Early in her research, Reijo-Pera identified one of the first genes expressly concerned with human germ cell development. Her laboratory has created several techniques to differentiate human embryonic stem cells from germ cells and the genetic manipulation of pathways. Throughout her career, Reijo-Pera has been honored with numerous awards. In particular, she was named one of Newsweek magazine’s 20 Most Influential Women in America.

Named in honor of professor and ONU alumna Tony B. Keiser, BSEd ’64, the Keiser Distinguished Lectureship in Life Sciences brings nationally prominent life sciences scholars to ONU’s campus each year to lecture and interact with students.
Africa seems such a distant land, an exotic, strange and somewhat forbidding place. Those thousands of miles of separation might as well be millions, unless you make a connection with the people who live there – people with concerns not unlike those of many elsewhere: education, fair representation, justice, and the preservation of personal dignity.

A group of students and educators from Ohio Northern University and the surrounding area have spanned that geographic gap with a bridge built on friendship, trust, relationships and the most basic of educational assistance. The University has become an effective ambassador with this venture, which has all its foundation the study of the emerging democracy in South Africa, and what it might tell us about our own mature and continually evolving form of government.

Continued...

SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS
YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM

For several decades, William E. Croy Jr., BA ’71, H of F ’02, felt there was a hole in Ohio Northern University’s religion curriculum.

Without a program to adequately prepare students for youth ministry, Croy would make it his mission to rectify that need. Now serving as an ONU trustee, he has seen the creation of a youth ministry major and the First Youth Leadership Symposium this spring.

“Over the years, I’ve shared my concern that we do something better to train people for careers in youth ministry,” says Croy, a former youth minister who served as pastor of Maple Grove United Methodist Church in Columbus.

The youth ministry program at ONU, launched in 2001-02, now claims 100 percent placement for its graduates in graduate programs (mostly seminaries) or youth ministry positions and is fairly unique among universities that are affiliated with mainline protestant denominations, says Ray Person, professor and chair of Ohio Northern’s Department of Religion and Philosophy.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS’ FELLOWSHIP

This summer, while many students spent time at the beach or the mall, Carol Wilson was transcribing original Civil War documents that had never been seen before by the general public.

It was part of the Gilder Lehrman History Scholars fellowship program and one of the most renowned historical collections in New York City.

Wilson, a senior Honors student and professional writing and history major from Royal Oak, Mich., was selected along with only nine other students for the distinguished fellowship out of more than 200 applicants nationwide. “I think what appeals to me most about this program is that the focus is on trying to make history interesting to the public,” says Wilson, whose minor is museum studies.

HISTORY MAJOR SELECTED

CONDUCTOR’S MUSICAL PASSPORT BRIDGES TWO CULTURES

Through the language of music is universal, crossing borders can provide a new awareness for musicians from different cultural backgrounds.

That’s what professor Lloyd Butler, BM ’00, co-director of the Musical Theatre program and music director of the University Singers, is trying to make history happen.

Continued...
Students win Goldwater awards

Joshua Szekely, a senior chemistry major from Madison, Ohio, has been selected as a 2010 Goldwater Scholar by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship Excellence in Education Program. For six consecutive years, Ohio Northern students have been the recipients of this premier award honoring those in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering.

Samantha LaChey, a senior English major from Mansfield, Ohio, received honorable mention for an annotated bibliography on vampires, is the result of a research project with the support of a National Science Foundation Grant that focused on intramolecular charge transfer in four anilinoquinomethides. The student researchers compiled a 10,000-word annotated bibliography on the secondary research done in English on vampires since 1897. The bibliography includes peer-reviewed journal articles, essays, book reviews, encyclopedias, dictionaries and historical studies. An annotated bibliography not only summarizes research, but also comments on its level of quality, so the process allowed the students to sharpen their analytical skills.

The students’ research was directed by Dr. Druann Bauer, assistant professor of English.
Music education major student teaching in Estonia

As another example of Ohio Northern’s Estonian immersion program, Virginia Harrod, a senior music education and vocal performance double major from Firth, Va., completed her student teaching requirement there this fall.

Harrod lived in Estonia for three months teaching music to students from first through 12th grades.

“I was looking forward to getting to investigate their break from Communism, which happened during my lifetime through what is now known as ‘The Singing Revolution,’” Harrod says.

The Singing Revolution describes how the Estonian people won their freedom in part through massive song festivals, says. “It’s the most moving testament to music and how it really can change the world.”

Harrod lived with an Estonian family during her experience to fully immerse herself in Estonian culture and tradition.

“For every student who has gone there, it’s been a transformative, life-changing experience for them,” said ONU music director Lloyd Butler, BM’00.

“I think the benefit for students is that it’s truly a cultural experience, especially since it’s Eastern Europe, which is a very different way of life. It teaches students the importance of having an appreciation for other lifestyles and other cultures.”

CONDUCTOR’S MUSICAL PASSPORT BRIDGES TWO CULTURES

Butler said that when musicians explore music from outside their cultural repertoire, there are benefits on both sides of the podium.

“It’s immensely positive. It brings a lot to the way I teach the way I look at music,” he says. “It’s hard to put into words, but when I conduct an orchestra, I like to see their overall interpretation of a work. There’s something about that process that identifies with their culture. Until I hear their interpretation, I haven’t thought of a particular piece in a particular way. That’s what I take from it.”

“As musicians, it’s always a learning curve. You might interpret a piece one way one year and 20 years later, with a whole new life experience, it’s a whole new piece, a whole new interpretation.”

Because of these new insights and interpretations, Ohio Northern music students,

HISTORY MAJOR SELECTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

Wilson, who had previously never taken a Civil War history course, said it was challenging and exciting to begin the project, which included eight to 14 hours of research every day during the program.

“I’ve been learning a lot here,” she says. “We’ve had several Civil War historians come in to speak to us. We toured the New York Historical Society and saw some original letters from George Lincoln. It was very cool to see.

“Part of our project the first week was to transcribe some original documents from people from the Civil War. They’re never been transcribed before — we were transcribing them for the first time for people to read online. It’s really amazing to see something that the public has not seen before,” she says.

Wilson says her studies at Ohio Northern prepared her well for the intensive research experience.

“My professional writing degree has helped me take this massive topic and boil it down so it can be more easily understood and interesting to a wider audience,” she says. “And without my historiography classes, I would not have even known where

Nursing program receives grant

Rhonda Thompson, MS, RN, CNP, an assistant professor of nursing, has received a grant for $504 from the Epilepsy Chapter of Sigma Theta International at Ohio State University to assist with her study of “What Factors Motivate University Students to Reduce CVD Risk?” The grant was used to purchase pedometers for study participants to monitor their daily step counts for the six-week walking program associated with the study. She has recruited ONU faculty and staff for the study, which looks at what types of educational information is effective in motivating them to walk to reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease.

High school students experience U.S.-Japan Summer Camp

U.S. high school students had the opportunity to learn Japanese, experience Japanese culture and earn college credit at the U.S.-Japan Summer Camp over the summer on campus. Open to a limited number of high school freshmen through seniors, the camp was dedicated to fostering scholarship, enhancing language skills and promoting cross-cultural understanding. In addition to academic coursework, students experienced cultural dinners, discussions and field trips.

ONU physics professor Robert Alexander directed the camp. Satomi Wise served as the on-site assistant director and instructor of Japanese.

ONU history professor Russ Crawford offered a class on Japanese culture. Program assistants include Ohio Northern students Kelly Morman, a junior political science major from Monroeville, Ohio, Veronica Fotky, a freshman forensic biology major from Greenville, Pa., and Matt Wiseman, a senior history major from Findlay, Ohio. The U.S.-Japan Foundation supported ONU’s camp with a $40,608 grant.

Honorary degree

Michael Smith, BS ’58, Hon. D. ’10, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in history, received an honorary doctorate of public service in May. Smith serves as president of the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, an independent nonprofit organization that serves hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States and other countries by connecting selected students challenging opportunities to work and learn in Washington, D.C., for academic credits. The center

Professor awarded fellowship to conduct research in Central Asia

Dr. David Smith, associate professor of geography, spent two months over the summer in Tajikistan conducting research on water and conflict issues in Central Asia after being awarded a U.S. Embassy Policy Specialist (EPS) program fellowship from the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREE).

Advising and reporting his research to the U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan and during a United Nations meeting, Smith’s research focused on the potential for conflict over water resources in the region, Tajikistan’s dam-building efforts and new plans are contributing to cooperation and conflict with its neighbors, and the effect of the continuing unrest in neighboring Afghanistan.

Smith also examined the consequences of climate change, which would contribute to political destabilization and fragility migration in Central Asia.

Award-winning Songwriter hosts Master Class

New York cabaret singer Jonathan Bucchino presented a master class for theatre, musical theatre and music students and worked with eight students in individual coaching sessions last spring. Bucchino’s songs have been performed and recorded by renowned pop, theatre, cabaret and classical artists such as Liza Minnelli, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Yo Yo Ma, Art Garfunkel, Michael Feinstein, Audrey McDonald, The Boston Pops, The Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in a variety of venues, including Carnegie Hall, The Metropolitan Opera, The Hollywood Bowl, The Sydney Opera House and The White House.