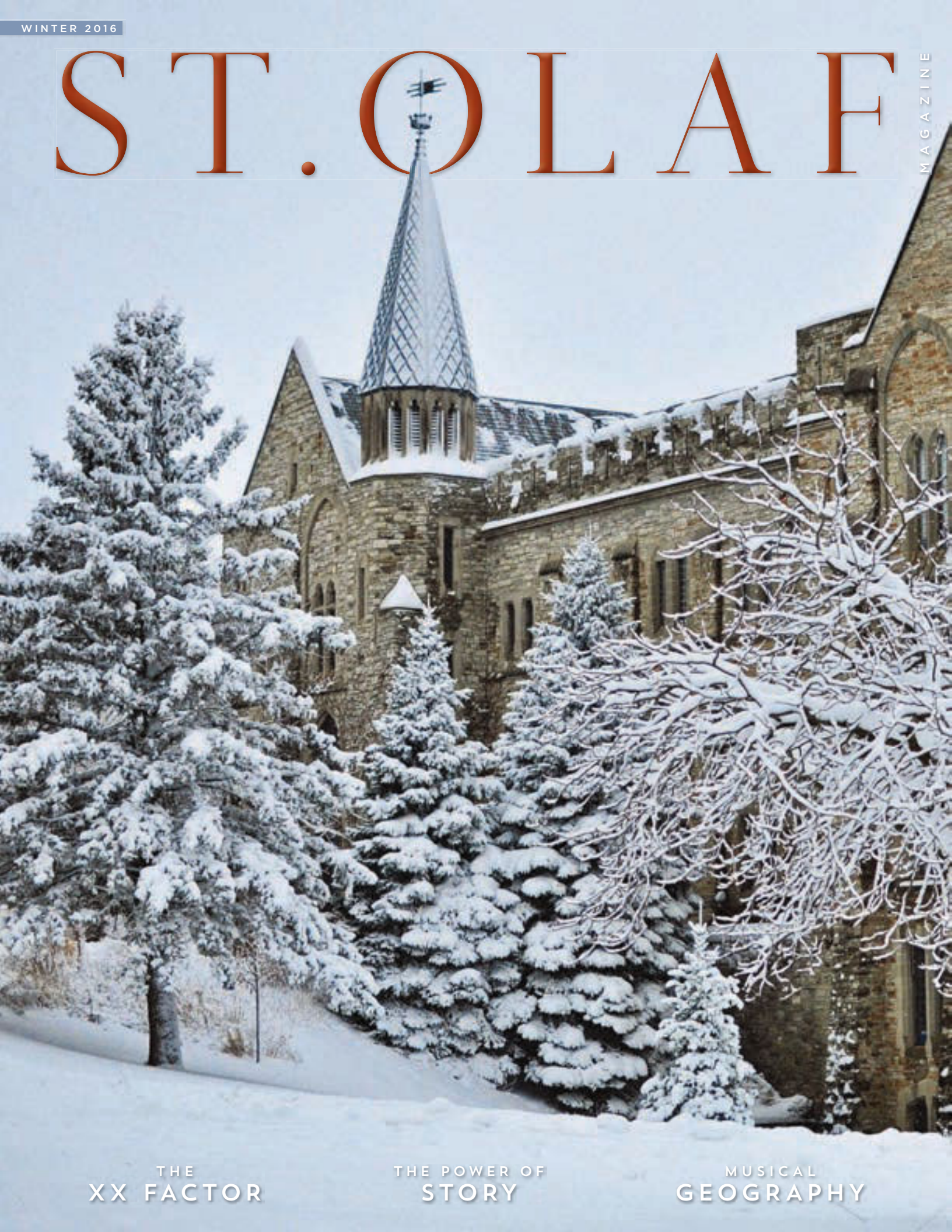


WINTER 2016

# ST. OLAF

MAGAZINE



THE  
XX FACTOR

THE POWER OF  
STORY

MUSICAL  
GEOGRAPHY



**ON THE COVER:**

In 1968 Holland Hall was renovated to serve the needs of the social sciences; today, this iconic campus building is undergoing a new renovation to bring it into the 21st century.  
PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER



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**ST. OLAF MAGAZINE**

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Barry Morrow came to St. Olaf in 1966 to study theater and English, but his vocation took him on a very different path. Throughout his career as a screenwriter, director, and producer, he has been a voice for the vulnerable, putting intellectual and developmental disabilities on the international radar screen through two of his most recognized films, *Rain Man* and *Bill*.

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BY ERIN PETERSON

St. Olaf College's commitment to high-impact learning goes the distance in the natural sciences. Its focus on committed professors and strong mentorships, small classes, and unique research opportunities are giving young women the opportunities they need to thrive. With this combination, St. Olaf women have shown again and again that they have what it takes to excel in the sciences at the highest levels.

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FROM THE DESK OF  
PRESIDENT DAVID R. ANDERSON '74

*Dear Oles:*

WELCOME TO THE WINTER ISSUE of the *St. Olaf Magazine*.

There used to be a day when the lecture dominated instruction in most colleges and universities. Students came to the institution as empty vessels to be filled with knowledge. From the front of the room, professors read lectures filled with information, which students dutifully wrote down in notebooks. Later, students would repeat that information on final exams, which tested their ability to retain and repeat what they'd been told.

Those days are over.

As this issue of the magazine shows, at St. Olaf, not only does teaching happen differently, so does learning. Professor Louis Epstein's interactive map of Paris's music scene in 1924 engages students in discovery, teaches them to critically evaluate the information they encounter, and helps them learn to integrate that information into knowledge. The students who helped build this tool, and those who use it, have to learn how to formulate a research question, where to go to find information to answer it, what to make of the information they find, and how to present it to others. How did Franco-Soviet diplomacy affect the lives of Russian émigré musicians in Paris in the 1920s? That's a question with an answer, and the ability to pose that question, find, and then present its answer is a portable skill that students can carry past St. Olaf to their work lives and their lives as contributing members of communities.

As everyone knows, not all learning happens in the classroom. The young women who study the sciences and mathematics at St. Olaf certainly learn the kinds of things that students utilizing Epstein's interactive map are learning in a music history course — how to conduct research, how to evaluate information, how to present findings. The extraordinary outcomes experienced by the students and faculty profiled in our story on women in the sciences at St. Olaf make that abundantly clear. Alongside that learning comes the coaching and mentoring from their female (and male!) professors, who encourage — and sometimes push — them to persist in their studies, to proudly excel in them, and to aspire to leadership roles in the scientific community and in public policy circles. This is part of the often-overlooked work of colleges: to effect long-term, structural changes in social patterns that make our country and the world better places.

Barry Morrow studied at St. Olaf when this profound change in how teaching and learning happen was just beginning to sweep across higher education in America, but it was already happening at our college. His introduction to Aristotle's *Poetics*, which, as Barry says, “no aspiring screenwriter can afford to ignore,” was balanced by hands-on learning with Professor Arch LEEAN's 16mm cameras. This combination was a good one, because it led both to an Emmy and an Academy Award. I like to think that the extraordinary generosity and sensitivity Barry exhibited, and that opened to him the stories he later made into films, was also nurtured on Manitou Heights. Don't miss this heartwarming story.

All this and more happens every day on our campus. Patient, persistent, strong, and true, St. Olaf continues to strive to provide an extraordinary experience for our students and to enrich our community, our state, our nation, and our world.



UM! YAH! YAH!





A MERRY TUBACHRISTMAS

In what has become a special St. Olaf holiday tradition, the annual TubaChristmas concert features tuba and euphonium players of all ages who perform under the direction of Associate Professor of Music Paul Niemisto.

Nearly 100 tuba players, some beginners and some very accomplished musicians, travel to St. Olaf from all over the area to play with the college's tuba, sousaphone, euphonium, and baritone players — student musicians who also perform in the St. Olaf Band and the Norseman Band. The rich, warm sound of these low brass instruments playing traditional holiday music has won the hearts of concertgoers since 1999, when a TubaChristmas was initiated on campus by Niemisto.

TubaChristmas was conceived in 1974 by Harvey Phillips as a tribute to his teacher and mentor, William J. Bell, born on Christmas Day in 1902. The concerts are held each year in hundreds of cities worldwide and serve as a way for musicians to honor great artists and teachers whose legacy includes high performance standards, professional integrity, and personal values.

PHOTOS BY TOM ROSTER









## Today Carleton College sure met its fate...

One of the nation's oldest rivalries in college football continued this fall when St. Olaf outscored Carleton in a 34-27 win at Manitou Field to hold on to the Goat Trophy for the second year in a row. Crafted by a St. Olaf carpenter in 1931, the trophy follows the annual victors in the 95-year-old rivalry, dating back to Carleton's 1919 win against the Oles in the first contest. St. Olaf currently leads the series at 51-43-1, with a 16-3 record since 1997. The rivalry has been interrupted only four times: for three years during World War II and for the 1991 Halloween blizzard, which dumped 25 inches of snow on the playing field. PHOTO BY NICK GERHARDT/NORTHFIELD NEWS





## Sustaining a Village

Justice O. Nwigwe '18 is looking to the future, and it begins with the founding of Papa Theo's Fish Farm in Nigeria, his native country. The African nation annually imports up to 900,000 metric tons of fish to meet a chronic market shortfall. That prompted Nwigwe to ask: Why not produce more fish in Nigeria? And why not do so in a way that uses the profits from selling locally grown fish to help members of the community?

Last year, Nwigwe, a UWC Davis Scholar, was awarded a Finstad Entrepreneurial Grant and the 2015 Ole Cup grant. The funds enabled him to establish Papa Theo's Fish Farm in his family's village of Ihitta-Ogada. The farm uses aquaculture practices to rear catfish from eggs to market. Nwigwe hopes the farm will serve as a catalyst for improving his village's economy and reducing poverty rates.

Thanks to the St. Olaf grants already received, production has been stepped up, and another 1.6 tons of catfish will be available this spring. Nwigwe continues to look ahead, having been invited to the Clinton Global Initiative University spring meeting at the University of California-Berkeley, and he's applying for a Davis Peace Project grant, a Resolution Fellowship, the MasterCard Foundation Prize, and the African-based Anzisha Prize. It's just the beginning.

"The world has become a smaller place for everyone. If you believe in yourself and in what you are doing, it's just a matter of communicating your ideas and inviting others to help make it happen."

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER







THANKS TO MUSIC PROFESSOR LOUIS EPSTEIN AND A TEAM OF STUDENT RESEARCHERS,  
HISTORIC WORK BY COMPOSERS, MUSICIANS, WRITERS, ARTISTS, AND ACTORS  
WHO CAPTIVATED PARIS DURING THE 1920S ARE BROUGHT TO LIFE THROUGH INTERACTIVE  
MAPS THAT ILLUSTRATE THE MUSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF *LA VILLE-LUMIÈRE*.

LA GÉOGRAPHIE MUSICALE DE

# PARIS

1924

BY JOEL HOEKSTRA









C

LOSE YOUR EYES FOR A MOMENT AND CONJURE UP everything you know about Paris in the 1920s. Do you see Hemingway sipping absinthe at Les Deux Magots? Imagine Gertrude Stein hosting a salon in an apartment filled with Cézannes and Picassos? Do you smell Chanel perfume? Or a burning Gauloises cigarette? Now listen: Is that jazz? Or the opening notes of Stravinsky’s *Rite of Spring*?

Even if you’ve never been to the City of Light, you probably know something about the French capital and its heyday between World War I and World War II. You’ve seen the period portrayed in books and movies. You know it was a magnet for writers and artists. Our collective familiarity with the scene – if only passing – stems from the fact that Paris in the period between the wars was a place of political, cultural, social, and artistic debates and experiments (think communism, feminism, even surrealism) that would shape global history and conversation well into the early 21st century.

For those reasons and more, Music History Professor Louis Epstein never has trouble getting St. Olaf students interested in music of 1920s-era Paris. “There’s almost too much going on,” says Epstein, who wrote his dissertation on music composition and patronage during that period. But training students to delve deeper and engage critically with the factors at play within this era of music history (or any other epoch) is significantly more challenging. Epstein wants students in his music history classes to grasp how particular styles and compositions are shaped by politics, geography, technology, and religion, among other things – and sometimes delivering a lecture or assigning a book chapter doesn’t seem like enough. “I highlight the relationships between those things in class,” Epstein says, “but I’d much rather help students make those connections on their own.”

To that end, Epstein recently began experimenting with new ways to help his undergraduates make such connections. In particular, he was interested in exploring the intersection between traditional humanities research and computer technologies – a fast-growing area of academia known as the digital humanities. “I started thinking about maps,” he says. “I wondered, why can’t we have an interactive map that shows political and social changes during an era, as well as the transmission of music manuscripts and ideas? What if people could play with it, select what they wanted to look at, and search within it? What if they could move backward and forward in time using nothing more than a slider?”

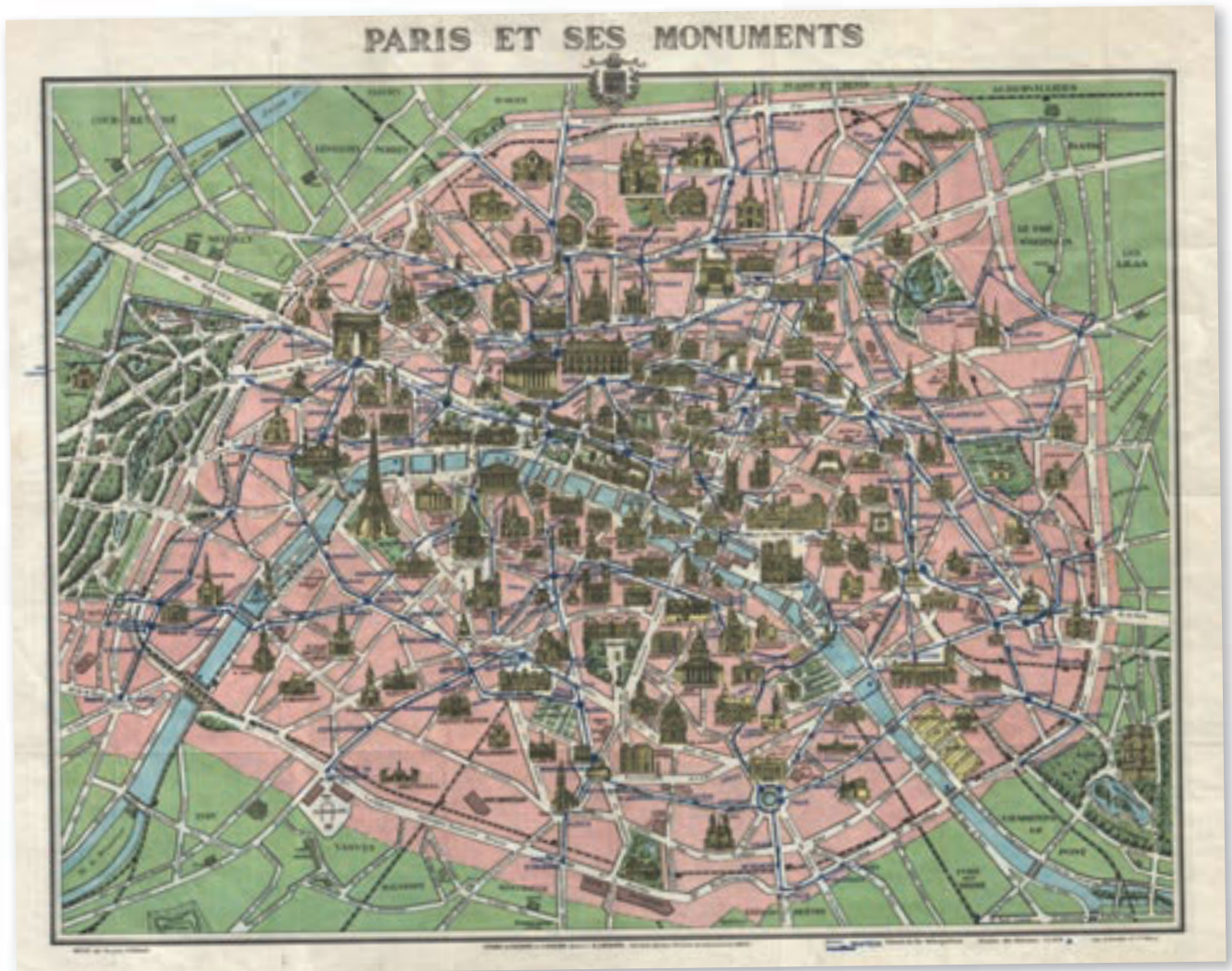
Last summer, with the help of four student researchers, Epstein began building a prototype for such a digital tool. Over the course of three months, he and his team tested digital platforms for storing and presenting information, researched and gathered the content that would form its core, and combined all of it into an innovative website where anyone can conduct research or learn in a nonlinear way. “Paris in 1924 is the focus of our site,” Epstein says. “But the project gave us a prototype that could be adapted and applied to historical research in any place or time.”

In other words, a kind of time machine.

...

WHAT IF A MAP ENABLED YOU TO SEARCH FOR COMPOSERS INSTEAD OF COFFEE SHOPS? OR LOCATE CONCERT HALLS, WITH POP-UP IMAGES AND SOUND CLIPS TO HELP IMAGINE WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE IN A SPECIFIC TIME AND PLACE?





**E**VEN AS A CHILD, EPSTEIN WAS FASCINATED BY MAPS. He covered the walls of his bedroom with them. He pored over the ones published in *National Geographic*. And he always served as navigator on family trips. “I always felt that you could learn so much from maps,” he says.

His academic interests eventually led Epstein into music and then music history, but his personal passion for maps continued to serve him well. Musical trends are often named for their place of origin: for example, the Italian madrigal and Notre Dame polyphony. “Most of the ways we identify genre, style, and trends in music history depend on place,” Epstein says.

Maps didn’t play a significant role in Epstein’s path to his Ph.D., however. He describes his research methods as fairly traditional: reading books and articles; examining archival documents, musical scores, and manuscripts. But about the time he was finishing his dissertation in 2013, musicology was beginning to change. Humanities scholars were starting to use digital tools to expand, speed, and improve their research.

In their effort to connect events, people, philosophies, and ideas, humanists have always been interested in collecting data — names, dates, places — and analyzing it. Traditionally, they gathered such data by personally sifting through material — reading all the works of William Faulkner in an effort to determine his views on human evil, for example. In the digital age, however, a scholar might start such research by searching an online archive of Faulkner’s work for specific terms (*evil, sin, greed*) and then using a database program to sort the results. “You might come up with some of the same answers you’d get with traditional research methods,” Epstein explains, “but you might also discover something surprising.”





Visit [pages.stolaf.edu/musicalgeography](http://pages.stolaf.edu/musicalgeography) to explore the intersections of space, time, and sound through a map-centered investigation of the vibrant, diverse musical life of 1924 Paris.

THE BIG ADVANTAGE OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES IS THE WAY IT MAKES SCHOLARLY RESEARCH ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT SCHOLARS.

Moreover, a task that once would've taken several years (say, cataloging every time Faulkner used a certain word) can now be done in considerably less time by a student or anyone else. "To me, the big advantage of digital humanities is the way that it makes scholarly research accessible to people who are not scholars," Epstein says. "It not only makes the findings accessible, it also makes the research accessible."

What excited Epstein most, though, was the potential to use digital tools to enhance his teaching along with his research. That excitement was the seed for what would become an interactive map of musical Paris in the 1920s.

With that seed of an idea, Epstein began contemplating how to go about creating a digital platform that would allow a student to follow her own path through music history, exploring the particulars that piqued her curiosity while still learning about the broader concepts and important events. What if he could make a sort of Google map where you could search for composers instead of coffee shops? Or one that would locate concert halls, with pop-up images and sound clips to help users imagine what life was like in a specific time and place? Epstein envisioned a map with overlays that could be filtered in multiple ways, giving the user a "Choose Your Own Adventure" experience. Students could make their own connections. History would come alive.

But how would you build it?

...

**F**OUR STUDENTS SIGNED ON TO ASSIST EPSTEIN with the project during a 10-week program stretching from May through July 2015. Two of them were funded through St. Olaf's Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (CURI) program, which pairs students with faculty members to gain valuable experience in doing

research. Financial support for the other two students was provided by the Digital Humanities on the Hill program and the TRIO McNair Scholars program for first-generation college students. The students brought varied backgrounds to the project: their majors included French, music education, English, medieval studies, and art history. Natalie Kopp, a senior English major, hoped the experience would help her develop new humanities research skills that she could put to use in graduate school. Breanna Olson, a senior French major, saw the research as a way to further hone her foreign language skills.

Epstein had decided to start small — the prototype would be a map of 1924 Paris, a subject he was already familiar with, and would include information related to composers, concert programs, musicians, and performance venues. For context and background, Epstein had the students read widely about the music, politics, culture, and significant events of the era. "I basically ran the first two weeks like a class," he says. "But the rest of the summer, they mostly did the research on their own."

Once the research launched, there were choices to make. First, the team had to decide what technology to employ. Social scientists and humanities scholars often plot information on maps using a program called ArcGIS. But Epstein found there were limitations to its functionality. Similarly, Google Maps met most of the criteria the team was looking for, but not all. In the end, the team created a set of maps using ArcGIS and Google Maps that collectively provide an overview of what they hope a single map will one day accomplish. Epstein has since approached St. Olaf Computer Science Professor Dick Brown about building a tailored application capable of delivering more functionality. (Last fall, several students in Brown's classes took on that challenge as an assignment, but the work is still in progress.)



Next, the researchers had to determine the scope of the prototype. Epstein was interested in musical trends: he wanted to know more about the genres and composers that were most often heard in Paris in the 1920s. “Ideally, you’d be able to zoom in on when and where a particular concert was performed and be able to see who the performers were, and what else was on the program,” he says. Students in his classes would be able to use the map to confirm firsthand what was popular in Paris during the period, rather than rely on Epstein or a journal article as their source.

To find out more about the composers and genres of the era, Epstein’s team looked for announcements of performances in 1924 Paris, often printed in newspapers of the time. With nothing more than a laptop and a WiFi connection, the student researchers in Northfield were able to search these digitized documents in the online archives of the Bibliothèque nationale de France to examine what was played, and by whom, in the city’s concert halls during that era. The address of each venue was added to a database so it could be plotted on a map, and information on programs, performers, and attendees was noted as well. It was a trove of information.

The research led to discoveries, of course — and those discoveries forced decisions. The information in the newspapers, for example, was sometimes incomplete. So when the students happened upon a source called *Le guide du concert* that was astonishingly comprehensive yet largely undigitized, a decision was made to fly Philip Claussen, a senior French and music education major, to Paris to track down the paper editions. In addition to spending many hours in libraries and archives during his two-week stay in the city, Claussen also took pictures of concert venues and recorded sounds of the Metro and street musicians — materials he thought could add context and enjoyment to the maps produced by the team.

...

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COMPOSERS AND GENRES OF THE ERA, STUDENT RESEARCHERS LOOKED FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PERFORMANCES IN 1924 PARIS, SEARCHING THE ONLINE ARCHIVES OF THE BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE TO EXAMINE WHAT WAS PLAYED, AND BY WHOM, IN THE CITY’S CONCERT HALLS.

The research team, from left: French major Breanna Olson '16, English major Natalie Kopp '16, Music History Professor Louis Epstein, French and music education major Philip Claussen '16, and (inset) art history and medieval studies major Katharina Biermann '17



TOM ROSTER

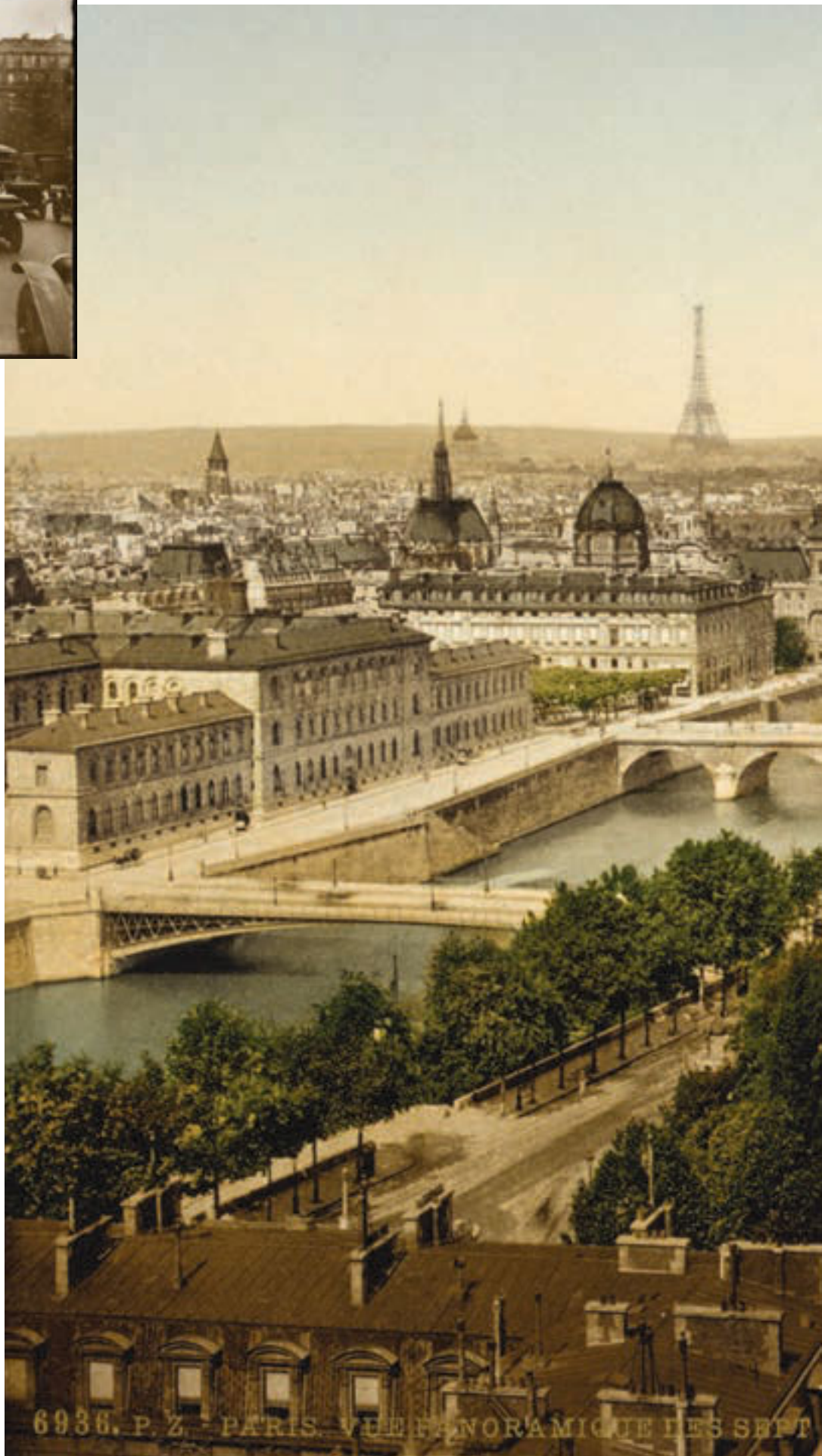




Opéra Palais Garnier, Paris, circa 1924



THE CINEMA, WHERE SILENT FILMS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY LIVE MUSIC, WAS A GROWING INTEREST IN 1920S PARIS. THE STUDENTS FOUND THAT FILMS WERE POPULAR EVERYWHERE, INCLUDING POOR NEIGHBORHOODS, WHILE CLASSICAL MUSIC PERFORMANCES WERE CONCENTRATED IN WEALTHIER AREAS.







Panorama of the seven  
bridges, Paris, France  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



THE LITERARY SCENE IN 1924 WAS AS EXCITING AND REVOLUTIONARY AS THE MUSIC SCENE. THE RESEARCH TEAM CREATED MAPS THAT INCLUDE DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME OF THE MAJOR PLAYERS AND THE SPACES THEY INHABITED IN PARIS.

RESEARCH CAN BE LONELY AND TEDIOUS WORK. The students laboring on Epstein's map spent long days entering information into databases, struggling with French, and cross-referencing names and addresses. Often they gathered together just to have some company and camaraderie as they plugged data into their laptops.

Students also engaged in individual research projects, which sustained and heightened their overall interest. Claussen examined how air travel was transforming ties between London and Paris. ("I wanted to know if anyone traveled from England to France by plane just to hear a concert," he says.) He also undertook a detailed analysis of performances of Beethoven's music in 1924 Paris, using maps, graphs, and charts to explore the topic from multiple angles. Olson researched the ways in which Franco-Soviet diplomacy affected the lives of Russian émigré musicians in Paris. Kopp wrote a series of short essays on the intersections between American expatriate writers and Parisian musical life. And Katharina Biermann, a junior majoring in art history and medieval studies, produced a 10-part story in the style of a penny dreadful about a young woman who gets lost in the city and stumbles upon one adventure after another.

And, of course, they made maps that helped them see how geography could inform music history. For instance, they found that composers' residences tended to cluster in the same places where concert venues were concentrated. "So what does that tell you?" Epstein asks. "Basically, that there were no starving artists among the composers in the city — that's a myth. In the upper echelons of music, composers lived in upper-class neighborhoods, among the people who were their audience."

The possibilities for exploration were fascinating. The researchers filtered the map to find out what venues featured contemporary composers (Poulenc, Stravinsky) and what ones catered to classical standards (Beethoven). They compared the locations of concert venues and cinemas (where silent films were accompanied by live music) and realized in an instant that movies (a relatively new art form) were popular everywhere in Paris, including poor neighborhoods, while classical music performances tended to be concentrated in wealthier neighborhoods. "This really opened our eyes to the power of maps when it comes to processing information. You can read the same fact in a book, but it's often meaningless until you see it for yourself," Epstein says.



Prominent "Lost Generation" expatriates in 1924 Paris included writers Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, (pictured with Zelda), and James Joyce. Publisher Sylvia Beach, pictured with Joyce at her Paris bookstore, Shakespeare and Company, published Joyce's *Ulysses* and encouraged the publication of Hemingway's first book, *Three Stories and Ten Poems*.







Sergei Diaghilev (far left) was a Russian ballet impresario and founder of the famed *Ballets Russes*, which performed regularly in Paris. Pablo Picasso (left, at right) collaborated with Diaghilev on several *Ballets Russes* productions, including *Le Train Bleu* in 1924, for which he designed the drop curtain. Couturière Coco Chanel (below) designed the costumes for *Le Train Bleu*. Chanel, a patron of both Diaghilev and Russian composer Igor Stravinsky (left center), was part of their inner circle of creative groundbreakers that included Picasso and other luminaries of the art world.



But how did Paris in 1924 sound? To give users a flavor, the researchers linked venue markers to program listings, and linked the listings to recordings (on YouTube) of the musical works that were performed on January 12, 1924. “It was exciting to make so much archival information available to so many people online,” Kopp says. “If you didn’t know anything about 1920s Paris, you could click around and learn something.”

...

**T**HE PROJECT, CALLED “THE MUSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF 1924 PARIS,” remains a work in progress. Epstein is working with Instructional Technologist Jason Menard to add a slider that will let the user move through a sequence in time while navigating the map, and he can envision lots of additional information and media that would enrich a user’s experience. But there’s solid evidence that he has already reached his goal to help students learn and discover new things. “It really opened my eyes to the connections between various performing arts and music,” says Claussen. “The worlds intersect a lot more than you think. Musicians, writers, dancers, and artists of this period really had a lot of connections with each other. They were trading ideas.”

Olson, who has visited Paris, says she’s eager to return and view the city through the lens of history. “I’d love to go back and see what I’d notice now that I never would’ve remarked on before,” she says.

And Kopp is grateful for the research experience. “I don’t know if my future will require knowing whether a certain writer and a certain musician ate at the same restaurant in Paris in the 1920s,” she says, “but being able to envision a place and knowing how to put things into context will certainly help me in whatever direction I go.”

Epstein has already started using “The Musical Geography of 1924 Paris” in the classroom and plans to expand the scope of his research to examine musical culture throughout the 1920s in Paris, hopefully in collaboration with new student researchers. The project will take several years to complete, but Epstein says he has already learned something valuable from the process. “It proved to me that you can throw undergraduates into archival sources and original research, and they’ll figure it out,” he says. “Not only that, but with the right support and the right motivation, they can produce excellent work.” 🍀

JOEL HOEKSTRA '92 is a Minneapolis-based writer and editor, and a frequent contributor to *St. Olaf Magazine*.



But I must explain to you how all this mistaken idea of denouncing pleasure and praising pain was born and I will give you a complete account of the system, and expound the actual teachings of the great explorer of the truth, the master-builder of human happiness. No one rejects, dislikes, or avoids pleasure itself, because it is pleasure, but because those who do not know how to pursue pleasure rationally encounter consequences that are extremely painful. Nor again is there anyone who loves or pursues or desires to obtain pain of itself, because it is pain, but because occasionally circumstances occur in which toil and pain can procure him some great pleasure. To take a trivial example, which of us ever receives physical exercise, except to obtain some advantage from it? But who has any right to find fault with a man who chooses to enjoy a pleasure that has no annoying consequences, or one who avoids a pain that produces no resultant pleasure?

**T H E  
P O W E R  
O F  
S T O R Y**

On the other hand, we denounce with righteous indignation and dislike men who are so beguiled and demoralized by the charms of pleasure of the moment, so blinded by desire, that they cannot foresee the pain and trouble that are bound to ensue; and equal blame belongs to those who fail in their duty through weakness of will, which shows itself in their deliberating from toil and pain. These cases are perfectly simple and easy to distinguish. In a free hour, when our power of choice is untrammelled and when nothing prevents our being able to do what we like best, every pleasure is to be welcomed and every pain avoided. But in certain circumstances and owing to the claims of duty or the obligations of business it will frequently occur that pleasures have to be repudiated and annoyances accepted. The wise man therefore always holds in these matters to this principle of selection: he rejects pleasures to secure other greater pleasures, or else he endures pains to avoid worse pains.

FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, BARRY MORROW -- WHO DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS "A FILMMAKER ONLY BY ACCIDENT" -- HAS BEEN INSPIRING AUDIENCES WORLDWIDE WITH VERY PERSONAL TALES THAT SPEAK TO THE RESILIENCE OF THE HUMAN HEART.

Torquatus laughed. "Come, that is a good joke," he said, "that the author of the doctrine that pleasure is the End of things desirable, the final and ultimate Good, should actually not know what manner of thing pleasure itself is!"

"Well," I replied, "either Epicurus does not know what pleasure is, or the rest of mankind all the world over do not."

By

Jan Hill

"How so?" he asked. "Because the universal opinion is that pleasure is a sensation actively stimulating the percipient sense and diffusing over it a certain agreeable feeling."

"What then?" he replied; "does not Epicurus recognize pleasure in your sense?"

"Not always," said I; "now and then, I admit, he recognizes it only too fully;





Barry Morrow had already earned an Emmy and an Oscar when he received his "official" St. Olaf diploma in 1989.  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER



B

*Barry Morrow has always been drawn to stories about the human struggle. Throughout his career as a producer, director, and an Emmy and Academy Award-winning screenwriter for “Bill” and “Rain Man” respectively, he has considered himself first and foremost a storyteller. “And then,” he adds, “perhaps an unlicensed social worker.”*



Barry Morrow’s long-ago friendship with a developmentally disabled man named Bill Sackter speaks volumes about his core values, both as an advocate and as a filmmaker known for giving a voice to the voiceless.

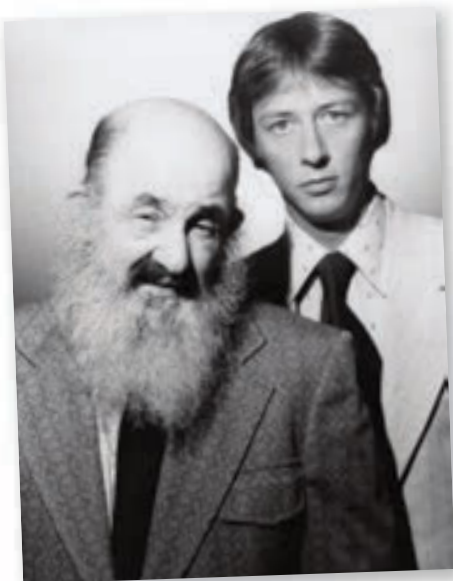
Morrow first saw 59-year-old Bill in a second story window at the Minikahda Club in Minneapolis. It was 1972, and Morrow was making ends meet with part-time work that included some freelance photography. His wife, Beverly, waitressed at the country club, and Morrow routinely picked her up at 2 a.m. after her shift ended. Driving up the winding road in his old Studebaker to the exclusive club, Morrow would wait in the parking lot for Bev to change out of her uniform and come down to the car. And in idle moments, Morrow noticed a bald, round, toothless but smiling face in the small window.

“Every now and then he would wave and I would wave back,” remembered Morrow in *Everybody’s Bill*, a story he wrote in 1977 for the University of Iowa’s Social Work Department. “At first we were both hesitant and used small, nervous waves, but as the nights went by and the ritual developed we waved harder and more enthusiastically. My wife said the reason Bill was at the window was because the stove was right beneath it. He came in to work as everyone else was leaving, and all night long he scrubbed pots and cleaned stoves. She said Bill was probably the happiest, most friendly person she had ever met, which surprised me because I had thought of him as a rather sad and lonely fellow. It was a big old country club. And an awfully small window.”

Morrow finally met Bill at the Minikahda Club’s staff Christmas dinner and dance party. Morrow was excited to meet Bill and delighted when they immediately hit it off. “[T]he first thing we did was laugh,” wrote Morrow. “Then we ordered some drinks, compliments of the members, and laughed some more. And something bonded. We tried to tell each other things about ourselves, but I had a hard time understanding him. It was as if he had some epic tale he wanted to weave for me, but could remember none of the particulars.”

What Morrow could talk to Bill about was music. “I was in a rock band then,” says Morrow. “Bill said he played the harmonica, and later that night [at the Christmas dinner] he did.” His harmonica flashed as he played *She’s Too Fat for Me*, and everyone rose to their feet, dancing and clapping. Bill’s encore was *Beer Barrel Polka*, which sounded just like *She’s Too Fat for Me*, but the crowd loved it. And then, Bill gave a closing benediction: “God Bless You, Everybody,” and, says Morrow, “a chill ran up my spine.”

From that day on, Bill Sackter —diagnosed as a “mentally deficient imbecile” in 1920 at age seven, and committed to the Faribault [Minnesota] State School for the Feeble



The friendship between Barry Morrow and Bill Sackter, who spent 44 years in a Minnesota institution, began in 1972. It was a relationship that changed both their lives.





Minded and Epileptic, where he spent the next 44 years of his life —was part of Barry and Bev Morrow’s family.

Morrow picked up Bill in his van once a week and took him around to see various sites in the Twin Cities, including the nightclubs where Morrow’s friends played in their rock bands. They did mundane things together, and everything was new and surprising to Bill. He told Morrow what he could about his life — that he’d been someplace he didn’t like to talk about — and he revealed his “lucky piece,” a two-dollar bill that he carried in his wallet and may have attributed to his getting out of the institution.

“As time went on, he became dependent on me, and an emotional kind of reciprocity took place. It was easy to be with Bill, and it was fun to be with Bill. It was infectious, to be with someone who saw delight and joy just in being alive in the world,” says Morrow. “I felt good being with him — you feel good when you’re doing good.”

...

**“It was easy to be with Bill, and it was fun to be with Bill. I felt good being with him -- you feel good when you’re doing good.”**

**A** native of Minnesota, Barry Morrow grew up in St. Paul, the fourth of Rose Nell and Robert Morrow’s six children. “I had no ambition to be a writer,” he recently told *Iowa Source Magazine*. “Being around all those kids, the way you got attention at the dinner table was by telling a good story. I learned how to take a story and make it better. I was inventive.” But what people really seemed to notice and remember were his early humanitarian instincts, his caring and sensitivity — and his sense of humor.

In a 1989 Minneapolis *Star Tribune* interview shortly after Morrow received the Oscar for *Rain Man*, his mother recalled her son “always visiting the elderly people in the neighborhood, cutting their grass. If he ever got any money, he used it to buy gifts for people. Afterward he’d just stand there and grin, his hands in his pockets. *That* was his joy, watching their reaction.”

Morrow came to St. Olaf in 1966 wanting to study theater, especially children’s theater. His lifelong friend, writing partner, and college roommate Paul Gronseth ’70 met Morrow





In December 2014, Morrow visited the class of English and Film Studies Professor Linda Mokdad. His talk, "My Journey as a Storyteller," inspired his audience of students, faculty, and community members.

**Morrow says he was most impacted at St. Olaf by three favorite professors: Ralph Haugen, Arnold Flaten, and Arch Leean. Leean ignited his interest in filmmaking with his course, *The Five C's of Cinematography*, and Morrow still considers it his filmmaker's "bible."**

when they were first-year students living in the old Ytterboe Hall dorm. At that time, says Gronseth, "I didn't know him well, he lived down the hall, but this guy seemed to always come home late at night, and we noticed he was wearing eye shadow and mascara. Interesting guy! Later I found out he was an actor in a dinner theater, and he had to wait until he got back to the dorm to take off the makeup. But I never forgot this skinny kid with mascara."

Reflecting on his years at St. Olaf, Morrow says he was most impacted by three favorite professors. Theater Professor Ralph Haugen, whose lectures were always "enthusiastic and colorful, but grounded in the classics," introduced him to Aristotle's *Poetics*, "the foundation for all Western dramatic and literary theory" which, Morrow says, "no aspiring screenwriter can afford to ignore." Equally influential was professor Arnold Flaten '22, whose lectures were "time tested and richly crafted." On one memorable spring day during a class in Eastern religion and history, Flaten sent his students outdoors to create a poem and bring it back to him. The poem he chose to read aloud in class was Morrow's. It was the first time a teacher had ever singled him out for his good writing, and "that acknowledgement from someone I admired was a turning point for me." And finally, he has never forgotten Art Professor Arch Leean, who ignited his interest in filmmaking. Leean, a former animator for Walt Disney, used 16mm cameras in his course *The Five C's of Cinematography*, and Morrow still considers it his filmmaker's "bible."

"St. Olaf was where I first learned how to learn," Morrow explains. "I surprised myself by discovering I was good at it, provided I worked harder than most of my classmates. I've never been terribly gifted at anything, but I do have grit, and I studied very seriously while I was at St. Olaf."

As a sophomore, though, Morrow decided that he "didn't want to spend the rest of [his] life in the snow," and he left the Midwest for the warmer climate of Southern California, then moved to Hawaii, where he enrolled at the University of Hawaii-Honolulu and, in

1969, married his high school sweetheart, Beverly (Bev) McKenzie, who was also attending UH–Honolulu. A year later, Morrow returned to Northfield with Bev to complete his senior year at St. Olaf.

These were idyllic days. Morrow and Bev lived off-campus in downtown Northfield, and they loved it. “Northfield always reminded me of a European village,” says Morrow, who even titled his 1991 CBS television movie *Christmas on Division Street*. “Bev and I lived on the second story of an old brick building on Division Street, and every morning, I would walk down a narrow cobblestone alleyway to get to my car, which was parked by the river. I sometimes imagined we were living in Wales or some such place.”


But that spring of 1970, when he opened his folder at his graduation ceremony, Morrow was surprised to find instead of a diploma a handwritten note from Registrar Inez Frayseth '35; not all of his transfer courses from University of Hawaii had been accepted for credit. He took a summer course, but still left St. Olaf one credit short of a degree.

“Quite a few of us are one credit short in life,” he once remarked. Undeterred, he moved on.

The seeds of Morrow’s movie career began soon after. He was drawn to the on-the-streets style of documentary storytelling known as “guerrilla television,” a countercultural video movement in the late 1960s and early 70s that aimed to break through barriers imposed by network television broadcasters. Intrigued by stories about vanishing communities in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Morrow and his friend Gronseth hauled one of the new technological wonders, a prototype videotape recorder called a PortaPak, to the Beltrami area of northeast Minneapolis to document the plight of an ethnically mixed neighborhood facing relocation to make room for a freeway. “Barry was a very good photographer,” says Gronseth, “and this is what he was most interested in.”

Bill Sackter, still living in an upstairs room in the Minikahda Club and cleaning the stoves, was never far from Morrow’s mind.

...

 Morrow was teaching emerging video technology at the Afro-American Cultural Arts Center in Minneapolis when, in 1974, he was offered a job as a media development consultant and instructor at the University of Iowa’s School of Social Work. He and Bev reluctantly left Bill behind in Minneapolis and, with their baby son, Clay, moved to a farm outside Iowa City. Six months later, Morrow returned to Minneapolis to see Bill, whose chronic leg condition had resurfaced; the ulcerated leg was so bad that doctors wanted to remove it.

Morrow tells the story of what happened next at a national Association for Retarded Citizens (now called The ARC) Cleveland chapter meeting: “I met with the doctors and social workers — I guess what they wanted me to do was to explain [the amputation] to Bill — and I said, ‘You know, if you take his leg off, he’s not going to be able to work very well.’ They said, ‘No, he won’t be able to work at all. He’ll have to go back to the institution.’” Morrow went in to talk to Bill. “I said, ‘Bill, you knew how to take care of your leg and now we’re really in a jam’ — and I’d been rehearsing these lines — ‘so now we’re going to have to have your leg removed.’ But these words came out instead: ‘Bill, in order to save your life, you’re going to have to move to Iowa City.’”

Morrow remembers calling Bev from a pay phone and asking if their couch pulled out into a bed. “That was what we were prepared to do — take Bill to Iowa and somehow try to keep his leg and keep him alive and keep him in the world. But Bill was still a ward of the state of Minnesota so, technically, I kidnapped him, something I would borrow from when creating my story for *Rain Man*.”

In time the leg healed, and Morrow, who had become Bill’s legal guardian, made arrangements for Bill to board nearby with an elderly woman named Mae, and got him a job making coffee in the student lounge at the university’s School of Social Work. Morrow, with the help of various community members and the university’s director of social work, Tom Walz, set up Bill with his own business, Wild Bill’s Coffee Shop. For the first time in his life, Bill was his own man.

“Barry is just that way,” says Paul Gronseth. “[He’s] the kindest person I’ve ever known.”

...

**Over the years, Morrow has maintained his interest in the way our culture handles people with a range of mental health issues, particularly schizophrenia and bipolar syndrome.**





In 1977, Morrow wrote the story of Bill and their friendship — “The Triumph of Bill” — for future posterity, for his son, Clay, and daughter, Zoey, and he shared it with friends; portions of it appeared in the *Des Moines Register*. It caught fire. Iowa’s U.S. Senator John Culver published the story in the *Congressional Record*, and Bill was named Handicapped Iowan of the Year. It wasn’t long before Morrow’s story came to the attention of a CBS network executive in New York City, who contacted him about turning it into a movie of the week. The Emmy Award-winning drama *Bill*, produced in 1981 and starring Mickey Rooney as Bill and Dennis Quaid as Morrow, was recognized as “the first authentic portrayal of a person with mental retardation in television history.”

It was during this time that the Morrrows made the decision to leave Iowa City. “I sat down with Bill and told him that I thought it was time for me to go to Hollywood and try to make a career. We were going to trade on the success of *Bill*, and there was a sequel (*Bill: On His Own*) planned, and this was kind of my opportunity,” says Morrow. “I said, ‘Would you like to go with us?’ And he thought about it and then he said, ‘You know what, buddy? I’ll miss you, but I got a lot of friends here and I got a job and I got a good home. You know what? I got something for you.’ And he reached into his wallet, and he took out his lucky piece, the two-dollar bill he’d been carrying all these years. And he handed it to me. And he said, ‘Buddy, if you’re going to California, you’re going to need this more than me.’ ”

“If you can do a movie,  
which is always about  
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Although Morrow had begun to seriously focus on a career in Hollywood, he also became an advocate for the developmentally disabled, a passion that grew out of his friendship with Bill. In the nearly four decades since that first accidental meeting, he’s been speaking to diverse audiences about the lives of people with disabilities on behalf of such groups as The ARC, the National Association of Social Workers, the National Association of Developmental Disabilities Council, and the Autism Society of America.

It was during a national speaking engagement for The ARC in 1986 that Morrow met Kim Peek. Kim was mildly autistic with pronounced physical disabilities, but his intellectual capacities were amazing. He had committed to his photographic memory, among other things, all the zip codes, area codes, and road numbers in the country, as well as all the works of William Shakespeare and the dates and days of the week of just about every important event in history.

Morrow told the story of meeting Kim in a keynote address at the Iowa Motion Picture Awards ceremony: “I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned, and there, just a matter of microns away from my nose, was another nose, and it belonged to another round face like Bill’s, only this guy said something very weird. He sort of flapped his arms and said, ‘Think about yourself, Barry Morrow.’ And he tilted his head and glided away. I was used to the sort of Zen statements that Bill would make. But this was from another dimension. His father came over and said ‘I see you met Kim. He gets his words mixed up when he gets excited, and I know he was excited to meet you. What he meant to say was ‘I think about you, Barry Morrow.’ I asked Kim, ‘Why do you think of me?’ Kim’s eyes rolled back in his head and he got this satisfied smile on his face. And then out of his mouth came a flow of names. I didn’t know what he was talking about until he slowed down. He was reciting the credits on the movie *Bill*, in order. And then, without pausing, he went into the sequel of *Bill* . . . I was flabbergasted. Kim [knew] more than any human being, perhaps, who has ever walked the earth. He was known as a mega-savant. They coined that term just for him. His hobby was memorizing telephone books.”

Morrow spent a couple of days with Kim and his father, and as he flew back to Los Angeles from Arlington, Texas, a new story idea took hold.

“All the people who are telling you what you should and shouldn’t do for your career — my agent, my manager — said ‘Do not do another thing about handicapped people,’ because I had been a television writer and I’d done several movies of the week, and they all had these characters who were damaged people, who I found more interesting than the slightly damaged executives I was working with. And I said, ‘No, I’m going to do one more.’ And it was *Rain Man*.”

Morrow’s screenplay *Rain Man*, loosely based on Kim Peek’s story, was released as a major motion picture in 1988 starring Dustin Hoffman as the mega-savant modeled after Kim, and Tom Cruise as his younger brother who kidnaps him from an institution

Morrow's screenplay *Rain Man*, based on the story of mega-savant Kim Peek (left), won Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, and Best Original Story and Screenplay. Morrow gifted his Oscar to Peek.



and takes him adventuring. It was nominated for eight Academy Awards, and won Morrow an Oscar for Best Original Story and Screenplay (the original story is Morrow's; he shares screenplay credit with Ron Bass); it also won Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Actor in a Leading Role (Hoffman).

"The deepest urge that human beings have is the yearning of the group, a family," Morrow says of the film. "We all have stories of how lives have been hurt by fractures in the family. We hate that brokenness. If you can do a movie, which is always about the discomfort of life, the pain, and tap into some primal themes, and pay them off in a way that is satisfying but not saccharine, it should resonate. And that's the kismet we tapped into in *Rain Man*."

Eventually, and with characteristic kindness, Morrow gave both his Oscar and Emmy statuettes away. "Kim just loved the Oscar more than me," Morrow says, "so I let him take it. He carried it around the world on speaking engagements with his father, and I'm told that it's been seen and held by more persons than any other Academy Award. Bill died before I gifted my Emmy to the University of Iowa, home of Wild Bill's Coffee Shop. It was just my way to preserve his story."

In part due to the huge success of *Rain Man*, public awareness of autism rose around the country and the world, generating unprecedented medical research funding. Morrow followed *Rain Man* with his teleplay *The Karen Carpenter Story*, a highly rated television drama about the popular 32-year-old singer who died of complications of another widely misunderstood condition, anorexia nervosa. Other distinguished works include the Emmy-nominated *Christmas on Division Street*, the NBC miniseries *Switched at Birth*, the film *Race the Sun* for TriStar Pictures, and the recent Hallmark Hall of Fame special *Remember Sunday*.

But Morrow's successes have not gone to his head. "We writers are not stars or even planets. We're more like Pluto, but still part of the Great Plan. The day after I won an Oscar, I walked into a coffee shop, and nobody gave me a second glance. Now that's success!"

While Morrow continued to enjoy life in anonymity, a few key people at St. Olaf took note of his impressive career. In 1989, after he won the Academy Award for *Rain Man*, they got to talking about the fact that Morrow, while an alumnus, had not technically graduated from the college.



**"We writers are not stars or even planets. We're more like Pluto."**



The late Ralph Haugen, then chair of the theater department, deemed Morrow's *Rain Man* screenplay sufficient fulfillment of the missing course credit, and Morrow was invited to participate in a commencement exercise that September. He flew out and went through a ceremony of one, in which faculty attended in full regalia to watch Morrow become an official St. Olaf College graduate. President Mel George presented Morrow with his diploma, observing that it had been 20 years in production — and, as Morrow likes to point out, he was apparently the valedictorian, giving the only speech.

"I was vulnerable to the Bills and Kims of this world," he told his audience, which included his parents. "There's a great deal to be gained, if you allow yourself to be vulnerable. You have to care. If you care, no matter what you, do you'll succeed. You can get a degree ... you can even get an Oscar."

"It was all in good fun," Morrow says, fondly recollecting the ceremony. And this time when he opened his diploma, he found another handwritten note from Miss Frayseth tucked inside: "It's about time!"

...

**T**oday, Morrow and his wife, Bev, live in Santa Barbara, far from the center of the Hollywood film community and "the parties or industry-related functions that can be helpful to a career." But, says Morrow, "I'm always on the lookout for interesting situations, characters, or stories, so in that sense, I'm always 'working.'" Even so, he has tended to place people, rather than career, at the center of his life. "We try to see our son and daughter and grandkids every week for soccer games, piano recitals, or just a family meal. Being around young people is a great tonic for someone my age. They keep you moving."

His desire to prioritize family influenced past career choices as well. "After *Rain Man* and winning an Oscar, I was offered several opportunities that likely would have advanced my career, but also would have taken me away from my family. I don't have any regrets, though, because I'm doing some of those very things now, like writing, producing, and directing [his new film] *Smitten!*. I even cowrote a song that will be featured in the film, so I'm finally squaring the circle after all."

Morrow credits his real success to Bev, however, and frequently mentions the big part she has played in helping him achieve his goals. "I work in such a competitive and often heartbreaking industry, and she has always been my steady keel. I just love her. Without her, I probably would have shipwrecked long ago."

Along with nearly two dozen produced film and television credits, Morrow's continued advocacy and charitable work also reflect his dedication to people. He serves as executive director of the Wheelchair Athletics Foundation and has past partnerships with the Minnesota Film Board (Screenwriting Mentor), the UCLA Screenwriting Mentorship Program, and Project Turnabout, a college prep/tutoring program for at-risk youth. For his ongoing work on behalf of the disabled, he has received awards, honors, and commendations that include the Ben M. Bonanno Excellence in Advocacy Award from The ARC

Cleveland, as well as Very Special Arts International, Washington, D.C.; the L.A. chapter of the Autism Society of America; and the National Association of Developmental Disabilities Councils.

Morrow insists that he is "just one voice," and that his "only soapbox is storytelling." What is important, he says, are the friendships he's "continued to forge with people for whom life is a struggle, regardless of the reason." And he continues to speak out for such people, trying to make their lives better.

"The warehousing of people like Bill and Kim is, thankfully, mostly a thing of the past. But the hodgepodge system that has replaced it is holding people back, not helping them. Policies too often come from disconnected experts and politicians, not the individuals and families who are the subject of their good intentions," he says.

...



Bev and Barry Morrow visited Iowa City in 2013 for a celebration marking the 100th anniversary of Bill Sackter's birth.



Barry Morrow's latest feature film, *Smitten!*, was shot in the Dolomites in Northern Italy and in Rome. The film stars Spanish actress Angela Molina (left) and Romanian actress Madalina Ghenea, pictured with Morrow during a break in filming. PHOTOGRAPHED BY CURT FISSEL



Morrow, whose projects have leaned toward serious drama and who names *Midnight Cowboy* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* as favorites, has just completed his latest feature film, a romantic comedy titled *Smitten!* "I've been mucking around in drama too long," Morrow says, "And hopefully *Smitten!* is my ticket out. Comedy, after all, is just the flipside of drama. All I needed was a good tale to tell, and I'm betting a year's worth of time it's *Smitten!*"

Filmed entirely in Italy last summer, *Smitten!* is currently in the editing stage, meaning Morrow grinds away daily in an editing bay for 11–12 hours working on his director's cut. He got the idea for *Smitten!* after reading in an Italian newspaper an obituary about a woman who died "and left a small fortune to, of all things, a cottage somewhere in rural Italy, where as a young maiden she made love for the first and last time." Her lover was a young soldier who left for the war the next day and never returned — in Morrow's version, a spell then descends upon this "love cottage." The movie, he explains, "is set under an umbrella of fantasy, though I'm calling it 'magical realism.'"

Morrow enjoyed everything about making the movie, despite predictable setbacks. "We suffered through all the usual calamities while filming *Smitten!* Wind, rain, lightning, not enough sun, too much sun. Actors with deep anxieties. A director with deeper ones. Like I say, the usual."

One reason for his enjoyment was that he worked to create an atmosphere in which people supported one another. "Most film sets I've been on have had a palpable tension hanging over them — some liken it to a war zone. As an older director with nothing to lose, but something to prove, I was determined to eliminate that. There was no yelling or hysterics on the set, and it would have been sad if there had been. We were making a story about love, after all."

After *Smitten!* is released in 2016, what can we expect from Barry Morrow? Building on his interest in autistic savants that began with *Kim Peek*, he's working on a project to bring together a dozen or more musical savants to perform on one stage.

"The plain truth," he says, "is that everyone has a story worth telling; no one is ever beyond redemption." 🍀

**"If I find myself having to slow down in years ahead, I'd like to give standup comedy a shot. That's the only thing scarier to me than bungee-jumping, and I survived that."**

JAN HILL is a professor emerita of English at St. Olaf College and a freelance writer living in northern California.



GETTING MORE WOMEN TO PURSUE AND EXCEL IN SCIENCE, MATH,  
AND TECHNOLOGY FIELDS IS A NATIONAL GOAL. AT ST. OLAF,  
WOMEN ARE USING EVERY RESOURCE AT THEIR DISPOSAL  
TO STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE — AND THEY'RE SUCCEEDING.

T H E



F Δ C T □ R

BY ERIN PETERSON



Alexa Roemmich '15  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY  
NANCY PASTOR/POLARIS





When mathematics professor Sharon Lane-Getaz stands in front of her statistics classes on any given day, she sees an almost perfect balance of men and women students. In some ways, it feels like a revelation. “I’m 58, and when I came through, women in mathematics were few and far between,” she says.

Biology professor Anne Walter, meanwhile, says she often has more women than men in her classes. The shift from her

own college and graduate school days, where she could often count the number of women in a given class on one hand (or one finger), feels profound. Walter says, “I saw it happen. I was the only woman in my graduate school class, and now, here we are.”

Over the past few decades, there has been a sea change in the composition of many science and math fields. Once almost the sole province of men, the sciences have become far more open and welcoming to women. It’s an important shift: the science and engineering workforce is more than five million strong and will grow faster than any other sector in coming years. Developing a robust, diverse pool of candidates and supporting them throughout their careers isn’t just the right thing to do; it’s vital to the continued success of the American economy and the country. In 2011, the National Academy of Sciences made it a primary goal to encourage broader participation in science and engineering fields, including among women and underrepresented minorities.

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While women’s participation in fields such as physics and computer science lags at colleges across the nation — and there is still significant work to do at St. Olaf — the college has nonetheless nurtured hundreds of women who have gone on to become topflight scientists, including pioneering AIDS researcher, physician, and international trailblazer Diane Havlir ’80 and cardiologist Elizabeth Guenther Nabel ’74, a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and president of its affiliated Brigham and Women’s Hospital whose eminent career spans government service, academic medicine, biomedical research, and wellness advocacy.

Perhaps it’s no surprise that St. Olaf has a long and strong history of successful women in science. Its focus on small classes, committed teaching, and deep mentorship has always meant that students have been able to pursue the fields they’re most passionate about, regardless of larger trends.

Today, with a nationwide focus on attracting more women to science and technology fields, St. Olaf continues to rely on a successful formula of excellence in teaching and mentorship. The college’s many resources benefit all students — men and women — including unique on-campus research positions and robust funding to support an array of scientific opportunities and conferences. And women in leadership positions, such as Mary Walczak, associate dean for the faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Anne Walter, director of the mathematics-biology concentration, are serving as essential role models. Together with vital support from both male and female faculty at the college, it has never been a better time for women to thrive in the sciences at St. Olaf.

The results speak for themselves: Today’s Ole women in science and math fields are preparing to succeed at the very highest levels. They’re tackling vexing problems in medicine, grappling with the chemical science of climate change, and building tools that will allow the most vulnerable populations in the world to get the medical care they need. And the best news of all? They’re just getting started.

#### FILLING THE PIPELINE

One of the biggest challenges to increasing numbers of women in scientific careers is known as the “pipeline problem.” At St. Olaf, for example, women who start with an interest in physics tend to follow through with the major at about the same rates as men. The only problem? Far fewer women express that early interest in physics in the first place.

It's a bit surprising: after all, both girls and boys get the same physics education in high school, so they're equally prepared for the subject when they land at college. Yet women don't take introductory physics classes at the same rate as men.

"We've got to get women in the door," explains Associate Professor of Physics Jason Engbrecht. "You can't keep them in a major if they never show up in the first place."

That's why he stepped up to lead the college's engineering and physics camp for girls, which brings dozens of high school girls to St. Olaf for a week to get hands-on engineering experiences, including building elaborate Rube Goldberg machines. The goal is to help spark a passion in the subject that leads them to pursue the field once they arrive at college.

At St. Olaf, a student's interest in a topic might be catalyzed by a class, but it can also come from one of the many opportunities outside of it. For example, Maggie Wanek '15 admits that she didn't intend to become a computer science major; in a way, the major found her. It's true that growing up, her software-engineer dad had taught her how to build websites. But she wanted to major in history or a foreign language.

Yet tech kept pulling her back. She took introductory computer science classes and loved them. And as a first-year student, she worked as a manager of one of the "computer clusters" on campus. "I don't know if that's an opportunity I would have had at a bigger tech school," she says. "Getting to be hands-on with computers — that's when I knew that's the direction I wanted my career to go."

But even better, Wanek learned that she didn't have to give up her interest in the humanities to go deep into tech: she could combine her passions.

As a student, she worked alongside History Professor Michael Fitzgerald to map out voting returns in Alabama after the Civil War. By creating a computer program that visually represented the raw voting records by county, she helped Fitzgerald and his students see how events like the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and high profile murders correlated with voting patterns. She also helped History Professor Tim Howe develop a website to display three-dimensional images of artifacts, such as statues and coins, found at the ancient Roman town of Antiochia ad Cragum. Such projects felt like the perfect bridge between Wanek's interest in the humanities and those in tech: her work was both useful and illuminating. "St. Olaf provided me with so many opportunities to explore computer science with an interdisciplinary focus," she says.

During the summers, Wanek ramped up her tech skills. She spent two summers as an intern for Google; they even offered her a full-time job at their New York offices in September 2014, a full academic year before she graduated.

These days, she's a software engineer at Google who works on social infrastructure for well-known products, including Google Hangouts and Google+. And it was those initial opportunities at St. Olaf that helped her land the enviable job. "St. Olaf does a good job at giving students opportunities," she says. "There were so many areas that were interesting to me, and computer science was the way for me to link all those fields together."

AT ST. OLAF, A STUDENT'S INTEREST IN A TOPIC MIGHT BE CATALYZED BY A CLASS, BUT IT CAN ALSO COME FROM ONE OF THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE OF IT.



Maggie Wanek, a software engineer at Google, works on social infrastructure for products that include Google+ and Google Hangouts. PHOTOGRAPHED IN NEW YORK CITY BY NATAN DVIR/POLARIS



THE COLLEGE'S MANY  
RESOURCES — BENEFITING  
ALL STUDENTS, MEN AND  
WOMEN ALIKE — INCLUDE  
UNIQUE ON-CAMPUS  
RESEARCH POSITIONS AND  
ROBUST FUNDING TO  
SUPPORT AN ARRAY OF  
SCIENTIFIC OPPORTUNITIES.

#### LEARNING TO LEAN IN

For many students, a time comes when classes in their chosen major get tough, and they're tempted to switch to something easier. That's when professors often urge them to expand their vision to find a way to stay in the field instead of giving up. Sometimes, reframing a problem can be all it takes to get a student back on track. Biology Professor Anne Walter finds that for many of her female students, one of the best ways to help them refocus their efforts is to encourage them look beyond the limiting expectations they have for themselves and that others have for them. "To generalize, I find that women tend to be very dutiful," she says. "They're good in their classes, they do the assignments, and they also try to figure out what I want. That can be great, but I don't want them to go to *my* drummer. I want them to go to their *own* drummer," she says.

One of those students who struggled with the expectations that she'd set for herself was Love Odetola '14. After witnessing health and social injustices as a child in her native Nigeria and her home in Senegal, she came to St. Olaf with a firm plan to go into medicine. But she faced a crisis her sophomore year. She still wanted to help others, but she knew medicine wasn't the right path. She considered moving away from the sciences entirely.

"I would just go to [Professor Anne] Walter's office and cry," she recalls. With advice from Walters and others, Odetola didn't pull away: she leaned in.

Refocusing on her interests in microbiology, statistics, and global health, she decided to pursue an interdisciplinary major in public health. And she didn't just shift her path: she discovered a passion that launched her work into the stratosphere. In 2013, she received a \$10,000 grant from Davis Projects for Peace to do a summer of public health work in the tiny village of Lambaneme, an impoverished community in Senegal.

Once there, Odetola confronted challenges that are enormous and multifaceted. For example, poor, pregnant women who need to go do the doctor's office to get checkups throughout their pregnancy don't have the energy to walk miles to the clinic or the



Love Odetola's vocation is to serve as an advocate for vulnerable populations, with a focus on providing access to basic health care for women and children in sub-Saharan Africa. PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA BY BILL KELLEY

money to pay for transportation to get there. They may know that a malaria net can keep them from getting sick or even save their lives, but they can't buy one. And for years, potable water — one of the most important components to preventing illness — could not be found within the village limits. "It's not that people don't want to do all of the things that can keep them healthy," Odetola says. "They just don't have the resources."

Odetola systematically worked through each of these issues during that summer. She developed a public health workshop attended by about 300 villagers, nearly half the village's population. With the help of a local bank, she launched a successful microloan program that helped nine women build tiny businesses that would support them and their families. And she worked with the local government to help lay the pipes that would get potable water to the town.

For Odetola, it was more than just a task for a summer. It was a task for a lifetime. Odetola was born in Nigeria but moved to Senegal with her missionary parents when she just eight. The astonishing needs she saw within the rural communities there drove her to excel. She wanted to get an education so she could return to the country to make a difference. In 2014, she presented her ideas at the Clinton Global Initiative University conference and earned the Resolution Fellowship award to continue to work on pieces of the project that she'd already begun.

She's also helped inspire other Ole women to dream big. When she was serving as an international student counselor at St. Olaf, Odetola had several conversations with Ambele Mwamelo '16, who arrived at St. Olaf from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, believing her future, too, was in health care.

Mwamelo credits Odetola for helping her realize that by developing an independent major in public health, she could still pursue biology, but she could also explore medical issues relating to gender, culture, and globalization.

"Disease knows no boundaries," says Mwamelo, who has since gone on to hold a high-profile summer internship for the Clinton Health Access Initiative in Uganda and another with the nonprofit Management and Development for Health doing work to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission in Tanzania. This fall, she also pursued two independent research projects as part of the Biology in South India study abroad program.

Each of these experiences has given Mwamelo deeper insight into the ways that our health is affected by a complex network of factors. "The more we look at public health from a global perspective, the more ways we can work together to respond to key public health issues," says Mwamelo.

Odetola has since moved on to the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health, where she's working on her master's degree with a focus on maternal and child health. Last fall the university, recognizing Odetola's advocacy for vulnerable populations, named her a 2015 Hawkinson Scholar. And while she's had the opportunity to do research at the World Health Organization in Geneva and work on a project for doulas in the Twin Cities' Somali population, her heart remains in Senegal and sub-Saharan Africa.

"We were able to get a good start with the Davis Peace Project, but it was only a start," Odetola says. "I want to use all the skills I am gaining here at the University of Minnesota to help that venture grow."

## USING DIVERSE SCIENTIFIC TOOLS TO SOLVE HUMANITY'S KNOTTIEST PROBLEMS

For some people, discovering the right scientific path is a struggle. But for others, including Serina Robinson '15, the map seems already drawn for them. Robinson grew up reading *Girls Who Looked Under Rocks*, a book of mini-biographies of famous women in scientific fields. When she arrived at St. Olaf and learned about the college's integrated introduction course to chemistry and biology, she was sold. "It was everything I wanted," she says. "I love the investigative process, and it didn't really matter what specific field it was."



"The more we look at public health from a global perspective, the more ways we can work together to respond to key public health issues," says Ambele Mwamelo.

PHOTOGRAPHED IN CHENNAI, INDIA, BY ARUN JANARDHANAN





Serina Robinson was deep sea fishing with her University of Tromsø research advisor, Dr. Mette M. Svenning, and her family, when they hauled in this 50-pound Atlantic cod. “The Svennings, who have a long exchange relationship with St. Olaf, would love to see more Oles apply for a study abroad or Fulbright in Tromsø,” says Robinson. PHOTOGRAPHED BY JON BRAGE SVENNING OFF THE PORT OF KVALØYVÅGEN IN THE NORWEGIAN SEA

It turns out that she was becoming a part of one of the most important scientific trends in decades: the boundary-spanning studies of interdisciplinary science. Since 1980, the number of published research papers that have at least some level of interdisciplinary science has nearly doubled, from 20 percent to more than 35 percent.

For Robinson, her insatiable scientific curiosity took her all over the scientific and literal map. As a St. Olaf Beckman Scholar, she conducted research in Alaska’s Denali National Park under the guidance of Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies John Schade to understand a process called “phosphorus cycling” in Arctic soils. She later presented her work at a geophysical conference in San Francisco. Then she landed a prestigious two-year research fellowship from the Environmental Protection Agency to study the effects of an industrial pollutant, 2-mercaptobenzothiazole, on fish development.

In 2014, she headed to Trondheim, Norway, to study at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, conducting research with a bioinformatics group that was studying *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, a tuberculosis pathogen. “Some people have criticized me for doing so many things,” she admits. “They’ve questioned my focus. But for me, it’s been great to have that breadth of experience.”

Indeed, she’s become a chemistry major who doesn’t just speak the language of science: she’s fluent in Norwegian and knows the programming languages C++, Python, and R. In the end, it will be her ability to translate all her work into a common scientific language that will make a difference.

Today, she’s back in Norway as part of a Fulbright Fellowship in Tromsø, where she’s studying bacteria that gobble up methane and act as a biological carbon sink. These bacteria may potentially help us reduce greenhouse gas emissions. “I think it’s important that we understand this not only for our own biotechnological applications, but also for the health of Arctic ecosystems,” says Robinson.

After her year in Norway, she’ll head to the University of Minnesota’s Ph.D. program in microbiology, immunology and cancer biology, where the interdisciplinary nature of

the work — something she worked hard to build at St. Olaf — is integral to the program. She'll do this with support from the National Science Foundation, which awarded her a three-year Graduate Research Fellowship shortly before she graduated from St. Olaf last spring. For Robinson, it's another chance to be part of a group that seeks to utilize all of science's varied tools to solve the world's biggest problems.

#### **BENEFITING FROM — AND BECOMING — A ROLE MODEL**

For women who started in the sciences decades ago, the loneliness of being part of a tiny minority could sting. Today — while there continues to be a dearth of women in top leadership positions in the sciences across the country — there are more women than ever at all levels of the career ladder. At St. Olaf, female professors share their experiences and provide guidance for female students who want advice about everything from working in male-dominated environments to the pros and cons of different graduate schools.

For Alexa Roemmich '15, having women to turn to who knew her not just as a student but as a person was part of what helped her excel at St. Olaf. "I had great relationships with [Assistant Biology Professor] Lisa Bowers and [Biology Professor] Anne Walter," she says. "They helped guide me through the process of searching for programs and applying [for positions], especially when I didn't have much experience. I knew they really cared about me."

Indeed, they helped guide her to increasingly prestigious research positions, including a summer program at Mayo Clinic in 2013, where she was part of a team that looked at ways in which induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells could have an impact on congenital heart defects. These uniquely valuable iPS cells — which were first pioneered through Nobel Prize-winning technology in 2012 — offer great promise in the field of regenerative medicine, and they fascinated Roemmich from the moment she learned about them. "We were using cells from patients to try to model disease progression [in the lab]. It's something you can't do in people themselves," she says.

That experience helped Roemmich land a position the following summer at Harvard's Stem Cell Institute Internship Program, where, working under the supervision of Harvard Professor Zheng-Yi Chen, known for his research on age-related and noise-induced hearing loss, she was one of 40 undergraduate students from around the world selected to focus on the problem of hearing loss, a uniquely difficult problem for scientists.

The sound-converting cells in our ears, while powerful, are also very fragile. Unlike many cells in our body, once they die off — as a result of damage or aging — they don't regenerate. That typically means once people have lost some or all of their hearing, it's gone forever. Roemmich joined a group working to grow the inner ear stem cells of adult mice in the lab, a step that may later lead to similar projects for humans, and ultimately help people regain lost hearing. She's excited about the progress she and the team made. "Preliminary results suggested that



The field of regenerative medicine, from its impact on congenital heart defects to the problem of hearing loss, fascinates Alexa Roemmich.

PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-IRVINE BY NANCY PASTOR/POLARIS



WOMEN IN THE SCIENCES TODAY HAVE A NEW KIND OF WORK CUT OUT FOR THEM. THEY WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO SERVE AS IMPORTANT ROLE MODELS FOR THE YOUNG WOMEN COMING UP BEHIND THEM.

these stem cells could be persuaded to regrow, which would be really exciting,” she says. “Something like that hasn’t been done before.”

When Roemmich returned to St. Olaf her senior year, she had a powerful experience in a small independent research course with visiting biology professor Nicole Shirkey-Son. Shirkey-Son and the students in the course, who all happened to be women, had several class discussions about being a woman in the sciences. They discussed subtle but important skills they needed to master in order to succeed in their careers — “things like being aware that your voice doesn’t go up at the end of a sentence, because it makes you sound unsure of yourself. We also talked about presenting yourself assertively,” Roemmich says. “These things matter.”

These days, she’s laser-focused on getting a Ph.D. from the University of California at Irvine in neuroscience. Her long-term goal? To land a professorship at a school similar to St. Olaf, where she can inspire a love of science in her students in the same way her own mentors did for her. “I’ve been so grateful to have really good role models,” she says. “They helped me figure out what I wanted to do with my life.”

### DESIGNED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With hundreds of science-related opportunities papering every spare bulletin board in Regents Hall, just tracking down the right one can feel like a daunting task for any science student. That’s why St. Olaf has worked to make it simpler for all students to find — and land — the perfect science-related positions linked to their interests.

Such was the case for Megan Behnke ’16. When she first started for looking for colleges, she wanted to go to a place near mountains and the ocean — the kind of rugged nature that reminded her of her home in Juneau, Alaska. When she arrived in Northfield, she got neither, but what she did get was an education that allows her to protect the wild beauty of places like Alaska from the effects of climate change.

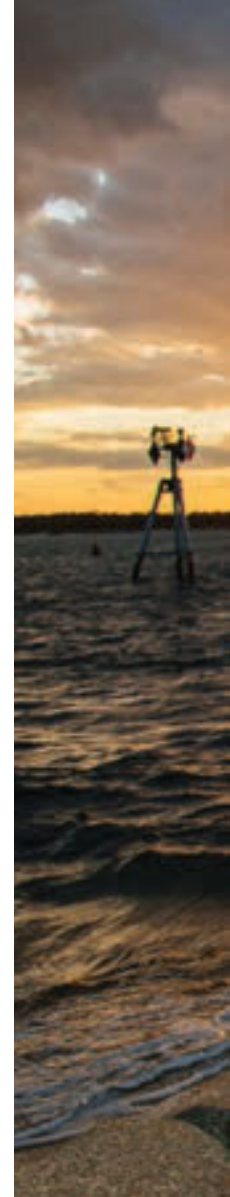
Behnke loved chemistry but knew she didn’t want to work in a traditional chemistry field. Thanks to Schade, she learned about Woods Hole Research Center’s Polaris Project. This multifaceted program includes a field course and research experience that brings students from around the world to the Siberian Arctic to study climate change. Schade, who is a coordinator for the project, saw Behnke’s enthusiasm for science and encouraged her to apply.

Thanks to the nudge, she did apply. She landed a spot in the program, which proved to be transformational. And while just getting into the program was a dream, getting funding from St. Olaf’s Center for Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (CUR) program and the Piper Center for Vocation and Career helped make it financially appealing.

During her summer at the Northeast Science Station in Cherskiy, Russia, Behnke studied how the melting permafrost is releasing previously-inactivated carbon into streams as dissolved organic carbon (DOC). The transformation of this DOC into greenhouse gasses is a process she found scientifically fascinating — but ecologically terrifying.

“As humans, we can decide to stop burning fossil fuels or cutting down forests to prevent more carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere,” she says. “But we can’t directly stop permafrost from thawing. It’s something that we only recently started ‘counting’ in climate models.”

Following her experience in Siberia, Behnke received the American Geophysical Union’s (AGU) prestigious Lumley Award and presented her research findings at the AGU Fall Meeting, which is the largest Earth and space science meeting in the world. She also presented her research at the American Chemical Society spring 2015 meeting. She was the only undergraduate presenter in her session, which was attended by top DOC scientists from around the country. She returned to northeastern Siberia the following summer to study how dissolved organic carbon from thawing permafrost is broken down by light and microbial processing.





After spending two summers in the Siberian Arctic to research climate change, Megan Behnke continued her studies last fall at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. PHOTOGRAPHED AT WOODS HOLE IN CAPE COD, MASSACHUSETTS, BY RICK FRIEDMAN/POLARIS

“I got to spend two summers in a row outside, living out in the Arctic on a river in northeast Siberia,” says Behnke, who was awarded a Goldwater Scholarship for her final year at St. Olaf. “It was an immense amount of fun.”

This past semester, she became part of the inaugural class for a program at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, where she took graduate-level oceanography courses and conducted research on how iron melting out of Greenland glaciers affects ocean chemistry in the North Atlantic. Increased glacier melt is another ominous sign that may signal the increasing speed of climate change.

Ultimately, Behnke, who graduates this spring, hopes to pursue a graduate degree that focuses on either Arctic or Arctic ocean chemistry. It’s a passion that fuels her both academically and emotionally. “I want to discover what’s going on and give people the information they need to make decisions that can fix this,” she says.

#### MAINTAINING MOMENTUM

While women nationwide have achieved remarkable progress in science and technology fields over the years, today’s generation of women in the sciences have a new kind of work cut out for them. They will have to continue to serve as important role models for the young women coming up behind them. And both women and men will need to work together to help strengthen the numbers of women in STEM fields where parity has not yet been reached.

It is not an easy problem to solve. But if these St. Olaf students and young alumnae are any indication, they are more than up for the challenge. ✨

ERIN PETERSON is a Twin Cities writer and editor, and a regular contributor to *St. Olaf Magazine*.



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*"Last winter, I started looking into estate planning. I had such wonderful memories of my four years at St. Olaf — the beautiful campus, excellent faculty, the warm, family atmosphere. It seemed normal to do something to help perpetuate all of this for generations to come. When I visited the St. Olaf website, I was delighted to discover the ideal solution in the form of a charitable gift annuity. A steady income is guaranteed for my lifetime, and the money goes to the college without having to worry about a last will and testament." — SUSAN CARLSON JAMBOR '69 · COUPIAC, FRANCE*

To learn more about establishing a charitable gift annuity, call 800-776-6523 or email [development@stolaf.edu](mailto:development@stolaf.edu).



## New Regents offer experience and passion for St. Olaf

The St. Olaf Board of Regents plays an essential role in the direction of the college, appointing the president, awarding tenure to faculty, and adopting policies that establish the rights and obligations of faculty members. The future of the college lies in their hands. This year, the board welcomes Susan Gunderson '79 and Mark Jordahl P'17, who bring years of management experience and a shared commitment and enthusiasm for the liberal arts, St. Olaf College, and its graduates.

By Andy Steiner

Some people might like to think the ideal career moves in a straight line, that a person graduates college, finds a job, and sticks with it — for the rest of his or her working life. For the first part of her career at least, Susan Gunderson took a less direct route, and she's glad about that.

"My career tends to follow a serendipitous path," Gunderson says. It's that embrace of serendipity that she sees as a hallmark of her St. Olaf education, noting that her liberal arts degree gave her a taste of the larger world that existed outside her everyday experience.

"As I talk with students who are looking for career direction," Gunderson says, "I see that many have this hunger to be certain about what their next step should be. I tell them that serendipity isn't just luck. It is being open to exploration and trying things that you might not expect. When you take that kind of approach to life, serendipity happens."

Though she was interested in health care from a young age, she hadn't planned on majoring in nursing at St. Olaf. But when she learned that it was possible to get the full liberal arts experience (including a summer study-abroad opportunity in Norway), and still complete the demanding major, Gunderson followed her passion.

Postgraduation, Gunderson practiced as a registered nurse at Children's Hospital in Minneapolis before moving to Seattle to earn her graduate degree in health care administration at the University of Washington. Following graduate school, Gunderson landed a prestigious internship at Mayo Clinic,

and then served as Mayo's first administrative fellow. Five years later, she and her husband, Daniel Raether '79, were invited by a group of visiting dignitaries to live and work in Sweden, embracing the opportunities that were there.

When they returned from Sweden, Gunderson received an unexpected phone call from one of the surgeons she worked with at Mayo Clinic. "He asked me if I'd like to start a new not-for-profit serving the needs of organ donation and transplantation."

It was the beginning of LifeSource, a nonprofit organization that coordinates donors, hospitals, transplantation centers, and recipients to maximize the benefits of lifesaving procedures. That was 26 years ago. Gunderson has been CEO of LifeSource ever since.

Gunderson is excited to join the St. Olaf Board of Regents because it gives her a unique opportunity to help guide the institution that has played a central role in her life for so many years.

"I really want to be in a position to give back to the college," she says. "It's a dream. I went to St. Olaf. So did my two siblings and my son and my husband. Some of my closest friends through life also went there. I think it is important to continue that tradition, to give back to the community that gave so much to me."

Gunderson also thinks that the experience she gained over the nearly three decades she's spent running a large nonprofit will be valuable during a time that she sees as pivotal to the future of the institution.

"I believe that education — and particularly liberal arts colleges — are at a challenging crossroads of articulating how schools can best continue to create value in this economic environment," Gunderson says. "Being part of the conversation to discern the college's future direction is something I most look forward to."



JOE TRELEVEN/TRELEVEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Mark Jordahl appreciates an open mind — the kind of mind that looks at the world holistically. He puts a premium on critical thinking, good problem-solving skills, and broad perspectives. Liberal arts graduates are particularly skilled at looking at the world that way, he says.

Jordahl, president of U.S. Bancorp's Wealth Management Group, credits his own liberal arts education at Concordia College with helping to guide him on his career path. An English and political science double major with minors in business and philosophy, he blended the teachings of great thinkers with grounding in business theory. Upon graduation, Jordahl thought about law school, but decided to enter the employment world prior to getting additional schooling. He joined a commercial banking training program, and liked the business world, but concluded neither a career in commercial banking nor law would be his future. He left banking and found his passion by entering the investment world. Following a series of moves leading investment groups for institutional businesses, he joined U.S. Bank as chief investment officer of its mutual fund group, and now leads its Wealth Management Group.

"If I didn't have my liberal arts education," Jordahl says, "I might not have seen that there were other ways I could approach a banking career."

This fall, Jordahl brought his enthusiasm for the value of the liberal arts to his position on the St. Olaf Board of Regents. He plans to use his time on the board to help promote the college and its graduates to potential employers — and to help prospective families struggling with the cost of college in tough economic times to understand that liberal arts students, instilled with the ability to look at the world broadly, will reap rewards in more ways than one.

"The return on investment of a liberal arts education is more in question than it ever was before," Jordahl says. "As costs continue to climb and the income of the average American isn't climbing, all colleges are struggling to demonstrate their worth. But I believe in the [educational] experience that St. Olaf provides. And I'm excited to talk about the unique skills of St. Olaf graduates."

There are also a few other reasons that St. Olaf ranks especially high on Jordahl's list of favored liberal arts institutions: His son Andy is a junior at the college this year; his brother-in-law is an Ole grad; and his nieces are also enrolled at St. Olaf. "I guess you could say that St. Olaf is a real family tradition," Jordahl laughs.

Another Jordahl family tradition is a commitment to teaching and service. "My grandfather was a Lutheran minister," he says, "and when you go generations back into my family, everybody was either a teacher or a professor or a Lutheran minister. They clearly thought that there was more to life, and they wanted to share that belief with others. I think that's why I'm a big believer in the development of the whole human being — the physical, intellectual, and spiritual side." A St. Olaf education, Jordahl says, focuses on those very same values.

"When I think about St. Olaf," Jordahl says, "I think of how it has differentiated itself in the world. The college consistently sets a high academic bar for the young men and women it educates, but it also focuses on developing them as whole human beings destined to make a difference in the world. If I can have an influence and help with the framing and marketing of that kind of institution, then that's something that feels really exciting and right."



# Your Alumni Board Is Working for You

By Sophie Breen '17 · PHOTOS BY EVAN PAK '19

The St. Olaf Alumni Board aims to strengthen and enrich your engagement with St. Olaf while preserving the unique traditions that together involve alumni and parents in the life of the college. This fall, the board welcomed five new members: Sonja Clark '03, Mark Hermodson '64, Autumn Berggren Hilden '99, Mario Paez '01, and Mark Williamson '88.

The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations also acknowledges and thanks departing board members Karl Johan Uri '99 and Greta Fure '09, as well as those who have completed their terms of dedicated service: Nikki Brock Maruska '95, Paul Finley '99, Vijay Mehrotra '86, Kate Sands Johnson '95, Rebecca Schmidt Taibl '70, and Sandy Skustad Jerstad '66; and those whose term expires in the spring of 2016: Ben Baker '09, Amy Gillespie '88, and Ron Pechauer '59.



## SONJA CLARK '03

After graduating from St. Olaf, where she majored in math and psychology, Sonja Clark moved from coast to coast to pursue various professional opportunities, including working in the nonprofit sector in Minneapolis. She went on to pursue her master's degree in statistics at the University of Michigan before moving to Washington, D.C., to work with the U.S. Census Bureau.

Four years ago, a new career opportunity brought her to FICO in San Jose, California, where she's currently a senior manager for analytics. In this position, Clark frequently travels to Central and South America and often finds herself drawing on what she learned in Latin American history courses taught by History Professor Jeane DeLaney.

Wherever she goes, Clark keeps in contact with Oles. She was active in the D.C. Ole chapter and has continued her involvement with the Bay Area alumni chapter. Though she began by planning simple happy hours, today she arranges trips to Giants games, orchestra concerts, and brewery tours. She's also the mastermind behind the Bay Area's first annual Lefse Fiesta.

"St. Olaf is a special place that attracts exceptional people, and I'm proud to call myself an Ole in California," says Clark, who played clarinet in the St. Olaf Band, worked in the Academic Computing Center, volunteered with the Sexual Assault Resource Network, and helped lead the Woman Safe Honor House.

As a member of the Alumni Board, Clark looks forward to hearing about the exciting changes happening back on the Hill in terms of athletics, vocation and careers, and student body demographics.

"The board is a devoted, energetic group, and we all benefit from our breadth of opinions and depth of ideas for alumni engagement," she says.

Clark plans to keep Bay Area Oles up to date with St. Olaf news, and help them connect at the many fun events she organizes. "It's an honor to represent the Bay Area alums and share their perspectives and feedback on the Hill," she says.



## AUTUMN BERGGREN HILDEN '99

At St. Olaf, English major Autumn Berggren Hilden learned to value learning. She credits her liberal arts education with giving her the confidence to share her opinions and the ability to contribute intelligently to topics outside her major area of study.

Her St. Olaf education also gave her the confidence to take a career path that was anything but neat or linear. As a freelance writer in Los Angeles,

she has written for Disney Publishing Worldwide, served as an editor and consultant at the Jim Henson Company, and authored books for young adults. Her unusual career trajectory is reflected in the diverse experiences of her last two Christmases: she may have worked on her novel in her pajamas this past Christmas, but the year before she was at a work-related Christmas party with the *Twilight* star Robert Pattinson. "For me, my career path has definitely been on the scenic route," says Hilden.



**2016 ALUMNI BOARD** (L-R, back row): Samuel Dotzler '00, Chicago; Ron Pechauer '59, Sun City, Ariz.; Brad Hoff '89, Northfield; Curt Nelson '91, Minneapolis; (middle row) Kim Hansen Brody '78, Boulder, Colo.; Rebecca Ringham Odland '74, Edina, Minn.; Autumn Berggren Hilden '99, Los Angeles; Cheryl Philip '10, Chicago; Ben Baker '09, Rochester, New York; Mark Williamson '88, Minneapolis; (front row) Lisa Warren '86, Minneapolis; Mark Hermodson '64, West Lafayette, Ind.; Sonja Clark '03, San Jose, Calif.; Mario Paez '01, Minneapolis.

Hilden was very involved on the Hill, where she played saxophone in the Norseman Band, contributed to the *Manitou Messenger*, and helped start Selah, a Sunday night musical worship experience that is still going strong. She was inspired by History Professor Dolores Peters, who taught her to think critically; English Professor Karen Cherewatuk, who encouraged her teaching skills and affirmed her as a student; and Education Professor Jim Holden, who showed her what it is to work tirelessly and with enthusiasm. St. Olaf is also where she connected with her husband, artist Justin Hilden '01.

Hilden would like to pioneer programs for St. Olaf students who are interested in entertainment careers, and hopes to invite students to intern for studios that produce both live action and animated television shows and feature films. Being in the entertainment business, she recognizes that it is very difficult to break in — no matter the talent — without connections.

As a new member of the St. Olaf Alumni Board, Hilden says, "I want to represent the experience of someone who hasn't taken the typical graduate path."



## MARK HERMODSON '64

Mark Hermodson discovered St. Olaf through a high school program sponsored by the National Science Foundation and subsequently earned enough financial support to attend the college. As a first-generation student from a small town in rural Minnesota, his parents had always stressed the importance of education.

"While my rural high school was quite good, St. Olaf brought me up to speed for a future academic career," says Hermodson. It's also where he met his wife, Sue Head Hermodson '61. After graduating from St. Olaf, Hermodson continued his graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin, earning his Ph.D. in biochemistry in 1968. "My chemistry and math majors were the basis of my graduate studies in biochemistry and, ultimately, to an academic career of teaching and researching at the University of Washington and Purdue University," says Hermodson, who was responsible for leadership and research programs at Purdue in the areas of

agriculture, food, and natural resources. He also held several administrative positions at the university before retiring in 2007.

Hermudson has long been active in community affairs in West Lafayette, Indiana, where he is a member of the bass section of the local Bach Chorale Singers. He was also a longtime board member for the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Hermudson values his time on the Hill and the opportunities and experiences it granted him. During his time on the board, he plans to support programs that help students achieve academic success, and hopes to contribute to recruiting efforts aimed at first-generation and low-income students. He also looks forward to contributing to the selection of recipients for distinguished alumni awards.



#### MARIO PAEZ '01

Mario Paez looks forward to representing people of color during his time on the Alumni Board. Paez says that his friendships with students, faculty, and staff on the Hill were essential in navigating the various challenges as a student of color.

"These sincere relationships enabled me to further develop through research, courageous debate, and honest reflection," says Paez. "They were critical in my personal development."

An economics major with an emphasis on finance at St. Olaf, Paez earned his master's degree in politics, economics, and business from the Drucker School of Management at Claremont Graduate University. Living in St. Paul with his wife and three children, Paez is a vice president at Wells Fargo Insurance Services' Professional Risk Group in Minneapolis. He specializes in management and professional liability insurance, with a focus on technological errors and omissions and network security and privacy.

During his time on the board, Paez hopes to enhance the relationship between alumni and St. Olaf, specifically focusing on alumni of color. He hopes to accomplish this goal through sharing new ideas, perspectives, and methodologies that can evolve into actionable plans to enhance engagement with alumni of all diverse demographic levels.

Though he values and enjoyed his time on the Hill, he recognizes that many St. Olaf students of color struggle. "I hope that by participating on the Alumni Board, our greater institution can learn to better adapt to the needs of students and alumni of color to improve engagement and foster a generational affinity toward the St. Olaf community," says Paez.



#### MARK WILLIAMSON '88

"St. Olaf has impacted my life in numerous ways, which I continue to discover more than 25 years later," says Mark Williamson.

During his time at St. Olaf, Williamson spent part of a summer in Kenya and Ethiopia. The following Interim, Williamson and five Oles returned to Kenya, where they volunteered at a school. "This Interim planted a seed that led my wife, Susan Lindholm Williamson '87, and me to adopt two children from Ethiopia," says Williamson.

After graduating from St. Olaf with a B.A. in history and economics, Williamson earned his J.D. from the University of Denver. As a mergers and acquisitions and business law attorney at Gray Plant Mooty in Minneapolis, he constantly utilizes the problem solving and critical thinking skills he acquired at St. Olaf. Williamson represents public and private companies in securities compliance and corporate governance matters, and has served as counsel to special committees of boards of directors.

Williamson believes that an active and engaged alumni network is critical to the success of St. Olaf, recognizing that alumni are an integral part of carrying on college traditions and serving as supporters and ambassadors for the college in communities across the country.

As a board member, Williamson intends to support the college's ongoing efforts to create a strong network of alumni who can serve as mentors to current students and expand alumni involvement in the Piper Center for Vocation and Career. He also hopes to engage alumni in business, social, mentoring, and volunteer opportunities.

"The personal mentoring and guidance I received from St. Olaf alumni and faculty has had a huge impact on my life," says Williamson.

## Portland, Oregon, Oles Unite!

Whether you're new to Portland or have lived in the region for years, stay connected and join other Oles for alumni chapter events in the area throughout the year!

Abigail Elder '93, Annie Gatzlaff '08, and Grethe Larson '72 invite you to join the official Facebook group at [St. Olaf Alumni: Portland Area](#) or email [PortlandAreaOles@stolaf.edu](mailto:PortlandAreaOles@stolaf.edu).



Portland Oles Siri Smithback '12, Marissa Recht '14, and Jens Matson '10

## St. Olaf Band and St. Olaf Choir Winter Tours

The St. Olaf Band and the St. Olaf Choir will tour 25 cities across 17 states in the coming weeks.

From Jan. 23 to Feb. 6, the St. Olaf Band, under the direction of Timothy Mahr '78, will celebrate its 125th anniversary with concerts in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and in New York City at Carnegie Hall.

Between Jan. 23 and Feb. 13, the St. Olaf Choir, under the direction of Anton Armstrong '78, will offer concerts in Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

The St. Olaf Band home concert on Feb. 13 and the St. Olaf Choir home concert on Feb. 14 will be streamed live at [stolaf.edu/multimedia](http://stolaf.edu/multimedia). For concert details and ticket information, visit [stolaf.edu/tickets](http://stolaf.edu/tickets).

## ST. OLAF SUMMER CAMPS 2016

### What Will Your Kids Learn This Summer?



**SWIM CAMPS** | June 12-16 | June 19-23 | June 26-30

**PIANO ACADEMY** | June 19-25

**MUSIC CAMP** | June 19-25

**FOOTBALL CAMP** | "Own the Zone" Lineman Camp: June 13-14

**THEATER CAMPS** | Advanced Theater: June 17-24 | Acting: June 19-25

**FOLK SCHOOL CAMP** | June 26-July 2

**DIVING CAMP** | July 10-14

**ENGINEERING AND PHYSICS CAMP FOR GIRLS** | July 10-15

**OLE CHESS CAMP** | July 24-29

**OLE PRIDE VOLLEYBALL CAMP** | July 29-31

Learn more about St. Olaf Summer Camps: [stolaf.edu/camps](http://stolaf.edu/camps) · For registration information, email [summer@stolaf.edu](mailto:summer@stolaf.edu) or call 507-786-3031 or 800-726-6523



# Game-Winning Roster

THE ST. OLAF ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME HONORS THE COLLEGE'S TOP STUDENT-ATHLETES.

BY MARLA HILL HOLT '88

About four years before St. Olaf College celebrated its centennial anniversary in 1974, a group known as the St. Olaf Alumni Lettermen's Club began to encourage the college to formalize a way to recognize and honor alumni who had made significant marks in athletic achievement while they were students. The Lettermen's Club, led by Paul Larsen '49, succeeded in their efforts, and during Homecoming Weekend in the fall of 1971, the St. Olaf Athletic Hall of Fame welcomed its inaugural class of top athletes at a banquet presided over by Sidney Rand, then president of the college.

Included in that initial Hall of Fame class were such Ole greats as Mark Almli '30, Endre Anderson '14, Adrian "Ade" Christenson '22, Harry "Whitey" Fevold '25, Ruben Mostrom '30, Herman "Ham" Muus '51, Carl "Cully" Swanson '25, Ingwald "Coon" Swenson '23, Stanford Tostengard '47, and Selmer "Sam" Veldey '20. As a group, they excelled in nearly every sport at St. Olaf, and some went on to either coach or serve in an administrative capacity at the college. All of them were leaders in their chosen professions.

The Hall of Fame was the natural endgame of the Lettermen's Club, which was started in 1951 to help maintain the high standards of athletic achievement at the college and to renew and support alumni respect for St. Olaf athletics.

The club no longer exists, but the tradition of honoring St. Olaf's top student-athletes continues. The Hall of Fame represents the best of the best, says Athletic Director Ryan Bowles. "It's a celebration of our history, recognizing those who played a huge role in the success of our teams and laid the foundation for St. Olaf athletics," he says. "The Hall of Fame honors excellence in athletics but also celebrates that these alumni were outstanding citizens, leaders, and members of the St. Olaf community while they were student-athletes. We're proud to celebrate them."

Today, the names of all 183 Hall of Famers are engraved on clear plexiglass plaques hung on the wall of the Tostrud Center, just down the hall from Skoglund Center, which for many years housed a cabinet displaying the achievements of top St. Olaf athletes.

Added to those honored names are the 2015 Hall of Fame inductees during Homecoming Weekend: Craig FitzSimmons '79, Keith Peterson '84, Brent Eilefson '92, and Nicole Trnka Hess '02. We asked them to tell us what it means to them to be a member of the St. Olaf Hall of Fame.

## CRAIG FITZSIMMONS '79

As a child, Craig FitzSimmons dreamed of being a professional basketball player while watching his favorite team, the Los Angeles Lakers, on TV. "Gerry West and Wilt Chamberlain were two of my favorite players, and one afternoon while watching them — I think I was about 14 at the time — it just

**"The coaches at St. Olaf were such tremendous leaders of men and women, and they really pushed me. As time has gone by, I realize how truly special my experience at St. Olaf was."**

clicked. I thought, 'I want to do that,'" he says. "So from that time, I dedicated myself to that end goal, however obscure and out of touch it was." Four years later, as a star on the St. Olaf men's basketball team, he realized he was that much closer to his goal. "The coaches at St. Olaf, especially Bob Gelle, were such tremendous leaders of men and women, and they really pushed me," says FitzSimmons, who was a two-time All-Conference guard. "As time has gone by, I realize how truly special my experience at St. Olaf was." In 1977, FitzSimmons was named to the Augsburg Invitational All-Tournament team and, in 1979, was a member of the NAIA All-District 13 Team. He was team captain during both his junior and senior seasons at St. Olaf, two years when the team had the

distinction of having the same set of five starting players — all members of the same graduating class.

After setting several St. Olaf scoring records (he currently ranks 4th and 11th on the single season points list with 519 and 464 points, respectively, and is 16th in career points with 1,027), FitzSimmons went on to play professional basketball for nearly 23 years in such places as Mexico, Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia, but mostly in the Australian National Basketball League, where he spent a total of 18 seasons on the court. While in Australia, he earned MVP honors four times and was part of two championship teams. In addition to his time on the court, FitzSimmons was a state director of coaching in Western Australia for five years and has coached thousands of kids and coaches over the course of his career.

After FitzSimmons's basketball-playing days ended, he had a second career in IT, working in sales for companies that advertise properties online. Today, FitzSimmons is semiretired and lives in Bali, Indonesia. He still plays basketball three days a week.



Athletic Hall of Fame inductees (L-R) Keith Peterson, Brent Eilefson, Nicole Trnka Hess, and Craig FitzSimmons  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER

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"Being named to the Hall of Fame is such an honor," FitzSimmons says. "The team I played with at St. Olaf was probably the most professional team I ever played on. Everyone understood their role and embraced it. We all got along and did what was best for the team. To have me and our teammate, Bruce Govig '80, who was inducted in 2013, in the Hall really says a lot about our whole team and what we accomplished together."

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## KEITH PETERSON '84

Keith Peterson, a longtime social studies teacher and coach at Brainerd High School in Brainerd, Minnesota, was an All-America pitcher for the St. Olaf baseball team in the early 1980s, amassing a career record of 19–8 with a 2.39 ERA and 190 strikeouts. So it was a bit surprising to learn that he is not the head baseball coach for the Brainerd Warriors.

"I have the great pleasure of being an assistant coach to Lowell Scarcy, who is the second winningest coach in Minnesota high school baseball history," says Peterson, who also is an assistant coach for Brainerd's boys' basketball team. "When I came here 28 years ago, Lowell already had 15 or 16



seasons on the job. At this point, we might be the longest-running coaching combo in high school sports. He's one of the best, and I love working with him."

Peterson approaches his membership in St. Olaf's Hall of Fame with the same level of humility. "I'm an older guy who thinks I was just an okay player," he says. "I was taken aback by what the college put on my plaque. It says, 'For his outstanding athletic achievements as a St. Olaf student and his significant contributions to his profession and society.'"

Peterson was more than just an okay player. In addition to his status as an All-American, Peterson was twice named both All-Conference and All-Region. He captained the baseball team during his senior year and led the team to two conference championships (1981 and 1984). He holds the school record for single game strikeouts with seventeen, and his single season ERA mark of 1.05 is second in the record books. He graduated *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in history and social studies education.

Peterson gives much of the credit to longtime head baseball coach Jim Dimick, who he says was a great mentor to him and hundreds of other players. "He was a really good teacher of the game, both of the fundamental skills and the mental aspect," Peterson says. "He taught us to handle adversity, because not everything in baseball goes well."

When Peterson is on the field with Brainerd's players "doing some of the best teaching I do," he keeps Dimick in mind, noting that Dimick modeled at St. Olaf the type of coach Peterson hoped to be. "He taught us to stay in the moment and continue to focus no matter what was going on around us, and that's a skill I hope to teach all my players."

#### BRENT EILEFSON '92

Since his days as an All-America forward for the St. Olaf men's hockey team, Brent Eilefson has had a distinguished career as a corporate attorney. After earning a B.A. degree in history and philosophy at St. Olaf, Eilefson earned a J.D. degree from William Mitchell College of Law. He went on to serve as an attorney for several companies and currently is the senior director for legal affairs and deputy general counsel at Upsher-Smith Laboratories in Maple Grove, Minnesota.

Eilefson calls himself a corporate generalist and says his work is "a nice blend of strategic thinking and accurate drafting on the business side of practicing law." When connecting what he does today with his time as a student-athlete at St. Olaf, Eilefson points to the excellent education he received while also being able to play hockey in a competitive environment.

"It's a testament to St. Olaf that I was able to play with other serious athletes and compete at a high level while also working toward a degree that would prepare me to succeed in life beyond athletics," he says. "We approached every game with intensity and drive but also respected that we were there to get a top-notch education, so being on the hockey team was a nice balance of competitive spirit and understanding the bigger picture."

Eilefson was named MVP of the hockey team as a sophomore and team captain as a senior, the year he also earned conference scoring co-champion honors. He was named All-Conference three times and is second in all-time scoring at St. Olaf with 150 career points. Eilefson continues to keep a hand in hockey by coaching two of his three sons in the sport and lacing up his skates to play once a week in what he calls an "old-timers' league."

"It's a cliché to say this, but playing hockey at Olaf taught me so many things that overlap into real life — leadership, dedication, hard work, teamwork," Eilefson says. "Being in the Hall of Fame means a lot personally, but it's not about me. It's about all the guys I played with, who were phenomenal athletes and are just as deserving, because hockey is, and always will be, a team sport."

#### NICOLE TRNKA HESS '02

This past fall marked Nicole Trnka Hess's sixth season as head volleyball coach and assistant athletic director at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota. On her way to Whitewater, Wisconsin, where her team was to play in their fifth straight NCAA national tournament, Hess recalled her playing days as an All-American and four-time All-Conference middle blocker at St. Olaf.

"The best memories I have are of my teammates and the camaraderie we had, like all the goofy moments in the vans and the trips we took to New York and San Antonio," she says. "I remember the games, for sure, but it was more about the friendships I made."

While bonding with her teammates, Hess put up some pretty impressive numbers.

She captained the volleyball team during her sophomore, junior, and senior seasons, while earning All-Region honors each of those years. She led the Oles to the conference championship in 2001 and holds both the St. Olaf and conference records for career kills at 2,041. She is one of the most efficient hitters in St. Olaf's volleyball history with a school-record career hitting percentage of .352.

After St. Olaf, Hess moved on to coaching, starting with an assistant coaching position at the University of St. Thomas before landing the head coaching job at St. Catherine University, where she coached for six seasons. Since Hess came to St. Ben's six years ago, the Blazers have not had a losing season. Her record with that team stands at 131-55.

"Being in St. Olaf's Hall of Fame is humbling, and I've come to realize that it speaks volumes to the success our team had and how well we played together," Hess says. "There's no way that I would have been where I was without the help of my teammates. I didn't necessarily understand that at the time, but now as a coach and seeing my own athletes' successes, I really appreciate what I was able to accomplish at St. Olaf."

Hess says she tries to instill in her players some of the values she learned at the hand of Cindy Book, St. Olaf's head volleyball coach. "She taught us how to work hard as a group toward a common goal and to commit to being successful in every area of our lives," Hess says.

Each year, Hess enjoys bringing her teams back to play in St. Olaf's Skoglund Athletic Center. This year, it was a point of pride to show her student-athletes her name on the Hall of Fame wall. "They were fired up," Hess says. The Blazers went on to defeat the Oles, 3-0.

**"The best memories I have are of my teammates and the camaraderie we had. I remember the games, for sure, but it was more about the friendships I made."**

For a full listing of the members in St. Olaf's Athletic Hall of Fame, visit [athletics.stolaf.edu/hof.aspx](http://athletics.stolaf.edu/hof.aspx)

MARLA HILL HOLT '88 is a freelance writer and regular contributor to *St. Olaf Magazine*.



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The Alumni and Parent Relations Office has made it easier for you to send us all your latest personal and professional news! This also is the place where you can update your contact information. Check out [stolaf.edu/alumni](http://stolaf.edu/alumni) today! Questions? Email [alum-office@stolaf.edu](mailto:alum-office@stolaf.edu) or call 507-786-3028 or 888-865-6537.

**1934 | Louise Viren Tostenrud** remembers that

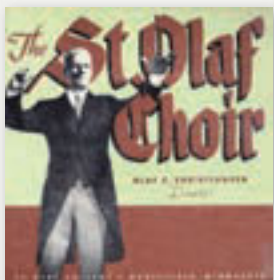
at the time of her graduation, "there was only one dormitory for girls, Mohn Hall, and one dorm for boys, Ytterboe Hall. I lived off-campus all four years, in a house on Forest Avenue with seven other girls, and majored in education with minors in French and biology. Jobs were scarce after graduation, and I took a job as a nanny in Atlanta for five-year-old triplets. When I returned to Minneapolis, I enrolled in an 18-month program at Minneapolis General Hospital to be a lab and x-ray technician. Receiving an education from St. Olaf was a lifelong gift and was one of the greatest experiences of my life."



**1937 | Esther Brenna Burmeister** celebrated her 100th birthday with her family in Harmony, Minn., in June 2015!

**1945 | Robert Peterson**, who is 92 years young, living in a retirement community in Kirkland, Wash., and in "pretty good health," writes: "I partake in the theater group here, and played Clarence in *It's a Wonderful Life*. I think fondly of my friends from my college days." Friends who would like to connect with Robert can reach him through his daughter, [marypetersonvideo@gmail.com](mailto:marypetersonvideo@gmail.com).

**Ole Winter '51**, who sang in the St. Olaf Choir from 1949 to 1951 when Olaf Christiansen was the choir director, shares this fond memory of the late **Dr. Ken Jennings '50**, the choir's tenor-section leader and future director. Ole says he was "one of the fortunate ones who stood next to Ken when we sang. It was during this time that F. Melius Christiansen celebrated his 80th birthday, when we sang



during a joint concert of the St. Olaf Choir and Minneapolis Symphony. F. Melius came to our rehearsals a couple of times to direct *Beautiful Savior*, and at the end of that joint concert he came from the audience and we concluded with that number. During one of the Midwest concert tours, before we sang *Jeg Er Sa Glad*, Olaf Christiansen waved a finger at Ken to come down to direct that little Norwegian song! We were delighted to have Ken as our director. So, although it was for a brief time, we sang under all three of the first famed St. Olaf Choir directors!"

**1952 | Bob Tengdin and Dorothy Halvorson**



**Tengdin '51** recently took Gold in mixed doubles at the Huntsman World Senior Games in St. George, Utah.

**1953 | Kathryn (Kay) Johnson Jorgensen**



founded a street ministry in San Francisco many years ago called Faithful Fools ([faithfulfools.org](http://faithfulfools.org)). She also writes a monthly newsletter and, in a recent issue, wrote of her battle with Parkinson's disease. Kay writes that she would love to hear from her former classmates.

**1962 |** Members of the 1962 Ole basketball team — **Dick Lee, Karl Groth, and Dave Grimsrud** — recently celebrated their mutual birthdays! The cake said, "Happy 225th Birthdays!"



**1964 | Rosie Berg Kameo (right) and Marilyn Forseth Nervig**



reunited at Rosie's home in Salatiga, Central Java, Indonesia. Rosie writes, "What a nostalgic trip down memory lane!"

The First Presbyterian Church of Caro, Mich., recently celebrated two outstanding organists whose combined work spans 100 years: **Susan Reim** and her predecessor, Frank Campbell. Susan is currently leading a campaign to restore the 63 year-old organ. ■ **Jean Thurlow Sprague** walked the Coast to Coast trail in Northern England last fall. The Coast to Coast Walk is a 192-mile, unofficial long-distance footpath in Northern England that passes through three beautiful national parks: the Lake District National Park, the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and the North York Moors National Park.



**1973 | Mary Stevenson Marchio** attended the Manitou Singers reunion during Reunion Weekend 2015. She writes, "What a wonderful, uplifting experience! It brought back to me the campuswide power of the Ole music department. The testimonials to Alice Larsen and Sig Johnson were so personal and heartfelt. Singing with 200 or so women of all ages brought tears and goosebumps." Mary has continued to sing in community choruses and church choirs and is a member of the Omaha Symphonic Chorus. She thanks the women and men of St. Olaf "who taught me to sing 'like a 40-year-old-woman,' as Miss Larsen urged us."

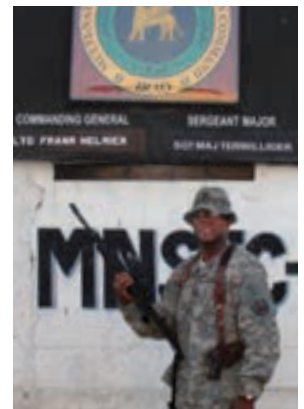


**1974 | Richard Ferguson** writes, "While going through a box from my days on the Hill, I found a St. Olaf Troll Doll poster from either 1971 or 1972. I thought you all would get a bang out of this pop culture item from the '70s!"



At its 44th Triennial Council in Denver last October, delegates from 283 Phi Beta Kappa chapters and almost 50 associations elected 12 members to the Phi Beta Kappa Senate, the 24-member governing board of the society. Among them was **Eric W. Nye**, English professor at the University of Wyoming. Eric will serve a six-year term.

**1975 |** On Sept. 30, Colonel (Ret.) **Marvin Benton**, U.S. Army, was informed that he would receive the Legion of Merit award in recognition of his nearly 30 years of service to the United States military.



**Tuskegee Institute 50th Reunion**



Oles who participated in the 1965 Tuskegee Institute Summer Education Program enjoyed a wonderful reunion on the Hill during Reunion Weekend 2015. By all accounts, it was a glorious day! Pictured (L-R, front row) are **Lucy Thilquist Thomas '67, Lauri Klemesrud Young '67**, Tuskegee Institute Dean Emeritus Bert Phillips, **Sandra Pelka '66, Sheryl Anderson Renslo '66, Gail Peterson Jothan '67, Kristy Swanson '67**; (back row) **Darryl Solberg '67, Mike Jothan '67, Lee Norrgard '67, Jeff Strate '66, Wayne Gilbertson '65, Paul Benson '67, Chuck Larson '65, and Lois Barliant '66.**

## Alumna Named Director of Piper Center for Vocation and Career

**Leslie Moore '77** returns to St. Olaf after a rich and diverse 34-year career in law, higher education, corporate consulting, and arts management, both in the United States and abroad.



As regional legal counsel for Deloitte Consulting, Moore established the firm's first legal office in the Asia-Pacific region. As a partner and general counsel for Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu in Australia, she held roles in corporate governance, business ethics and risk management, professional development and training, stakeholder and community relations, and gender and cultural diversity.

Prior to her time at Deloitte, Moore served as a trial lawyer for the New York-based firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. Moore's career in law built on her experience as a member of the faculty at Yale University, where she codirected its writing programs and taught British literature and nonfiction. She also served on advisory councils guiding Yale admissions, as well as minority student and faculty welfare.

Before accepting the role as director of the Piper Center, Moore served as general counsel and director of operations for White Rabbit Gallery in Sydney, Australia, which hosts the largest private collection of Chinese contemporary art in the world.

The Legion of Merit is one of the highest military medals that can be received, and is awarded to those who have displayed exceptional meritorious performance and service throughout their military career. Marvin is also a veteran of the War in Afghanistan (2002) and the War in Iraq (2008–09).

**1976** | **Michael Devine** was named deputy editor to the board of editors of *International Law News*, published by the International Law Section of the American Bar Association. ■ **Jayne Menich Marek** reports, "I have retired early as professor of English from Franklin College in Indiana, and will be living in Washington near the water, walking every day, and working on my scholarly and creative writing."

**1980** | Phoenix attorney **Shawn K. Aiken** has been admitted as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Shawn was selected by Best Lawyers as Phoenix's "Lawyer of the Year" in mediation for 2012 and 2015.

**1981** | **Haley Nienhaus Fox** joined the core faculty in the Counseling and Art Therapy Department at Adler University last September.

**1984** | **Steve Paulsen**, tennis coach at Edina (Minn.) High School, was inducted into the United States Tennis Association's (USTA) Northern Hall of Fame in October. Considered one of the top girls' tennis coaches in the U.S., Steve has been ranked #1 in USTA Northern numerous times in men's doubles

## Amy's New Pantry

**Amy Scherber '82**, who still runs her original 23-year-old bakery, Amy's Bread, on Ninth Avenue in New York City, has converted half the double storefront into a shop, The Pantry by Amy's Bread. The other half remains a café. With her husband, Troy Rohne, who curated and designed The Pantry, Amy is selling foods and a few kitchen items made by artisans in the region.

The vintage wood pharmacy shelves are stocked with cheeses, jams, condiments, pickles, charcuterie, smoked fish, and peanut butters, from places like Brooklyn and Vermont. There are also some sweets from Amy's bakery, as well as chocolates. "We live in the neighborhood, and it's hard to find this kind of food around here," Amy recently told the *New York Times*. Their son, Harry, who is 11 and a pancake lover, created Harry's "Best Ever" Pancake Mix for The Pantry.

In September 2015, Amy and Troy partnered with the New York Public Library's landmark Stephen A. Schwarzman Building on Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street and at its Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center, opening Amy's Bread kiosks in both locations. They opened the doors of Amy's Bread in 1992 and, since then, the company has grown to three Amy's Bread cafés in Manhattan; a wholesale business consisting of some of NYC's best restaurants, hotels, caterers, and coffee bars; and a 30,000-square-foot bakery based in Long Island City (Queens), which opened in August of 2012.



CHANG W. LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES



## St. Olaf Study Travel in the Holy Land

**Loralee Hanka DiLorenzo '85** writes, "This is the March 2015 St. Olaf Study Travel group in the Holy Land. We posed for this photo at the Lutheran World Federation [LWF] residence in Palestine, hosted by St. Olaf alumnus and LWF director **Mark Brown '78**." (L-R, front row): Mary Ann Smith, **Loralee DiLorenzo '85**, **Patty Sauey '76**, Tomi McLellan, **Nell Anderson '73**, Jane Brownlee, **Mark Brown '78**; (second row) **Gene DiLorenzo '85**, Barbara Helmken, Mary Pat Goodwin, Joanie Odd, Jan Quanbeck, **Karen Ericson '86**, Carol Benson, Ron Brownlee, Karen Briggs; (third row) **Dan McLellan '78**, **Dave Holt '61**, **Steve Huseuth '78**, **Carol Tviete '79**, Barb Dietzmann, **Cindy Huseuth '78**, Clare Mather, **Lynn Stranghoener '76**, **Joelle McIlroy '57**, **Jim Kraft**, **Joel Anderson '73**; (fourth row) **Mike Tviete '79**, Bruce Benson, **Carol Schneider '74**, **John Schleif '68**, **Jacob Burkman '02**, **Larry Stranghoener '76**, **Andrew McIlroy '90**.

and was a member of the 35 Intersectional Team that won the National Championship in 1997.

**1985** | **Karine Swensen Moe** was named Macalester College's provost and dean of the faculty. Karine, the F. R. Bigelow Professor of Economics, began her new role on July 1, 2015.

**1986** | **Scott Black Johnston**, senior pastor of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City, was the featured guest on *Day 1* with host Peter Wallace. The nationally broadcast ecumenical radio program is also accessible online at [Day1.org](http://Day1.org).

**1989** | **Eric Rohren** was named chair of radiology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Eric serves as a professor in the Departments of Nuclear Medicine and Diagnostic Radiology, Division of Diagnostic Imaging, at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

**1990** | **Matthew Mutch** is chief of colon and rectal surgery in the Surgery Department at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

**1993** | **Pam Brondos** sold her young adult fantasy trilogy, *The Fourline Trilogy*, to Skyscape. Friends can learn more at [pamalabrondos.com](http://pamalabrondos.com) or [goodreads.com](http://goodreads.com).

**1995** | After 12 years teaching music in Lausanne, Switzerland, **Christopher Jackson** has moved to Turkey to fill the post of primary deputy principal at MEF International School in Istanbul.

**1996** | **Rebecca Lowe-Weyand** is a co-founder, soprano section leader, and board member of Résonance, an a capella ensemble. The singers also perform with instrumentalists in styles that range from early music and opera to jazz and musical theater. Friends can learn more at [resonancevoices.org](http://resonancevoices.org).



## Praise for Ole Composers

Composer **Timothy Takach '00** was awarded third place honors in the band/wind ensemble composition category of the 2015 American Prize competition. Last November, the St. Olaf Band premiered his composition "Frost Giant" at the Festival of Bands performance. St. Olaf Band



Takach

Conductor **Timothy Mahr '78** notes, "This composition was written by Tim on a Metropolitan Regional Arts Council grant designed to have him specifically study writing for band, working with the St. Olaf Band, also meeting with me about writing for winds

and percussion. This is the fifth time during my tenure here than an Ole composer has written a work for the St. Olaf Band that went on to receive high honors in national competition. The others were **Jonathan Bartz '08**, **Ken Hakoda '96**, **Chris Renk '05**, and lastly, **Matthew Peterson '06**, who received two BMI Student Composer awards — one of them given for band work, which had never received recognition before Matt's award. I think this speaks strongly for the kind of support the members of all of our ensembles give to the Ole composers who bring works to them."

**1999** | **David Oldenburg** was named Brewer of the Year in the Large Brewpub category by the Brewers Association at the Great American Beer Festival. He has been brewmaster at Titletown Brewing Company in Green Bay, Wis., since 2006.

**2001** | **Kristi Jones** is now director of community service programs at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She writes, "I facilitate community engagement and service activities for medical and health professions students, some of whom are Oles!" ■ **Lisa Pierce Niven** began a new post as head of chemistry at All Saints Roman Catholic School in York, England.

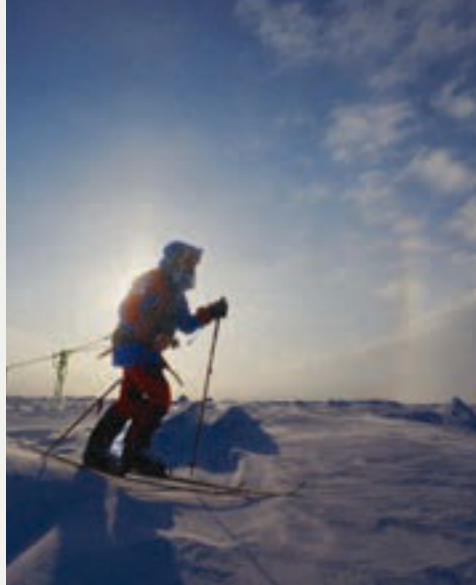
**2002** | **Elizabeth Speich Flomo**, recruitment and outreach manager for Lutheran Volunteer Corps, welcomed 104 volunteers to a year of



service at a national orientation held last fall in Chicago. Among the group were nine Oles!

**2003** | **Michael Roe**'s pop culture blog was recently nominated for an L.A. Press Club award. Michael works for National Public Radio's Los Angeles affiliate as a digital news producer. He covers pop culture, including Comic Con, which he's covered for the last several years on-air and online.

## Melting: Last Race to the Pole



**Eric Larsen '93** writes that he and his expedition partner Ryan Waters completed what may realistically be the last North Pole expedition in history. "It is easily one of the most difficult expeditions on the planet, to a place that few people understand that may be the last of its kind in history. We self-filmed our entire journey and teamed with Animal Planet and Denver-based production company High Noon to create a two-hour special, *Melting: Last Race to the Pole*, that aired on Animal Planet in early December."

The story of North Pole expeditioning and the melting of the Arctic is something Eric has been drawing attention to for more than a decade. In the span of a single year, Eric trekked to both of Earth's poles and summited Mount Everest in an effort to bring attention to climate change and other environmental issues.

Oles can learn more at [blogs.discovery.com/bites-animal-planet/2015/12/two-explorers-experience-melting-ice-curious-polar-bears-during-500-mile-hike-to-north-pole.html](http://blogs.discovery.com/bites-animal-planet/2015/12/two-explorers-experience-melting-ice-curious-polar-bears-during-500-mile-hike-to-north-pole.html), and can read more about Eric's expeditions in the Winter 2013 *St. Olaf Magazine* article "Going to Extremes."



## Happy Campers

Six Ole couples have taken an annual camping trip each fall, along with the 19 children they have among them, ranging in age from 2 to 13. **Erin Sundet Kassebaum '96** shares this photo, which was taken during their trip last September. The Oles are **Jennie and Bill Winter '96**, **Rachel Westermeyer Wright '95** and **Adam Wright '96**, **Erin and Greg Kassebaum '96**, **Janet House Boie '96** and **Brian Boie '96**, **Katie Hewitt Adams '98** and **Eric Adams '96**, and **Krista Redlinger Grosse '97** and **Jason Grosse '96**.

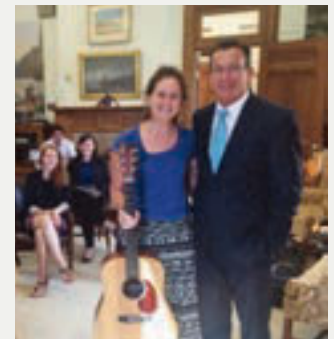
## Kristen Graves Day!

State Troubadour of Connecticut **Kristen Graves '04** is pleased to announce that Governor Dannel Malloy has issued a proclamation naming Tuesday, December 15, 2015, Kristen Graves Day:

*Therefore, I, Dannel P. Malloy, Governor of the State of Connecticut, in recognition of her many contributions to this State, do hereby proclaim December 15, 2015, to be State Troubadour, Kristen Graves Day, in the State of Connecticut, and encourage all citizens to spend this day in recognition of the arts, compassion, and social justice.*

Kristen, a singer, songwriter, and humanitarian from Fairfield, Connecticut, is listed as part of the "new generation of folk music" in the *New York Times* and was mentioned in *Rolling Stone* for her music's environmental activism. With catchy songs, a penchant for storytelling, and inspiring lyrics, Kristen performs nearly 200 shows a year throughout the U.S. and Europe. Her most notable performances have been with Rusted Root, Dar Williams, Guy Davis, Holly Near, Peter Yarrow, and the late Pete Seeger.

Kristen strives to promote kindness through her faux political party, The Just Be Nice Party, and she carries on the tradition of social justice through folk music, calling her songs "music with a conscience." Friends can visit [kristengraves.com](http://kristengraves.com) for more information, links to her music, and videos.



## The Fastest Game on Grass



"Who would have thought that early morning softball with the Bandies would one day lead, however indirectly, to a national athletic title!" writes **Stacey Peterson '05**. "Since 2008, I have been a member of the Twin Cities Robert Emmets Hurling Club, which promotes the Irish sports of hurling and camogie in Minnesota. Often referred to as 'the fastest game on grass,' hurling (and its counterpart, camogie, which is played by women) is an ancient stick-and-ball game best described as a cross between field hockey and lacrosse, sprinkled with a little bit of every other sport you've ever seen, including softball! For the last three years, the Twin Cities Robert Emmets have sent a camogie team, along with two hurling teams, to the North American GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association) Finals, where more than 100 teams from across the U.S. and Canada compete for the championship cup. I am thrilled to announce that our camogie team won the North American Junior Camogie final, securing the Twin Cities' first ever GAA championship title. As a member of that team, I can easily say that it ranks among the most thrilling experiences of my life, right up there with playing at Alice Tully Hall and touring Norway with the St. Olaf Band."

**2005** | **Allison Dowe** works for a social justice nonprofit working to end the cycle of poverty and violence in at-risk urban communities. Friends can learn more at [claretianinitiative.org](http://claretianinitiative.org).

**2007** | **Meghan Hein** and **Mary Ellen Isaacs '78** met after speaking at an AmeriCorps awareness rally in Austin, Texas, and discovered their shared connection to the Hill while chatting afterward. Mary Ellen is the director of ACE (A Community for Education), which leverages AmeriCorps members to teach reading to K-2nd graders in low-income schools. Meghan is chair of the Austin chapter of AmeriCorps alumni and served with AmeriCorps in 2009. ■ **Katie Balfanz** and her fiancé, **Russell Anway**, hosted a 2005-06 Global Semester 10-year reunion (below) at their home in Minneapolis.



## Ole Architect Prints a New House

**Leif Eikevik '06** is an architect in Chicago working on one of the world's first 3D-printed houses, called the Additive Manufacturing Inte-grated Energy (AMIE) demonstration project. The project is designed to change the way we think about generating, storing, and using electrical power. AMIE uses an integrated energy system that shares energy between a building and a vehicle. Leif writes, "I'm the architectural lead for the design team, in partnership with the DOE [U.S. Department of Energy] and Oakridge National Labs, to print a full-size prototype house on the world's largest printer. A 3D-printed car is coupled to the house, and the two power each other, taking the home off the grid. After being printed and assembled, it was showcased at a DOE industry day in September." Friends can learn more about the AMIE project at [web.ornl.gov/sci/eere/amie](http://web.ornl.gov/sci/eere/amie).



## Father and Daughter Oles are Among U.S. Bank Stadium Artists

Part of the vision for the nearly completed U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, future home of the Minnesota Vikings, is the creation of a unique family-friendly space. **David Grimsrud '62** and his daughter **Holly Grimsrud Mujica '07** are among 34 Minnesota artists commissioned by the Vikings and the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority to produce works of art for the interior walls of the new stadium. According to *Vikings.com*, plans are for the collection to feature more than 500 original pieces that will be privately financed but publicly enjoyed.

David and Holly were commissioned independently and will create separate pieces, but they are likely to spend a significant amount of time together in David's Zumbrota, Minnesota, studio. The commission means a great deal to both David and Holly, who both were art majors and both played basketball at St. Olaf. "I have been creating artwork since I was young," Holly told writer Craig Peters at *Vikings.com*. "A commonality my dad and I had were sports and arts. He has been a mentor for me since I was very young. Our selection has been a very special recognition of that."



## St. Olaf Alumna Joins Pope Francis at 9/11 Memorial Service

**Ishanaa Rambachan '08** (below, far left) was one of several representatives of a dozen world religions — including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Greek Orthodox, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism — to join Pope Francis in leading an interfaith service at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum during the papal visit to New York City in September. The religious leaders offered prayers or meditations on the theme of peace, first in their sacred tongues and then in English. The Pope, who presided over the Sept. 25 service, urged the world "to build peace from its differences."

In her meditation that day, Ishanaa spoke these words: "May God protect us, may God nourish us, may we work together, may our dialogue be enlightening, may we be free from hate.... Lead us from untruth to truth, from darkness to light, from death to immortality. May all know peace." News outlets around the globe covered the interfaith service, including the *New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, the *Washington Post*, ABC News, CBS News, NBC News, *USA Today*, *The Telegraph*, and many others.

A 2008 Rhodes Scholar, Ishanaa currently is an engagement manager at McKinsey & Company, a Washington, D.C.-based global management consulting firm that serves leading businesses, governments, nongovernmental organizations, and nonprofits.



VINCENTO PINTO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

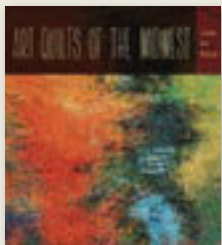


## NEW BOOKS BY ST. OLAF ALUMNI AND FACULTY

*First Century Christian Heroes: A Trilogy of Novels* (CALCO Books, 2015), by **Chuck Lehman '56**

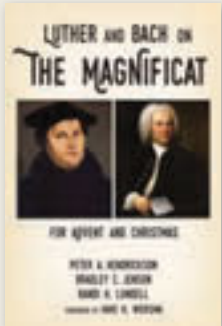
*Fred's Way* (Authorhouse, 2015), by **Craig Nagel '63**

*Forensic Science: An Introduction to Scientific and Investigative Techniques* (CRC Press, Fourth Edition, 2014); *Scientific Foundations of Crime Scene Reconstruction: Introducing Method to Mayhem* (CRC Press, 2012), by **Jon J. Nordby '70**



*Forty Miles North of Nowhere* (Main Street Rag Publishing Company, February 2016), by **LeRoy Sorenson '73**

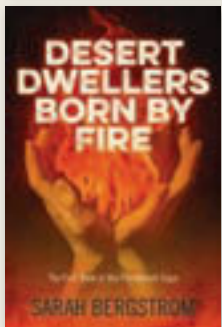
*Thinking Geometrically: A Survey of Geometries* (Mathematical Association of America, 2015), by **Tom Sibley '73**



*Claude: A Dog of the Sixties* (Couchgrass Books, 2015), by **Katherine L. Holmes '76**

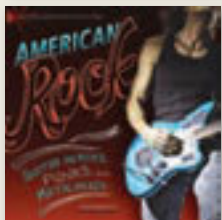
*Art Quilts of the Midwest* (University of Iowa Press, 2015), by **Linzee Kull McCray '76**

*Luther and Bach on the Magnificat: For Advent and Christmas* (Wipf and Stock, 2015), by **Bradley Jensen '78**



*Wild Rice Monitoring Field Guide and Wild Rice Monitoring Handbook* (University of Minnesota Sea Grant Program), by **Tonya Thesing Kjerland '90** (available at [seagrant.umn.edu/coastal\\_communities/wildrice](http://seagrant.umn.edu/coastal_communities/wildrice))

*Desert Dwellers Born By Fire* (Lodestone Books, 2015), by **Sarah Williams Bergstrom '94**



*American Rock: Heroes, Punks, and Metalheads* (21st Century Books, 2012), by **Erik Farseth '95**

*The Kennedy Wives: Triumph and Tragedy in America's Most Public Family* (Lyons Press, 2015), by **David Batcher '99** and **Amber Hunt**



*The Firebug of Balrog County* (Flux, 2015), by **David Oppegaard '02**

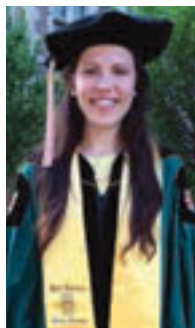
**2008** | **Basil Vernon** is the International Branding and Campaign Ambassador for NBC Universal, traveling throughout the world managing NBC's global enterprise portfolio management office. ■ "Introducing Our Future Ole Runners!"



Former cross-country standouts **Katja Andresen Manrodt '08** with Eliana, **Jennie Hedberg Fleurant '08** with Eleanore, **Stephanie Block Stiles '07** with Natalie, **Kirsten Higdem Zumwalt '08** with Lillian!

**2009** | **Samantha Mariotti** received the Arthur Krim Memorial Award for Excellence in Producing from Columbia University Graduate Film School. The Arthur Krim scholarship is awarded to a producing student at the Columbia University Film Festival for use in his or her third year.

**2010** | **Kirsten Brown** earned her master's of social work from the Brown School of Social Work and Public Health at Washington University in St. Louis. She was one of six students from her cohort to be inducted into the Phi Alpha Honor Society, and she also received an award for her research and work in urban education. Kirsten is working as a school socialworker with the Des Moines Public Schools in Iowa. ■ Last August, a group of Oles found themselves preparing to leave the U.S. for a year of service through the ELCA's YAGM (Young Adults in Global Mission)



program: **Aline Skogstoe '10** is serving in the United Kingdom, **Christina Andeweg '14** and **Rachel Bash '15** are serving in Jerusalem and the West Bank, **Jessica Moes '14** is in Cambodia, **Sara Swenson '15** is in Hungary, and **Ryana Holt '15** is in Mexico. They were joined by YAGM alums **Kaleb Sutherland '12** and **Rachel Johnson '13** during a week-long orientation in Chicago.

**2011** | **Laura Carpenter** started work as the farm education manager for Dartmouth College's Office of Sustainability, "working with students each day to educate about different modes of sustainable agriculture and implement them at the Dartmouth Organic Farm."

**2012** | **Geoffrey Delperdang** finished a two-year tour with the CDC Ebola Response team in Guinea and has returned to France to start his master's degree in international cooperation in education and training at l'Université Paris Descartes.

**2013** | In October, **Jeffrey Harris** hosted a get-together with a group of Omaha Oles that included Hannah Rector '14, Michaela McCarthy '13, Kirsten Meyer '07, Kyle Cassling '12, Allison Bronson '84, Jason Hage '02, Molly Ham '12, Tom Niemann '96, Jody Horner '84, Deanne Schmidt '12, Sue Keasling '98, Deb Manning '88, and Jeff Harris '13.

**2014** | **James Gildea** writes, "After graduation, I founded an independent film company, Ramble Pictures. We are currently based in Minneapolis, although our projects take us around the world.

A majority of our film company is comprised of Oles (currently there are 11 involved). It would mean a great deal to us to have the St. Olaf community engaged in our filmmaking stories." Oles can learn more at [ramblepictures.com](http://ramblepictures.com).



Jimmy Gildea (right) and Mark Nystrom '14 of Ramble Pictures

**2015** | **Brian Adams** writes, "I presented my capstone on the bioethics of euthanasia in the U.S. and UK in front of the faculties of Medicine, Philosophy, and Psychology at Oxford University. I also served as the American representative at the European Union summer school and conference on human rights held in the Czech Republic, and traveled to about six different countries to visit friends." Brian is now in Lima, participating in a public health project for about 5 months!

**MEA CULPA: Parting Shot: Women's Cross Country** (*St. Olaf Magazine*, Fall 2015, back cover) **Editor's Note:** It was 40 — not 50 — years ago this past fall that the first women's cross country team was founded by English Professor David Wee '61!

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**The Sights, Art and History of Italy | April 2-18, 2016**

Experience the country's vibrant art and architecture, while also looking at its influential history and its energetic modern culture. Led by Edward Langerak, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, and Lois Langerak, Retired Dental Hygienist

**Wilderness Adventure in the Boundary Waters | June 12-18, 2016**

Paddle and portage through the glorious Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and take in some of the quintessential up-north locales, including a tour of the Chik-Wauk Museum, breakfast at Naniboujou Lodge, and a visit to the North House Folk School. Led by Greg Kneser, Vice President of Student Life

**Eastern Europe: The Cold War Remembered | July 10-23, 2016**

Examine the effects of the Cold War and visit iconic places in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Budapest, and Berlin. Led by Robert Entenmann, Professor of History and Asian Studies, and Sarah Entenmann, Freelance Editor

**Royals & Vikings of the British Isles: A Cruise Aboard Oceania's Marina August 3-15, 2016**

Explore the influential history of the Royals and Vikings on a luxurious and relaxing cruise around the British Isles. Led by David R. Anderson '74, President of St. Olaf College, and Priscilla Paton, Writer and Scholar

**Contemporary South Africa: Culture, Identity, and Liberation November 2-17, 2016**

**WAIT-LISTED** | Led by Pat Quade '65, Professor Emeritus of Theater, and Kathy Quade, Retired Disability Services Coordinator

**Hiking Scotland's Islands: On and Off the Beaten Path | May 17-31, 2017**

Join us for hiking in spectacular Scottish locations with a wealth of fascinating history and archaeology. Hiking tours include Scotland's west coast, the Isles of Mull, Iona, and Skye, and the Orkney Islands. Led by John Barbour, Professor of Religion, and Meg Ojala, Professor of Art and Art History

..... LOOKING AHEAD .....

**Norway | May 28-June 6, 2017**

Led by Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Professor of Norwegian

**Bhutan | June 2-15, 2017** | Led by Robert Entenmann, Professor of History and Asian Studies, and Sarah Entenmann, Freelance Editor

View all the St. Olaf Study Travel adventures and get details on all our international and domestic programs at [stolaf.edu/studytravel](http://stolaf.edu/studytravel)

**Arnie Ostebee '72**

Professor Emeritus of Mathematics Arnold ("Arnie") Ostebee '72, a scholar of applied mathematics who served as assistant provost of the college for a decade, died Oct. 11, 2015.

After graduating from St. Olaf, where he majored in mathematics and physics, Ostebee went on to earn his doctorate in mathematical physics from SUNY Stony Brook in 1977. He stayed in New York for several years, serving as an instructor at SUNY Empire State College, before returning to St. Olaf in 1980 to teach mathematics. He remained on the college's faculty for 34 years.

Ostebee served as chair of the Mathematics Department and as associate dean for the Natural Sciences and Mathematics faculty before becoming assistant provost in 2001. An active member of the Mathematical Association of America, Ostebee presented at numerous conferences and professional gatherings. He cowrote an influential series of calculus books with faculty colleague Paul Zorn, and served as associate editor of the *American Mathematical Monthly* for 12 years. Ostebee, who was married to St. Olaf Associate Professor of Mathematics Kay Smith for 32 years, retired from the college in 2014. Arnie is survived by his wife; mother; daughter, Kristin Ostebee; son, Paul Ostebee; two sisters; a brother; and their families.



**Joan Olson**

St. Olaf College Archivist and Associate Professor Emerita Joan Rafaj Olson, one of the namesakes of the Shaw-Olson Center for College History, died Oct. 22, 2015.

Olson, who earned a bachelor's degree from Bucknell University and a master's degree from Cornell University, became the first professional archivist at St. Olaf in 1969. Her motto as an archivist was "When in doubt, save," and she kept at least one copy of everything — and sometimes more than one. Thanks in large part to Olson's work, the St. Olaf archives include many photos,

and even glass negatives, from the early days of the college.

Of special importance to her was the work she did helping Professor Emeritus of Religion and College Historian Joseph Shaw '49 gather materials for his centennial publication, *History of St. Olaf College 1874-1974*. To many on campus, Olson was affectionately known as "Joan of Archives." She retired from St. Olaf in 1998. Olson's skills as an archivist were also applied to other Northfield institutions, including St. John's Lutheran Church and the Northfield Historical Society. She is survived by her husband Duane, St. Olaf professor emeritus of physics, and their children, Ruth Khan '81, Eric Olson '82, and Susanne Olson '86, and their families.

**Steven Edwins '65**

Longtime St. Olaf College art faculty member Steven Edwins '65 died Dec. 14, 2014. After graduating from St. Olaf, Edwins earned his M.Arch. in architectural studies from Yale University. In 1976, after years of working to improve housing conditions in Appalachia and teaching architecture at the University of Kentucky, he returned to Northfield and became a partner in SMSQ Architects. He eventually became principal and then owner of the firm. In addition to his work at SMSQ, Edwins taught architectural drawing and design at St. Olaf for more than 25 years.

While Edwins worked on many different project types, his passion was church architecture and historic preservation. As principal at SMSQ, he led the 2007 renovation of Boe Memorial Chapel that gave new life to the college's most visible symbol of faith and worship. He also oversaw additions to St. John's Lutheran Church, First United Church of Christ, and All Saints Episcopal Church, and was one of the founding members of the Northfield Heritage Preservation Commission. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Harvey Edwins '74, and their sons, Andrew and Daniel '08.







## Babies

Jenny and Ryan French '94, a daughter, Margot  
 Richard and Sarah Muehl Madrid '96, a daughter, Mia  
 Sandra Ravey Soelter '96 and Timothy Soelter '93, a son, Paxton  
 Ehab and Rebecca Hoyle George '99, a daughter, Linda  
 Kelly and Abbie Teslow DeGregorio '00, a daughter, Aoife  
 Katherine Larson '00 and Lawrence Wiliford '99, a daughter, Lyra  
 Brian Miller '01 and Mary Voigt, a daughter, Louisa  
 Kieron and Lisa Pierce Niven '01, a daughter, Eloise  
 Brent and Aubrey Spilde Miller '02, a daughter, Linnea  
 Shane and Sarah Larson Moldenhauer '03, a son, Tristan  
 Kelsey Kreider Starrs '03 and David Starrs '02, a daughter, Miriam  
 Kelly and Megan Techam Swanson '03, a son, Kenneth  
 Carly Dirlam '06 and Paul Morris '04, a son, Russell  
 Daniel and Krista Springer Appel '05, a daughter, Astrid  
 David and Lisa Nguyen Gaulke '05, a daughter, Amelia  
 Vanessa Wheeler Townsend '05 and Eli Townsend '05, a daughter, Clara  
 Micheal and Bethany Jacobson Kok '06, a daughter, Alice  
 Jason and Annie Lindquist Payseur '06, a son, Harold  
 Alexei and Brittany Samoylov '06, a daughter, Alida  
 William and Jennie Hedberg Fleurant '08, a daughter, Eleanore  
 Micah and Emma VanderWell Kraayenbrink '08, a daughter, Cecilia  
 Dan and Kelsey Anderson McCarthy '08, a daughter, Maeve  
 Margaret Barter Gipson '09 and Philip Gipson '09, a daughter, Alice  
 Stephanie Andren Monroe '10 and Dan Monroe '10, a daughter, Elena

## Weddings

Elisabeth Stitt '80 and James Batura, Sept. 5, 2015  
 John Goltz '88 and Harold Becker, Sept. 9, 2015  
 Jon Tveite '89 and Lynn Cockett, May 24, 2015  
 Kimberly Meinecke '92 and Alex Barclay, June 20, 2015

Dan Baker '95 and Marne Wittung, June 20, 2015  
 Laura Wilkinson '04 and Maxwell Behrens, May 24, 2015  
 Jeremy Anderson '05 and Ziva Danneker, Aug. 29, 2015  
 Tessa Somermeyer '06 and Brendan McCaffrey '08, July 18, 2015  
 Lauren Radomski '07 and Elliot Gerlach, Aug. 28, 2015  
 Miriam Samuelson '08 and Daniel Roberts '06, June 27, 2015  
 Molly Underwood '08 and Nicholas Cesaretti, March 27, 2015  
 Laura Hanson '09 and Tyler Moe-Slepica, Sept. 20, 2014  
 Molly Baeverstad '10 and Ben Cherland, Aug. 22, 2015  
 Ben Brown '10 and Lindsey Wales, June 27, 2015  
 Sarah Charleston '10 and Christopher Peterson, Aug. 1, 2015  
 Alicia Reuter '10 and Frank Barevich, June 28, 2015  
 Rachel Schwabe-Fry '10 and Thomas Lowe, July 4, 2015  
 Kathryn Southard '11 and Sam Dunn '11, Sept. 12, 2015  
 Alexandra White '11 and John Baxmeyer, Sept. 12, 2015  
 Colleen Schaefle '12 and Ian Cook '12, Aug. 8, 2015  
 Kayla Schmidt '12 and Beau Gray '11, Feb. 7, 2015  
 Grace Bartlett '13 and Dustin Mollenhauer, June 13, 2015  
 Karla Krumenauer '13 and Ryan Wetley, May 22, 2015  
 Colleen Erkel '14 and Daniel Kelly '14, July 4, 2015  
 Mandy Sirek '14 and Carl Stone '12, Aug. 8, 2015

## Deaths

Esther Tufte Rian '36, Honolulu, Oct. 16, 2014  
 \*Rudolph Ramseth '39, Northfield, Minn., July 29, 2015  
 \*Esther Thorstensen '39, Northfield, Minn., Sept. 29, 2015  
 Mae Lofgren Kucera '40, International Falls, Minn., July 4, 2015  
 \*Virginia Kleppe Lee '40, Edmonds, Wash., Aug. 8, 2015  
 Ruth Langager Varland '40, Champaign, Ill., Sept. 28, 2015  
 Mary Friedrich Mitchell '41, Kenosa, Wis., May 10, 2015  
 Elaine Highland Schelling '41, Pasadena, Calif., May 28, 2015  
 Orvis Fitts '42, Olathe, Kan., June 18, 2015  
 Irene Melby DeBoer '42, Rochester, Minn., Aug. 30, 2015  
 Nona Bune Fosso '42, Kirkland, Wash., Aug. 19, 2015  
 Lois Peterson Leutz '42, Prior Lake, Minn., Oct. 22, 2015  
 Jane Nelson Rossing '42, Whitewater, Wis., Nov. 2, 2015  
 \*Miles Holden '43, Humboldt, Iowa, Oct. 9, 2015  
 \*Marie Christofferson Hulterstrum '43, Litchfield, Minn., Oct. 24, 2015  
 \*Robert Schuelke '43, Denver, Sept. 17, 2015  
 Mabeth Stewart Hope '44, Rochester, N.Y., July 27, 2015  
 Audrienne Ellingson Nelson '44, Ellendale, Minn., Oct. 20, 2015  
 Ruth Hompland Olson '44, Monmouth, Ill., Aug. 7, 2015  
 Crystal Dystad Schafer '44, San Luis Obispo, Calif., Sept. 3, 2015  
 Evelyn Hanson Brandvold '45, Great Falls, Mont., May 27, 2015  
 Mabel Lintvet Jacobson '45, Silver Bay, Minn., July 14, 2015  
 Philip Johnson '46, Phoenix, June 30, 2015  
 Betty Wetlesen Albing '46, Cary, N.C., April 25, 2015  
 Lois Brooke Simen '46, Pensacola, Fla., July 30, 2015  
 Beatrice Anderson Miller '46, Lake Oswego, Ore., July 25, 2015  
 \*Daniel Halvorsen '46, Owatonna, Minn., Sept. 16, 2015  
 Ruth Arnesen Qualben '46, Brooklyn, N.Y., Aug. 26, 2015  
 Alice Rosain Muus '47, Grand Marais, Minn., July 12, 2015  
 Ellen Jones '47, Alhambra, Calif., June 27, 2015  
 Thelma Larson Wold '47, Eau Claire, Wis., Oct. 25, 2015  
 Carol Pieske Young '47, Littleton, Colo., Oct. 25, 2015  
 Robert Granrud '48, Minneapolis, July 9, 2015  
 Marjorie Andersen Rink '48, East Glacier Park, Mont., May 23, 2015  
 Wendell Frerichs '48, St. Paul, Minn., June 23, 2015

Marilyn Morgenson Hedstrom '48, Minnetonka, Minn., Aug. 9, 2015  
 Josephine Haugen Senft '48, Gettysburg, Pa., July 13, 2015  
 \*Arthur Sethre '48, Minneapolis, Aug. 30, 2015  
 \*Mable Heen Buskirk '48, State College, Pa., Sept. 28, 2015  
 Lois Connell Dodge '48, Coeur D'Aleve, Idaho, May 30, 2015  
 Sigrid Ramstad Kerr '48, Mora, Minn., Oct. 13, 2015  
 Patricia Stevens Lomen '48, Minneapolis, June 17, 2014  
 \*Robert Ball '49, Anaheim, Calif., Oct. 25, 2015  
 \*Philip Friest '49, Burnsville, Minn., Nov. 3, 2015  
 \*Arvid Bidne '49, North Oaks, Minn., Jan. 24, 2015  
 Arnold Larson '49, Silver Bay, Minn., May 25, 2015  
 Gerald Lundby '49, Carol Stream, Ill., April 15, 2015  
 Sylvia Haugen Chadwick '49, Vienna, Va., June 5, 2015  
 Martha Anderson Arvesen '49, Andover, Minn., July 29, 2015  
 Joyce Amdahl Kindem '49, Farmington, Minn., Sept. 22, 2015  
 \*Luther Egge '50, Roundup, Mont., Oct. 14, 2015  
 \*Rolf Helm '50, Sterling, Ill., Oct. 23, 2015  
 Edith Stillar Holmstrom '50, International Falls, Minn., Oct. 7, 2015  
 Duane Noel '50, Austin, Minn., June 1, 2015  
 John Refsell '50, Estes Park, Colo., April 3, 2015  
 Lorraine Gilbertson Ritland '50, Whitehall, Wis., July 2, 2015  
 Joyce Bock Harter '50, Northfield, Minn., June 25, 2015  
 \*Sevrin Steen '50, Peoria, Ariz., Aug. 8, 2015  
 \*Edith Stillar Holmstrom '50, International Falls, Minn., Oct. 7, 2015  
 Judeen Johnson '50, Volga, S.D., Sept. 8, 2015  
 Pearl Jacobson Christenson '51, Arden Hills, Minn., Oct. 11, 2015  
 James Hegvik '51, Minneapolis, Oct. 15, 2015  
 Margaret Hanson Kalow '51, Boise, Idaho, May 13, 2015  
 Darrell Larson '51, Webster City, Iowa, Oct. 19, 2015  
 Neal Olson '51, Carlos, Minn., July 24, 2015  
 Elaine Graves '51, Bloomington, Minn., April 2, 2015  
 \*Martin Ford '51, Sierra Vista, Ariz., Sept. 23, 2015  
 Robert Anderson '52, Wichita, Kan., April 18, 2015  
 Ruth Tanner Govig '52, Bismarck, N.D., May 16, 2015  
 \*Allan Hanson '52, Eau Claire, Wis., July 12, 2015  
 Dorothy Belgum Knight '52, St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 4, 2015  
 Rodney Kvamme '52, Seeley Lake, Mont., Nov. 8, 2015  
 \*Robert Grong '52, Marshall, Minn., July 13, 2015  
 Harriet Wilkinson Senesac '52, Mankato, Minn., June 12, 2015  
 \*James Homme '52, Altoona, Wis., Sept. 2, 2015  
 \*Keith Morse '52, Fort Myers, Fla., May 7, 2015  
 Ruth Jacobson Johnson '53, New York, Oct. 12, 2015  
 \*Robert Row '53, Sun Lakes, Ariz., May 21, 2015  
 Ramon Runkel '53, Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 3, 2015  
 Helen McMeen Smith '53, Minneapolis, Sept. 1, 2015  
 Margretta Olson Morgenson '53, Layton, Utah, Aug. 31, 2015  
 Daryl Ostercamp '53, Moorhead, Minn., Sept. 6, 2015  
 Dean Ostlie '53, Northfield, Minn., Nov. 11, 2015  
 Arlene Holm Dayton '54, Eugene, Ore., April 26, 2015  
 \*Dudley Neman '54, Mequon, Wis., March 11, 2015  
 \*Paul Reppe '54, Zumbrota, Minn., Oct. 12, 2015  
 David Lee '54, Salisbury, N.C., June 26, 2015  
 Stephen Swanson '54, Northfield, Minn., Aug. 23, 2015  
 Carol Teigen Dingman '54, Cheyenne, Wyo., Sept. 18, 2015  
 Robert Page '55, Rice Lake, Wis., May 27, 2015  
 \*William McIntyre '56, Long Lake, Minn., May 17, 2015  
 Helen Carlson Williams '56, International Falls, Minn., June 22, 2015  
 Richard Dahlager '56, Minneapolis, Aug. 21, 2015

\*Lowell Gryting '56, Belview, Minn., Oct. 4, 2015  
 Barbara Quarberg Biles '57, Pasadena, Calif., Nov. 3, 2015  
 Kari Rice Carlson '57, Detroit Lakes, Minn., July 15, 2015  
 Bonnie Spangrude Lindland '57, Anoka, Minn., March 27, 2015  
 Gayle Berberich Rice '57, Dunnellon, Fla., June 22, 2015  
 Peter Tkach '57, St. Louis, Mo., June 26, 2015  
 Donna Aga Anderson '58, Edina, Minn., Oct. 18, 2015  
 Marlyus Jahnke Emerson '58, Plainview, Minn., June 3, 2015  
 \*Gilbert Gilbertson '58, Pinehurst, N.C., Nov. 1, 2015  
 Sandra Pifer Kurth '58, Altoona, Wis., May 17, 2015  
 Charles Nelson '58, San Diego, June 11, 2015  
 \*Bernie Shellum '58, Saint Clair Shores, Minn., Sept. 13, 2015  
 \*Paul Sabin '58, Cannon Falls, Minn., Oct. 10, 2015  
 Constance Peterson Terry '59, Washington, D.C., Jan. 8, 2015  
 \*David Anderson '59, Apple Valley, Minn., May 19, 2015  
 Robert Petersen '59, Huntingdon Valley, Pa., Aug. 12, 2015  
 Rosalie Peterson '59, Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 11, 2015  
 Meredith "Buzz" Berg '59, Valparaiso, Ind., May 30, 2015  
 Daniel Kunau '60, Preston, Iowa, Aug. 26, 2015  
 Lawrence (Larry) Christie '61, St. Louis Park, Minn., June 24, 2015  
 William Greenslit '61, St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 17, 2015  
 John Schiotz '61, Menahga, Minn., June 13, 2015  
 Shirley Hilden '62, Vancouver, Wash., Nov. 17, 2014  
 John "Paul" Schiotz '61, Menahga, Minn., June 13, 2015  
 Judith Bjorgen Hawkinson '62, Williams Bay, Wis., Sept. 4, 2015  
 \*Ronald Hawkinson '62, Williams Bay, Wis., Sept. 7, 2015  
 Catherine Risser Emmons '64, Edina, Minn., Aug. 8, 2015  
 Karen Frisbie Mueller '64, San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 24, 2015  
 Cheryl Nelson '64, Minneapolis, Nov. 10, 2015  
 Jene Montgomery Goshaw '65, Chapel Hill, N.C., June 30, 2015  
 Richard Spande '66, Albert Lea, Minn., July 3, 2015  
 Diane Huse '66, Rochester, Minn., June 25, 2015  
 Arlene Wardal Bennyhoff '66, Collinsville, Ill., Sept. 30, 2015  
 Judith Christopherson Plomitallo '67, Stamford, Conn., Oct. 3, 2015  
 Berta Rogers Speak '67, St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 26, 2015  
 \*Thomas LaViolette '68, Appleton, Wis., Oct. 31, 2015  
 DeeAnn Miller Boyd '69, Terre Haute, Ind., May 30, 2015  
 Linda Leirfallom Brewer '69, St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 30, 2015  
 John Lawson '69, Denver, Jan. 13, 2014  
 Donald Gaston '70, Putnam, Conn., March 30, 2015  
 Douglas Hanbury '70, East Peoria, Ill., Sept. 20, 2015  
 Joan Mau '71, Decorah, Iowa, May 24, 2015  
 Mark Dion '72, Seattle, April 12, 2015  
 Arnold Ostebee '72, Northfield, Minn., Oct. 11, 2015  
 Charles Seaton '73, Katy, Texas, Aug. 8, 2015  
 Lawrence Akre Jr. '80, Andover, Minn., April 10, 2015  
 Bert Lawrence Hall '81, Brigham City, Utah, Sept. 20, 2015  
 Mark Gullickson '83, Rochester, Minn., June 24, 2015  
 Lisa Doyen '84, Flandreau, S.D., Sept. 12, 2015  
 Rebecca Bell '89, Cadott, Wis., Sept. 9, 2015  
 Shannon Helfritz Reuss '92, Eyota, Minn., Oct. 18, 2015  
 David Salmi '92, Golden Valley, Minn., Oct. 21, 2015  
 David Radar '97, Berlin, Germany, Sept. 8, 2015  
 Natalie Beissel '05, Tucson, Ariz., July 30, 2015  
 Jerika Van Valkenburg '11, Westminster, Colo., July 28, 2015  
 \*VETERAN



# Jumping Through YESTERYEAR

BY JEFF SAUVE

WHEN PETER AGRE, THE 2003 Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry, gave the 2006 commencement speech at St. Olaf, he called attention to one specific structure from the college's past: a large ski jump. As the son of Courtland Agre, a St. Olaf chemistry professor in the 1950s, he spent many happy childhood hours playing on the Hill, recalling sunny summer afternoons in which "We climbed the rickety old ski jump that once stood at the top of Thorson Hill and would let fly our basketball. It reached high velocity and often bounced all the way across Greenvale, fortunately never hitting any of the astonished farmers as they drove their trucks into town."

The ski jump was first erected in the fall of 1910, after students organized the Winter Sports Club with the aim of promoting outdoor activities during the winter months. Encouraged by President Kildahl and several professors, students sold "season tickets" to offset the cost (\$200) of constructing a 25-foot wooden ski scaffold with a five-foot takeoff. They had enough money left over to purchase three additional coasting toboggans to go with their first two sleds, nicknamed Comet and Coquette.

Three years later, the slide was modified with a 72-foot steel scaffold and a runway of 187 feet, inclined at nearly 50 degrees. It was called the Haugen Slide, in honor of the Norwegian ski jumper Anders Haugen, the 1910 U.S. national ski jumping champion and world record holder, who oversaw the building of the slide and its modifications.

St. Olaf had now joined the ranks of Dartmouth and a few other U.S. colleges by offering ski jumping. The first ski jumping tournament at St. Olaf was held with great success on January 15, 1912. The local business community closed its doors for about two hours during the competition. Nearly 1,300 spectators enjoyed competitions by seven St. Olaf students and several amateur jumpers from the region, as well as five professional exhibitions, including Anders Haugen and his brother Lars, also a U.S. national champion, who were encouraged to show off their skills and help draw in the crowds.

By 1930, the Haugen Slide was upgraded again to accommodate one student with great promise, Nordic skier Lloyd Ellingson '32, who became St. Olaf's first individual national

collegiate champion in 1931 and was named to the 1932 U.S. Winter Olympics team.

The Oles who followed also benefited from the new and improved Haugen Slide. But not all of their runs went as planned. Lars Kindem '55 recalled gunning for the record books as a freshman at the 1951 St. Olaf Winter Sports Day Tournament. His jump failed due in part to his classmates on the ground. He recalled, "As soon as I jumped, they fired snowballs, but only one of them hit me in the right hip." As a result, Kindem lost his balance and lasting glory.



Ski jumping champion Anders Haugen in front of original Ytterboe Hall.

The incomparable Paul Fjelstad '51 experienced an even more legendary mishap. As Fjelstad sped down the slide, he unfastened his skis at the last instant. To the astonishment of his classmates and onlookers, Fjelstad did an abrupt pratfall into a large snow pile below. The students annually memorialized this unforgettable act with a photo and caption, "Look, Ma, No Skis!"

By February 1961, the Haugen Slide had become wobbly and was dismantled. Mild Minnesota winters had resulted in several years of disuse and, too, the development of the athletic area around Manitou Field had changed the grading of the landing slope's outrun, making it unusable for ski jumping.

Although the Haugen Slide no longer stands on campus, it continues to exist in the memories of those who dared to ski off of it — mishaps and all. ❄️



Ski jumping champion Anders Haugen in front of original Ytterboe Hall.



JEFF SAUVE is associate archivist at the Shaw-Olson Center for College History at St. Olaf College. Share your own stories with him at [sauve@stolaf.edu](mailto:sauve@stolaf.edu).

ST. OLAF COLLEGE



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SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2016  
*6 p.m. to midnight*

RENAISSANCE MINNEAPOLIS HOTEL, THE DEPOT  
*225 South 3rd Avenue · Minneapolis*

*This vibrant evening of celebration and connection is a unique St. Olaf College event that is alumni driven and college supported. The evening is designed to celebrate the St. Olaf community and support the college through gifts to the St. Olaf Fund. The event will feature dinner, dancing, silent and live auctions, and Ole pride.*

Each year, alumni, parents, and friends of the college show their love and pride for St. Olaf through their annual gifts. These gifts to the St. Olaf Fund provide vital funding for financial aid, enhance our rigorous academic programming, and support everything that makes life on the Hill so special.

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PARTING SHOT

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**HOLLAND HALL**, dedicated in 1925 as part of St. Olaf College's 50th anniversary celebration, was inspired by Le Mont Saint Michel, the island monastery on the coast of Normandy, France. The architects designed Holland Hall to resemble the section of the monastery known as the Merville. PHOTO BY DAVID GONNERMAN '90