

Statement of purpose:

The St. Olaf Alumni Awards are given to nominated alumni who exemplify the ideals and mission of the College.

The statement, which accompanies the award, says:

'The Board of Regents of St. Olaf College and the St. Olaf College Alumni Association, in recognition of outstanding achievements, bestow the St. Olaf Alumni Awards on those alumni whose accomplishments have brought honor to self and to the College; whose service and leadership have exemplified its ideals; and whose concern for St. Olaf has supported and strengthened its program.'

The Alumni Awards serve several purposes:

I. To honor alumni who exemplify fulfillment of the College Mission:

St. Olaf, a four-year college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, provides an education committed to the liberal arts, rooted in the Christian Gospel, and incorporating a global perspective. In the conviction that life is more than a livelihood, it focuses on what is ultimately worthwhile and fosters the development of the whole person in mind, body, and spirit.

Now in its second century, St. Olaf College remains dedicated to the high standards set by its Norwegian immigrant founders. In the spirit of free inquiry and free expression, it offers a distinctive environment that integrates teaching, scholarship, creative activity, and opportunities for encounter with the Christian Gospel and God's call to faith. The College intends that its graduates combine academic excellence and theological literacy with a commitment to life-long learning.

St. Olaf College strives to be an inclusive community, respecting those of differing backgrounds and beliefs. Through its curriculum, campus life, and off-campus programs, it stimulates students' critical thinking and heightens their moral sensitivity; it encourages them to be seekers of truth, leading lives of unselfish service to others; and it challenges them to be responsible and knowledgeable citizens of the world.

- 2. To Inspire students and alumni through notable alumni achievement and volunteer service that brings honor to self and the College**
 - 3. To engage or re-engage alumni through the Alumni Awards process**
 - 4. To exhibit and publicize the success of the College program** as reflected in its alumni
 - 5. To encourage support of the College program from alumni and parents,** through achievements of alumni that exemplify the strengths and benefits of St. Olaf's liberal arts program
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Award Qualifications

Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA) – 50+ year history – Award Presentation – Fall Homecoming Weekend

Exceptional professional achievements partnered with the use of talents/skills in volunteer service to community and St. Olaf College

Candidates: Alumni (graduates and former students)

- A. Professional accomplishments (60%)
- B. Community service (30%)
- C. St. Olaf involvement (10%)

A. Exceptional Professional Achievements

Excellence in a profession includes:

- Professional competencies that lead to unusual success and/or contribution(s) in a field
- Innovation or research that leads to advancement of a profession or field
- Extraordinary contributions and achievements that improve the quality of life for a segment of society, while ethically achieving goals and earning awards or recognition for professional achievement

[Professions include those traditional and most visible (medicine, business, law, education, and the ministry) as well as the arts, public and not-for-profit sector careers, and all other career endeavors, whether paid or unpaid, full- or part-time, in or outside the home]

B. Exceptional Volunteer Community Service

Admirable social concern and moral sensitivity in volunteer service to humankind

- Use of talents and skills, in or beyond chosen profession, that benefit community
- Volunteer actions that show evidence of responsible citizenship, social concern, and a moral sensitivity within human services, the arts, recreation, religion, education, or other pursuits)

C. Dedication to the advancement of the programs and mission of St. Olaf College

Significant service and consistent loyalty to the College

This service may include any 3 or more of the following:

- Service to the college in critical volunteer leadership roles
- Engaging Alumni and encouraging long-term relationships with St. Olaf College
- Career assistance to students and alumni
- Encouragement and/or identification of qualified prospective students
- Academic presence (guest lecturing on campus, work with academic departments; assistance with grant funding)
- Personal financial support of the advancement of St. Olaf
- Volunteer alumni service (alumni class functions, regional chapter leadership, Alumni Board service, public relations)
- Active support of student groups on tours or off-campus study programs

Alumni Achievement Award (AAA) *First awarded in 2005 – Award Presentation – Fall Homecoming Weekend*

Exceptional professional achievements that advance a profession/field and improve the quality of life for a segment of society

Candidates: Alumni (graduates and former students)

Excellence in a profession

- **Professional competencies and achievements that lead to unusual success and/or contribution(s) in a field**
- **Innovation or research, that leads to advancement of a profession or field**
- **Extraordinary contributions and achievements that improve the quality of life for a segment of society, while ethically achieving goals and earning awards or recognition for professional achievement**

[Professions include those traditional and most visible (medicine, business, law, education, and the ministry) as well as the arts, public and not-for-profit sector careers, and all other career endeavors, whether paid or unpaid, full- or part-time, in or outside the home]

Outstanding Service Award (OSA) *First awarded in 2006 – Award Presentation – Fall Homecoming Weekend*

Distinguished and meritorious volunteer service to community and St. Olaf College

Candidates: Alumni, parents, or friends of the College – (Exceptionally strong connection to the college)

Exceptional Volunteer Service to their Community and to St. Olaf College

- **Lifelong volunteer service using talents or skills, in or beyond profession, to the benefit of community through involvement and philanthropic efforts which seek to better the quality of life for a segment of society**
 - Sharing personal skills in community and/or public service - this can take many forms and can be extensions of human services, the arts, recreation, religion, education, government, community affairs, or other community strengthening pursuits
 - Meritorious service to society demonstrated through involvement in strengthening responsible citizenship, social concern, and moral sensitivity
- **Dedication to the advancement of the programs and mission of St. Olaf College through significant service and consistent loyalty to the school**

This service may include any 3 or more of the following:

- Service to the college in critical volunteer leadership roles
- Engaging Alumni and encouraging long-term relationships with St. Olaf College
- Career assistance to students and alumni
- Encouragement and/or identification of qualified prospective students
- Academic presence (guest lecturing on campus, work with academic departments; assistance with grant funding)
- Personal financial support of the advancement of St. Olaf
- Volunteer alumni service (alumni class functions, regional chapter leadership, Alumni Board service, public relations)
- Active support of student groups on tours or off-campus study programs

Nominations	Dates and Process
Simplified Nomination Form - Award Neutral	Web Submittal
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distinguished Alumni Award 2. Alumni Achievement Award 3. Outstanding Service Award 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nomination Deadline: January 15 (of award year) • February/March Selection • Approvals: Alumni Assn Board – then Board of Regents (Spring Meetings) • Invitations/Acceptance (Once invitations/acceptances are received, recipient names are available to the public) • Awards Presentation - Homecoming Weekend (Fall)

Below is a list of some additional support documents to enhance the nomination: While not a requirement, formal ‘Letters of Support’ and other materials to substantiate the candidate’s background and accomplishments can strengthen nominations for an Alumni Award and enhance the robust vetting process that occurs with each nomination.

Resume/CV and Advanced Education/Degrees, Publications, Honors as evidence of life-long learning, professional accomplishment, or service, provide supplemental reinforcement to each award

- Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA)** - Letters that include colleagues and peers in nominee’s field of study and/or vocation; those who share the story of nominee’s community service; and others who describe the nominee’s passion and ongoing involvement with St. Olaf college are all valuable insights
- Alumni Achievement Award (AAA)** - Letters that focus on nominee’s exceptional contributions to his/her career, field of study, and/or vocation from professional peers and colleagues provides unique insights that greatly enhance the accolades that are public knowledge but missing these personal stories and commentary
- Outstanding Service Award (OSA)** - Personal letters from organizations, colleagues and cohorts in service, that share anecdotes about the nominee which support the ways the nominee adds value to others’ lives through service and contributions to his/her community, religious organization, philanthropic efforts, and nominee’s ongoing support of St. Olaf and its mission

Awards Selection Process

Eligibility

- Current members of the staff, faculty, or Board of Regents, and Alumni Board whether part-time or full-time, are not eligible to receive the award
- Only living candidates are considered. In the event of the death of a candidate between notification of the award and the award ceremony, the award may be given posthumously with the permission of the family and the selection committee
- The award is open to all alumni. Alumni is defined as any student who has attended St. Olaf, not just those who graduated

Number of Awards Annually

- Goal: Minimum of one award for all categories with a maximum of 2 per category, per cycle

Selection Committee Guidelines

- Award Candidate Selection - Evaluation of nominee’s accomplishments and qualifications. Secondary consideration is given to the balance among recipients in a given year.

(In the event of a concentration of finalists in the same city, profession, class year or gender, the committee may choose to defer some of the candidates to the following year. Determination is made only after the selection committee has discussed each candidate and voted on finalists)

Nominations are kept confidential

- **Candidates become aware of their nomination upon award selection**
- **Nominations are considered for three (3) years**

Updated material may be added for further consideration (*Nominations initiated or completed by candidates themselves are submitted to the Selection Committee, but receive less serious consideration*)

Invitation to Campus

Upon approval, the slate is final and the candidates are invited to come to campus to receive the awards

Award Recipient Names Made Public

When all candidates have replied, their names are available to the public