Concrete Canoe Team Takes on Nationals

Ohio Northern University concrete canoe team moved up one place in the 2007 ASCE National Concrete Canoe Competition in Seattle, June 14-16.

Last year’s team finished 13, while this year’s team finished 12 in the field of 22. ONU also won fifth place in the design paper portion of the competition.

Scoring for competition includes the categories of design paper, oral presentation, finished product, and the races. Each category contributes 25 percent of the total score.

The 22 participating teams qualified for the nationals after winning in their respective regional competitions.

The ONU team fielded the canoe “Northern Edge” which had a length of 19.7 ft. and weighed 207 lbs. Co-captains of the team are Michael Brown, a senior in civil engineering from Ada, and Bradford Barber, a sophomore in civil engineering from Bowling Green, Ohio. Farhad Reza, Ph.D., associate professor of civil engineering, is the team advisor.

The races were held at Lake Sammamish and drew a large crowd including several ONU alumni from the Seattle area.

Ohio Northern University has been awarded a $25,000 grant from the Presser Foundation for the purchase of five new pianos. Organized by professor of music, Dr. M.J. “Sunny” Zank, and Dr. Rebecca Casey, assistant professor of music, the grant will help the music department replace several older pianos.

“We are delighted to receive this grant—pianos are such a vital part of our department,” says Zank. “Our unique relationship with the Presser Foundation is one we hope to maintain in the years to come. It’s a great way to carry out the wishes of Theodore Presser.”

The Presser Foundation, based in Haverford, Pa., has a special relationship with Ohio Northern. Theodore Presser, the organization’s founder, was the first music professor at Northern. Presser taught in the early years of the university, and his will allowed for the construction of “Presser Halls” at 10 universities, including ONU. The current Presser Hall was completed in 1929, four years after Presser’s death.

“Ohio Northern is proud to be part of the interesting history of Theodore Presser and to have benefited from his philanthropic legacy in the cause of music education,” said Dr. Kendall Baker. “Our university and our students have benefited over many decades from Mr. Presser’s foresight in forming The Presser Foundation and we value our enduring relationship with them enormously.”

Dr. Casey, who came to the university in 1994 and is a tenured assistant professor of music as well as chairman of the keyboard department, was the recipient of a Presser Scholar award in 1984 as an ONU student.

Since its establishment in 1939, one of the Presser Foundation’s main goals has been “to enhance music education and performance by supporting the acquisition of musical equipment and instruments and the construction and renovation of suitable buildings for musical instruction and performance.”
Ohio Northern to Host Sakae Institute

For the fourth year, Ohio Northern University will host the Sakae Institute of Study Abroad, a preparation program for Japanese students who will begin studies at U.S. colleges and universities in the fall.

Eighteen undergraduates, three of whom will attend ONU in the fall, along with nine graduate students, will take part in this summer’s institute which runs July 12 through August 14. Taught by ONU faculty, the students will practice reading, writing, listening and speaking in English, take short academic courses on a variety of topics, and learn about American culture.

Marjorie Pitts, lecturer in English, is director for the summer program and also teaches the advanced listening and speaking classes. Mary Drzycimski-Finn, assistant to the dean of ONU’s College of Arts and Sciences, is the assistant director and will teach courses in advanced reading and writing.

Intermediate listening and speaking will be taught by Mary Jo Knott, lecturer in English. Tom Beery, also a lecturer in English, will teach intermediate reading and writing. Art Elsass, who teaches computer applications at Northern, will give the course on introduction to computers. Dr. Robert Alexander, professor of political science, will teach a class in American politics. Dr. Keith Durkin, sociology professor will offer a criminology class. The students will also take some physical education “mini-courses” in tennis, American touch football and Frisbee golf from Bob Rohan ONU’s assistant football coach.

ONU student assistants for the summer program are Julia Tabaj, a junior in computer science from Twinsburg, Ohio, and Stephanie Wright, a junior in management from Ostrander, Ohio, along with Japanese student assistant Shino Kakizaki, currently a graduate student at Webster University in St. Louis, Mo.

In addition to the academic and physical education classes the students in the Sakae will take a two-hour humanities mini-course and also have an opportunity to tour the Wilson football factory in Ada, visit the Toledo Art Museum, spend a day at Cedar Point and take in a Cincinnati Reds baseball game.

Yoko Sakae founded the Sakae Institute of Study Abroad in 1972 for the purpose of making the transition to life on a U.S. college campus easier for Japanese students.

Assistant Director Residence Life

Elizabeth J. Barnett has joined Ohio Northern as assistant director of residence life.

She is a graduate of Wittenberg University with a bachelor's degree in sociology and a minor in psychology and holds a master of education degree from Ohio University with a major in college student personnel.

She comes to ONU from Ohio University where she was resident director. Prior to that she was a substitute teacher in Cincinnati public schools and an Internet marketing consultant.

She has experience in programming for a residential community, student organization and Greek life advising and student housing, residence life and judicial affairs.

Virginia Tech Offers Thanks ...

ONU recently received the following message from Virginia Tech:

We sincerely thank you for the kind messages of care and concern you sent to us. These have lifted our spirits and greatly aided us in the dark days surrounding this tragic event.

Your thoughtfulness reminds us as well of the beauty and goodness in the world and helps give us strength to go forward.

We hope you will continue to keep the Virginia Tech family in your thoughts and prayers as we begin to recover from this tragedy.

As much as we deeply appreciate each and every message, we regret that we cannot respond individually to the thousands upon thousands of cards, letters, and other expressions of sympathy and support. But, please be assured that we are humbled and thankful for this outpouring of care and the reassurance that it provides.

Again, we are most grateful for your thoughtfulness and send you our wishes for peace.

Sincerely,
Charles W. Steger
President