

# ST. OLAF





**ON THE COVER**

*For the Hill and Beyond*,  
illustrated by Julie Van Grol '08



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Whichever way you decide to give, be sure to request the *For the Hill and Beyond* poster.



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**ST. OLAF MAGAZINE**

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# ST. OLAF

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FROM THE DESK OF  
PRESIDENT DAVID R. ANDERSON '74



Greetings, Oles, and welcome to the winter issue of the *St. Olaf Magazine*.

This issue of the magazine is all about ambition, determination, and confidence, for in this issue we shed our Midwestern reticence and boldly announce the college's intention to raise \$200 million through our campaign *For the Hill and Beyond*.

St. Olaf College is ambitious. We are always looking for ways to be better and to do better, and that ambition points directly to ways to enhance the experience we offer our students. We want our academic program to be rigorous and relevant, and we want the experience of it to prepare our students to be lifelong learners. We want our co-curricular program to broaden and deepen our students' lives, opening doors for them to take their place in families, workplaces, and communities after graduation. And we want our students, during their time at the college, to reflect deeply on what their ultimate commitments are going to be post-graduation, supported in that discernment by our programs and by the persons of faith who form our community.

St. Olaf College is determined. We are determined, guided by patience and persistence, to fulfill our ambitions. Our goals may be ambitious, but our strategies for reaching them are clear, measurable, and achievable, and we employ a consistent discipline to monitor our progress toward those goals, adapting as we move forward in light of what our measurements tell us and how our environment changes. I invite you to visit [stolaf.edu/president/strategic-plan](http://stolaf.edu/president/strategic-plan).

And we are confident. Now in its one hundred and forty-second year, St. Olaf has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to set and to achieve ambitious goals. Our goal now, with *For the Hill and Beyond*, of \$200 million by January 2020 is within reach. Attainment now stands at \$139.9 million, and if we continue on our current pace, I will have the pleasure, in the winter issue of the magazine three years from now in 2020, of celebrating with you a campaign that exceeded its goal because Oles everywhere cast a vote of confidence in the future, a vote of confidence in their college, and a vote for generations of future students by supporting this campaign.

Fram! Fram!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive.



UM! YAH! YAH!





## CARBON-FREE ELECTRICAL POWER

**W**ITH NEW SOLAR PANELS blanketing 40 acres of college-owned land, and Ole the wind turbine towering above it all, the college is celebrating the fact that its electrical energy usage has become carbon neutral.

St. Olaf is leasing those 40 acres to Berkshire Hathaway Energy, which developed the community solar garden in coordination with Minnesota-based Geronimo Energy. St. Olaf has subscribed to 40 percent of the solar project's output, the maximum allowable by Minnesota state law. In addition to the solar project on college land, St. Olaf is subscribing to 21 other community solar gardens in neighboring communities. The college's solar subscriptions, combined with the energy generated by its wind turbine, has enabled St. Olaf to achieve its goal of 100 percent carbon-free electrical power.

Furthering its commitment to green energy, St. Olaf has also matched its community solar garden subscriptions with a commitment to Xcel Energy's Windsource program, which draws 100 percent of its energy from Minnesota wind farms. Not only does all of this mean that carbon per student is 47 percent less than it was in 2001, one of the lowest numbers of any campus in the country, but the local ecosystem will also get a critical boost when the land beneath the panels is planted with native species that will benefit pollinators.

PHOTOS BY TOM ROSTER





An aerial photograph of the St. Olaf College campus during the golden hour of sunset. The sun is low on the horizon to the left, casting a warm, orange glow over the scene. The campus features a mix of modern, multi-story buildings with large windows and older, traditional brick buildings with gabled roofs. A prominent brick building with a steeple is visible on the right. The campus is surrounded by dense trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and red. A winding road with a landscaped median runs through the campus. In the background, a water tower and a wind turbine are visible against the horizon.

*For the Hill and Beyond*

THE CAMPAIGN FOR ST. OLAF







**F**OR MORE THAN 140 YEARS, ST. OLAF COLLEGE has been preparing students to claim their place in the world. As we look toward a future filled with rapid and widespread change, St. Olaf's dedication and persistence — how we uphold our mission and traditions — is amplified by the need to be bold and purposeful in helping students build meaningful lives beyond their years on the Hill.

This fall, St. Olaf embarked on the public phase of a \$200 million campaign for key priorities that reflect the promises we make to our students — to challenge them academically, help them find their purpose, and prepare them for professional accomplishment, financial independence, and personal fulfillment.

“Time and again during my tenure as president, I have been grateful for the wisdom of our founders in choosing to build St. Olaf College on the Hill. Both literally and figuratively, these expansive views encourage us to think boldly not only about the present but also about the college's future,” says President David R. Anderson '74. “This campaign enables the college to strengthen what it does well, and remain open to new ways of enhancing the value of a St. Olaf education. It allows future generations of Oles to achieve dreams beyond what they thought possible, and St. Olaf itself to thrive beyond the challenges and opportunities we can foresee today.”

In a time of change and uncertainty, a St. Olaf education continues to set graduates on solid paths to leadership in their lives, their chosen vocations, and their communities, spreading the impact of St. Olaf far beyond the Hill and past the bounds of our imagination.

Was there ever a time when the world needed Oles more?

## CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

- **Advance High-Impact Learning — \$68.5 million.** *Research has shown that off-campus study, faculty-mentored research, internships, and other forms of experiential education can improve knowledge retention, critical thinking, and career preparedness.*
- **Strengthen Community — \$31.5 million.** *On this purposefully residential campus, teamwork, inclusion, and civil discourse not only define the Ole way of life but are urgently needed in a complex and divisive world. We seek to provide even more ways for students, faculty, and staff to discover and grow together.*
- **Enhance Affordability — \$65 million.** *St. Olaf remains committed to meeting the demonstrated financial need of every admitted student through a combination of grants, loans, and student work awards, and by keeping college debt reasonable and affordable. This pledge reflects our values, and it will require greater levels of philanthropic support.*
- **Sustain Our Mission — \$35 million.** *Our fast-paced world often presents unexpected opportunities to advance the college's mission. Annual gifts to the St. Olaf Fund help today's students take immediate advantage of opportunities to excel, while easing reliance on tuition.*



Hannah Hartz '17 at Bukhansan National Park in Seoul, South Korea





*“This campaign allows future generations of Oles  
to achieve dreams beyond what they thought possible.”*

PRESIDENT DAVID R. ANDERSON '74



**H**IGH-IMPACT LEARNING PRACTICES actively engage students in learning. At St. Olaf, we have long employed and continue to excel in these key practices: international and off-campus study, faculty-mentored research, academic and professional internships, and our signature Conversation programs. Such practices provide rich opportunities for experiential learning outside the classroom, as well as meaningful collaboration with faculty and peers. The impact of these practices enables students to deepen their critical thinking abilities, retain knowledge longer, and develop career-critical 21st-century skills highly sought by employers.

Off-campus study, faculty-mentored research, academic and professional internships, interdisciplinary learning communities, and academic innovation projects are initiatives that represent some of the college's primary funding priorities within the high-impact learning portion of the campaign. *For the Hill and Beyond* will enable St. Olaf to increase the scope and depth of the high-impact educational experiences it provides to students both on and off campus, ensuring that every student has access to at least two of these experiences during their four years of college.

**HANNAH HARTZ '17****Hometown:** Grinnell, Iowa**Major:** Exercise Science**On-Campus Involvement:** Women's Swimming and Diving, Pre-Physical/Occupational Therapy Club, Sports Medicine Club, Alpha Phi Omega (service fraternity), A+ Art Club (volunteer), *hercampus.com* (writer)**Scholarships:** Omar and Margery Otterness Endowed Scholarship, Lawrence A. Groot Endowed Scholarship, Mary E. Wilkens/Steven L. Peterson Endowed Scholarship

**A**s a sophomore, Hannah Hartz '17 traveled to Morocco as part of an Interim program that examined how geometry plays a central role in the country's Islamic tradition. That month abroad was unlike anything she had ever experienced before.

"It challenged my beliefs, tested my patience, and opened my eyes to a whole new educational pathway that I had never expected to follow," Hartz says. It also solidified her decision to go on Global Semester.

"Traveling with 16 other Oles to seven different countries has by far been the most memorable experience during my time on the Hill," Hartz says. "It led to a tremendous amount of self-growth and impacted the ways in which I view the world and its citizens."

Opportunities like this are something that Hartz, who will be the first person in her family to complete a four-year college degree, doesn't take for granted. Her experiences have led her to pursue a career as an occupational therapist. To that end, she volunteered and shadowed therapists last summer at On With Life, a brain injury rehabilitation facility in Ankeny, Iowa. As she looks toward her future, Hartz says she's confident that her liberal arts education has prepared her well.







Starting in the fall of 2017, St. Olaf students will be able to participate in the faculty-led Global Semester — which takes 20 students to seven countries around the world — for the same cost as studying on campus. To make this possible, Lawrence (Larry) Stranghoener '76 and Lynn Seifert Stranghoener '76 established a new endowed fund that will underwrite Global Semester, the college's longest-standing study abroad program. Its earnings will be matched annually by St. Olaf's Strategic Initiative Match program.

"The generosity of this gift is matched by its thoughtfulness," says President David R. Anderson '74. "This gift ensures the continuity of one of the college's signature programs. It will enrich the experience of St. Olaf students for generations to come."

As one of St. Olaf's most rewarding programs, Global Semester requires extensive air travel and field excursions, which drive its additional costs. In recent years, total costs per student have ranged from \$10,000 to \$13,000 above the comprehensive fee, placing Global Semester out of reach for many students. Now the Stranghoener Family Fund will cover this additional cost for students.

The Stranghoeners' inspiration for their gift comes from their own study abroad experiences. Lynn had the chance to study in Avignon, France, and their daughter (Rachel Stranghoener '10) participated in Global Semester — an experience she described as life-changing — in addition to an Interim in Turkey and Greece.

"International travel has long been a part of our personal, academic, and professional lives," say Larry and Lynn. "We have had global experiences that have shaped our world view and who we are. By supporting Global, we hope to encourage students' development of a global perspective, foster their learning about the world and other cultures, broaden their horizons, and enhance their self-discovery — and give them the joy and occasional frustration of living in close community with other students and professors over the course of a semester."

This gift is part of the *For the Hill and Beyond* campaign to raise endowed and annual funding in support of high-impact educational practices such as off-campus study.

■ **Off-campus study** is an intense and transformational experience, one of exploration and self-discovery. St. Olaf has been a national leader in study abroad for more than a half-century. As travel costs increase, greater philanthropic investment is needed to ensure that international study remains a cornerstone of a St. Olaf education.





■ **Interdisciplinary learning communities** such as St. Olaf's Conversations programs unite students from diverse backgrounds, interests, and majors in a common intellectual exploration based on a sequence of courses all taken by the same group of students. Beginning with the Great Conversation in 1980, the college has added Asian Conversations, American Conversations, the Science Conversation, Environmental Conversations, and, most recently, the Public Affairs Conversation. Today, more students desire to enroll in St. Olaf learning communities than can be accommodated. Philanthropic support for the Conversations will enable the college to advance opportunities for student participation.

■ **Academic innovation** supported through the creation of endowed funds will allow St. Olaf to identify and pursue new approaches to high-impact learning. Recent academic innovation projects include adding "Big Data" instruction to mathematics and statistics courses, developing an archaeological field school in Turkey, experimenting with teaching spaces and technologies in the college's older academic buildings, and providing advanced training and professional development workshops for faculty engaged in academic advising.

*Through participation in original, scholarly, faculty-mentored research and creative activities, students are able to evaluate where their skills, interests, and values best fit with their future professional endeavors, an experience that gives them an edge in the competition for entrance to leading graduate programs and post-college employment.*

Before arriving at St. Olaf, Zachariah Tritz '17 had never conducted research. He wasn't an athlete. And he certainly didn't consider himself musically talented. Yet during his time on the Hill, he got involved in the St. Olaf Gospel Choir, became co-captain of the Boxing Club, and had the opportunity to participate in research projects that have shaped his career plans. That, he says, is what makes the Hill such an exceptional place to spend four years.

"Being involved in a number of extracurricular activities has enabled me to connect across disciplines with faculty and students I never would have met otherwise," Tritz says.

The St. Olaf Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (CURI) Program gave Tritz the opportunity to conduct genetic research alongside Associate Professor of Biology Kim Kandl. He was then selected to participate in the University of Minnesota's Life Sciences Summer Undergraduate Research Program, where he spent several months studying the immune system's response to colorectal cancer.

Those experiences helped Tritz decide to pursue a Ph.D. in cancer biology, with the ultimate goal of eventually becoming a college professor.

"Without the opportunity to conduct research as an undergraduate, I never would have discovered my passion for scientific research," he says.



#### ZACHARIAH TRITZ '17

**Hometown:** Woodbury, Minnesota

**Majors:** Biology, Chemistry

**On-Campus Involvement:** Great Conversation, Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (CURI), *Island Biology in the Bahamas* Interim, St. Olaf Gospel Choir, TRIO Educational Talent Search, St. Olaf Boxing Club (co-captain), St. Olaf Habitat for Humanity

**Scholarships:** T. Dean Gillund and Andrea Brynestad Gillund Scholarship Fund, George A. and Anne J. Beito Endowed Scholarship, Henry and Blondina Otto Endowed Scholarship



*Academic and professional internships allow students to gain insight into career options and obtain valuable practical experience in their chosen field – one of the ways in which St. Olaf helps students transition from college to work. St. Olaf's Strategic Plan aspires to have 70 percent of all students participate in an internship by the time they graduate.*

Kevin Bethke '78 and Barite Gutama '17 at Northwestern University Medical Center in Chicago



**BARITE GUTAMA '17**

**Hometown:** Minneapolis

**Major:** Chemistry, Biomolecular Science concentration

**On-Campus Involvement:**

TRIO McNair Scholar, NorthStar STEM Alliance Program (cohort leader), Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (president), Pre-Health Professionals Club, Junior Counselor, Peruvian Medical Experience Interim, TRIO Student Support Services

**Scholarships:** Johanna Winger Memorial Endowed Scholarship, Billi and Vern Faillettaz Endowed Scholarship

ANNE RYAN/POLARIS

**B**y the time Barite Gutama '17 arrived at St. Olaf, she had already beaten the odds. Just two years earlier, she had immigrated to the United States from Ethiopia. She had no idea how to pursue her childhood dream of becoming a doctor, but she dug in at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis, taking advanced courses in chemistry while learning English. Gutama got an internship at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, volunteered at food shelters, and graduated at the top of her high school class.

Initially drawn to St. Olaf by its strong science and pre-med programs, Gutama was struck by the college's commitment to supporting students and providing them with high-impact educational experiences, ranging from research to study abroad.

She has made the most of those opportunities, balancing on-campus research and an internship at 3M with the coursework for her chemistry major and biomolecular science concentration. Once again, her hard work and determination are opening new doors. Gutama was one of just 12 college students nationwide selected to conduct hands-on research with top cancer experts this summer through the Northwestern University Continuing Umbrella of Research Experience (CURE) Program.

"In addition to the research experience, my summer at Northwestern has enabled me to interact with professionals and develop a vision for the kind of physician I aspire to become," Gutama says.

And while she might not know exactly what that looks like just yet, Gutama says one thing is certain: the opportunities she has received at St. Olaf have prepared her exceptionally well for a career in medicine.

*"St. Olaf has provided me with unique opportunities and helped me view things from a broader perspective. My liberal arts education has prepared me to become a physician who cares for the person as a whole."*

**S**t. Olaf Regent Dr. Kevin Bethke '78 teamed up with his sister, Rhonda Brau P'12, to create the Bethke Brau Family Opportunity Fund to help students access meaningful extracurricular opportunities, ranging from academic conferences to public health service trips. A first-generation college student who grew up on his family farm in rural Minnesota, Bethke gained from St. Olaf a readiness for medical school and a new awareness of his role as a citizen of the world. He now teaches clinical surgery at Northwestern University in Chicago, is vice chief of staff of Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and serves as associate director of the hospital's Lynn Sage Comprehensive Breast Center. Bethke says that he and his sister were "delighted to establish the fund at St. Olaf. I've encouraged students to invest in experiences, not things, and hopefully the Bethke Brau Fund will provide students with inspiring and enriching opportunities."



**L**IVING AND LEARNING IN COMMUNITY is at the core of what makes a St. Olaf education distinctive. Our community is enhanced by the many extra- and co-curricular opportunities available to students on the Hill. Being part of a diverse residential culture encourages achievement, forms friendships around shared experiences, and promotes the development of skills and habits of mind and heart that prepare students for life beyond college.

Gifts to *For the Hill and Beyond* will enable the college to strengthen its on-campus community through support for priority areas that include student organizations and activities, athletics, and interdisciplinary centers of thought. This includes adding coaching and training, synthetic turf to Manitou Field, and an on-campus ice arena; increasing funds for student organizations and activities; and facilitating community-wide reflection and dialogue on complex issues about our role as citizens in a democracy, as well as questions about faith and values.

#### ■ Student organizations and activities

form the heart of student life at St. Olaf. By encouraging students to interact with others outside of their academic major, class year, or immediate circle of friends, these activities build productive relationships with others and teach lessons of cooperation and tolerance. As the number of student organizations grows, so does the need for additional resources.

■ **Athletic competition** is an integral part of a well-rounded educational experience at St. Olaf. Each year more than one in five Oles are proud to don the black-and-gold uniform of the college's 27 varsity sports. St. Olaf also offers some 20 competitive club sports and more than two dozen intramural offerings that utilize the outstanding athletic and recreational facilities the college provides. St. Olaf fully embraces the philosophy of the scholar-athlete, where athletes are considered students above all else. (See page 20 for more on athletics at St. Olaf.)

#### ■ Interdisciplinary centers of thought

facilitate community-wide reflection and dialogue on complex issues about our role as citizens in a democracy and members of a larger society, as well as questions of faith and values. These encounters represent an important extension of the college's mission. Two new initiatives at St. Olaf employ the institute or center model for bridging disciplines and bringing together faculty, staff, and students in a collaborative manner. The Institute for Freedom and Community encourages free inquiry and meaningful debate of important public policy issues. A new center for community, connection, and contemporary Lutheran thought will similarly engage all members of the St. Olaf community in exploring questions of faith, meaning, values, and vocation.







**EVAN LEBO '17**

**Hometown:** Baldwin, Wisconsin  
**Major:** Economics (finance emphasis), Statistics concentration  
**On-Campus Involvement:** St. Olaf Cantorei, Board of Regents Student Committee, Admissions Office, teaching assistant in the Economics Department, Student Government Association, Omicron Delta Epsilon, Blue Key Honor Society  
**Scholarships:** Baucus and Company Endowed Scholarship, Jane and Edward Hoiness Endowed Scholarship, Oleson-Ellefson Scholarship

**E**van Lebo '17 grew up on a three-acre strawberry farm in a town of 4,000 people. "What I learned from growing up in this community is that I wanted to attend a college where I would have courses with classmates whose names I would know," he says.

Lebo found himself drawn to St. Olaf College's academic rigor, its musical excellence, and its beautiful campus. But it was the "sense of lifelong community that comes with being an Ole," he says, that sealed the deal for him.

Since arriving at St. Olaf, his experiences within the college's tight-knit community have "really taught me what can be accomplished when a group of motivated Oles comes together."

Lebo found a similar sense of community during a semester spent studying in Copenhagen, Denmark. "While I enjoyed my courses, traveling, and just being in another country, my experience abroad was truly made by my host family. I did not just have a place to stay; rather, I had a family who cared about me and welcomed me with open arms," he says.

Lebo expects that sense of community to continue after he leaves the Hill. "I am struck by how passionate and loyal alumni are," he says. "Even after graduation, they continue to show their Ole pride."

*"I am very thankful knowing that when I graduate, I have a job waiting that excites me and is with people who I enjoy being around."*

In fact, Lebo will soon join another Ole community after he leaves the St. Olaf campus: on the heels of a recent summer internship with UnitedHealth Group's Corporate Development team, which includes several St. Olaf alumni, he was offered a full-time position on the team.

**M**eaghan Carney '18 says being a student-athlete at St. Olaf really is the best of both worlds: she has the opportunity to pursue her passions academically while playing competitively in the sport she loves — golf. "It's great because it's well understood that academics come first, but we are still able to compete," says Carney. While Carney loves being a

**MEAGHAN CARNEY '18**

**Hometown:** Green Bay, Wisconsin  
**Major:** Biology  
**On-Campus Involvement:** Women's Golf, Biology Club, St. Olaf Global Brigades  
**Scholarship:** Leutz-Peterson-Mavis Family Endowed Scholarship



member of a tight-knit varsity women's golf team that competes in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, she also loves that it's not the sole focus of her St. Olaf experience.

Knowing she wanted to pursue a career in health care, Carney was drawn by the college's strong science and pre-health programs, as well as myriad opportunities to explore a wide range of courses and interests.

As a first-year student, she participated in a St. Olaf Global Brigades study-abroad program in Honduras. Working alongside medical professionals, she and other St. Olaf students brought clinics to rural communities in one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. It was while in Honduras, Carney says, that "I discovered how strong my passion for medicine truly is."

After volunteering at a Salvation Army dental clinic and working as a nursing assistant last summer, she plans to apply for medical or dental school after graduating from St. Olaf.

"Being part of different groups has enriched my experience," says Carney, "because college is so much more than just doing well in your classes. This is also the time to meet your best friends and make memories."





**T**HE VALUE OF A ST. OLAF DEGREE depends not only on the immediate and long-term outcomes a St. Olaf education delivers but also on how affordable this education is for our students. The cost of college nationally — even after financial aid — has reached levels that strain the budgets of many exceptionally qualified students and their families. Nearly 90 percent of St. Olaf students receive some form of financial aid — including scholarships, loans, and student work awards — and 75 percent receive need-based assistance. By keeping tuition and learning opportunities affordable, St. Olaf will continue helping students realize their aspirations and goals more readily, from the moment they consider the college as a prospective student.

*No deserving student with high academic potential should be denied the opportunity to attend St. Olaf on the basis of cost alone. Through gifts to For the Hill and Beyond, alumni and friends can expand St. Olaf's available scholarships, keep the college accessible, and ensure that all students are able to take advantage of opportunities to discover and pursue their purposes.*



#### **JAKE BARZEN '17**

**Hometown:** Spring Green, Wisconsin

**Major:** Environmental Studies

**On-Campus Involvement:** Men's Soccer, Men's Rugby, Sports Medicine Club, Recreation, Exercise Science, and Athletics (RESA), St. Olaf's Latin American Students Organization (SOMOS)

**Scholarships:** Robert M. and Lydia D. Quanbeck Endowed Scholarship, Don Canfield Memorial Endowed Scholarship

**H**ow does a liberal arts education prepare someone to become a protector of and conservator of wildlife? Jake Barzen '17 could tell you.

Barzen, who majors in environmental studies, aspires to become a game warden. He was drawn to

St. Olaf because of its excellence in the liberal arts, but the opportunities that the college offered beyond the classroom were another important attraction.

"To me, the benefit of St. Olaf is that it provides a very strong academic education, but it also provides an equally good education in the extracurricular activities that I have been able to participate in."

Barzen grew up in a small, rural Wisconsin town and "wanted to use these four years to try things that I hadn't had the opportunity to try back home," says Barzen, who included study abroad experiences in Quito, Ecuador, and Snåsa, Norway, among his many experiences on the Hill.

"I have had some incredible experiences by taking advantage of these extracurricular opportunities," he adds. "Those are irreplaceable." Chief among these experiences has been his participation in the men's soccer team, which "has drilled time management and commitment into me, as well as taught me how to lead a balanced life," he says.

Last summer, Barzen worked with animals as a wrangler at a ranch in Colorado, where he helped with tacking and untacking horses and leading rides. He also pitched in with ranch maintenance and the cattle grazing stock.

"A game warden has to figure out everything they need to know to perform his or her duties," he says. "That, in essence, is the whole idea of a liberal arts education: learning how to learn."



■ **Endowed scholarships** not only help individual students but strengthen and sustain the college by lowering its dependence on annual tuition and fees. Just as important, by increasing the number and size of scholarships available, the loan amount in financial aid packages can be reduced, in some cases significantly, allowing students to graduate with less debt.

■ **Opportunity funds**, created and supported through private gifts, are intended for high-need students who often are prevented from taking part in academic enrichment programs and career advancement opportunities simply because of cost. Need-based grants or other opportunity awards created by generous donors help to level the playing field for all Oles.



St. Olaf Regent Kristine (Kris) Olson Johnson '73 and Rob Johnson, with their daughters, Kelsey and Berit, established the Johnson Family Opportunity Fund, an internship scholarship program that helps first-generation and low-income students pursue academic enhancing experiences, pre-professional training, and graduate school preparatory opportunities. "Many low-income students have difficulty accessing out-of-classroom educational experiences and internships, even though they are a very important part of student learning," says Kris. "The right internship can inform academic and career decisions and make classroom learning more relevant. We decided as a family that was an area where we could have a meaningful impact."



**VANESSA LÓPEZ '17**

**Hometown:** Moorpark, California

**Major:** Vocal Music Education and Music Elective Studies

**On-Campus Involvement:** St. Olaf Choir, Gospel Choir, German Choir, Student Lab Choir, Early Music Singers, Ole Vocal Jazz, St. Olaf Student Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association (president), Lyric Theater, TRIO McNair Scholar, TRIO Student Support Services (Board of Leaders)

**Scholarships:** Joseph and Gladys Gunderson Scholarship, Gerhardt and Lyla (Pederson) Paulsrud Endowed Scholarship, Nicki Hanson '54 Endowed Scholarship in Choral Music

Last summer, Vanessa López '17 spent time in Barcelona studying alongside renowned Colombian-born soprano Patricia Caicedo and others, including highly acclaimed Brazilian tenor and musicologist Lenine Santos, thanks to funding López received from the Johnson Family Opportunity Fund. She was one of only four students from around the world selected to study with Caicedo in an intensive two-week program. In addition to taking a variety of classes designed to increase participants' overall musical knowledge, López worked with linguists to learn Brazilian Portuguese, Catalan, and Spanish.

"The most enjoyable experience of being in Barcelona was being able to collaborate and work with musicians from all over the globe," she says.

She's now applied that knowledge on the Hill, working with St. Olaf Professor of Music Nancy Paddleford to design a website that features Latin American music recordings, English translations, information about individual composers, and more.

López is creating the website as part of the college's TRIO McNair Scholars Program. The program, she says, has opened "endless doors of possibilities" to conduct research and participate in projects that have prepared her to pursue a graduate degree and eventually teach music.

López was drawn to the Hill by the opportunity to sing with the St. Olaf Choir — which she has done since the spring of her first year on campus. But it was the warm sense of community she found on campus and the ability to pursue a wide array of interests that sealed her decision.

*"I have always wanted to be involved in music where it is appreciated, to be in a community where professors care about their students, and feel at home with my peers. St. Olaf gave me all this and more."*





**“ST. OLAF COLLEGE CHALLENGES STUDENTS TO EXCEL IN THE LIBERAL ARTS, EXAMINE FAITH AND VALUES, AND EXPLORE MEANINGFUL VOCATION IN AN INCLUSIVE, GLOBALLY ENGAGED COMMUNITY NOURISHED BY LUTHERAN TRADITION.”**

...

As co-chairs of *For the Hill and Beyond*, St. Olaf Regent Phil Milne '81 and Mona Leu Milne '81 are leading advocacy and solicitation efforts in concert with fellow regents and the St. Olaf advancement staff. Phil has served as a regent since 2007 and chaired the planning committee that devised and launched the campaign. Mona similarly has worked as a volunteer fundraiser in multiple roles.

As of November 30, 2016, 17,959 donors contributed more than \$136.5 million toward the \$200 million campaign goal. “It’s inspiring and humbling to see how many alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and even students have responded so far,” says Phil. “St. Olaf has weaved in and out of our lives over so many years — Mona and I met here, and we both have benefitted greatly from our time on the Hill. This place changed our lives.”

For Mona, who grew up in a small Iowa farm town, attending St. Olaf was never a sure thing. Her family owned an implement dealership and appliance shop, yet like many area firms, they were devastated by the oil shortage in the 1970s and subsequent stagflation, just as Mona was applying to college.

“St. Olaf was my dream school; I always wanted to sing in the choir,” says Mona. “Financially, though, it was a great stretch. I worked to save money — I carhopped, walked beans, tasseled corn, nannied, babysat, sang at weddings, and served ice cream. Still, whether I could afford to attend depended entirely on the financial aid package I would receive. Times are not too different for a lot of families now.”

Thanks to generous financial support, Mona’s dream of enrolling in St. Olaf came true. Once on the Hill, she majored in speech and sang with the St. Olaf Choir in Carnegie Hall, as well as in Norway and Sweden. Phil majored in economics and has since held leadership positions at several corporations, including his current role as CEO and co-owner of Rapid Packaging in Champlin, Minnesota. Two of their sons, Steven '11 and Tom '14 — along with the Ole wives of Steven and the Milnes’ oldest son, Dave (a Luther grad) — also benefitted from many programs that *For the Hill and Beyond* seeks now to support.

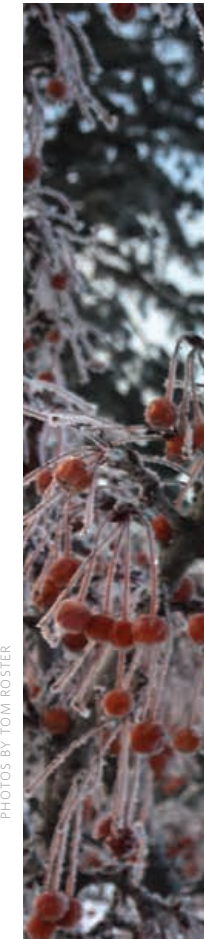
For the campaign, the Milnes established an endowed scholarship to perpetually provide financial aid for any students who need support. Because of the importance of annual giving to St. Olaf’s operations, they have also committed \$25,000 per year to the St. Olaf Fund.

“Mona and I still feel so connected to the life of the college, and have seen the impact it makes possible. We want to ensure all deserving students can gain as meaningful an education as St. Olaf has given us,” says Phil.

THE COLLEGE’S MISSION STATEMENT, revised and adopted in 2016, succinctly captures the promise we make to our students and, by extension, to the lives they will touch after graduation. But a mission is more than a statement of intent: it’s a living thing, a constant practice, a perpetual journey to which we devote large and small steps each day.

Everything we do to sustain our mission, now and in the future, rests on generous and ongoing support for the St. Olaf Fund, our most critical and flexible source of funding. The St. Olaf Fund provides annual operating support to help bridge the gap between collected tuition and related fees and the actual cost of educating and housing St. Olaf students. The St. Olaf Fund works in tandem with earnings from the college’s endowed funds to provide immediate support for the college’s daily needs. The fund now provides \$4.6 million yearly on average in current spending for financial aid, academics, and life on the Hill.

The St. Olaf Fund provides crucial support for existing programs and operations that are vital to the college’s mission. The St. Olaf Fund also helps the college weather challenges and make the most of unexpected opportunities. Support for the St. Olaf Fund underwrites important enhancements to the academic program, facilities, and campus activities, providing the margin of excellence that distinguishes and sets the St. Olaf experience apart from its top-ranked peers across the nation.



PHOTOS BY TOM ROSTER



*For the Hill and Beyond* encourages contributions to key priorities such as scholarships and student-life initiatives. Every gift counts and every gift matters. But in truth, gifts to the St. Olaf Fund matter more. Pooled together, these unrestricted contributions can be used where they are needed most and can have the greatest impact, thereby leveraging and maximizing gifts to other areas of the campaign. Gifts to the St. Olaf Fund move the college closer to a future that reflects the college's values and traditions, allowing it to remain agile, imaginative, and steadfast in its unwavering commitment to excellence in everything it does.

**W**HAT LIES BEYOND St. Olaf's hilltop location is a familiar landscape that, even 140 years later, the college's founders might recognize. Look into the future, however, and what lies beyond the St. Olaf of today is far less familiar.

That's why *For the Hill and Beyond* is so urgent, and so critically important. Now is the time to come together to ensure the college has the strength, stability, and resources to prepare tomorrow's students for whatever opportunities and challenges the future may bring. 🦌

*"Each gift to the St. Olaf Fund is a vote for the college and our students."*

PRESIDENT DAVID R. ANDERSON '74



**SIRIANA LUNDGREN '19**

**Hometown:** Billings, Montana

**Major:** Music Performance

**On-Campus Involvement:** Great Conversation, St. Olaf Cantorei, Political Awareness Committee, St. Olaf Fund Phonathon

**Scholarships:** F. Melius and Olaf Christiansen Scholarship, Presidential Scholarship, James R. Hexem Scholarship

**Y**ou may have heard Siri Lundgren's voice. She's not only a performance major and mezzo-soprano who sings in the St. Olaf Cantorei, but she's also a participant in the St. Olaf Fund's annual phonathon, where she calls on alumni to renew their support to the college. It's a job that helps support her education and connects her with alumni who enjoy sharing their favorite memories from the Hill.

Lundgren enjoys these alumni reminiscences, which have included "just a little mischief — like secretly stringing Christmas lights on the water tower," she says, "or remembering their favorite professors or former dorms." Christmas Festival memories are particularly cherished, something Lundgren, the daughter of a Lutheran pastor, can relate to. "I grew up listening to Christmas Festival CDs with my family. That's how I first learned about St. Olaf."

As an Ole, Lundgren has varied opportunities to explore her interest in music history and ethnomusicology, including mentored music research. She's also part of the Great Conversation, Political Awareness Committee, and the Lyric Theater. She's completed internships in her hometown, taken part in an opera "boot camp" in Italy, and is setting her sights on another internship at the Smithsonian Institution.

Lundgren's phonathon work also drives her. She sees how Oles help each other, and considers how she can one day give back. "Financial aid is definitely a go-to for my calls," she says, "and it's important to students like me. I am grateful for the support that others and St. Olaf have provided me; it truly motivates me to make the most of my time here, to be the best I can be."

Learn more about *For the Hill and Beyond: The Campaign for St. Olaf*, and how you can give it your support, at [stolaf.edu/campaign](http://stolaf.edu/campaign).



# BRING Ice HOME


As part of the *For the Hill and Beyond* campaign, St. Olaf is committed to building an on-campus ice arena that will foster stronger connections between athletics, academics, and wellness. The arena will engage all members of the St. Olaf community in year-round, ice-related opportunities, including hockey, broomball, curling, figure skating, and enriched academic offerings for studies in physical movement.

Athletic competition and physical fitness is an integral part of a well-rounded educational experience at St. Olaf. The new arena, as a key part of life on the Hill, will support competitive success and strengthen the campus community by seamlessly integrating athletic and recreational activities with academic pursuits. It's just one aspect of St. Olaf's 2016 Framework Plan, a strategic guide for the college's capital project development over the next 20 years. The plan details options related to current and future infrastructure development, including new facilities (such as the eventual construction of a comprehensive performing arts center), pedestrian and vehicular circulation throughout campus, land use, and considerations for sustainability.

The indoor ice arena, with an NHL-sized rink, will replace the existing Skoglund Fieldhouse and will be fully integrated within the Skoglund/Tostrud athletic complex as a standard for excellence in ice-related fitness, training, competition, and spectator experience. The building will meet the college's sustainability standards, with the early goal of designing and operating the facility in a way that does not exceed St. Olaf's average annual BTUs per square foot.

"We're confident that we can achieve this with the ice arena because we had the same goal for Regents Hall, which was built in 2008 and currently operates with 40 percent less energy than the average," says Pete Sandberg, assistant vice president for facilities. "But until we get further into the rink's design and engineering, it's hard to say more than that."

While the varsity hockey programs (which for years have traveled off campus for practices and games) are obvious beneficiaries of an on-campus ice arena, easy access to a rink will increase Ole pride across the board, offering additional opportunities to develop healthy habits of body and mind and celebrating the diversity of experiences available to students.

"The general buzz about the rink is positive," says Hannah Forliti '17, an all-conference women's hockey player from Shoreview, Minnesota. "One-third of St. Olaf students are involved in athletic activity in one way or another, so having new types of facilities on campus that will encourage fitness, as well as support Ole athletes, is a good thing." 

— MARLA HILL HOLT '88







The proposed ice arena (pictured in this rendering) will be connected to the Skoglund/Tostrud athletic complex and will engage students in year-round ice-related opportunities, a prospect that excites athletes such as Julia Hussian '20 (left) and the Ole hockey teams. Especially energized about the prospect of having home ice are the Ole women's hockey captains (L-R) Jane Vezina '18, Hannah Forliti '17, Megan Skelly '17, and Karma Knutson '17, and the men's hockey captains (L-R) Eric Hancock '19, Judd Loewenstein '18, Carter Lukenda '18, and Chris Hansen '17.



ATHLETIC COMPETITION IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A WELL-ROUNDED ST. OLAF EDUCATION, HELPING STUDENTS DEVELOP HEALTHY HABITS OF MIND, HEART, AND BODY WHILE IMPARTING IMPORTANT LIFE LESSONS.

# GAME ON

BY MARLA HILL HOLT '88







St. Olaf student-athletes Amadou Gueye '17, Lauren Martin '17, Austin Majeskie '17, and Jessica Bentley '18  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER



**L**auren Martin, a senior chemistry major from Thornton, Colorado, grew up playing soccer like many girls born in the 1990s. She first stepped onto a field at the age of four, leading to a childhood filled with other soccer-loving friends. “So many of my friends come from soccer,” Martin says. “Early on, I met another little girl at practice and after discovering she lived on my street, our moms arranged a playdate for us and we’ve been best friends ever since.”

After 14 years of playing the sport — except for one year in high school when she joined the marching band — Martin was ready to hang up her cleats, with little desire to join a collegiate team.

“I didn’t initially plan to play soccer in college,” she says. But the sport’s pull — and the recruiting prowess of St. Olaf’s coaching staff — was too strong. Once again, Martin found herself on a team surrounded by friends, many of whom have been her roommates, her dinner partners, and her biggest cheerleaders.

“I’m so glad I’ve played soccer at St. Olaf, because there’s something so special about being a part of a team on this campus,” she says. “I’m certainly not a star player, and there have been times I’ve wanted to quit, but in such a supportive atmosphere of encouragement, respect, and perspective, I’ve been able to persevere.”

Martin notes that although playing soccer has been a big part of her experience at St. Olaf, helping her develop skills transferable to any setting, such as teamwork, time management, and dedication to a common goal, it hasn’t been the only thing that defines her. While enjoying the many benefits of being an athlete, like regular physical activity that pushes her to “use my brain in a different way,” Martin has pursued her academic interests. Those interests include a passion for biomedical engineering, which she hopes to parlay into a career that balances research and medicine, particularly in the field of neuroprosthetics.

“At St. Olaf, we are students who play sports, not athletes who happen to go to class,” Martin says, articulating a student-athlete philosophy that is fully embraced by the college.

**A**thletics is an important part of life on the Hill: every year, 20 percent of the student body dons a black-and-gold uniform for St. Olaf as intercollegiate athletes; hundreds more compete in one of the college’s 20 club sports or gather with friends to challenge their peers in nearly two dozen intramural sports; and an untallied number of fans show up to the sidelines of every game and event to sing *Um! Yah! Yah!* Along with its encouragement of athletic involvement, the college requires every student to complete two studies in physical movement courses before graduating.





"I'm certainly not a star player, and there have been times I've wanted to quit, but in such a supportive atmosphere of encouragement, respect, and perspective, I've been able to persevere."

— LAUREN MARTIN '17







These aspects of a St. Olaf education reflect the college's highly held value of promoting lifelong health and wellness. That value also is reflected in St. Olaf's identification of support for its athletics program as a priority in its \$200 million *For the Hill and Beyond* comprehensive campaign. Athletics falls under the umbrella of resources needed to strengthen the St. Olaf residential community, together with initiatives for support of St. Olaf's 250 student organizations and its interdisciplinary centers of thought, such as the Institute for Freedom and Community.

"So many of the skills that St. Olaf student-athletes develop while playing their sports are helpful in building strong communities — on campus and beyond," says Ryan Bowles, St. Olaf's first full-time athletic director (previous athletic directors have simultaneously held coaching or other administrative positions). Bowles began his tenure at the college in September 2015 to provide leadership and vision for the athletics program. He also is responsible for managing the increasingly complex requirements of St. Olaf's participation in 27 NCAA Division III sports, more sports than any other school in the highly competitive Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC).

"I'm struck by how engaged our student-athletes are and how passionate they are, not just about their sport but about every aspect of their education," Bowles says. "Their first desire is to get a top-notch education, and our responsibility as coaches and administrators is to make sure that their participation in collegiate athletics doesn't get in the way of that, but rather enhances it, so that they have a truly comprehensive experience at St. Olaf."

The philosophy that athletes at St. Olaf are considered students above all else — and the prioritization of their academic needs and success — resonates throughout the college's athletics program. It's a message that students hear loud and clear.

"I chose St. Olaf because of its reputation for rigorous academics," says Amadou Gueye '17, a mathematics and physics major with a passion for engineering who is a midfielder on the men's soccer team. "The school emphasized education first. Getting to also play soccer, a game I love, with a great group of guys who are also good students has been really nice." Gueye is from Paris and has played with St. Olaf teammates from Swaziland, Nigeria, Ethiopia, France, Venezuela, Norway, Switzerland, Vietnam, Mexico, and Yemen. During his junior year, the team — the most international varsity soccer team in St. Olaf's history — advanced to the Sweet 16 round of the national tournament for the first time ever, an accomplishment that Gueye says he'll always cherish.

"We worked hard and came together as a group, united and bonded," he says. "That was really special."

**"So many of the skills that St. Olaf student-athletes develop while playing their sports are helpful in building strong communities — on campus and beyond."**

— ST. OLAF ATHLETIC DIRECTOR RYAN BOWLES

**S**t. Olaf has long been committed to providing a meaningful residential experience for its students, freeing them to pursue a diversity of interests in modern, safe, and welcoming spaces as they live and learn alongside their peers. For the sake of students who are passionate about athletics, that commitment involves providing





excellent facilities that promote health and wellness, support competitive success, and develop individual skills. Those same facilities engage the entire St. Olaf community in participating in an array of physical fitness and recreational activities, from yoga and Zumba classes to strength training in Tostrud to running or cross country skiing on St. Olaf's natural lands.

Comfortable and accessible spaces also strengthen the bonds between student-athletes and their fans, as easy access to games and events lends itself to crowds ready to cheer on their fellow Oles.

Recent improvements to athletic facilities at St. Olaf include a new competition floor in the Bob Gelle Court in Skoglund Center, which is home to basketball, volleyball, and wrestling. In 2016, thanks to an anonymous gift to the college, the football team began playing on new synthetic turf installed on Manitou Field, joining five other MIAC









football teams that have made the switch from natural grass to improve field performance and durability, as well as player safety. The only capital building project included in the *For the Hill and Beyond* campaign is the construction of an on-campus ice arena, which will eliminate the hockey teams' need to travel off-campus for practices and games while greatly enhancing opportunities for all students to participate in ice-related activities.

"I can't wait to hear the roar of the crowd at that first home game," says men's hockey co-captain Chris Hansen '17, echoing the sentiments of hockey alumni who have waited years to see the college have its own ice rink. "Whoever we play, they better be ready," adds Hansen, "because they're going to have a hard time beating the Oles on home ice."

"Athletics matters here," Bowles says. "St. Olaf prides itself on excellence, so there's no reason why the athletics program, as a piece of the whole pie, shouldn't contribute to that. Like music and other avenues, athletics is the front door for many people — it creates that first impression of the college."

Indeed, student-athletes take seriously their role as ambassadors for St. Olaf as they represent the college at home and away.

"We lead by example every time we set foot on the field," Gueye says. "When we travel outside campus, we represent St. Olaf. When we're at home, in the classroom, and in the community, we represent our team, and that is a special duty."

**"I love being on a team that is competitive, but supportive as well. There's no tension; it's just a bunch of best friends playing a game we love and are passionate about."**

— AUSTIN MAJESKIE '17

**I**t's no surprise that student-athletes — who spend so much time together in pursuit of a common goal — cite the bond with their teammates as the most meaningful aspect of playing sports as an Ole. When asked why they love playing their particular sport, the first response is often "the team," or "getting to hang out with my closest friends." The sense of community among student-athletes is strong, with many acknowledging St. Olaf's supportive and encouraging athletic environment.

"St. Olaf does a really good job of recruiting athletes who are good people," says men's basketball player Austin Majeskie '17, an economics major from Mankato, Minnesota. "I noticed that when I came as a recruit. All of the guys were respectful and so welcoming. Now, as a player, I love being on a team that is competitive, but supportive as well. There's no yelling, no tension. It's just a bunch of best friends playing a game we love and are passionate about."

For Jessica Bentley '18, a French education major from Edina, Minnesota, and member of the women's cross country and softball teams, being a student-athlete at St. Olaf has meant having the freedom to explore many interests — such as her love for music and playing the French horn — while pursuing athletic excellence and building relationships with her peers, coaches, and professors.

"I came to St. Olaf because of my interest in music," Bentley says. "But I stayed because of athletics. As athletes, we work hard, and it's sometimes challenging to balance everything. But the coaches respect that we bring many different perspectives and interests with us to campus. They encourage us to pursue what's important to us."

Time management is just one of the skills and habits student-athletes develop on the playing field. Many others, such as discipline, diligence, hard work, leadership, self-responsibility, teamwork, and dealing with adversity, are interchangeable with qualities that lead to success in the classroom and the workplace.





“As athletes, we work hard, and it’s sometimes challenging to balance everything. But the coaches respect that we bring many different perspectives and interests with us to campus. They encourage us to pursue what’s important to us.”

— JESSICA BENTLEY '18

When former St. Olaf women’s basketball player Sheridan Blanford ’15 arrived on campus in the fall of 2011 as one of three first-year recruits, she was intensely focused on making the most of her playing time. And she met that goal: she played in all 26 games, scoring in double digits in five of them. But then a knee injury — and four subsequent surgeries — put her on the sidelines for her entire sophomore season, plus parts of her junior and senior seasons. Yet even when she couldn’t play, she was still welcomed as a contributing member of a team that collaborated and grew together as they worked toward the collective goal of winning games.

That experience changed Blanford’s outlook on what it meant to be a student-athlete at St. Olaf and opened up a new career path. “My injury gave me a new perspective as I learned to face and overcome adversity,” she says. “I also was able to look at the basketball court through a coaching and administrative lens, leading me to realize that I was interested in sports administration.” She designed her own activities and sports administration major under the Center for Integrative Studies and, as a TRIO McNair scholar, pursued independent research on gender and racial issues associated with Title IX, particularly looking at the experiences of female athletes of color in the MIAC. Today, Blanford is the assistant director of the MIAC.

The power of athletics to create community — by bringing together people from differing cultures, experiences, and backgrounds — isn’t unique to St. Olaf. But the genuine, lifelong connection these Oles have with each other is. “I’m going to carry the love I have for the friends I made through the basketball program at St. Olaf with me throughout the rest of my life,” Blanford says. “Those bonds were formed through triumphs, tears and hardship, and long hours together, but that’s the value of playing sports at St. Olaf. It has the power to transform you.” 🦁

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



"We lead by example every time we set foot on the field. When we travel outside campus, we represent St. Olaf. When we're at home, in the classroom, and in the community, we represent our team, and that is a special duty."

— AMADOU GUEYE '17







## The Third Period

In the spring of 2016, Mike Eaves was looking for a new job. A former NHL player and coach, he'd recently been let go by the University of Wisconsin, where he'd been the men's hockey coach for 14 seasons. He'd led the Wisconsin team to a national championship in 2006, but in recent years the team wasn't having the winning seasons the university expected. "Hockey is a business at Division I, and we weren't getting the job done," Eaves says. "So they made a change."

But then St. Olaf came calling, and everything "just fell into place," says Eaves, noting that the signs pointed him toward spending the "third period" of his life coaching the young men in St. Olaf's hockey program.

The first sign was that St. Olaf had recently hired his son Ben Eaves to be the college's strength and conditioning coordinator and assistant hockey coach, which meant Eaves would get to work alongside him. "Ben told me I'd love these kids because they're playing the game for the right reason — for the love of it," says Eaves, who embraces the fact that while Oles are dedicated athletes, academics always comes first.

"These guys will miss practice because they have a lab, and that's okay, because their education is the most important thing," Eaves says. "Hockey is like another lab, and once these players hit the ice, they commit to it 100 percent, knowing hockey can teach life skills like leadership, teamwork, and perseverance."

Second, Eaves and his wife, Beth, already owned a home on nearby Circle Lake (from his days coaching at Shattuck-St. Mary's School in Faribault). And third, as part of its campaign, *For the Hill and Beyond*, the college has committed to strengthening and supporting its athletics program, including the construction of an on-campus ice arena.

"Everything is coming together here at St. Olaf," Eaves says.

Ice hockey has been a central feature of Eaves's entire life. He calls himself a "hockey nomad," and he has played or coached in six northern states and three Canadian provinces. Born in Calgary as the son of a longtime hockey player and coach, Eaves moved a lot as a kid but played hockey through high school. He skated for the University of Wisconsin in college and then played professionally for the Minnesota North Stars and Calgary Flames. His coaching stops have included assistant jobs at St. Cloud State University, the Philadelphia Flyers and Pittsburgh Penguins, and the U.S. Junior National Team, among others.

"We moved so much, it was like our kids were army brats, only the draw was hockey," Eaves says. His other son, Patrick, is a 12-year veteran of the NHL who plays for the Dallas Stars.

St. Olaf is the last stop on Eaves's whirlwind tour of hockey programs, he says. "I've landed in a good spot, and it feels like hockey has come full circle for me." 🐾

— MARLA HILL HOLT '88





Head Men's Hockey Coach Mike Eaves

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER





# ARTISTIC

# INSPIRATION

IN THE INTERNET AGE

WITH VIVID ILLUSTRATIONS AND AMBITIOUS PROJECTS, JULIE VAN GROL '08 USES ART TO ENGAGE IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONVERSATIONS.

BY ERIN PETERSON

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JULIE VAN GROL  
PHOTOS BY KYLE KEHRWALD & BILL KELLEY









In a year awash with groundbreaking accomplishments by women — from Simone Biles’s Internet-breaking Olympic performances to Leslie Jones’s rising Hollywood star to Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign — Julie Van Grol saw artistic inspiration.

The Twin Cities illustrator and college instructor had been casting about for a project that would strengthen her portfolio, when she hit on an idea to highlight a successful woman every day for 100 days with a series of portraits on Instagram. A hashtag to promote the project, *#100daysofbadassbabes*, was born. “I had just come off of a weekend cabin retreat with my college roommates, and we had spent the weekend talking about feminism and women we admired,” she says. “I realized that I wanted to put my mind in that frame every day — to think about someone I admired and challenge myself to learn things.”

She launched the project on August 1 with a portrait of Michelle Obama, who’d ignited the Democratic National Convention with a powerful speech just days earlier. Using her Wacom tablet (a digital drawing tool similar to an iPad), Van Grol spent hours sketching a colorful portrait of the First Lady, and wrote a few sentences about her influence in politics.

Over the coming days, Van Grol found new sources of inspiration from daily news and historical reading. Her subjects included Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, political activist Angela Davis, and tennis and entrepreneurial superstars Venus and Serena Williams. Regardless of her workload as an instructor at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) and her other freelance projects, she carved out a couple hours every single day to work on the project.

As the number of portraits in the series grew, so did her Instagram following — more than quadrupling to about a thousand followers — and she was profiled in the *Huffington Post*. By popular request, she began selling a dozen of the most popular portraits on her website.

Most important to her, she’s had school teachers request images from the series to use in their classrooms. “It’s tough to find teaching aids that speak to particular subjects, so it’s thrilling that teachers are finding this work,” Van Grol says. “The best thing I could possibly hear about this project is that it gets into schools.”

Somewhere in the process of illustrating portraits of badass babes, Julie Van Grol became one.









“ART CAN SEEM  
VERY SERIOUS,  
LIKE YOU’VE GOT  
TO ENCAPSULATE  
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BUT SOMETIMES,  
YOU JUST WANT  
TO MAKE  
SOMEONE SMILE.”

The Instagram project did more than put a spotlight on 100 women who Van Grol admired and wanted to bring to a wider audience — it highlighted the discipline that has helped her succeed as an artist on her own terms. In a world bubbling with great ideas, very few people maintain the dogged commitment to seeing the spark of inspiration all the way through to completion. “It was an undertaking,” she admits. “I’m not very fast, but it was a daily commitment. I didn’t miss my babe of the day.”

Associate Art and Art History Professor John Saurer sussed out that work ethic almost from the moment Van Grol arrived at St. Olaf. “Julie always had a particular focus and determination to do things,” he recalls. “She tried what we had available here, and when she couldn’t get it in her classes, she pursued other opportunities, like [screenprinting] in Paris and an independent study with me.”

Saurer admires Van Grol’s desire to explore new areas and challenge herself. “In her independent study, she set up lessons for herself based on what she wanted to accomplish and learn and experience,” he says. “She set her own path.”

For Van Grol, St. Olaf offered rich opportunities, both within the classroom and beyond it. Even as she excelled in studio art, she also sought to find an outlet for her





work that aligned closely with her personality: optimistic, clever, and funny. “Art can seem very serious — like you’ve got to encapsulate the entire human experience,” she says. “But sometimes, you just want to make someone smile.”

While at St. Olaf, she was inspired by the work of Jay Ryan, an illustrator whose lighthearted drawings of cats, rabbits, and bears — featured prominently on concert posters for musician Andrew Bird — helped her understand that there were many ways to be an artist. “I realized there was a spectrum,” she says. “There’s art that makes you think about the larger idea of humanity, and there’s the commercial art of a candy bar wrapper. I like being more in the middle, where you can still create a narrative and have human connection, but you don’t have to overthink it.”

Thanks to her friendships with St. Olaf musicians, she had opportunities while on the Hill to create gig posters and other art for bands. When she graduated in 2008 — launching herself into the world just as the economy began to crumble — she stayed fiercely devoted to her work. She took a job at a Chicago-area cafe and kept at it. “In my off hours, I was making artwork from cardboard flats that I would take from work,” she says. “I just kept drawing.”



## Making it in the Arts

*Pursuing a career as an artist demands both tenacity and talent. Thanks to a revamped collaboration between the Fine Arts Department and St. Olaf’s Piper Center for Vocation and Career, Oles can get practical guidance from those who are already living an artist’s life.*

**S**UCCESSFUL ARTISTS know that their work is about more than the craft itself. It also often requires marketing savvy, strong organization skills, and a firm grasp of financial fundamentals.

At St. Olaf, alumni and other experts are at the ready, teaching these tactical elements through a series of “Making it in the Arts” events. Faculty members suggest alumni speakers, and the Piper Center hosts events for any student who wants to attend. “Every month throughout the year, we offer a session on a particular topic related to professional practice for artists,” explains Bryan Shealer, the Piper Center’s associate director of career development and coaching. “Creating a portfolio, learning how to be your own marketer and accountant, networking — these are just a few examples.” Shealer says that interest in the pilot program has been sky-high.

“Making it in the Arts” is a companion program to Ole Arts, which offers networking opportunities for students and alumni in the arts. Ole Arts is one of six major student-alumni networking programs, which also include Ole Med, Oles for Public Interest, Ole STEM, Ole Law, and Ole Biz.

For more information on these programs, including how you can get involved, visit [stolaf.edu/pipercenter/ole-suite](http://stolaf.edu/pipercenter/ole-suite) or contact [piper.center@stolaf.edu](mailto:piper.center@stolaf.edu).







# 100 DAYS of BADASS BABES

From authors to athletes to political figures, the women of Van Grol's Badass Babes project are high achievers from many eras. The four below, complete with excerpts of Van Grol's original comments from Instagram, showcase the wide spectrum of the portraits.

The one and only Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She was the second woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court and the first Jewish woman to have the job. She's been fighting for women's equality for over half a century and stands up against discrimination of all kinds. Folks, give a curtsy and a fist pump for our girl #RBG.



Malala Yousafzai is only 19 and has already done so much through her advocacy for education — especially for girls and young women. Education is a right that so many of us take for granted. And even at a young age, Malala saw that the key to fighting hate, poverty, abuses of power, and injustice all traces back to education. Think of all the untapped potential that's out there — and how we would ALL be better off if we recognized this necessity. Malala and her family are such inspirations to so many, and we need to follow their example.



Iris Apfel is a 95-year-old fashion icon and retired business owner, known the world over for her otherworldly sense of personal style and audacious use of fashion accessories. Iris refuses to fade into the background, as women are socially expected to do after their 60s, especially in the world of fashion. But that doesn't mean she chases after youth. She is an unapologetically 95-year-old fashionista.



Whether or not you know her name, you know her voice. Merry Clayton established her musical career singing back-up for the likes of Tom Jones, Joe Cocker, Carole King,



and Neil Young, to name a few. She's best known for her vocals on "Gimme Shelter" by the Rolling Stones, which she reportedly recorded in the middle of the night after being coaxed out of bed and into the studio, pregnant and in her PJs. Do yourself a HUGE favor and look up her isolated vocal track on YouTube or watch "20 Feet from Stardom" to see more about her story and that of many amazing back-up vocalists that have shaped music history more than we realize.



To see the entire project, visit [instagram.com/explore/tags/100daysofbadassbabes](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/100daysofbadassbabes)



When the cafe closed down in 2010, Van Grol moved to Minneapolis and prepared a portfolio that eventually landed her a spot at MCAD, where she earned an M.F.A. She later took an adjunct teaching position at the art college, which she balances with her freelance work.

The whimsical touch she has honed over the years is evident within her portfolio, which is dotted with illustrated paper airplanes, cowboy-hat-clad rabbits, and llamas peeking out of apartment windows. Today, you can see her work on tea towels — she’s created souvenir towels for the city of Dallas, as well as for Tennessee and most Midwestern states — and

on the St. Paul Public Library’s Bookmobile. If you’ve seen the *For the Hill and Beyond* campaign poster and notecards, or lingered over the cover of this magazine, you might recognize a Van Grol illustration: an image of candy-colored St. Olaf buildings against a pink sky.



**A**

fter more than three months of serious portrait work, Van Grol wrapped up her Badass Babes project with her 100th woman, Hillary Clinton, on November 9. “It was serendipitous that it ended that day, but regardless of the outcome of the election, history was made,” she says.

And while she’s ready to return to some of the more playful illustrations she’s done for years and occasionally wants to make lighthearted work (“like illustrating a turquoise house cat hanging out in a fluorescent pink jungle”), Van Grol will not stop using her artistic practice to engage in the social and political conversation.

“I feel compelled to still use illustration to continue to make a difference. And perhaps that means turning toward children’s books. That medium holds so much significance on how children view themselves and the world. I feel compelled to enter that field in order to empower children to live lives of love and respect, toward themselves and others,” she says.

“I need to keep using my voice and my work, now more than ever.” 🐾

ERIN PETERSON is a Minneapolis freelance writer and a regular contributor to *St. Olaf Magazine*.

“THERE’S ART THAT  
MAKES YOU THINK  
ABOUT THE LARGER  
IDEA OF HUMANITY,  
AND THERE’S  
THE COMMERCIAL  
ART OF A CANDY  
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I LIKE BEING MORE  
IN THE MIDDLE.”



# GIVING IN GRATITUDE

## *For the Hill and Beyond*

**S**t. Olaf College's *For the Hill and Beyond* \$200 million comprehensive campaign is advancing high-impact academics, residential learning, financial aid, and the mission of the college. Through his gifts, Paul Egeland '65 helps provide current and future Oles impactful experiences that enable them to lead lives of purpose at St. Olaf and far beyond the Hill.

...

Join Paul in supporting this campaign by:

- Making an annual gift to the St. Olaf Fund
- Establishing an endowed fund supporting academics, financial aid, or a program of your choice
- Including St. Olaf College in your will or estate plans



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*"My gifts honor the ways St. Olaf has impacted my life — an endowed fund supporting St. Olaf's Natural Lands, and another supporting economics established with my classmates in honor of Professor Emeritus of Economics Frank Gery. Knowing the need for discretionary funds, I give to the St. Olaf Fund each year, and I include St. Olaf in my will because I believe deeply in its future."*

— PAUL EGELAND '65 · BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA



# St. Olaf Welcomes Three New Regents

By Andy Steiner

*A commitment to maintaining excellence while keeping an eye on the bottom line, an enthusiasm for her alma mater combined with a strong business background, a track record of advocating for under-served students and championing diversity — these are some of the qualities three new members of the St. Olaf Board of Regents bring to their roles.*

*The Board of Regents plays an essential role in the direction of the college, from appointing the president and awarding tenure to adopting policies that establish the rights and obligations of faculty. Callyssa Ozzello '14, Jeff Bolton, and John Raitt P'12 joined the college's governing board in 2016. Together, they carry with them a unique range of skills and experience that will help guide St. Olaf into the future.*

## A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

Callyssa Ozzello '14 almost didn't attend St. Olaf. "I wish I had a better story about how I came there," Ozzello says sheepishly, "but I ended up at St. Olaf on a bit of a whim." During the application process, St. Olaf was in Ozzello's final three, but early on she'd declared her allegiance to Boston College. ("I went multiple times to visit," she recalls. "I loved the city, loved the atmosphere. Everyone I knew was convinced I was going to Boston.")

Then a little voice told Ozzello to reconsider. On the day she needed to make her final decision, Ozzello says, "I had this distinct feeling that I should go to St. Olaf. I told my parents, and that was that."

Once Ozzello made up her mind, she was all in. "From the moment I got to campus, it was clear that St. Olaf was where I was supposed to be," she says. "I fit in perfectly. I was so happy instantly."

That perfect fit lasted through Ozzello's undergraduate career. "I loved the atmosphere, and campus was so beautiful," she says. "I loved the professors. I loved my classmates. I loved it all!" And it continues now, post-Olaf, as she joins the Board of Regents in a position she calls the "young-alumni regent."

Ozzello sees her role as an opportunity to provide "a young perspective and young mindset." Because she is only two years post-graduation, her experience on campus is still fresh, but she is also able to bring the perspective of a young professional immersed in the working world.

"I see my role as providing insight into current issues on campus," Ozzello says. "The other regents have a strong connection to the college, but my perspective is quite current."

Since graduation, Ozzello has been employed by Target Corporation in Minneapolis. She is a senior business partner in merchandise presentation, where she focuses on space allocation and planning for the company's new-format stores.

As a St. Olaf student, Ozzello was able to turn a summer internship at the retailer into a prime post-graduation job. "I interned at Target between my junior and senior year at St. Olaf," Ozzello says. "At Target, after a summer internship, interns have the opportunity to be offered a full-time position for the following year. I was offered a



ST. OLAF REGENT CALLYSSA OZZELLO

TOM ROSTER

position and accepted the fall of my senior year. So I had a job waiting for me that whole year."

By landing the job at Target Corporation, "I missed the mayhem of my senior year," Ozzello jokes, giving the economics major time to focus on a full slate of academics and activities rather than a job search.

When St. Olaf President David R. Anderson '74 invited her to join the Board of Regents, Ozzello was thrilled. "I said yes right away," she says. "I'd always wanted to join the board. I thought it would be a great way to get connected and give back to the college. But I never thought I would have the opportunity to do that so early on."

Ozzello says that one of her goals as a regent is to build connections between campus-wide programs and the college's alumni network. She'd also like to advocate for increased awareness of issues concerning female students and students of color.

"As the world changes, so, too, does St. Olaf," she says. "And things are changing fast. The makeup of the student body today even looks different than it did when I was there."

While bringing a youthful perspective to the board is exciting, it also feels intimidating. Ozzello admits to feeling humbled by her new role and her "sharp and impressive" new colleagues, but she says she feels she has much to contribute.

"It is a huge honor to be asked to join this group of regents," she says. "I'm overjoyed to be able to give back to the college this way. I'm very excited. I think that my perspective will help add depth and insight to the board. It will be a fun three years."

*"I see my role as providing insight into current issues on campus."*



## PRESERVING OLE VALUES

Though he isn't a graduate of the college, Jeff Bolton understands the value of a St. Olaf education. As vice president of administration and chief administrative officer at Mayo Clinic, he has worked with countless Oles.

"We have a lot of alumni from St. Olaf here," Bolton says. "I've always been impressed with St. Olaf alumni, and I've become very familiar with the college through them. They are an impressive group of people."

Though he attended public universities (his undergraduate degree is from Penn State and his M.B.A. is from the University of Pittsburgh), Bolton sees the unique benefits of private higher education. He believes that the experience of a focused, mission-driven college education can set graduates apart.

"I went to public state schools," Bolton says. "I earned a great education there. But I have also grown to understand the value that private education provides, specifically, in the case of St. Olaf, a private education with a religious orientation."

Bolton said he feels that it is important that many high-quality educational options are available to young people. "When it comes to selecting a college," he says, "it's important for prospective students to be able to select the institutions that best meet their needs."

One need for some students may be the guiding sense of mission that infuses the institution. Bolton says he appreciates the moral grounding that the Lutheran church brings to St. Olaf.



"The students, faculty, and graduates there are centered in a sense of purpose," he says. "That makes St. Olaf a very special place. I've had a glimpse into the faculty and student population. I see a lot of innovative thinking and creativity, which is tied to a focus on the greater good. That's something that we need in the leaders of tomorrow."

American colleges and universities are in a state of great change and upheaval, reflecting shifts in the culture at large, Bolton says. One of the driving factors behind these cultural adjustments is economics. Increasingly prospective students and parents are taking a consumer-driven approach to managing college tuition costs — not accepting an institution's sticker price without searching for the very best deal. Bolton believes that in the future, St. Olaf's Board of Regents will play an important role in addressing these concerns while maintaining the college's reputation.

"Education is in a state of significant disruption, and there is going to be a lot of change in terms of delivery and the overall cost structure," he says. "I'm interested in insuring that the college has a sustainable financial model that allows the organization to continue to offer the high-quality educational and social experience that has been available to students over the college's history."

Another significant shift has been in the student population. Colleges like St. Olaf need to address that change if they want to survive — and thrive — into the future, Bolton says.

"At St. Olaf, there's been growth in the international student population," he says. "The student body is also showing a broader representation of the demographics of the nation at large. I believe that is a good thing, and I think it needs to continue."

Bolton says he has been impressed with his fellow regents, a group he considers to be "extremely engaged and very capable." He says that the skills he sharpened during his tenure as vice president for business and planning and chief financial officer at Carnegie Mellon University will help him contribute to the board.

"My goal is to use this experience to advance the strategic priorities of the institution," he says. "That translates to supporting the president and provost along with the other board members. Together we can continue to produce the high-quality, committed graduates that this college is so well known for."

*"I see a lot of innovative thinking and creativity [at St. Olaf], which is tied to a focus on the greater good. That's something we need in the leaders of tomorrow."*



## EDUCATION FOR ALL

John Raitt P'12 believes that education is the great equalizer. "I've always believed that in order to have a fair economic system — and I'm a person trained in economics — everyone has to have a shot at a good education," he says. "That's what levels the playing field and gives individuals the opportunity to get a leg up in life."

Raitt considers himself lucky to have had a good education. "I went to a strong high school," he says. "My parents sent me to a very good college. My education gave me the tools to have a very successful career in finance."

*"I have a strong interest in seeing the college continue to grow its diversity initiatives and continue to sharpen its capabilities in admissions and student recruiting and retention."*

Raitt, now a retired partner, president, and CEO of Chicago investment firm Harris Associates L.P., is acutely aware that not everyone has the same advantages that he did. When he moved to the Windy City in the mid-1980s, he saw that its public school system was failing to help kids growing up in some of the city's poorest neighborhoods. Kids that grew up in poverty were doubly disadvantaged by substandard schools.

"I was aghast," Raitt says. "The public school system has generally failed to provide most kids in Chicago with a good education." Determined to do something about this achievement gap, Raitt began looking for ways to make a difference in the lives of kids.

"Over the years, I got involved with several schools in the city," he recalls. "Eventually I came to regard the public school system as a place where I couldn't have an impact." Born into the Lutheran faith in Minnesota, "I came to see that the schools in the city's Catholic school system were a place where I could really have an impact."

One of the schools that drew Raitt's attention was Holy Trinity High School on Chicago's West Side, a school with a population that is 85 percent African American and Latino.

"Holy Trinity does a remarkable job of taking kids from all over the city and helping them succeed academically," Raitt says. "It has a 95 percent-plus graduation rate. In the last 10 years, 100 percent of their graduates have been accepted into college. Compared to the Chicago public school system, I thought this was a place where great things were getting done." Raitt has served for 20 years on Holy Trinity's board, including a term as board chair, a dozen years on its executive committee, and co-chair for three capital campaigns.

Raitt has known about St. Olaf for years — a number of his friends and cousins are Oles, and his daughter Carolyn graduated in 2012 — but it was his work at Holy Trinity that cemented his relationship with the college.

A few years ago, Raitt agreed to help St. Olaf by providing funding for a recruiting effort for diverse high school students in the Chicago



ST. OLAF REGENT JOHN RAITT

area. "Through that effort," he says, "I was able to make introductions to a half dozen different organizations in Chicago that were helping first-generation students get into good schools."

One of those good schools was St. Olaf. Raitt witnessed the college's commitment to recruiting a diverse student body: "It helped me to see how enthusiastically the college has gone into recruiting a diverse group of kids," he says.

The connections he made eventually led Raitt to an appointment on St. Olaf's Board of Regents. He is heartened by the college's commitment to increasing the diversity of its student body and is enthusiastic about making that a focus of his board tenure.

"I have a real strong interest in seeing the college continue to grow its diversity initiatives and continue to sharpen its capabilities in admissions and student recruiting and retention," he says.

He believes this emphasis is key to the college's long-term success. "The education marketplace is becoming much more competitive," Raitt says. "Looking out 10 to 20 years, colleges are going to need a broader base to build full enrollment of good-quality students, and frankly to be able to survive. St. Olaf has started to become more national in its recruiting. It will be a stronger college longer term because of this focus."

Raitt says that St. Olaf's Lutheran heritage supports this shift, from a school full of "students with blond hair and blue eyes" to a "college with people of many different colors and faiths."

"Lutherans are a very welcoming church," Raitt says. "You see this welcoming perspective in the history of Minnesota and its acceptance of new immigrants. It is a state of immigrants. Part of the reason there has been that much successful growth in Minnesota is this welcoming nature. That's the same with St. Olaf." 🍷

ANDY STEINER is a Twin Cities freelance writer.



# Your Alumni Board

By Sophie Breen '17 | PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN BLUETT '18

**I**N 1892, WHEN ST. OLAF had graduated just three classes, the college formed the Alumni Board. Over the years, the board has evolved to become a diverse group of alumni that fosters a lasting connection among graduates. It also strives to learn from the larger alumni community and maintain various components of the alumni program, including events such as annual galas, class reunions, and regional gatherings.

This winter, the board welcomes new members Liz Frederick '07, Thando Kunene '13, Jody Miesel '01, and Abraham Payton '08. The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations also acknowledges and thanks departing board members Ben Baker '09, Amy Gillespie '88, and Ron Pechauer '59.

## Liz Frederick '07

"My time at St. Olaf was an unforgettable experience," says Liz Frederick, who is grateful for the "lifelong friends, exciting adventures abroad, inspirational professors, and a lasting connection to a close-knit community."

After graduating from St. Olaf with a major in economics and a concentration in management studies, Frederick lived in Shanghai for nearly three years as part of St. Olaf's China Fellows Program to teach in Shanghai.

Upon her return to the United States, Frederick completed her M.B.A. in strategy, marketing, and international business at New York University's Stern School of Business in September 2015. She has remained in New York City, where she recently began a new position as the head of marketing at SkyStem, a financial technology start-up. The company has developed a software platform that helps other companies automate their month-end close and reconciliation process.

Since leaving the Hill, Frederick has connected with the New York Area alumni community as an active chapter member. In that role, she has helped organize a variety of fun events, from trivia nights to skating parties.

"I'm joining the Alumni Board to give back to the school and be part of the team that helps cultivate a strong relationship with our graduates," Frederick says. She looks forward to sharing ideas and gaining exposure to academic disciplines and viewpoints from the other board members.

As a new member of the Alumni Board, Frederick's goal is to connect with Oles and encourage more involvement in the broader St. Olaf community. "I've gained so much from the personal and professional network since moving to New York," she says. "I'm excited to help younger, recent graduates take advantage of the same."

## Thando Kunene '13



At St. Olaf, Thando Kunene learned about the interconnected nature of the world we live in. "In my work, this understanding helps me connect seemingly unrelated dots to solve problems with creativity and innovation," she says. "In my personal life, it drives me to engage in my community and support movements that seek to bring healing to our diverse and often disconnected communities."

While at St. Olaf, Kunene helped organize a head shaving fundraiser to benefit the HOPE Center, an organization in Faribault, Minnesota, that aims to establish zero tolerance for sexual and domestic violence through healing, outreach, prevention, and education. The fundraiser, Heads for Hope, successfully shaved the heads of 18 students to raise money for and awareness of the issue of sexual and domestic abuse.

As a student, Kunene was on the Music Entertainment Committee, sang in the Cantorei and Manitou choirs, participated in the Leaders



**2017 ALUMNI BOARD:** (L-R, back row): Samuel Dotzler '00, Chicago; Brad Hoff '89, Northfield; Curt Nelson '91, Minneapolis; Mark Williamson '88, Minneapolis; (middle row) Sonja Clark '03, San Jose, Calif.; Lisa Warren '86, Minneapolis; Mario Paez '01, Minneapolis; Jody Miesel '01, Carnation, Wash.; (front row) Mark Hermodson '64, West Lafayette, Ind.; Abraham Payton '08, Baltimore; Autumn Berggren Hilden '99, Los Angeles; Thando Kunene '13, Minneapolis; Kim Hansen Brody '78, Boulder, Colo.; (front row, bottom) Cheryl Philip '10, Chicago; Rebecca Ringham Odland '74, Edina, Minn.

for Social Change Summer Internship Program, and worked at the Piper Center and in the admissions office. After graduating with majors in English and sociology/anthropology, Kunene became an AmeriCorps volunteer. In that capacity, she assisted the launch of new sites for College Possible, a nonprofit that helps low-income students earn college degrees.

Kunene now works at Wellstone Action, a progressive advocacy organization named after the late U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone that aims to shape electoral politics, public policy, and grassroots organizing. There, Kunene manages and stewards gifts made by Wellstone's current donor base, coordinates fundraising events, and provides general support to the developmental team.

As a first-generation immigrant from South Africa, Kunene identifies with movements that seek to build the power of marginalized communities, including women, immigrants, and victims of domestic and sexual violence.

On the Alumni Board, she will offer her perspective as a woman of color and a first-generation immigrant. "I feel I can bring a really unique perspective regarding the experiences of current and former students," says Kunene. In this new role, she hopes to gain a better understanding of the issues and priorities of current students and bring that understanding to the alumni community.

## Jody Miesel '01



"For me, St. Olaf's most lasting impact is that it provides a deep sense of belonging in a larger community of intelligent, motivated, and interesting people," says Jody Miesel. "Many of my friends now are Ole alums that I've met *after* graduating. St. Olaf continues to impact my life in a very real way."

After graduating from St. Olaf with a major in sociology, Miesel earned a master's degree in social work from Boston University. She went on to complete three years of doctoral-level coursework at the University of Washington's School of Social Work.



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**Andes and Amazon: The Ethnic and Biological Diversity of Ecuador** | June 12-26, 2017

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Led by Kris Cropsey, Instructor of Spanish

**From the Dinaric Alps to the Glistening Adriatic: A Journey through Croatia & Bosnia and Hercegovina** | May 15-28, 2018

Led by Tom Emmert '67, Retired Professor of History, Gustavus Adolphus College

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In 2014, Miesel founded Tolt Hive, a co-working community in Snoqualmie Valley, Washington. The volunteer-led community aims to provide opportunities for people who are self-employed or who work from home and wish to work together in a shared community. The co-working environment, says Miesel, allows for connection, collaboration, and inspiration.

Miesel has also worked on a variety of qualitative research projects that have informed policies and programs seeking to ameliorate the harmful impacts of poverty. She currently uses those research skills, along with other assets, as a consultant to nonprofit organizations who are looking for guidance in the areas of needs assessments, program planning, and development work.

"I am particularly passionate about working with organizations striving to increase access to healthy and sustainably grown food in low-income communities," says Miesel.

Miesel is eager to join the Alumni Board because she wants to give back to an institution that has given her so much. She also brings with her an appreciation for the work of the regional alumni chapter volunteers who actively seek to create opportunities for socializing, career networking, and service opportunities in their local communities. She hopes to develop strategies to better link the volunteers working on these projects, promote collaboration within each region, and encourage cooperation among alumni chapters in different parts of the country.

Miesel's career has inspired an additional goal: "As a social worker, I also hope I will bring a unique perspective to the board and create space for voices that aren't always heard."



## Abraham Payton '08

While at St. Olaf, Abraham Payton learned two important rules for success and happiness in life: do what you love and don't quit. "These two lessons have shaped my life, and I am so grateful to the college, faculty, and fellow students for this inspiration," says Payton.

During his four years on the Hill, Payton led the chess club as its president and engaged in politics as a member of the St. Olaf College Democrats. He spent

much of his remaining spare time playing intramural tennis.

The political science major put his skills to use after graduation as a fundraiser and field organizer for a political campaign. Following the 2008 election, he was recruited to join an opposition research firm in California, where he was tutored in crisis management, business intelligence, and strategic research.

By 2011, Payton had been recruited to start a research division for a Democratic super PAC, where he worked until early 2016. He currently serves as a senior advisor at a private consultancy firm in Baltimore.

An active member of the Ole alumni network since 2011 and co-chair of the St. Olaf alumni chapter for the D.C./Baltimore region, Payton has led many opportunities to connect with the greater St. Olaf community, including hosting many events at his home.

"My favorite event was hosting a wine tasting," says Payton. "It was fun to bring together new alumni with the more established members in D.C. for everyone's social and professional benefit."

As a member of the Alumni Board, Payton hopes to create new strategies for alumni connection by developing procedural and structural improvements to the college's alumni chapters. In particular, he hopes to design and carry out programs to further connect alumni in the professional setting.

"I believe that the fellowship alumni experience while attending college doesn't need to stop after graduation," says Payton. "We can further support and learn from each other as we go into the next phase of our lives."



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

**T**HE ST. OLAF CHOIR, under the direction of Anton Armstrong '78, embarks on a winter tour through Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, West Virginia, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Ohio, from January 28 through February 10, 2017. Pre-tour concerts will be held in St. Paul and Rochester, Minnesota, followed by performances in Madison, Wisconsin; Naperville, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Charleston, West Virginia;



Charlotte, North Carolina; Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina; Richmond, Virginia; Bethesda, Maryland; Columbus, Ohio; Goshen, Indiana; Chicago, and DeKalb, Illinois. The choir's February 12 home concert will be streamed live at [stolaf.edu/multimedia](http://stolaf.edu/multimedia).



**T**HE ST. OLAF BAND, under the direction of Timothy Mahr '78, embarks on a winter tour through Florida from January 29 through February 4, preceded by a pre-tour concert in La Crosse, Wisconsin, on January 22. Florida

performances include Naples, Winter Park, DeLand, Parkland, Moore Haven, and Tampa. The February 11 home concert 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).

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## Through a Survivor's Eyes

**A** *New York Daily News* article featured printmaker and retired FDNY captain **Brenda Berkman '73**, whose most recent art exhibit coincided with the 15th anniversary of 9/11.

The exhibit, "Thirty-Six Views of One World Trade Center," offered a new view of One World Trade Center as seen through a survivor's eyes. Brenda, who retired in 2006 after a groundbreaking and storied FDNY career, spent several years documenting the rise of One World Trade Center in lithograph prints. She took up printmaking after retiring, completing her last lithograph print when the rebuilding finished. She captured the rise of One WTC from its earliest stages, and her work places heavy emphasis on the hardhats who made it happen — while also paying homage to all those who died or lost a loved one on 9/11.

"The idea [for this exhibit] was to go to all the different 9/11 memorials and find a good view of the Trade Center to draw from," Brenda said in the *Daily News* interview. "I was moved by the idea that from all the five boroughs, and even New Jersey, that's what thousands of people saw every day." The exhibit ran through the end of September.



NEW YORK DAILY NEWS



## Divinity Fair

**T**he Piper Center for Vocation and Career partnered with Campus Ministry and the Departments of Religion, Classics, and Music to host a

seminary and divinity school information-sharing and connection event that featured 11 seminaries and divinity schools, including St. John's School of Theology & Seminary (Minnesota), Candler School of Theology (Georgia), Princeton Theological Seminary (New Jersey), Trinity Lutheran Seminary (Ohio), and Yale Divinity School (Connecticut).

Many St. Olaf students attending the fair were just beginning to look into the prospect of attending seminary or seeking general information about divinity schools. Others were already in the midst of their application process and were looking for specific information on a school's curriculum. Ole alumni who continue their higher education at seminaries or divinity schools typically emerge with careers or positions in religious leadership, become pastors, or work in the field of education, community organizations, or nonprofit organizations.

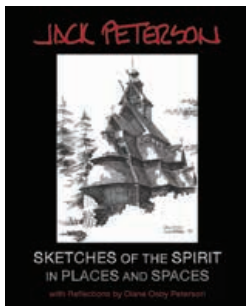




### SUBMIT YOUR CLASS NOTES ONLINE!

Check out [stolaf.edu/alumni/share-your-news](http://stolaf.edu/alumni/share-your-news), where we've made it easier for you to update your contact information and submit all of your latest personal and professional news! Questions? Email [alum-office@stolaf.edu](mailto:alum-office@stolaf.edu) or call 507-786-3028 or 888-865-6537.

**1951** | **Jack Peterson** recently published his first book, *Sketches of the Spirit in Places and Spaces*, sharing his visual impressions of some of the world's great worship structures. Writing about his creative journey, he notes, "When I was a boy, fascinated by all the animal life in my neighborhood and on the farms outside my Midwest hometown, I was motivated to draw. And when a gift of a sports magazine introduced me to the art of Frances Lee Jaques, I began to emulate his wild-life paintings. This early self-training led me further into the study of art and architecture and, ultimately, a career where art was an integral part of my life as a practicing architect and professor of architecture. During those wonderful years, curiosity led me to the early Father Kino mission churches in Mexico. More extensive travels presented fabulous opportunities for my pen and paper."



**1958** | **David Martinson**, a retired colonel in the United States Air Force, was inducted into the USAF Cyberspace Hall of Fame. Dave retired to Arizona after teaching English Literature at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs. He and his wife, JoAnn, have traveled extensively, including taking the Hurtigruten voyage from Bergen, Norway, up the nation's coast and, more recently, a train trip across Canada.



**1959** | **Kristin Herrmann Anderson** writes, "I'm starting a bucket list of things I have recently done! It's never too late, so for my 79th year, I can begin with publishing my book, *Standing in Deep Water: Overcoming the Infectious Legacy of the Hitler Youth*, being the oldest female participant to swim across the Columbia River at Hood River [Ore.] on Labor Day, and traveling to Guatemala on a mission trip."



**1966** | **Kenneth Dale** is president of the Lutheran Choral Association, which is the oldest choir in the city of Portland, Oregon.

**1967** | **Jim Beggs** has retired to part-time work in two primary care clinics, the Cedar-Riverside People's Center clinic and the North Minneapolis Broadway Family Medicine clinic, in underserved areas of Minneapolis. He was recently named Affiliate Faculty Teacher of the Year by the University of Minnesota Medical School Department of Family Medicine and Community Health. ■ **David Gangsei** retired last January after 45 years of work in the area of mental health and clinical psychology, specializing for 30 years in multidisciplinary rehabilitation of torture survivors. His final



job with the St. Paul-based Center for Victims of Torture was as international clinical advisor to NGOs serving survivors of torture and war trauma in Sierra Leone, Liberia, South Africa, Cameroon, Lebanon, Georgia, and Bosnia. David lives in San Diego with his wife, filmmaker Lindy Laub.

**1970** | **George Hogenson** was elected vice president of the International Association for Analytical Psychology at the association's 20th international congress in Kyoto, Japan.

**1971** | **Robert Freed** is practicing patent and trademark law at Moore & Hansen in Minneapolis, and was recently inducted into the UW-Madison Men's Rugby Hall of Fame.



**1973** | **Jeff Schneider** writes, "A few of us who work in downtown Minneapolis have been gathering for lunch once or twice a year for many years now; my college roommate Tom Sibley even drove with his wife, Jennifer, from St. Joseph to be there. These friendships have endured for 40+ years,



a testimony to our college experience. Note the St. Olaf lion on Leroy's hat band ... once an Ole, always an Ole." Pictured are **Leroy Sorenson**, **Fritz Nelson**, **Tom Sibley** and his wife Jennifer, **Jeff Schneider**, **Chris Sullivan**, and **David Feroe**.

**1976** | **Paul Matson**, an orthopaedic surgeon at the Orthopaedic and Fracture Clinic in Mankato, Minn., has received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Minnesota Medical School, and previously received the medical school's Distinguished Service Award. Since an early career experience as a medical missionary in Cameroon, Paul has made several trips to Bethany Crippled Children's Center and Kijabe Medical Center in Kenya, treating patients and educating local health care workers. He has dedicated his career to enhancing the quality of medical care and has a long history of leadership with the Minnesota Medical Association.

**1981** | **Kirt Johnson** writes, "After spending most of the last 35 years in the Washington, D.C., area pursuing a career in politics and public policy, I am 'retiring' and moving back to my home state of Wisconsin. I'm looking forward to being closer to family and many long-time friends and looking forward doing all the things I enjoy doing."

**1986** | **Helen Betcher McConnell**, writing as Helen Hardt, snagged four spots on the *New York Times* bestseller list on August 7, 2016. The first two books in her Steel Brothers Saga, *Craving* and *Obsession*, debuted on the e-book fiction list at #7 and #4 respectively. Helen has completed 16 romance novels, six novellas, and two collections of shorter works.



**1987** | The University of Stirling in Scotland awarded **Danel Olson** a Ph.D. in December 2016.



His dissertation presents a new theory on literary representations of al-Qaeda terrorism. Its title is *9/11 Gothic: Trauma, Mourning, and Spectrality in Novels from Don DeLillo, Jonathan Safran Foer, Lynne Sharon Schwartz, and Jess Walter*.

**1988** | Bestselling author **Rick Acker**'s new book, *Death in the Mind's Eye*, is a fast-paced blend of legal and medical suspense. Rick writes during his commute to and from his "real job" as a supervising deputy attorney general in the California Department of Justice. His unit prosecutes corporate fraud lawsuits of the type described in his bestseller,

*When the Devil Whistles*.

■ **Paul Haekenson**, who teaches at the American School in Singapore, recently appeared on the television news program *Hello Singapore*.





NEW BOOKS BY ST. OLAF ALUMNI AND FACULTY



**The Gospel According to Cat: Paw Print Parables** (self-published, *Createspace.com*, 2016), by **Wilor Bluege '65**

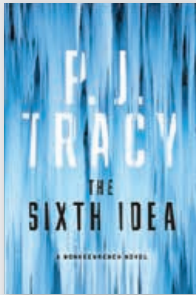
**Gilly & the Snowcats** (Mill City Press, Dec. 2016), by **R.S. (Ralph) Bovard '76**

**Advanced Do-It-Yourself Java Games: An Introduction to Java Threads and Animated Video Games** (Godtland Software Corp., Aug. 2016), edited by **Paul Godtland '78**



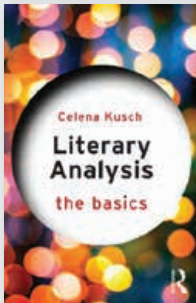
**Death in the Mind's Eye** (Waterfall Press, Oct. 2016), by **Rick Acker '88**

**Riga at War 1914-1919: War and Wartime Experience in a Multi-Ethnic Metropolis** (Herder-Institut, Nov. 2014), by **Mark R. Hatlie '88**



**The Sixth Idea (A Monkeewrench Novel)** (G.P. Putnam's Sons, Aug. 2016), by **P. J. Tracy (Patricia Lambrecht '68 and Traci Lambrecht '89)**

**The Virtual Body of Christ in a Suffering World** (Abingdon Press, Nov. 2016), by **Deanna Thompson '89**



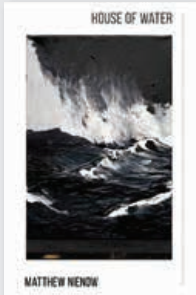
**Flying Goats in Agadir** (Dahlia Books, 2016) and **These Temples Are Not in Ruins** (Redbird, 2014), by **Kirstin Bratt '90**; **Vitality and Dynamism: Interstitial Dialogues of Language, Politics, and Religion in Morocco's Literary Tradition** (University of Chicago Press and Leiden University Press, 2015), by **Kirstin Bratt '90** with co-authors Jonas Elbousty and Devin Stewart

**Literary Analysis: The Basics** (Routledge, 2016), by **Celena E. Kusch '93**

**On Thin Ice: An Epic Final Quest into the Melting Arctic** (Falcon, Oct. 2016), by **Eric Larsen '93**

**Why Can't I Stop? Reclaiming Your Life from a Behavioral Addiction** (Johns Hopkins Press, April 2016), by **Jon E. Grant, Brian L. Odlaug '02**, and **Samuel R. Chamberlain**

**House of Water** (Alice James Books, 2016), by **Matthew Nienow '05**



**1991** | **Tim Szabo** is the art director on two 3D animated DirecTV features at Warner Brothers Animation in Burbank, Calif. Both are LEGO DC Super Hero Girls films that will premiere in 2017. Tim's recent work includes art direction on Warner Brothers' animated *Bunnica* in 2015, as well as freelance visual development for Disney Television Animation's computer-animated television series *Elena of Avalor*.

**1995** | **Matt Braaten**, who graduated from California State University, Los Angeles with an M.F.A. in dramatic writing in television, film, and theater, is teaching theater arts at Glendale Community College in Glendale, Calif.

**1996** | **Christina Ploetz Hughes** and her daughter, Catherine, recently traveled to Pucallpa, Peru, to assist with orthopedic surgeries at Hospital Amazonico as part of a Scalpel at the Cross mission team. Also pictured is Dr. Peter Cole, president and co-founder of Scalpel at the Cross. ■ **Eric Clambey**, who discovered his love for immunology during his years at St. Olaf, is the new director of the Flow Cytometry Shared Resource at the University of Colorado Cancer Center. Eric, who is an assistant professor in the Department of Anesthesiology, is excited to take on his new role in a vital resource for the cancer center.

**1998** | **Tanya Thomas-Schaefer** writes that her 30 years of designing, constructing, and tailoring clothes — in addition to her experiences as a stylist, color consultant, retail buyer and merchandiser — have taken her to the next step in her career as an independent personal stylist for menswear.



**2000** | **Jon Campbell** was promoted to associate professor with tenure at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Jon is a faculty member in the Center for Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research, School of Pharmacy, and is the director of the Ph.D. training program in pharmaceutical outcomes research. ■ **Erin O'Donnell Dotzler** has been named executive director of the American Academy of Periodontology, a professional membership organization representing nearly 8,000 periodontists worldwide.

**2001** | **Alexander Pitts-Kiefer** completed his anesthesiology residency at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., and is now a clinical fellow in pain medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School.

**2002** | **Brian L. Odlaug**, a visiting researcher in public health at the University of Copenhagen, writes, "My colleagues and I recently published a book with Johns Hopkins Press. We are quite proud of it, as it focuses on family and friends of those impacted by various psychiatric conditions." In addition to the more than 175 peer-reviewed articles Brian has authored since graduating from St. Olaf, this is the fourth clinical book that he has co-authored.

**2003** | **Breia Euteneuer Schleuss**, a partner in the finance and restructuring group at Faegre Baker Daniels in Minneapolis, was named to *Finance & Commerce's* 2016 Top Women in Finance. ■ **Jessica Thomes Pepin** has joined the multi-specialty oncologic practice of Minnesota Oncology as an associate. She is currently based out of Woodbury, Minn., where she and her husband will both have clinical practices. They have moved back to Minnesota from Indiana after seven years with their two small children and are excited to see what the future holds.

**Ole Hunt** Last October, 15 alumni met at Pete Hegg's Circle H Ranch in Gregory, S.D., for the fifth annual St. Olaf Pheasant Hunt, hosted by **Pete Hegg '61, Steve Veker '78, and Greg Buck '77**. The working ranch spans thousands of acres and, says Greg, "It's the best pheasant hunting experience in North America." This year's guest speaker was St. Olaf Athletic Director Ryan Bowles. Other guest speakers included retired Jersey Devils hockey forward Tom Chorske and retired Minnesota North Star hockey left winger Steve Payne. Pictured (standing, L-R): **Tom Chorske, Greg Buck '77, Brad Hoff '89, Steve Payne, Steve Veker '78, Greg Carlson '82, Doug Schmitt '83, Pete Hegg '61, Tom Brust '80, Bob Rusert '76**; (kneeling, L-R) **Easton Zueger (Pete's grandson), Paul "Shep" Ekholm '76, Ryan Bowles, Joe Zueger (Pete's son-in-law), and Randy Betcher '79**





**2005** | **Renzo de la Riva Agüero** is working on a Ph.D. in public policy at Indiana University-Bloomington and intends to study the political economy of the public sector provision in developing countries and the role of public agencies in that process.

**2006** | **Jake Erickson** writes, "I've taken a new permanent position as assistant professor of theological ethics at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. I'll be affiliated there with the Loyola Institute for Catholic Theological Studies, teaching courses on a variety of topics but especially continuing my work on ecotheology and climate change." ■

**Matthew Peterson**, who is based in Stockholm, Sweden, was commissioned by the Washington National Opera in Washington, D.C., to compose a one-act opera with librettist Emily Roller that premiered as part of an American Opera Initiative Festival weekend (Jan. 13-17, 2017) in the Kennedy Center Family Theater. The opera, *Lifeboat*, is based on a contemporary American story and inspired by the ideals often ascribed to President John F. Kennedy.



**2007** | **Holly Grimsrud Mujica**, who lives in St. Paul and teaches multimedia art



in Eagan, Minn., had some new pieces of art, including a large cutout figure of Prince, displayed at the Mall of America in Bloomington last fall.



**2008** | **Anna Dutke** received the Minnesota Association for Environmental Education's 2016

## A Day at the Aquarium



More than two dozen Oles spent a fun day at the Aquarium of the Bay in San Francisco with Carly Stork '13, who works at the aquarium. She led them on a special behind-the-scenes tour. Pictured (L-R): **Janice Tuttle Otto '68** (who came with her husband, kids, and grandkids), **Rebecca Bowler '89**, **April Pulkrabek Scott '98**, **G. Salim Mohammed '90**, **Pamela Zielske '93**, **Claire Yancey '14**, **Carly Stork**, **Amy Kampf '16**, and **Bailey Williams '16**.

Formal Educator of the Year Award. Anna teaches E-STEM, nature-based preschool classes in Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools. "The opportunities my parents provided me to explore and experience the natural world, whether it was in the neighborhood or at a lake cabin or on a pile of rocks in Montana, all played a role in the appreciation for the outdoors that I am so fortunate to be able to share with my students today," noted Anna in her blog. ■



Anna Dutke was a student naturalist and participated in prairie burns at St. Olaf.

**Ellen Roth** and **Molly Nelson Sanford** celebrated the five-year anniversary of their self-described "pointless lifestyle blog," *2Girls4Chins*, last July by hosting a variety show at Phoenix Theater in Minneapolis. The duo performed "Dreams" by The Cranberries with their backup band, The Erics, comprised of **Eric Tvedt**, **Eric Graalum**, **Eric Wilson**, and **Eric Alms '09**.



A majority of performers and audience members were fun-loving Oles, who enjoyed an evening of interpretive dance, game shows, La Croix taste tests, gif booths, and improv.

**2009** | **Heidi Gusa DeBeck** was named a Federal Executive Board of Minnesota Civil Servant of the Year for 2016. ■ **Richard Clay** received the U.S. Marine Corps General Alfred M. Gray Trophy and the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association's Copernicus Award for his work as communications operations officer at U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa in Stuttgart, Germany. Clay currently serves as the communications officer for 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion in Camp Pendleton, Calif. ■ **Samantha Bavage** is currently employed as a Scandinavian specialist with Borton Overseas. In an interview with Borton, Samantha noted that she does not



have an ounce of Scandinavian heritage! Her love affair with all things Scandinavian began while traveling as a Rotary Youth Ambassador to Norway and was cemented during her years at St. Olaf.

**2011** | **Summer DeNaples Gaasedelen** was writer and project manager for marketing pieces that won awards at the annual American Advertising Awards event for the Cedar Rapids-Iowa City chapter of the American Advertising Federation (AAF), as well as a 2016 Circle of Excellence Silver Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

**2012** | **Aaron Holmgren** was ordained a pastor in the ELCA in September and is now serving a call at Bethel Lutheran in Lester Prairie, Minn.

**Big Burn** **Ian McCord '10** (right), a wildland firefighter with the Blue Ridge Inter-agency Hotshots, bumped into his longtime friend **Greg Hamby '10** on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon last September. Ian and his crew traveled to the North Rim to ignite a fire for a 1,814-acre prescribed burn to clear an overgrown part of the forest. "It's common for Forests and Parks to order Hotshot crews to help with more complicated burning operations," says Ian. Greg, a fire effects monitor at Grand Canyon National Park, was on hand to make sure the prescribed fire met predetermined objectives. Ian and Greg met as first-year students living across the hall from each other in Kildahl, and have remained good friends ever since.



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**FUTURE OLE**  
Hazel Mujica '38

### Future Oles

Douglas and Kristina Merchant Dreis '97, a daughter, Mila  
Christy Boraas Alsleben '01 and Adam Alsleben '01, a son, Carl  
Matt and Courtney Peterson Becker '03, a daughter, Daphne  
Elizabeth Henke '05 and José Balagueró Sánchez, a son, Paul  
Maiken Overton Strohm '05 and Phil Strohm '06, a son, Elliot  
Jamie and Peter Cathcart '06, a son, Ryker  
Dustin and Jessica Edge Kremer '06, a son, Liam  
Marit Hagen Oberle '06 and Timothy Oberle '06, a daughter, Ingrid  
William and Holly Grimsrud Mujica '07, a daughter, Hazel  
David and Merry Chadwick Nanne '07, a daughter, Naomi  
Abby Lane '08 and Adam Gerber, a daughter, Zoe  
Caitlin Molsberry Suginaka '08 and Alex Suginaka '08, a daughter, Amaya  
Paul Adler '09 and Lindsay Barrett-Adler, a daughter, Magdalena  
Sara Fischer Pluth '11 and Anthony Pluth '10, a son, Oliver

### Weddings

Sheryl Anderson Renslo '66 and Chuck Larson '65, May 14, 2016  
Kristin Lerohl '77 and Laura Wilson, July 24, 2016  
JJ Schroeder '93 and Glen Fickenworth, Oct. 7, 2015  
Sheila Slowinski '05 and Curtis Skaff, July 23, 2016  
Gretchen Winder '05 and Rafael Ayvar, Sept. 25, 2015  
Katie Balfanz '07 and Russell Anway '07, July 9, 2016  
Bridget Callahan '07 and Ben Andes, Sept. 27, 2015  
Molly Nelson Sanford '08 and Eric Sanford, Sept. 12, 2015  
Molly Underwood '08 and Nicholas Cesaretti, March 27, 2015  
Mara Calvert '09 and Sebastian Cray, June 11, 2016  
Molly Baeverstad '10 and Benjamin Cherland, Aug. 22, 2015  
Jennifer Easler '10 and Caleb Johnson, July 23, 2016  
Laura Peterson '10 and Lantry Houillion, Aug. 13, 2016  
Jonathan Woolums '10 and Rebecca Morris, June 25, 2016  
Elspeth Keables '11 and Nathan Roberts, May 28, 2016  
Hannah MacDougall '11 and Jake Koch '09, June 27, 2015  
Peter Knudsen '12 and Robert Enerson, Aug. 6, 2016  
Claire Shannon '12 and Grant Knoploh '12, July 30, 2016  
Kristina Haugen '13 and Steven Milne '11, Aug. 20, 2016  
Dorian Liem '13 and Joshua Woolfolk '13, June 11, 2016  
Caryn McKinney '13 and Ross Hammerer, July 9, 2016  
Reilly Quirk '15 and Joseph Orner, June 18, 2016  
Ashley Larson '16 and Devin Orchard '13, Aug. 13, 2015  
Alexandra Lebens '16 and Nathaniel Carlson '15, July 16, 2016

### Deaths

Dorathye Grieshammer Wedwick '32, Ladysmith, Wis., July 2, 2016  
Gladys Oscarson Olson '36, Mankato, Minn., July 28, 2016  
Muriel Rasmussen Sovik '38, Northfield, Minn., Aug. 13, 2016  
Carolyn Bue Muller '40, Port Angeles, Wash., Oct. 2, 2016  
Lois Nelson Thompson '40, Seattle, July 16, 2016  
Jean Berg Ellison '41, White Sulphur Springs, Mont., Sept. 30, 2016  
Verda Olson Fisher '42, Eau Claire, Wis., June 29, 2016  
Donald Johnson '43, Lemon Grove, Calif., July 28, 2016  
Mary Sanborn '43, Ortonville, Minn., July 28, 2016  
Joyce Thompson Anderson '44, Mobridge, S.D., June 28, 2016  
Donald Albertson '45, Sarasota, Fla., Aug. 25, 2016  
Frances Brenden Benson '45, Forest City, Iowa, July 24, 2016  
\*Franklin Heglund '45, Minneapolis, June 29, 2016  
Carol Haberer Hall '46, Faribault, Minn., Feb. 19, 2016  
Geraldine Greene Himes '46, Rockford, Ill., Sept. 3, 2016  
Maxine Hansen Stromme '47, Duluth, Minn., Aug. 18, 2016  
Edith Sheimo Brooks '48, Hopkins, Minn., Oct. 17, 2016  
Jane Syftestad Huso '48, St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 28, 2016  
Lois Ahle Maas '48, Sleepy Eye, Minn., Oct. 9, 2016  
Arlene Franzen Stansfield '48, Minneapolis, Aug. 11, 2016  
Stanley Nelson '49, Grove City, Minn., July 24, 2016  
John "Jack" Richter '49, New Prague, Minn., Aug. 2, 2016  
\*James Ursin '49, Richland Center, Wis., Sept. 10, 2016  
\*Ralph Gordon '50, Eugene, Ore., Aug. 30, 2016  
David Granskou '50, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, Dec. 19, 2016  
Paul Grimes '50, Park Rapids, Minn., July 13, 2016  
\*Andrew Knutson '50, Mahtomedi, Minn., Aug. 6, 2016  
\*Joseph Vaage '50, Walker, Minn., Oct. 22, 2016  
Philip Von Fischer '50, Sioux Falls, S.D., Aug. 31, 2016  
\*David Hesla '51, Decatur, Ga., July 13, 2016  
\*Spencer Berg '52, Chevy Chase, Md., July 31, 2016  
Joanne Sogge Peterson '52, Richfield, Minn., Aug. 6, 2016  
\*Truman "Turk" Storvick '52, Columbia, Mo., Aug. 6, 2016  
Phyllis Rasmussen Verchota '52, Duluth, Minn., Aug. 13, 2016  
Vivian Millang Willis '52, Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 4, 2016  
Robert "Bob" Wrede '52, St. Louis Park, Minn., Sept. 3, 2016  
Lois Reppe Wrede '52, St. Louis Park, Minn., July 13, 2016  
\*John Breitlow '53, Winona, Minn., June 22, 2016  
Shirley Kaegbein Hanson '53, Blair, Wis., Sept. 30, 2016  
Jean Jensen '54, Burnsville, Minn., July 3, 2016  
\*Richard "Curley" Johnson '54, Rochester, Minn., June 26, 2016  
Jeanette Rehbein McIntyre '54, Hot Springs Village, Ark., Aug. 8, 2016  
Lois Gravos Pfluger '54, Red Wing, Minn., Oct. 28, 2016  
Jervey Anderson Christiansen '55, Willmar, Minn., July 17, 2016  
\*James Freeman '55, Red Wing, Minn., Aug. 11, 2016  
\*John Idstrom '55, Owatonna, Minn., Sept. 17, 2016  
Audrey Birkland Currie '56, Palm Desert, Calif., July 17, 2016  
Arlene Johnson McIntyre '56, Long Lake, Minn., Sept. 4, 2016  
Mary Anne Lund Peterson '56, Morris, Minn., Aug. 24, 2016  
\*Stanley Deno '58, St. Louis Park, Minn., Oct. 12, 2016  
\*Rollin Olesen '58, Sioux City, Iowa, Sept. 26, 2016  
David "Dave" Stenseth '58, Sioux Falls, S.D., July 16, 2016  
Marlin Kunard '59, Mapleton, Minn., July 27, 2016  
Gerald "Jerry" Hoffman '60, Grundy Center, Iowa, July 4, 2016  
Brenda Travis '60, Rochester, Minn., Oct. 22, 2016  
John "Jack" Rajala '61, Bigfork, Minn., Aug. 2, 2016  
Barbara Bogue Thompson '61, New Brighton, Minn., Oct. 18, 2016  
Paul Burtness '63, Solvang, Calif., Aug. 1, 2016  
Ruth Stime Erickson '63, Red Wing, Minn., Sept. 27, 2016  
James Kuehl '63, Basking Ridge, N.J., Oct. 15, 2016  
Gretchen Anderson Thoen '63, Blooming Prairie, Minn., Sept. 14, 2016



- Jane Twito Hokenstrom '64, Ham Lake, Minn., Oct. 6, 2016  
 Kathryn Jorgenson Rathert '64, Williston, N.D., Sept. 3, 2016  
 Mary Stevens Knowlton '65, Punta Gorda, Fla., Aug. 9, 2016  
 Dana Jensen '66, Ferndale, Calif., Feb. 3, 2016  
 Ann Gaustad Schempf '66, Denver, Oct. 5, 2016  
 \*Richard Peterson '67, Maple Grove, Minn., Oct. 15, 2016  
 Todd Peterson '67, Springfield, Ore., Aug. 8, 2016  
 \*Darrell Torske '67, Hardin, Mont., July 26, 2016  
 Patricia "P.J." Lambrecht '68, Stillwater, Minn., Dec. 21, 2016  
 Philip Anderson '69, Washington, D.C., Aug. 15, 2016  
 Georgia "Carol" Scott Robinson '69, Park City, Utah, July 31, 2016  
 Carolyn "Carrie" Groettum Stockbridge '70, Minneapolis, June 30, 2016  
 Kathleen "Kathy" Pederson Bothun '72, Faribault, Minn., Oct. 27, 2016  
 Matthew McNair '72, Bessemer, Ala., July 29, 2016  
 Richard Rose '72, Graettinger, Iowa, Sept. 15, 2016  
 John Strahn '72, Yarmouth, Iowa, Dec. 1, 2015  
 James Axt '74, Lancaster, Wis., Oct. 17, 2016  
 Jeffery Schwartz '75, Baltimore, Oct. 30, 2016  
 James Crofton '77, Detroit, Oct. 19, 2016  
 Christina Ober Branson '80, Minnetonka, Minn., Feb. 12, 2015  
 Laurel White Gard '80, Fergus Falls, Minn., Oct. 31, 2016  
 Michael Renard '80, Park City, Utah, July 3, 2016  
 Bradley "Brad" Cleveland '82, Mound, Minn., Sept. 11, 2016  
 Kevin Doheny '82, Mercer Island, Wash., April 14, 2016  
 Chris Sackrison '84, Lake Oswego, Ore., July 21, 2016  
 Denise Russek Stewart '85, Eden Prairie, Minn., Sept. 9, 2016  
 Thor Swanson '87, Sioux City, Iowa, March 7, 2015  
 Karen Enockson '89, Bloomington, Minn., May 22, 2015  
 Megan Movold '95, Hopkins, Minn., July 19, 2016  
 \*Adam Thomas '07, Colorado Springs, Colo., Oct. 4, 2016  
 David Narvaez '09, Arlington, Va., Aug. 19, 2016  
 Kaia Bjorlie '10, Edina, Minn., July 18, 2016  
 \*VETERAN

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

**Allen Hanson**

Professor Emeritus of Chemistry Allen L. Hanson passed away on November 13, 2016, in Northfield, Minnesota. He was 101 years old. Hanson taught chemistry at St. Olaf for 29 years, retiring in 1980. He was instrumental in the adoption of the 4-1-4 college calendar, forming the Review and Planning faculty governance committee and establishing the Academic Support Center, the year-abroad study program at Lancaster University in England, and the joint program in engineering with Washington University. As chair of the Chemistry Department, he helped design a new science building and introduced biochemistry to the curriculum. He was admired by his colleagues for his integrity and leadership in the Chemistry Department. In his retirement, Hanson was very active in community service in Northfield, including the United Fund, Northfield School's PTA, Northfield Environmental Quality Commission, and St. John's Congregation. He also volunteered for the local food shelf, Meals on Wheels, the Northfield Hospital Book Fair, and the Northfield Hospice, where he served for 25 years. He is survived by his children, Karen (Jerry) Appeldoorn '67 and Jonathan Hanson, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



**IN REMEMBRANCE**

**Dorothy Mrkonich '60**

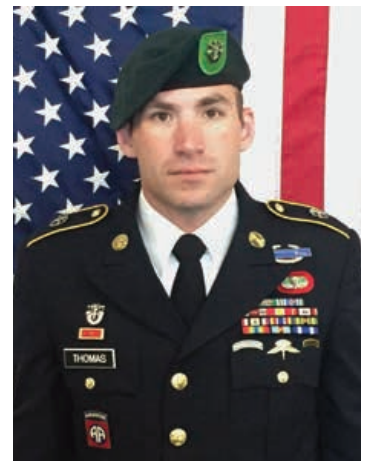
Professor Emerita of Nursing Dorothy Mrkonich '60 died peacefully on November 9 in Edina, Minnesota. She was 78 years old. After graduating from St. Olaf, Dorothy earned an M.A. in education and a Ph.D. in educational administration from the University of Minnesota. She joined the St. Olaf nursing faculty in 1970, serving as a professor of pediatric nursing until 1978 and department chair until 1986, as well as director of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Nursing Consortium until her retirement from St. Olaf in 1991. She returned to the nursing department as a professor emerita of pediatric nursing in 1992. She is survived by her husband, Tom, and their three children, Jana (Tim) Balfany, Kristen (Richard) Hubbs, and Jon (Sharon) Mrkonich.

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

**Staff Sergeant Adam S. Thomas '07**

Adam S. Thomas '07, a U.S. Army medical sergeant and Green Beret, died from injuries caused by an improvised explosive device in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, on October 4, 2016. He was 31 years old.

Thomas was assigned to the Tenth Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Carson in Colorado. He had previously been deployed to Iraq in 2008 and Afghanistan in 2011. His commander said in a statement that Thomas "epitomized what it is to be a professional Green Beret and soldier." Thomas earned a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, four Army Commendation Medals, and the National Defense Service Medal, as well as other accolades.



In an interview with Minnesota Public Radio's Solvejg Wastvedt '14, St. Olaf Swim Coach Bob Hauck '87 recalled Thomas, an All-American swimmer and conference champion in 2004, as "a great team leader for men and women and very inspiring." Swimming teammate Eric Tvedt '08 said he trained with Thomas every weekday for three years and remembered him as "a hard worker" and "razor-sharp." But Thomas, said Tvedt, also "had a really unique passion for nature and for animals, and he lived that out." Their meals together "were full of factoids about nature and animals. You were always learning when you were in his presence."

Thomas majored in biology and environmental studies. "He was a very good student and just fun to have in class," Thomas's academic advisor, Professor Emeritus of Biology Gene Bakko, told Wastvedt. Thomas worked for a summer on the St. Olaf natural lands, helping out with controlled burns of the prairie grasses. "I have a picture of Adam holding a little jumping mouse in his hand that was hopping away from the front line of a fire that was burning on the prairie," said Bakko, adding that Thomas "went in to rescue [that] little jumping mouse."

In honor and remembrance of Thomas, Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton ordered all U.S. flags and Minnesota flags flown at half-staff, from sunrise to sunset, on October 15, 2016.



# Hail to the Hero!

BY JEFF SAUVE

WHEN ST. OLAF COLLEGE SOPHOMORE Sigurd T. Sorenson stepped off the train at the Northfield Depot on May 22, 1909, he was greeted by a massive, cheering crowd waiting patiently in a downpour. He was immediately lifted onto a small platform shouldered by a dozen sturdy classmates. A white banner read “Minn. Orator,” signifying a hero’s return.

The St. Olaf Band led the triumphant procession that carried Sorenson through Northfield and up an unpaved and muddy St. Olaf Avenue. Georgina Dieson Hegland, Class of 1904, noted in her memoir that the wet, bedraggled group was welcomed with nine powerful shots of dynamite from Manitou Heights.

Drenched and exhausted, Sorenson was less than 24 hours removed from competing at the Inter-State Oratorical Contest in Appleton, Wisconsin. As Minnesota’s representative, he faced 10 other state winners from the Midwest, who represented 74 colleges and 30,000 students. At that time, no one from Minnesota had ever won the contest, considered the oldest and most coveted prize in the field of college oratory.

Oratory had hit its zenith of popularity in 1909. For Sorenson, who had emigrated from Norway at age 10, his personal oratorical journey began on March 15 at the state contest held at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. A few days before the event, a small-pox outbreak quarantined the St. Olaf campus. With special permission, Sorenson and his coach, Professor Carl Solberg, were the only two permitted to leave campus.

Sorenson was to give a 2000-word speech from memory in his adopted language of English. His address, “The Fight of a Good Man,” told the story of the apostle Paul, and shortly before the competition, he received this encouraging telegram:

*St. Peter, St. Olaf, St. Paul, S. T. Sorenson.  
This combination spells victory. Five hundred  
St. Olafites behind you; also a million microbes.  
Root, hog, or die. — The Students.*

Despite the pressure to succeed for his fellow Oles, Sorenson remained undaunted as he surveyed the overflowing theater at the state competition before delivering his winning address.

Two months later, Sorenson took the interstate competition stage with equal confidence. Of his eloquent oration, one reviewer noted, “The speaker brought out the dramatic story of Paul of Tarsus with unusual oratorical power. His delivery was almost perfect, and



approaching the climax he held the audience almost breathless. The oration was one of the best ever heard at Appleton.”

Indeed, the other 10 contestants could not surpass Sorenson’s bravura performance. The judges announced, “First honors, including a monetary prize of 100 dollars, are awarded to Sigurd Thomas Sorenson of St. Olaf College.” Never before had a St. Olaf student won a prestigious award beyond Minnesota’s borders.

Pandemonium erupted as word reached the Hill around 1 a.m. Students built a bonfire in front of Old Main and rejoiced. They marched through town with a makeshift band, arousing many Northfield citizens from sleep. Stops on their town tour included serenading various faculty members from both St. Olaf and Carleton, including the latter’s president-elect Donald J. Cowling. By 4 a.m., the Oles retired to their beds, happily knowing the upcoming school day was already declared a holiday and their hero would return by train later in the evening.

As a reminder of Sorenson’s great achievement more than a century ago, a 12-inch-high silver loving cup, presented to him on June 1, 1909, by the citizens of Northfield and St. Olaf College, was recently given to the College Archives. One student worker in the office held the cup to an ear and exclaimed with a smile, “You still can hear the mighty applause!” 🦉

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).



# Black & Gold Gala

SATURDAY, MARCH 4  
6 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT

RENAISSANCE MINNEAPOLIS HOTEL, THE DEPOT  
225 SOUTH THIRD AVENUE  
MINNEAPOLIS

Join us at the ninth annual Black and Gold Gala to celebrate the St. Olaf community and support the college through gifts to the St. Olaf Fund. In addition to Ole pride, the event will feature dinner, dancing, and silent and live auctions.

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

An online auction prior to the event will allow Oles all around the world to participate.

[stolaf.edu/gala](http://stolaf.edu/gala)





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**BENEFICIAL EXERCISE** | On January 16, 1904, college photographer O. G. Felland captured Oles enjoying the St. Olaf skating rink, located in what's now the Holland Hall parking lot. An editorial in the January 1904 edition of the *Manitou Messenger* noted, "Our skating rink is in excellent condition. Now, of winter sports there can be none that gives more pleasure and satisfaction than that of skating. True enough, in our limited space there is hardly any prospect for developing the speed of an Axel Paulson or a Harold Hagen, but we may succeed in becoming fancy performers on our steel shoes." PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SHAW-OLSON CENTER FOR COLLEGE HISTORY