Ohio Northern University has jumped to the No. 2 ranking among Midwest comprehensive colleges in the 2008 U.S. News & World Report annual edition of “America’s Best Colleges.”

ONU, which has been ranked in the region’s top 10 for the past 16 years, has been elevated to the second spot after being ranked No. 5 for the past six years. U.S. News defines comprehensive colleges as institutions that focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degrees in the programs liberal arts and professional fields.

“We are very pleased at the high recognition this ranking provides,” said ONU President Kendall Baker. “Although we realize that the U.S. News assessment does not include all factors needed to judge colleges and universities, we believe it calls attention to the top quality of the education offered at our University. The higher ranking this year is a tribute to the hard work and accomplishments of our extremely dedicated, highly committed university faculty and staff.”

Karen Condeni, ONU’s vice president and dean of enrollment said, “The U.S. News publication can be a valuable resource for our students looking for the distinctive mix of opportunities offered at ONU. The rankings indicate that we do an excellent job of meeting our students’ needs.”

U.S. News and World Report offers its publication as a way for students to broaden their college search and compare before visiting and interviewing at appropriate universities. For reporting purposes, the schools are categorized by mission and, in some cases, region. Data are gathered from each college on up to 15 indicators of academic excellence.

In addition, ONU is once again featured as one of the nation’s top schools in the new Princeton Review annual college guide, “The Best 366 Colleges, 2008 Edition.”

The lists report the top ranked colleges in more than 60 categories covering topics from academics and financial aid to aspects of college life.

The rankings in the 2008 edition are based on The Princeton Review’s survey of 120,000 students at 366 colleges in the book.

The book lists ONU as “one of the 161 colleges named Best Midwestern College.”

ONU Welcomes New Class of LL.M. Students

On Aug. 12, the Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law welcomed its second class of international students to the Democrat Governance and Rules of Law LL.M. program.

The eight students are lawyers from nations in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe that are in the process of building democratic governments. The countries represented by the lawyers are: Egypt, Eritrea, Malawi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Albania, Tajikistan and Bhutan.

This is the second year of the LL.M. program that brings young lawyers committed to law reform and democracy to ONU for a year of studying new ways to improve the legal and governing systems of their countries. They will attend on full scholarships provided by the university and its donors.

President Kendall Baker said, “Last year’s LL.M. students made a huge contribution to the law school, the university and the whole community, and we are excited about what this new class will bring. Having this diverse class of students, along with the higher number of international students in the other colleges, will give all of us at ONU a healthier perspective on our culture and our educational assumptions.”

Last year’s class graduated 11 students from six different countries. Some returned to senior positions with their former employers. Others took new positions in law reform projects or are seeking new roles in their countries’ efforts to build democratic institutions.

‘Beauty and the Beast’

Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast” opens the season for the Freed Center for the Performing Arts, Aug. 23-25 at 8 p.m.; Aug. 26 at 2 p.m.; Aug. 31- Sept. 1 at 8 p.m.; Sept. 2 at 2 p.m.; and Sept. 3 at 8 p.m.

“Beauty and the Beast” is directed by Renee Dobson, along with associate director Kirsten Osbun Manley. Musical direction is provided by Lloyd Butler, resident artist. Costumes are designed by Cathy Smalley, Freed Center costumer, and lighting is by Kathleen E. DeVault, resident lighting and sound designer.

Tickets for ONU faculty and staff are $12 and $5 for ONU students. Call the Freed Center box office at (419) 772-1900.
Grants Awarded

Dr. Bruce Berdanier, associate professor of civil engineering, is a co-principal investigator on a $75,000 Small Grants for Exploratory Research from the National Science Foundation. Dr. Pallaoor Sundareshwar of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology is the principal investigator. They are evaluating the impacts of nutrient pulsing implemented by the South Dakota Games, Fish and Parks in Rapid Creek, a forested stream in South Dakota. The stream is poor in nutrients but rich in oxygen. The intent is to study how pristine ecosystems respond to external stressors.

The Chaplain's Office at Ohio Northern and the Rev. Vern LaSala received an $800 grant from the West Ohio Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry in support of Orange Noses, a clown ministry troupe created in 2006 by Chris Corrado, a sophomore marketing major from Cincinnati, Ohio. As one of the seven chapel outreach teams, Orange Noses is composed of ONU students who want to share their love, make people smile and draw them closer to Christ. They will begin this fall going out to churches and nursing homes to minister to people through clowning. The funds have been used to purchase clowning supplies and to cover the cost of registration fees at clown ministry workshops.

ONU has received a $13,953 grant from the Minority Recruitment Program of the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges to establish Vision Builders, a minority student recruitment effort aimed at broadening the scope of the University's student diversity.

The Vision Builders Program is under the direction of Curtis Ferguson II, coordinator for multicultural recruitment, Tabitha Courtney, assistant director of admissions, and Clyde Pickett, director of multicultural development.

With the ultimate goal to increase student diversity at ONU, Vision Builders features two components. The first facet is a mentoring program where Ohio Northern students of color work with multicultural high school seniors throughout the year. Current partners include the MI Ready program at the Lima Senior High School of Multiple Intelligences, and the Lima Black Achievers.

The second component is the eventual creation of a Vision Builders Day at ONU. The event will bring approximately 50 multicultural students from four different Ohio high schools to campus where they will spend the day learning about the University.

Funding for the Minority Recruitment Program is provided by AT&T and JPMorgan Chase.

Career Services

Judy Blankenship is now advanced administrative assistant in the Office of Career Services. In addition to managing the front desk, she will also be recruiting coordinator for employers who come to campus for individual on-campus recruiting visits. She is also a notary public. Judy replaces Priscilla West who retired June 1.

She holds an associates degree in business administration from West Virginia Northern Community College and a bachelor of arts degree in English from Franciscan University, Steubenville, Ohio. Before coming to Ohio Northern, she was a legal administrative assistant with a law firm in Youngstown, Ohio.

Dining Services

Teresa (Terry) Mathis has been chosen as the new general manager of the University's dining services. Terry joined Sodexho in 1983 and has successfully managed and directed dining operations previously at Lake Erie College, Ursuline College, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Heights schools, and other Sodexho units. She began at ONU on Aug. 13, and will oversee the McIntosh dining hall, White Bear Inn, faculty and staff dining room, Affinity Commons dining, Northern on Main, and all catering functions. She can be contacted at Ext. 2415.

Law Admissions

Lise A. Suliman has joined ONU as assistant director of admissions in the college of law.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in speech communication, public relations, and a master’s degree in public administration, public administration policy analysis, both from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Ill.

Before coming to ONU, she was a graduate advisor for the Kimmel Leadership Center at Southern Illinois University.
Opening Activities 2007-08 Academic Year

Opening activities for the 2007-08 academic year begin Monday, Aug. 27. All activities are in McIntosh Center, unless otherwise noted. If you have questions about activities, check with your supervisor.

Monday, Aug. 27
6:00 p.m. Adjunct Faculty – Northern Connections Program and Dinner, Dicke Hall Forum

Tuesday, Aug. 28
9:00 a.m. New Faculty Orientation
Academic Policies & Procedures/Banner – Mr. Carpenter, Mrs. Theye, Dr. Goldberg; Luminis, Web/WebCT – Information Technology Staff; POLAR Technology & OhioLINK – Professor Paul Logsdon; Grant Proposals – Ms. Beckie Watercutter; Session held at Heterick Library Room 102A

10:00 a.m. Seminar for College Deans/Associate Deans, Dicke Hall 115 – “Student Evaluations: One College’s Approach” – Dean Eric Baumgartner, Dr. Julie Hurtig

11:00 a.m. Presentation on Diversity at ONU for Vice Presidents and Deans, Dicke Hall 115 – Ms. Heather Hutchings

12:00 noon New Faculty and Staff Luncheon – Wishing Well

1:15 p.m. New Faculty & Staff Campus Tour – Ms. Ann Donnelly – Meet at McIntosh Circle

Wednesday, Aug. 29
morning Law classes rescheduled

8:30 a.m. Coffee, tea & cookies available – Freed Center

9:00 a.m. Opening Session for University Community – President Kendall L. Baker, Dr. Anne Lippert – Freed Center

10:45 a.m. University Steering Committee on General Education – Introductory Remarks – Freed Center

11:00 a.m. Organizational Meeting – University Faculty – Freed Center
Special Elections

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. University Faculty Development – “Creating a Signature General Education Program at Ohio Northern” – McIntosh Ballroom – University Steering Committee on General Education – Multi-College Workgroup Discussions

3:15-4:30 p.m. College/Division/Department Unit Sessions – (Location/Times by College/Division)

4:45 – 5:00 p.m. University Council Organizational Meeting – Prof. Terry Keiser, Chair – Board Room

6:00 p.m. Opening Dinner for University Community – Field House

Thursday, Aug. 30
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. University Faculty Development – “Using Technology in Teaching and Learning” – Dicke Hall Forum Dr. Russ Crawford, Department of History, Politics and Justice Dr. Adam Stinecker, Department of Technological Studies Dr. Chris Caprette, Department of Biological and Allied Health Sciences

10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. College Faculty Development Sessions

4:40 – 4:50 p.m. Organizational Meetings, University Governance Committees
Personnel – McIntosh Room 204
Student Activities – McIntosh Room 203
Promotion & Tenure Appeals – McIntosh Room 202
Hearing Committee on Dismissal of Faculty – McIntosh Room 7

4:50 – 5:00 p.m. Organizational Meetings, University Governance Committees
Budget & Appropriations – Board Room
Academic Affairs – McIntosh Room 202
Grievance Committee – McIntosh Room 7
Review Committee on Dismissal of Faculty – McIntosh Room 204
Committee on Academic Conduct – McIntosh Faculty Lounge

Friday, Aug. 31
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. College Faculty Development Activities will take place throughout the day.

Saturday, Sept. 1
Morning New Undergraduate Students Arrive

5:00 p.m. Picnic for New Undergraduate Students, New Transfer Students and New Commuter Students

Sunday, Sept. 2
3:00 – 5:00 p.m. College & Department Orientation for New Undergraduate Students – To be announced by Colleges

Monday, Sept. 3
8:00 – 11:30 a.m. Registration and Add-Drop for all students – Ballroom – Deans, Department Chairs or representatives present

1:00 – 3:30 p.m. Registration and Add-Drop for all students (continued) – Ballroom – Deans, Department Chairs or representatives present

Tuesday, Sept. 4
8:00 a.m. Undergraduate Classes Begin

Monday, Sept. 17
7:30 p.m. Constitution Day Panel Presentation – Freed Center, Biggs Auditorium
Dr. Scott Gerber, College of Law, moderator
Dr. Joanne Brant, College of Law
Dr. Rob Manzer, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. JoAnn Scott, Department of History, Politics, and Justice
Art Exhibition Season Opens

The 2007-08 art exhibition and gallery season at the Elzay and Stambaugh Studio Theatre galleries will host national and international touring exhibitions and programs, and original exhibits distinctly suited to an academic environment.

Featured exhibits include: traveling exhibits Alphabet: An Exhibition of Hand-Drawn Lettering and Experimental Typography and Make Art! An Interactive Exhibition; The Annual Student Juried Show; and BFA/BA Capstone Exhibit by ONU seniors. Additionally, gallery exhibits will showcase work by Steve Emmett, Sean McConnor, Marita Gootee, Betty LaDuke, Kylie Heidenheimer and Hui-Ching Ying.

Opening the season is the “Places Like Ada” exhibit of digital photographs of small Midwestern towns by noted New York photographer Nancy Sirkis, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sept. 8-9 at the Ada train depot.

“Places Like Ada” is a joint venture of the Art Department of Ohio Northern University, the ONU Cultural Affairs and Special Events Committee, and the Ada Rotary Club. Proceeds from the sale of photographs will benefit the Ada Rotary Scholarship Fund.

In a lecture open to the public, Sirkis will illustrate her technique through slides of her work at 8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 7, in the Forum of The James F. Dicke College of Business Administration.

In addition, the Ada Rotary Club will display Sirkis’s Ohio photographs on Sept. 15, in a booth at the Harvest and Herb Festival in Ada.

Admission to the Elzay and Stambaugh galleries is free and open to the public, daily from noon to 5 p.m. The Stambaugh Studio Theatre Gallery is also open prior to events held at Ohio Northern’s Freed Center for the Performing Arts. For additional information call the department of art at 419-772-2160 or art@onu.edu.

Constitution Day

ONU’s Constitution Day program will be 7:30 a.m., Monday, Sept. 17th in the Freed Center.

Scott Gerber, associate professor of law, will moderate. Presenting will be JoAnn Scott, professor of political science, Joanne Brant, professor of law and Rob Manzer, dean of the Getty College of Arts and Sciences. The event is free and open to the public.

Tuition Exchange

Full-time employees who will have a child entering college in fall 2008 are invited to learn about the Tuition Exchange Inc. program in a special session at 4 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 19 in McIntosh Room 7/8. Questions may always be directed to Dr. Roger Goldberg at r-goldberg@onu.edu

Lunch in the Chapel

Three times during the new academic year, boxed lunches will be served at the ONU chapel service. The first will be 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 12. Chaplain Vernon LaSala will speak on “Quo Vadis” (where are you going.)

This year’s chapel theme is “Life as a traveler” and will be reflected in the weekly chapel services. To learn more, contact the chapel at ext. 2200.

Donate Your Bike!

Now is the time to make good use of that seldom-used bicycle that’s taking up valuable space in your garage. Donate it to the Ohio Northern Environmentalists for their new Community Bike Program.

Beginning this fall, the program will provide free use of bikes for anyone on campus. Donated bikes will be painted in an identifiable color and positioned on bike racks around campus. The program will allow anyone to take an available bike and ride it to their campus destination. Then they can leave the bike for someone else to borrow.

To learn more, or to make a donation, contact Kyle Melin at: k-melin@onu.edu

Congratulations!

John Estell, Ph.D., professor of computer engineering and computer science, and John-David Yoder, Ph.D., associate professor of mechanical engineering, are recipients of the 2007 Best Paper Award by the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE).

Drs. Estell and Yoder collaborated to assess the merits of an exercise for freshmen engineering students. Drs. Beverly Jaeger, Richard Whalen and Susan Freeman from Northeastern University worked with Estell and Yoder on the joint development.

The resulting paper titled “Tower of Straws: Reaching New Heights with Active Learning in Engineering Design for the First-Year Curriculum” was presented at the ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition held in Honolulu, Hawaii, June 24-27.

Sandy Calvert, Ph.D., assistant dean for the College of Arts and Sciences, led a round table discussion titled, “Disability Services: Transitioning Special Needs Students from High School to the First Year of College,” at the 20th International Conference on the First-Year Experience on the big island of Hawaii held July 9-12, 2007. The conference was designed to examine programs and initiatives, as well as research results that help first year students adapt to higher education and become more successful in their learning.

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ONU In the News...

Sandra Crosser, Ph.D., professor of education, is quoted in an article titled “Iowa’s rigid rule keeps kids from kindergarten, in the Des Moines Register. See the article at: http://tinyurl.com/27qrz6

Deanna Shine, coordinator of international admissions, is quoted in a story about ONU’s partnership with a Japanese girls’ high school in the Lima News. See: http://tinyurl.com/2hqd2o

Two ONU students, Donnie Danesi and John Rimelle, doing an internship in Medford, Oregon, are featured in a story. See: http://tinyurl.com/2e536o

A.F. Alhajji, Ph.D., associate professor of economics, is quoted in an article on Middle East energy choices in the World Peace Herald. See the article at: http://tinyurl.com/yw8kn2

He is also quoted in a Lima News article about the local refinery shut down. See: http://tinyurl.com/yu7amg

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