wife, Jackie, have two children, Alexis, 12, and Kristopher, 9.

Rhodes is only the sixth men's basketball head coach at ONU since 1949 and replaces Jeff Coleman, who went 73-34 in four seasons since 2005-06.

The Polar Bear men's basketball team finished 18-9 overall in 2008-09, posting its 19th consecutive winning season, and was third in the Ohio Athletic Conference with an 11-7 record this year.



Meghan Davlin, left, a graduating pharmacy student with a minor in theatre from Sandusky, Ohio, and Megan Monaco, a graduating accounting major from Canton, Ohio, received the Dankook Award prior to commencement ceremonies on May 24. Ohio Northern has an exchange relationship and a friendship pact with Dankook University in Seoul, South Korea. Each year, the top graduating seniors are honored with the Dankook Award.

President's Leadership Dessert Honors Students



Winners of the DeBow Freed Award for outstanding leadership are, from left, Jaclyn Purgert, a first-year pharmacy student from Sagamore Hills, Ohio; Joshua Blackwell, a first-year pharmacy student from Bedford, Ohio; Melissa Straub, a sophomore biology major from Canfield, Ohio; Jeremy Ebert, a second-year

pharmacy student from Bucyrus, Ohio; Samantha Ludwig, a junior international business and economics major from Norwalk, Ohio; Gabriel Washington, a third-year pharmacy student from Lorain, Ohio; Erin Rhodes, a fourth-year pharmacy student from Swanton, Md.; and Rich Boyd, a fourth-year pharmacy student from London, Ohio.

Dean of students Adriane Thompson-Bradshaw, left, presents the Alice K. Hilderbrand Student Organization of the Year Award to Habitat for Humanity, represented by Jay Gindlesberger, a third-year pharmacy student from Magnolia, Ohio, the Panhellenic Council, represented by Kim Gathers, a third-year pharmacy student from Mercer, Pa., and the Public Relations Student Society of America, represented by Katalyn Yenne, a senior in communication arts from Wooster, Ohio.



Ohio Northern University to Host U.S.-Japan Summer Camp

U.S. high school students will have the opportunity to learn Japanese, experience Japanese culture and earn college credit at the U.S.-Japan Summer Camp, scheduled from July 19 through Aug. 1 on the ONU campus.

Limited to 20 students, high school freshmen through seniors, the camp is dedicated to fostering scholarship, enhancing language skills and promoting cross-cultural understanding. In addition to academic coursework, students will take part in cultural dinners, discussions and field trips.

Robert Alexander, associate professor of political science, is the director of the camp. Satomi Wise will serve as the on-site assistant director and instructor of Japanese. Russ Crawford, assistant

professor of history, will offer a class on Japanese culture. Program assistants include Ohio Northern students Kelly Morman, a junior in political science from Monroeville, Ohio, Veronica Fetsko, a freshman in forensic biology from Greenville, Pa., and Matt Wiseman, a senior in history from Findlay, Ohio.

The camp costs \$1,495 per student, including housing, meals and academic credit. A grant from Honda of America has helped reduce the cost of tuition for all camp participants; the academic credit, meals and housing are valued at approximately \$3,000. Space is still available.

To register, contact Dr. Robert Alexander at 419-772-2093 or visit www-new.onu.edu/community/usjapan_experience

Jaye Bumbaugh, BSEd '59: Something to Crow About

As the crow flies, it's only a few miles from Ohio Northern University to Bluffton. But for art graduate **Jaye Bumbaugh**, BSEd '59, the distance has encompassed a full and satisfying career.

During Alumni Weekend, May 29-31, Bumbaugh's work in ceramics, watercolor, print and paper construction was featured in an exhibition at the Elzay Gallery of Art. To see the works over the next two weeks, contact Brit Rowe, assistant professor of art, at w-rowe@onu.edu

Crows appeared throughout Bumbaugh's exhibit. Their large ceramic heads, in a variety of hues, filled the center of the exhibit hall. On the walls, crows in airplanes and in helmets joined crows in mummy wrappings to create a whimsical parade.

The crows, in all their forms, are an echo of a childhood memory, says Bumbaugh, of "Blackie the Crow," who regularly visited his elementary school's yard.

But they are only part of his artistic vision. His watercolors create traditional landscapes and silkscreen and layered paper constructions form contemporary and abstract images.

Following his bachelor's degree at Ohio Northern, Bumbaugh earned his master of fine arts degree in sculpture from Bowling Green State University. The Lorain native then began a career that would span 37 years at Bluffton University. Now retired, he is a past chair of the school's art department and responsible for expanding the department's curriculum.

When introducing new courses, whether airbrush, paper-making, figure drawing from the life model, lithography, intaglio, silkscreen and relief print making, welding or casting metal sculpture, Bumbaugh said he found it useful to express his own artistic vision in the same media. The result is a career portfolio of great breadth. His work includes drawing in graphite, charcoal and pastel, painting in oils and watercolor and relief prints in linoleum, intaglio, silkscreen and lithography. His sculpture includes ceramics and cast bronze. More recently, he has worked with paper constructions in paper, foamboard, silkscreen and rag board.

Bumbaugh and his wife **Susan (Moritz) Bumbaugh**, AA '59, were honored with the Class of 1959 at Alumni Weekend.



Scoring on the Gridiron and in the Classroom

The on-field success of ONU's football program is obvious. Of 237 Division III football teams, the Polar Bears are one of only 11 teams to finish the season ranked nationally in the top 35 for four of the past five years. More importantly, that success has been mirrored by team members' commitment in the classroom.

This spring quarter, the football team earned a team grade point average of 2.73, higher than the national male student body average for four-year institutions (2.72). This reflects one of the best spring quarter performances in recent history, and it is an important part of the strategy to place Ohio Northern among the premiere small college football programs in the country.

"One of our program's top objectives is to become the academic trendsetters on campus," says head football coach Dean Paul. "At Ohio Northern, the 'student' in student-athlete holds genuine meaning. We expect our players to both manage rigorous academic challenges and meet the demands of a highly competitive intercollegiate football program."

Of the active players on this year's roster, 40 achieved a grade

point average of a 3.0 or better, 18 players were at 3.5 or above, and eight earned a perfect 4.0.

"Success in the classroom means reaching one's full potential – a balancing act which requires organizational skills, careful planning and a strong sense of priorities," said Paul.

The football team's accomplishments in the classroom can be attributed in part to the Academic Game Plan (AGP) the coaching staff implemented soon after coach Paul took the helm. The AGP exposes players to goal setting, time/event management, test taking, and note-taking skills. During each quarter, coaches monitor the academic progress of each player through individual meetings. Prior to Paul's arrival the team GPA was just 2.5.

"We appreciate the commitment our players have demonstrated both in the classroom and on the field," he adds. "Their success in balancing the academic and athletic rigors of an institution like Ohio Northern University speaks volumes about their personal willingness to be the best."