

STOLAF

THE COST OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION

ON THE COVER:
St. Olaf senior Christine
Barringer. PHOTO BY
TOM ROSTER

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ST. OLAF

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"The stories of these accomplished Oles come back to the pivotal role their St. Olaf experience played in preparing them for lives marked by professional accomplishment and personal fulfillment."

Dear Oles,

This issue of *St. Olaf Magazine* touches on three interrelated topics: the kind of investment required to run a college; the kinds of things that happen at a college; and what the outcomes can be of a great college education.

One of the purposes of a college magazine is to promote discussion not just of the college's many successes and promising new initiatives but also of difficult topics that are on everyone's mind. That is what I seek to do by taking on the subject of college costs in this issue. My goal is to provide a forthright discussion of how we are thinking about college costs at St. Olaf, what we are doing about them, and what direction we see them taking in the future.

"Solid Foundations," an article about our residence halls and especially about our initiative to renew them, continues the theme of investment. Our physical plant represents our largest financial asset, and we bear a responsibility to care for that asset, both to preserve its value and to support the College's mission. These two articles provide insight into the investment required to run a college and how that investment can be managed.

The article about Professor Steve Hahn's research into pirates, the arresting images from the Gimse International and Off-Campus Studies Photo Contest, and the report on the activities of the Leaders for Social Change this past summer all showcase the kinds of things that are enabled by the investment students, their families, donors, and friends make in a college. Professor Hahn's research creates new knowledge by telling the story of people who have no written history. International and off-campus study — an area in which St. Olaf has provided leadership to higher education for decades — and the Leaders for Social Change Program extend the classroom across the globe and into communities to prepare students for a globalized world and for lives marked by service to others.

The profiles of Kathryn M. Lohre '99 and of our alumni award recipients, Mark B. Brown '78, Samuel L. Hanson '61, and Steven H. Miles '72, exemplify the kind of return on investment that St. Olaf produces. The stories of all of these accomplished Oles keep coming back to the pivotal role their St. Olaf experience played in preparing them for lives marked by professional accomplishment and personal fulfillment. Their lives exemplify the kinds of outcomes St. Olaf aspires to for its graduates.

Is college expensive? Yes. Should we be working hard to constrain that cost? Absolutely. Does the return on investment create a compelling value proposition? Clearly. That is the challenge for St. Olaf and for every one of the nation's leading liberal arts colleges: to provide the experience that students both want and deserve at a price they can afford. We are committed to meeting that challenge.

David R. Anderson

Ole Athletics Spring 2012 Highlights

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

The men's team ended its season with a seventh place finish at the MIAC's. The team finished second in the 4x800 relay with Grant Wintheiser '15, Anders Nienstaedt '12, Brian Tomlinson '13 and Brian Saksa '14 at a clip of 7:43.08, which bettered the old stadium record. J.B. Tut '14 added a third place effort in the high jump, while St. Olaf took four of the eight scoring spots in the 1,500. Stefan Lemke '14 and Brian Saksa '14 were second and third, while Grant Wintheiser was fourth. Reid Gilbertson '12 rounded out the scorers with a seventh place run. Brandon Berger '15 collected a third place effort in the 110 meter hurdles and was fifth in the triple jump.



WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

The St. Olaf women's team was seventh at the MIAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Emma Lee '13, who finished third in the MIAC in the 5,000 and fourth in the 10,000, qualified for the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships, where she finished tenth. Maren Westby '12 finished second at the MIAC's in the 1,500 as one of four Oles in the top five in the event. Dani Larson '15 was second in the high jump and fifth in the 100-meter hurdles. Teammate Elise Raney '14 finished fourth in the high jump.



WOMEN'S GOLF

Molly Erickson '13 fired a final round of 76 to finish in a three-way second place tie overall, one stroke off the winning score, leading the Oles to a ninth place finish at the NCAA Division III Championships. The team score of 314 matched the first round as their best of the championships and was the third best score of the season. After Erickson's only double bogey on the 11th hole, she made pars on 14 of the final 16 holes. The NCAA appearance was the first in school history for St. Olaf. Vanessa Kleckner '12 was named to the Capital One Academic All-District At-Large Team and was also the recipient of the Elite 89 award for the 2012 NCAA Division III Women's Golf Championships.



WOMEN'S TENNIS

The women's tennis team went 11-7 overall and 7-3 in league action to finish third in the MIAC. The team won its postseason opener, advancing to the MIAC semifinals. Four members of the team earned All-MIAC honors: Caitlin Harper '12, Christine Muller '12, Julia Ellis '13, and Kristi Kroker '15 were named all-conference for singles, while Harper and Muller were also recognized for their doubles play.



MIKE LUDWIG '01



SOFTBALL

The Ole softball team went 18-22 overall and 10-12 in MIAC play. Catcher Maggie Scholer '13 and pitchers Amy Prok '13 and Jess Green '14 were named All-MIAC honorable mention. Scholer hit .261 overall and .235 in league play with six doubles and four homers. Green was 6-5 in league play with a 3.12 ERA in 11 games. Prok went 4-7 with a 3.38 ERA in 70 1/3 innings.

BASEBALL

The team finished the season 14-25 overall and 6-14 in MIAC play. Nick Kulla '14 was named to the MIAC's all-defensive team. Kulla, who was an All-MIAC pick as a first-year in 2011, made only two errors during conference play and fielded .972 during the season.

MEN'S TENNIS

The men's tennis team went 15-4 overall and 7-2 in MIAC play, finishing third in the league. Four members of the team earned All-MIAC honors: Andy Catania '13, Knute Gundersen '12, John Wight '12, and Stephen Nolan '15 were named all-conference for singles, while Catania and Wight were also recognized for their doubles play. The honors were the first for Gundersen, Nolan, and Catania, while Wight was named All-MIAC for the second time in singles.

A Summer of Hands-on Learning

Throughout the academic year and into the summer months, St. Olaf students have opportunities to participate in a wide variety of professional internships and research projects, which are conducted both on and off campus. These experiences enrich not only the professional skills of undergraduates, who learn what it means to be a practicing scholar in their fields of interest, but it also provides them with invaluable skills they can use in graduate school and in their future careers.

Hands-on Medicine

When Gaylan Rockswold '62 was a student at St. Olaf College, one of the only ways he could gain hands-on experience in the medical world was to work as a surgical orderly.

"I spent most of that time scrubbing floors and carting patients around," he says.

Now a highly distinguished neurosurgeon at the Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) in Minneapolis, where he has worked for thirty-seven years and has served as the chief of neurosurgery, Rockswold wanted to give today's St. Olaf students a more meaningful experience, one that would enable them to be deeply involved in the daily work of medical professionals.

So he designed a summer clinical and research program in which students work with physicians and administrators in a variety of departments at HCMC. He and his wife, Mary Garnaas Rockswold '63, established an endowment at the college to fund the program, which currently is in its pilot year and will likely be expanded in future summers.

The program provides students with the type of training and immersion that would have been unimaginable when Rockswold was a student. It gives undergraduates a level of access and experience normally reserved for medical school students.

The first three Oles to take advantage of this collaboration between St. Olaf and HCMC are



(L-R) Erin Kelly '14, Andrew Sathoff '13, Gaylan Rockswold '62, and Daniel Dyer '13

Daniel Dyer '13, Andrew Sathoff '13, and Erin Kelly '14. Dyer and Sathoff, who both plan to attend medical school, worked directly with doctors and surgeons throughout the hospital, shadowing them as they did their rounds and scrubbing in to observe everything from surgeries to births. Kelly, who is considering a career in

public health or epidemiology, worked with hospital administrators on programs that address health care payments and readmission rates.

During the 10-week internship, Dyer and Sathoff participated in clinical rotations through eight different specialties, including pediatrics, radiology, general surgery, psychiatry, and the emergency room. This schedule of rotations allowed them to work with a wide range of hospital staff members and in a variety of medical settings.

Kelly assisted with a two-year pilot program that aims to provide low-income patients with the best health care at low costs. She also created statistical models to predict the chance that a patient will be readmitted to the hospital after receiving treatment.

The medical center is known for providing care to vulnerable, diverse, and underserved populations regardless of their ability to pay for medical services. "No patient is ever turned away or denied the necessary care," Rockswold explains.

This commitment to helping all those in need is why Rockswold believes St. Olaf and HCMC are so well-matched. "The two institutions both believe in service as vocation, in the idea that you need to make a living *and* need to help others," he says. "That is what inspired me to bring the two institutions together through this internship.



Undergraduate Research Collaborative student-faculty research and inquiry was conducted this summer by eighty-nine students majoring in the humanities, fine arts, mathematics, computer science, and interdisciplinary studies, and the natural and social sciences.

Mayo Innovation Program

Casey Keyes '12, Sarah Fleming '12, Apoorva Pasricha '14, and Ryan Johnsrud '14 took part in the first Mayo Innovation Summer Program, an expansion of the Mayo Innovation Scholars Program that St. Olaf alumnus John Meslow '60 founded in 2006. The program engages science and economics students in evaluating the commercial potential for inventions and discoveries by Mayo Clinic physicians and researchers.

The team of students evaluated the marketability of an online learning curriculum that David Farley, a Mayo Clinic surgeon, had created. They were responsible for designing every step of their four-week project, which included conducting market research, surveying surgical residents, and evaluating the efficacy of the educational tools. The project culminated in a presentation of their findings that Farley called "extraordinary, analytical, and engaging."



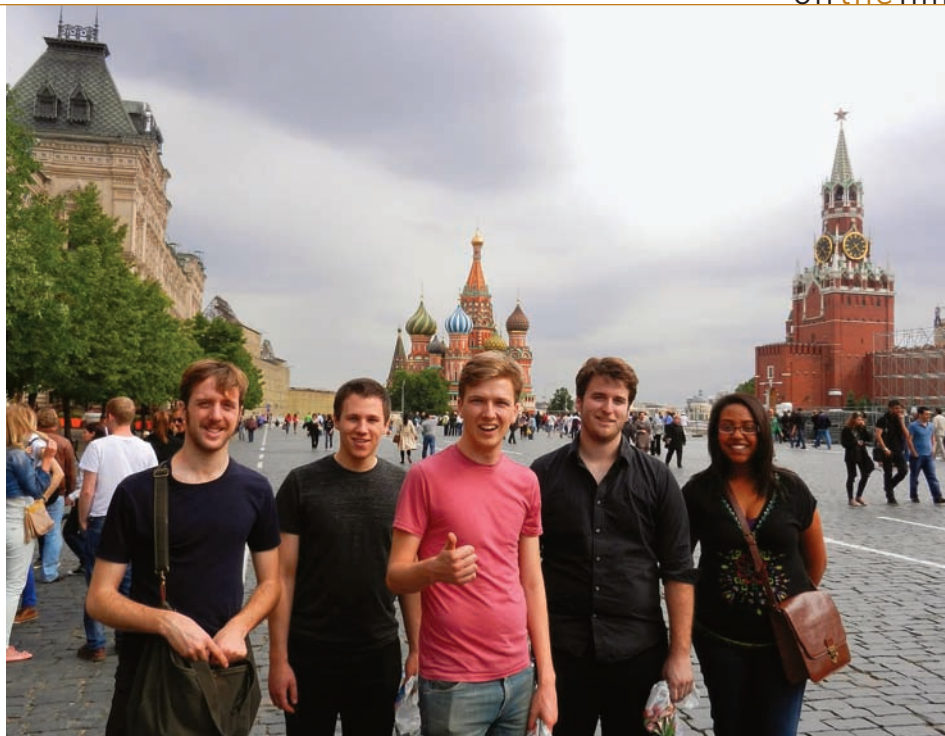
Student Researches HIV at Prestigious Institute

After being accepted into the prestigious Research Experience for Undergraduates program at the National Institute for Mathematical



and Biological Synthesis, Kelly Hennessey '13 spent eight weeks creating mathematical models to predict how the HIV virus evolves in the body upon initial infection. Hennessey worked alongside postdoc-

toral researchers and two other undergraduates as they examined how the virus can survive despite the immune system's strong response to the initial infection.



Filmmaking in a Foreign Language Associate Professor of Russian Marc Robinson launched a new academic internship that sent five students to work at Russia's Mosfilm, one of the oldest and largest film studios in Europe. Rosa Haxton '14, Beau Hudak '13, Andrew Lindvall '14, Sterling Melcher '14, and Adam Wolinsky '14 all got the chance to gain practical experience in film production while polishing their Russian language skills. While at the studio, the Oles did everything from editing subtitles to helping construct sets to acting as extras in Russian soap operas.

New Research Course Takes Students to Greece

Annemarie Smith '12, Alisha Kasparec '13, Daniel McNamara '13, and Rebecca Frank '14 traveled to Greece with Associate Professor of History Tim Howe to study artifacts dating back to the sixth century, in connection with their research on Alexander the Great and ancient Macedonia. Howe designed the course to introduce students to the research methods necessary to



succeed in the humanities. After studying artifacts at museums in Athens, traveling throughout Greece, and writing their research papers, the students were invited to present their findings at the 10th International Conference on History: From Ancient to Modern. As the only undergraduates at the conference, the Oles had ample opportunities to network with historical scholars.



Making connections in Rural Minnesota

With the support of a \$3,000 entrepreneurship grant from The Piper Center for Vocation and Career, Darrin Steffl '13 launched a company called Minnesota WiFi that offers affordable, high-speed Internet to residents in rural Minnesota. He spent the summer installing antennas and selling Internet service to customers in his hometown of Kasson, Minnesota, and he plans to expand his business rapidly after graduating next year. His ultimate goal is to cover all of southeastern Minnesota. "I want to stay hands-on with this business until I get 10,000 customers," Steffl says.

The
COST
of a
COLLEGE
EDUCATION
.....
ST. OLAF'S RESPONSE

By David R. Anderson '74

PHOTOS BY TOM ROSTER

COLLEGE COSTS HAVE REACHED levels that strain the financial capacity of students and their families and that undermine the public's faith in our institutions of higher education and the value proposition they offer. Elected officials, policy makers, parents, and students are all expressing concern about the impact of college costs on access to higher education and on the ability of graduates to flourish financially after college given prevailing economic conditions and the overhang of student debt.

Trends in College Pricing 2011, a report by the College Board, shows how after two decades in which the rise in college costs steadily matched the rise in mean family income, the last decade has seen declining family income set against modest, but continuing, annual increases in the average cost of colleges like St. Olaf. The cumulative effect of those increases is challenging for our students and their families. Very simply, college continues to get more expensive, while the resources available to families to pay for it decline.





On the first of September, 865 first-year students and their families were welcomed to St. Olaf. Among the arrivals were Duncan Blue '16, a native of Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, his parents, Scott and Pamela, and his little sister, Hannah. While Duncan hasn't settled on a major, he's interested in chemistry, math, and theater.



Physics major Trevor Knapp '13 uses a high precision optical spectrometer to study how light interacts with a large crystal of pure quartz.

It is important to keep in mind that such data reflect the average annual published price at private nonprofit four-year colleges like St. Olaf. Because these institutions nearly all engage in the practice of tuition discounting (where need-based and/or merit-based financial aid reduces the actual cost for many students), the net price — or what students and their families pay after financial aid — is actually lower than the published price. Nevertheless, the fact remains that college costs are rising at a faster rate than mean family income, and while financial aid often includes loans that ease the burden during college, those loans increase the burden on graduates starting out in

life as independent adults. This is true even at St. Olaf, where we meet the demonstrated need of every student we enroll and where 84 percent of our students receive some form of financial aid.

This trend places students and their families in a difficult position, because — despite increasing levels of student debt and a sluggish economic recovery — a college degree remains essential for those who aspire to join or remain in the middle class or higher. A new report called *The College Advantage: Weathering the Economic Storm*, published by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, demonstrates that “college has proved

to be the best umbrella in this historic economic storm and the best preparation for the economy that is emerging in recovery.” The report details the advantages college graduates experience in terms of employment, earnings, and job prospects in an improving economy.

WHY HAVE COLLEGE COSTS risen so dramatically over the past three decades, and why do they continue to rise? Two economists at the College of William and Mary, Robert B. Archibald and David H. Feldman, have studied that question in *Why Does College Cost So Much?* (Oxford, 2011). In brief, they argue that college costs follow the same trajectory as a set of other “personal-service industries,” such as health care or accounting. In these industries, they argue, the quality of the experience delivered is determined by the time and effort expended by the professional who delivers it, and thus it is difficult to increase productivity without diminishing the value of the service. It will be interesting to see

THE ST. OLAF STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITS
TO CONSTRAINING FUTURE PRICE INCREASES
TO WITHIN 1 PERCENT OR LESS OF THE ANNUAL
INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.

whether MOOCs (massively open online courses) of the kind recently announced by Harvard, MIT, and Stanford, will demonstrate, contrary to Archibald and Feldman's claim, that higher-education productivity can in fact be dramatically increased, costs dramatically lowered through technology, and quality preserved.

Compensation for faculty and staff is the largest expenditure in the College's budget, but there are other cost drivers as well. There's no doubt that teaching and learning in the sciences have been greatly enhanced by Regents Hall and the equipment in it, or that students have more access to participation in high-quality musical ensembles as a result of the growth in the number of ensembles at St. Olaf, or that investments the College has made in computers and computing infrastructure have enabled new and better kinds of learning; but these and many other enhancements have all come at a price.

What is the way forward? Two things seem both clear and mutually exclusive: (1) college costs relative to family income

cannot continue to rise in the coming decade as they have in the past decade; and (2) our students and their families, and our own aspirations as an institution, are going to continue to drive us to enhance the St. Olaf experience, and those enhancements will make it more difficult to constrain costs.

PHILANTHROPY CAN BE A GAME CHANGER FOR THE COLLEGE COST ISSUE.

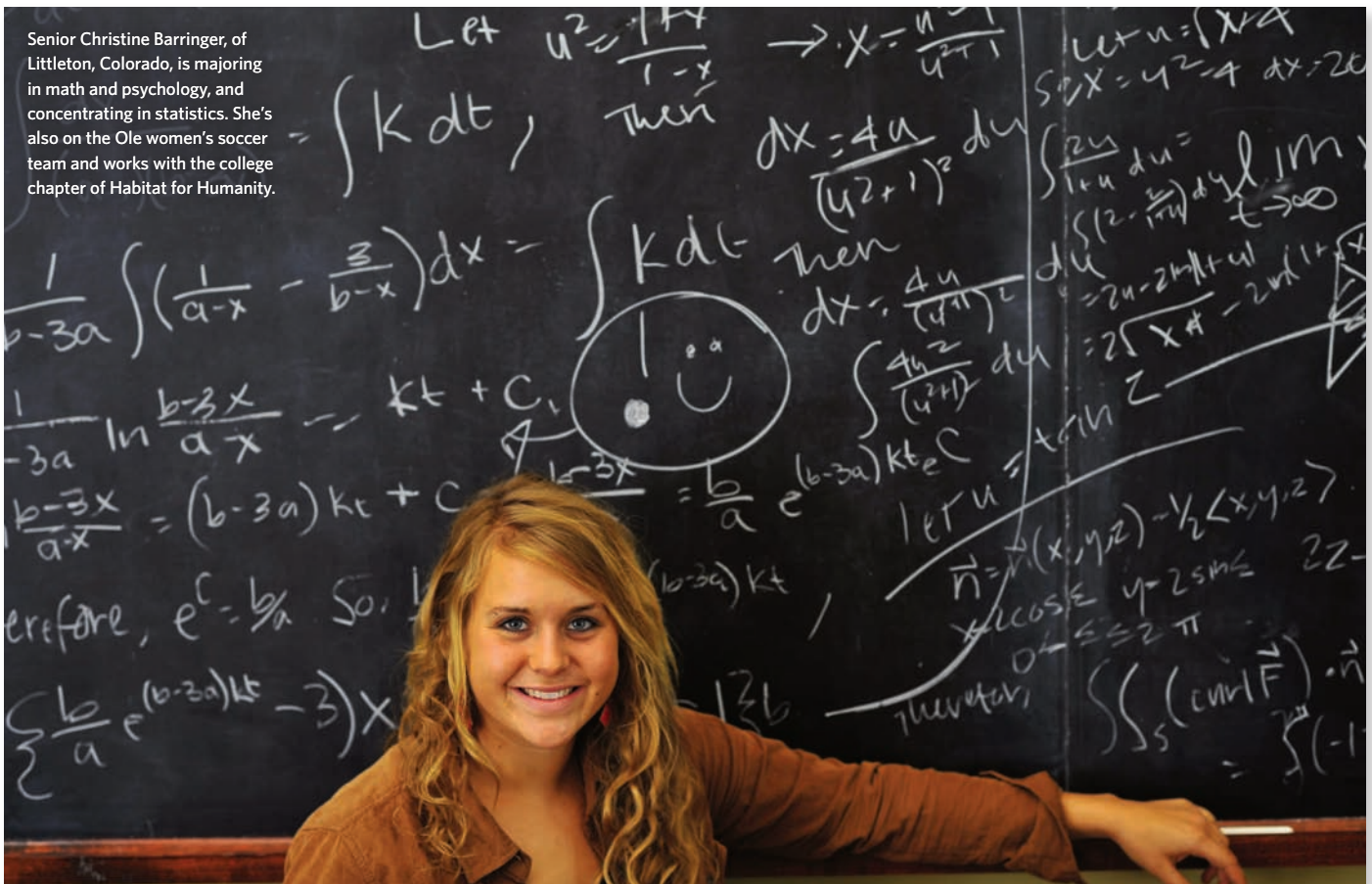
Hand-wringing about college costs won't solve the problem, which is why the strategic plan approved in May 2011 by the Board of Regents addresses the cost issue directly. It commits to reducing expenditures, seeking alternative revenue sources to take some of the burden of paying for college off students and their families, imposing discipline on price increases, engaging in meaningful

program evaluation, and strengthening St. Olaf's value proposition.

Our strategic plan commits to constraining future price increases to within 1 percent or less of the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index. Perhaps the most common complaint voiced in discussions of college costs is the apparent lack of alignment between prevailing economic conditions (as reflected in the CPI) and college pricing. St. Olaf's costs will rise in the future. So will those of every family in America. In the strategic plan, the College commits to aligning any future price increases with those that families are experiencing, using the CPI as a proxy for the cost of living. This is an ambitious commitment. The goal is for any future increase in St. Olaf's price to make sense to families of current and prospective students because it reflects what they are experiencing in their own economic lives.

The plan also commits the College to generating a minimum of 2.5 percent net operating revenue each year. Net operating revenue is the amount left over at the end of the fiscal year after the College has

Senior Christine Barringer, of Littleton, Colorado, is majoring in math and psychology, and concentrating in statistics. She's also on the Ole women's soccer team and works with the college chapter of Habitat for Humanity.



collected all of its revenue and paid all of its expenses. It is important to remember that even nonprofit organizations need to generate operating revenue in order to remain financially viable. The phrase “No margin, No mission” expresses this idea succinctly. Net operating revenue enables the College to go beyond funding its daily operations to enhance buildings, purchase new equipment, fund innovation, and so forth. This element of the plan commits St. Olaf to operating the institution in such a way that we annually generate funds that help to move the College forward.

Constraining the ability to raise new revenue through price increases and requiring a minimum 2.5 percent annual net operating revenue after expenses will squeeze the College’s annual operating budget. Recognizing that simple reality, the plan also calls for the College to take \$2 million out of its operating budget.

ONE OF THE WAYS ORGANIZATIONS can remain financially viable, even in an environment where there are both constraints on revenue and upward pressures on price, is by choosing what to do and what not to do, and by prioritizing among those things they choose to do. Even if the need to remain up to date and competitive with peers drives college costs up by requiring new investments in programs and technologies, institutions can offset some of those increased costs by decreasing their investments elsewhere.

The St. Olaf strategic plan calls upon us to evaluate all operations systematically and be willing to make difficult decisions about which programs to sustain or expand. This is the element of the strategic plan that makes many people uncomfortable, because it raises the possibility that a favorite program will receive less support or be discontinued altogether. St. Olaf has many, many programs, and every one of them has ardent supporters. If we looked honestly at ourselves in the mirror, we would have to say that we excel at starting things, but we have a poor record of ending them. A model for organizational growth that is purely additive just doesn’t make sense in today’s environment.

These elements of the plan all speak to various kinds of discipline the College has committed to in order to address concerns about price. But St. Olaf continues to aspire to excellence. Consequently, it will continue to have needs, its costs will continue to rise, and it will require additional revenue. To address those needs, the plan commits to generating additional revenue from non-tuition sources in two ways: by generating \$1 million more from operations (such as various auxiliary enterprises like the bookstore) and by substantially increasing philanthropic support for St. Olaf.

STUDENTS AND
THEIR FAMILIES HAVE
TO FEEL THAT THEY
ARE RECEIVING
EXCELLENT VALUE FOR
THEIR INVESTMENT.

Philanthropy can be a game changer for the college cost issue by providing funds to close the gap between what families can reasonably be expected to pay for a St. Olaf education and what it costs to provide that education. Philanthropy can help to reduce the amount of loans in financial aid packages, or eliminate it all together. It can increase the number and amount of scholarships. It can relieve the operating budget of all or some of its second largest cost (beyond personnel). The opportunity here is very significant.

WHATEVER PRICE THE college charges, students and their families have to feel that they are receiving excellent value for their investment, and they need evidence to inform their thinking. For this reason, the strategic plan also calls upon us to strengthen the College’s value proposition. Our commitment to a residential liberal arts education is unwavering, and we have thought long and deeply over the years about how to articulate the value of that experience. The same

is true for our identity as a college in the Lutheran tradition that is committed to supporting our students in their faith development. But we can and will improve our ability to measure those outcomes of the St. Olaf experience that demonstrate that our graduates go on to attain financial independence, professional accomplishment, and personal fulfillment. We began that effort this year with a comprehensive report on the employment outcomes of our 2011 graduates. We know where 92 percent of them are, and of that group we know that 98 percent are either employed or in graduate school. On our website, under the rubric “Return on Investment in a St. Olaf Education,” we display where those graduates are employed and where they are studying, and we organize that information by region and major.

Our students and their families treasure the education St. Olaf offers, and Oles everywhere treasure their experiences at the College. Our reputation is strong, and the widespread regard and affection for the College is one of our most valuable assets. By forthrightly acknowledging concerns about college costs and by offering realistic responses to them, the College seeks to show that it is attentive to the concerns of the public and members of the St. Olaf family and is able to respond to them. We remain grateful to Oles and friends everywhere whose gifts of time and treasure help us to achieve excellence in our program while maintaining our commitment to meet the financial need of all of our students.

The coming years are going to be very challenging for St. Olaf as we continue to aspire to offer the best possible experience for our students without pricing ourselves out of the reach of families. That will require us to be innovative, to make judgments about what our most important priorities are, to be prepared to stop doing some things, and to focus on what is best for the College as a whole. I welcome your thoughts on this or any other topic, and I thank you for your care for our College. 🦁

DAVID R. ANDERSON '74 is President of St. Olaf College.

SOLD



FOUNDATIONS

UPDATING AGING RESIDENCE HALLS HAS BECOME A PRIORITY ON MANITOU HEIGHTS.

By Carole Leigh Engblom

PHOTOS BY TOM ROSTER AND THE SHAW-OLSON CENTER FOR COLLEGE HISTORY

ST. OLAF, AN INTENSELY RESIDENTIAL college since its inception, has long given careful thought to the community it offers students. Oles who live together as roommates and neighbors form strong bonds built on friendships, shared memories, and everyday experiences — in residence halls and in the classroom, in labs and in practice rooms, on sand volleyball and basketball courts, over meals in Stav and picnics in Norway Valley.

Living in community also necessitates the need for compromise, negotiation, and sensitivity to each other. As part of a residential community, students find support among their peers and professors as they explore who they are, what they believe, and what they want to do with their lives after graduation. Whether studying or relaxing together, conducting research or going on tour together, having a Great Conversation or conversing in Japanese, one thing remains constant: Oles know each other, because they all live in the same place.

WHERE YOU LIVE MATTERS

NINETY-SIX PERCENT OF ST. OLAF STUDENTS live on Manitou Heights, in one of eleven co-ed residence halls encircling the academic heart of the campus, or in one of twenty-one college houses. First-year students live in Ellingson, Hoyme, Hilleboe-Kittlesby, Mohn, and Kildahl Halls. This year they'll also live in Larson Hall. Upperclassmen and women can choose from all residence halls, which includes Thorson, Rand, Ytterboe, Mellby, and Larson Halls, or one of the college houses.

With the current round of renovations to academic buildings nearing completion, the college has turned its attention to updating the aging residence halls, making it a priority in the strategic plan. The goal is to increase comfort while also saving energy.



For the past two years, renovations have been in full swing throughout the summer months as first-year residence halls began to receive much needed face-lifts, giving them new life cycles and making them economically and environmentally sound.

“Through a lot of hard work by very many people, St. Olaf has been able to fund building renewals that are long overdue,” says Pete Sandberg, assistant vice president for facilities. “Academics are always first, but we aspire to offer a high quality residential experience. Facilities contribute to that. However, they can also detract from the total experience if left far behind their renewal life cycles.”

With an eye toward the future and in keeping with the ongoing environmental efforts on campus, Sandberg points out that the most sustainable buildings can be the ones that are not built from scratch, as evidenced by Boe Memorial Chapel, Dittmann Center, and Tomson Hall.

“There are tremendous resources invested in our existing structures,” he says. “To let a building deteriorate and ultimately replace it is to waste all that. Because our forebearers planned, designed, and built well, our residences can be adapted to a world more concerned about energy use, conservation, and healthful living.”

The first phase of the renovations began in the summer of 2011 with Ellingson Hall. Ellingson was fitted with new, energy-efficient windows and window coverings, recyclable carpet tiles in student rooms, low-maintenance quarry tiles in the hallways, ventilation improvements, and new plumbing and bathrooms. Ceilings were replaced and rooms repainted.

“Because our forebearers planned, designed, and built well, our residences can be adapted to a world more concerned about energy use, conservation, and healthful living.”

This summer Hoyme Hall was renovated, updated to equal Ellingson, and then some. Hoyme was also given a new electrical system and lighting, a new fire alarm system and fire sprinklers, improved ventilation for student rooms, an overall conversion of low-pressure steam heat to hot water, building insulation, and corridor lighting controlled by motion sensors. Ellingson will receive additional improvements in a second phase during the summer of 2013.

Other residential improvements include improved sidewalks and lighting on the roadways, and better elevator accessibility in Mohn and Larson.

“We’re just now starting to map out the subsequent buildings and phases,” says Sandberg, who notes that the overarching goal is to complete renovations on the first-year residence halls before moving on to the other halls.

Up next for renovation: Kildahl and Kittlesby Halls.

LIVING ON MANITOU HEIGHTS

St. Olaf College is much more than brick and mortar, and more than academics alone. The college has always striven to provide an excellent residential experience, to be a true “home” for generations of Oles whose friendships provided emotional and intellectual support, plenty of laughter, and warm memories of days gone by.



OLD MAIN (1878)

The first residences on Manitou Hill were in the Main Building. To the college’s earliest tenants, it was like living in a castle. “While the girls lived on the first floor and the boys on the third floor, there was still always the danger that

they might get to look at one another,” noted H.B. Kildahl, whose brother, John, was St. Olaf’s second president (1899–1914). Trying to interpret the fears of the St. Olaf leadership, Kildahl teasingly concluded that they weren’t afraid that in due time the boys and the girls would get married, but “that these young people one day might marry each other.”

LADIES HALL (1879)

The first residence for women was the original St. Olaf’s School in downtown Northfield. The old building was dismantled, hauled up the hill, and reconstructed in the woods to the west and north of the Main, near where Holland Hall stands today.

Providing rooms for twenty-three ladies, the makeshift building was drafty, cold in the winter, and barely habitable. It was surrounded by woods so thick that there were cases of ladies losing their sense of direction in the forest and spending hours trying to find their way back.



The only women’s residence on campus until 1912, it subsequently served for twelve years as the college’s first Music Hall — dubbed “Agony Hall” by students because of the sounds coming from its windows during practice sessions. When its successor, Mohn Hall, was built, the girls continued to prefer the soft water from the pump next to Ladies Hall for shampooing their hair. It became an unwritten law that the freshmen boys were to carry the pails of water from the pump to Mohn Hall.

YTTERBOE HALL (1901)

Named for St. Olaf treasurer and business manager H.T. Ytterboe, the original Ytterboe Hall was the first men’s dormitory and housed generations of Ole men. A red brick building in Georgian Revival style, it had rooms for 250 men and also offered a faculty apartment, parlors, a gymnasium in the basement, a modern kitchen, and dining facilities for the entire student body.

Ytterboe served as much more than a residence. Piano and voice studios were for many years located on first floor. The living room was the social center of the college, where teas and receptions were held. Larger all-college social gatherings took place in the gymnasium, which also doubled as a theater known as the Cellar Stage.



The building was renovated in 1982 for safety reasons, appearance, and energy conservation, and was used for student housing until the spring of

1989. A college landmark, Ytterboe was loved for its red brick, porch and cupolas, its central location, ingenious lofts, sloping floors, fire escapes, and exposed ceiling pipes.

In 1997, the aging, crumbling building was torn down to make way for Buntrock Commons.

MOHN HALL (1912)

The original Mohn Hall, designed for 110 female residents, was a vast improvement for women’s housing. It was named after President Thørbjorn Nelson Mohn (1844–99), which was appropriate given his long defense of coeducation at a time when it wasn’t common. Mohn Hall was beloved



by the women who lived there. The interior was warm and intimate, with attractive parlors, spacious, airy rooms, and “splendid” washroom facilities. “This is college as I dreamed it to be,” noted Lucille Grong Christianson ’43.

Each spring the ladies of Mohn enjoyed rolling their cots out onto an open balcony overlooking Norway Valley, a custom that came to the attention of the men of Ytterboe Hall, who would come over to serenade them — over and over. The ladies enjoyed it, to a point.

One night, while the women studied for finals, the Ytterboe men — more boisterous than usual — decided to climb up the back of the building for a friendly sneak attack. The women quickly conferred, considered the merits of the second floor fire hose as a suitable weapon, and washed the whole crowd of men down into Norway Valley. When President Lars Boe (1918–42) was duly informed of the women’s defensive action, he smiled and said, “Do it again if you need to.”

Mohn Hall was razed in 1967 to make room for a new Science Center, which today is the site of Tomson Hall.

AGNES MELLBY HALL (1938)



The new “ladies hall” was built of limestone. The use of stone was an important decision, for there were those who felt that residence halls should be made of brick (it was cheaper construction) and the more expensive gray limestone should be used only on academic buildings. College treasurer P.O. Holland believed otherwise, insisting that limestone should be used on *all* campus buildings, in keeping with the mixed English-Gothic and Norman architecture that began in the 1920s. The foresighted Holland stated that whatever was done with Agnes Mellby Hall would determine the pattern for future residence halls.

The building, which accommodated 180 women, was named in honor of St. Olaf’s first woman graduate, Agnes Mellby, Class of 1893, who served as preceptress, or dean of women, for many years. The hall’s large, oak-paneled living room with its beautiful fireplace and tall windows was the scene of countless receptions, recitals, weddings, and other social events.



THORSON HALL (1948)

Located on land that had been the college’s dairy farm, Thorson Hall was named in honor of Harold Thorson, a Northfield merchant who selected

Manitou Hill as the site for St. Olaf, and an original signer of the college’s Articles of Incorporation, an early benefactor, and member of the original St. Olaf board of trustees in 1875.

Ground was broken in March of 1946. During the ceremony, a group of students posted themselves at the top of the college ski jump, within sight and earshot of the festivities. Suddenly, as one co-ed screamed, another co-ed tossed a lifelike dummy off the ski jump, much to the horror of the assembled crowd. The prank lives on in Ole lore.

The Norman Gothic, four-story building housed 212 men and offered two spacious lounges with built-in fireplaces, which became a favorite meeting place for a variety of purposes, including recitals and receptions. At the time of its construction, it was the largest and costliest building project in Northfield’s history.

HILLEBOE HALL (1951)

Four new residence halls were constructed in the 1950s, beginning with Hillboe Hall, which accommodated 110 women and was named in honor of Gertrude Hillboe, dean



of women from 1915 to 1958. Hillboe often drove home the fact — with spirit and good humor — that there was too much overcrowding in the women’s dormitories. The days of double decker bunk beds had begun.

A chapel in Hillboe was dedicated to honor the memory of three St. Olaf women whose lives had ended too soon: Beverly Blair, Joyce Buntrock, and Phyllis Olson Kittlesen. The women of Hillboe designed the chapel and raised the money for it. The walnut benches and altar came from the campus and were finished by St. Olaf carpenters.



EAST HALL (1956)

East Hall provided additional housing for 80 sophomore women. In 1964 it became Flaten Hall, and its space was turned over to the art department. Today this is the site of Regents Hall of Natural and Mathematical Sciences.



AGNES KITTELSBY HALL (1957)



Kittelsby was constructed as a wing adjacent to Hilleboe Hall, with rooms for 164 women. The two buildings soon became known as Hill-Kitt. Kittelsby was named in honor of Agnes Kittelsby, Class of 1900, who taught history, German, English, and Latin at St. Olaf prior to World War I.

KILDAHL HALL (1957)

Named for St. Olaf's second president, Kildahl housed 168 men and was notorious for thin walls and an utter



lack of soundproofing. On the positive side, when the St. Olaf Center was constructed in 1959, the men of Kildahl found themselves handily close to the cafeteria.

ELLINGSON HALL (1961)

Ellingson Hall, built to accommodate 200 men, was named for Dr. Emil O. Ellingson, Class of 1906 and a professor of chemistry at St. Olaf from 1919 to 1952. Ellingson was credited with establishing high standards in the chemistry department.



HOYME MEMORIAL HALL (1961)

Hoyme Memorial Hall housed 210 women. Naming it in memory of the Reverend Gjermund Hoyme raised eyebrows on two counts: First, the original, 1906 campus chapel had already been named in his honor before being destroyed by fire in 1923. Second, Hoyme, who was president of the United Lutheran Church (the church body that made St. Olaf its college in 1899), opposed co-education.



AGNES LARSON HALL (1964)

The women's tower, a twelve-story building for 292 students, was named to honor Dr. Agnes Larson, Class of 1916, who taught history at St. Olaf for thirty-four years.



MOHN HALL (1964)

The ten-story men's tower, housing 296 students, ensured that St. Olaf's first president would continue to be honored after the original Mohn Hall was demolished. The tower dormitory was an exciting departure and very much in vogue in the early 1960s. The central concept was not one of saving space, but of placing a smaller group of 24 to 30 students on a floor where they could develop a sense of community.

RAND HALL (1980)

Designed to house 243 students, Rand had the special feature of offering eleven "houses," each with fourteen residents, on the lower two floors. The hall was named in honor of Sidney Rand, who was president of St. Olaf College from 1963 to 1980.



MANITOU HALL (1989)

Selection of the site for Manitou Hall was done with care in order to preserve as much of Hoyme woods and its ecosystem as possible. Student residents lived in "pods," clusters of ten people residing in two single and four double rooms centered around a common lounge. Among the amenities that drew comment when it was built: a physical fitness room, a whirlpool, three entertainment lounges, kitchenettes, and personal computers. It was also air-conditioned and, housing more than 400 students, it was the largest residence hall on campus. With the demise of the original Ytterboe residence, Manitou was renamed Ytterboe Hall in October 1997. 🦁



CAROLE LEIGH ENGBLOM is editor of *St. Olaf Magazine*. Anecdotes from *Dear Old Hill*, by Joseph M. Shaw. Used with permission.



Buried TREASURE

HISTORIAN STEVE HAHN'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE REAL PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN CHALLENGES OUR ROMANTICIZED NOTIONS OF THE MEN WHO SAILED UNDER THE JOLLY ROGER.

By Marla Hill Holt '88



AMERICANS ARE FASCINATED BY PIRATES. Swashbuckling, eye-patch-wearing, peg-leg-hobbling seafarers badly in need of good dental work have been the stuff of Hollywood lore for ages. What child hasn't imagined living a lawless life on the high seas, raiding merchant ships of their treasure? Many of us have donned a red bandanna, a gold earring, and a well-rehearsed "aargh" for a Halloween party. And there is even an International Talk Like a Pirate Day (September 19, if you're interested).

Like most of us, St. Olaf Associate Professor of History Steve Hahn enjoys pirate pop culture. But as a scholar of early American history, he's more interested in piracy's academic allure: What can we learn about America's early days by investigating the lives of pirates? Hahn's research into a handful of stories related to pirates who lived during the Caribbean's Golden Age (roughly 1715 to 1730) is adding to the body of knowledge that reveals piracy as not just a footnote to colonial development, but rather tightly woven into the historical narrative of the European empires and their colonies in the New World.



“In some ways, piracy challenges a glorified narrative of early American history: that of the freedom-loving people who came to America to evade religious oppression and to make their fortune,” Hahn says. “During the Golden Age, there was a popular acceptance of piracy that helps to recast early America as a very strange place, with some of our most prominent cities being pirate nests.”

The common image of a pirate as a pariah, an enemy of humankind, is not quite accurate, Hahn says. “In reality, pirates slipped in and out of piracy easily — some from legitimate, law-abiding lives — and colonial governments and communities engaged in trade with them. It was a very gray area. Who was a pirate? Who wasn’t a pirate? What was legal and what wasn’t? Piracy didn’t exist without support from governing officials and merchants.”

Plus, Hahn admits, researching pirates is entertaining. What’s not to love about a good pirate story? It’s even better if it deepens our knowledge of America’s history along the way.

HOOKED ON PIRATES

Hahn, who has surely heard every “ahoy, matey” and “shiver me timbers” joke in the book, loved the first installment of *Pirates of the Caribbean*, the multibillion-dollar film franchise that made the character of Captain Jack Sparrow a household name. While most of us were just enter-

tained by the movie, Hahn was inspired to learn more about the history behind the story.

“It’s not like I had this great love of pirates as a kid or that I was focused on pirates early on in my career,” he says. “Frankly, the movie piqued my interest. I wanted to know more about the historical side of pirates in the Caribbean, so I started reading extensively on the subject.”

Researching pirates isn’t really that much of a departure from Hahn’s previous historical research. His scholarly interests lie with America’s colonial history, particularly in South Carolina and Georgia. His first book, *The Invention of the Creek Nation, 1670–1763*, was published in 2004 and recounts the political history of the Muskogee (Creek) Indians in the era prior to the French and Indian War. His second book, *The Life and Times of Mary Musgrove*, will be published in October 2012 and is a biography of a half-English, half-Creek Indian woman who lived from 1700 to 1764 and was active in diplomacy, trade, war, and politics in Georgia. The book tells the story of Musgrove’s life but also examines issues of race and gender more broadly in the colonial Deep South.

“I’m always looking for how the colonies reached out to the broader world,” Hahn says. “This has led me westward to Indian country, where trade, diplomacy, war, and intermarriage are important parts of the historical story. But I’ve also focused

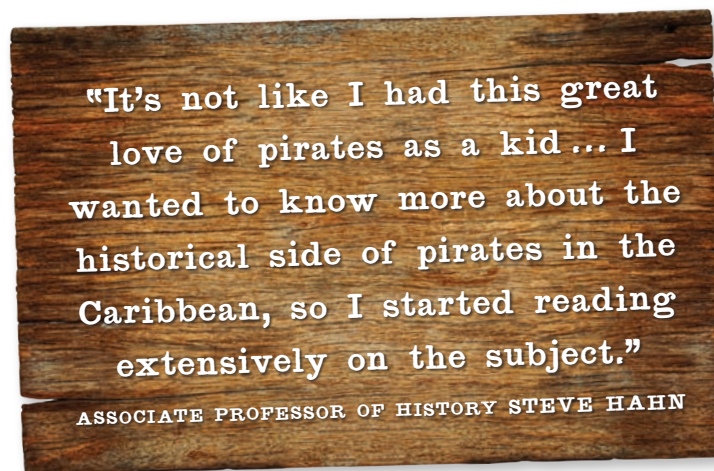
eastward, southward, and northward to maritime relationships among the Carolinas and other British colonies, as well as the Caribbean and England.”

Hahn has discerned connections between South Carolina and the British, Spanish, and French colonies in the Caribbean, and to some extent connections with West Africa and colonies in the Indian Ocean. Studying the colonies not in isolation but more broadly interconnected is the purview of a

specialty academic field known as Atlantic Studies, says Hahn. The discipline is centered not on a single nation or landmass, but on the continents that border the Atlantic Ocean — the Americas, Europe, and Africa — as a common sphere of economic and cultural exchange that can be studied as a totality. “We’re talking about a much broader history through this lens,” Hahn says.

So it seems Hahn’s curiosity about pirates in the Caribbean is a natural fit to a better understanding of this broader world. “We tend to have a very insular outlook here in the United States, thinking we emerged in isolation as this city on the hill we imagine to be,” he says.

The work of both colonial and maritime historians reveals an intertwined Atlantic economy and a booming international trade across oceans that were barely policed. Ships were ripe for the taking by pirates. Many of the goods were grown and processed in the Caribbean by slave labor. “Much of the African slave trade ended up in the Caribbean,” Hahn says, and so by the early



1700s, the region had become a dynamic center of the world.

“I’m starting to appreciate the Caribbean as being of global importance rather than just a periphery to history,” Hahn says. “Arguably, even for the English, it was the Caribbean colonies that mattered most in terms of wealth, and piracy was a big part of that picture.”



Some of the famous pirates from Hollywood films and literature — such as Edward Teach, a.k.a. “Blackbeard” (page 16), and Stede Bonnet (above) — were actual historical figures from the Golden Age of Piracy in the 1700s. One of Steve Hahn’s current research subjects is a nefarious South Carolina character with links to Bonnet and other pirates who were active in the Caribbean, the Bahamas, and the American Colonies.

A TREASURE TROVE OF HISTORY

Information about colonial era pirates is vast, much like our fascination with the salty seafarers who committed thievery on open water. Hahn has found that there is no shortage of literature on the subject.

“There are innumerable books on pirates, a lot of which are simply tales of swashbucklers and how cool they are,” Hahn says.

“The academic field of pirate studies tends to focus on the culture of piracy, pirates’ lives at sea, and the question of whether they intentionally set out to establish a different kind of social order.”

Even defining what constitutes a pirate, historically, is tricky, says Hahn. Broadly, a pirate is anyone who robs or commits violence on the high seas. “One of the main characteristics of

what we traditionally think of as pirates is that they attacked ships indiscriminately,” Hahn says. “They attacked during nominal times of peace. They raised the flag and openly identified themselves as pirates. They were the ones who went to the gallows unrepentant for their lifestyle and their activities.”

But, like much of history, perspective is important. For example, says Hahn, a 16th-century English navigator who plundered a Spanish ship of its silver and gold — especially during wartime — was viewed as a national hero performing his patriotic duty against the hated Spanish Catholic enemy. But the Spaniards likely labeled him a pirate. English ships detained in foreign ports and found to have foreign coins on board could be accused of trading in illegal goods, thus being labeled pirate ships. In addition, privateers, only slightly different from pirates, were men who received “sometimes legitimate, sometimes bogus commissions in wartime from colonial governors to attack enemy shipping. They at least had the cover of legality,” Hahn says. “It’s all a bit slippery to define.”

Also, piracy wasn’t just stealing treasure for treasure’s sake. Pirates spent stolen coins on provisions in colonial cities that welcomed them, such as Newport, Rhode Island, and Charleston, South Carolina. “Gold and silver isn’t any good unless you can buy something with it,” Hahn says. Trades also were made for durable goods, such as sugar and wine. Captured slaves were sold at a profit. “Even the pits from tropical trees, which could be ground up and made into various dyes to be used in English woolen mills, were valuable,” Hahn says.

Many men who became pirates were poor and were drawn to the lifestyle to make a bit more money than they could

as a merchant marine or a common sailor for the Royal Navy. Life aboard a pirate ship was democratic as well. Each pirate got an equal share of the booty and could be elected an officer, and there was a relative lack of discipline (and, most likely, plenty of rum). The motley crews — a term that refers to the multiethnic makeup of men on board — worked together to chart the course of their ships, deciding when to attack and when to lay low in friendly ports.

IN SEARCH OF STORIES

For his first foray into piracy in the Caribbean, Hahn reviewed the literature already in existence, particularly as it related to the region's Golden Age of Piracy (also known as the "Blackbeard era") from approximately 1715 to 1730.

Drawing on the many scholarly works available on piracy, Hahn developed a new course at St. Olaf for first-year students called *Pirates of the Caribbean*. He thought the topic — an intriguing subject — would engage students in the study of history in a new way. And he was right. The course was so popular that Hahn's email inbox exploded with requests from upperclassmen wanting to take the class.

Piracy continued to pique Hahn's personal scholarly interest as well, so he kept his eyes open for stories about pirates that hadn't yet been told. Much has been written about pirates' lives at sea and about famous pirates, but Hahn is more interested in learning about the lives of common pirates and how they interacted with land-based communities while slipping in and out of piracy and more legitimate ways of making a living.

Hahn currently is researching the lives of 209 pirates who were granted a pardon by the British government in 1718 in the Bahamas, which was a notorious pirate lair at the time. "Roughly between 1700 and 1710 the Bahamas were attacked three times by the Spanish, forcing everyone who lived on the main island at New Providence to scatter to outlying islands," Hahn says. "There was anarchy, poverty, and no real form of government. That provided an opening for pirates to gather there."

In 1715, a Spanish treasure fleet sank between Florida and the Bahamas, creating more opportunities for piracy as people flocked to the area to treasure hunt. The British government sent warships to the Bahamas in 1718 to claim the islands as a royal colony and to put an end to the pirates' activity. Woodes Rodgers became the colony's first official governor that same year.

Prior to Rodgers's arrival, however, a British naval captain named Vincent Pearse traveled to the Bahamas to offer pardons to the pirates, as this was thought to be an effective way of eradicating piracy en masse. Hahn discovered the list of pardoned men this past spring while conducting research into admiralty records at the British National Archives. He is just beginning his research into who the men were, what connections they had throughout the colonial world, and what they did with their lives after they were pardoned.

"I'm working on a kind of social history of former pirates," Hahn says. It's painstakingly slow work — reading through Bahamian colonial records, Governor Rodgers' correspondence, and lists of baptisms, marriages, and deaths to find clues about men

who often have common names like John Smith or Peter Johnson.

Contrary to the popular, romanticized image, says Hahn, a pirate generally lived a life that was, to borrow from British philosopher Thomas Hobbes, "nasty, brutish, and short." Hahn estimates that many of the pardoned pirates were dead within five to ten years of the pardon.

One of the governor's letters suggests that about half of the pardoned men fled the islands, but a fair number stayed, Hahn says. "One guy, probably a French Protestant, was eventually recommended for the Bahamas Council, which was sort of like the upper house of government at the time. He married and had kids, served on a grand jury, and became the colony's treasurer and customs collector. So a former pirate made good."

In addition to discovering more about the lives of the par-

doned men, Hahn is digging into the life of a nefarious character named Richard Tookerman with connections to South Carolina, the Caribbean, and England.

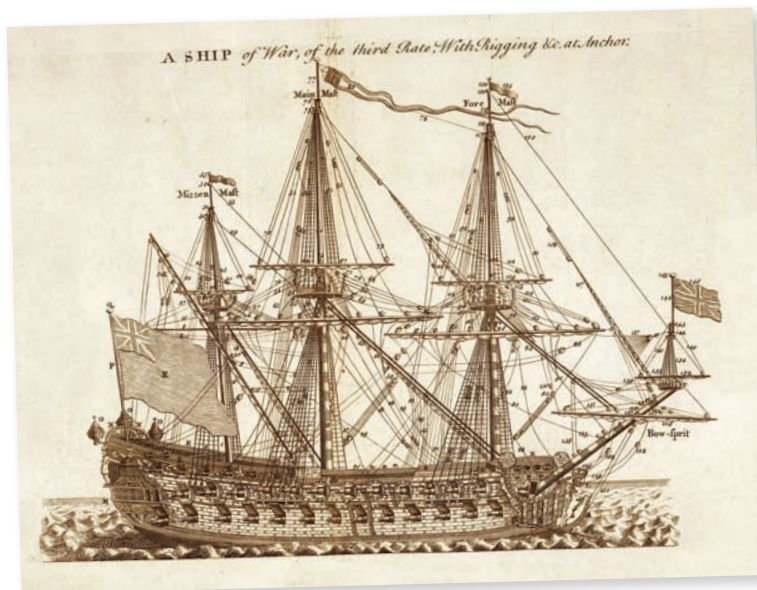
According to Hahn, the paper trail on Tookerman shows that he — or one of his ships — was involved in the killing of a pirate named Richard Worley outside of Charleston in 1718. He also helped the more famous pirate Stede Bonnet escape trial for piracy. Tookerman stole slaves in Barbados, traded goods in Curaçao, was arrested in Jamaica, and

sued the English commodore who detained him, among other questionable activities. "I also discovered Tookerman was among the most litigious people in South Carolina in 1717, 1718, and 1719 — mostly for debts," Hahn says. He is eager to delve more deeply into Tookerman's personal history as an illustration of the interconnectedness of colonial-era trade patterns, governmental institutions, and the application of law.

PLYING THE WATERS

Hahn has made a career of researching obscure people, particularly those who have no written history. "Just finding out these people existed can be challenging, and we certainly don't know much about their interior lives — how they worshipped, loved, hated," Hahn says. "You have to connect the dots in ways that you don't for Puritan ministers in New England who wrote everything in a diary. And what you do find often is the written word of people in high places who have their own agendas."

But Hahn believes these unknown people have no lesser place in history. "A lot of maritime historians are interested in the mechanics of a ship — how captains fed their crew, what discipline was like, et cetera," Hahn says, but they aren't necessarily focused on figuring out what made sailors tick. "I hope I can play some role in telling how the common sailor survived in the Atlantic world, either legally or illegally."





Because it contains detailed information about the trade routes of the Spanish treasure fleets, this early 18th-century map is thought to have been designed to aid English piracy and privateering in the West Indies. The mapmaker, Herman Moll, was known to have been acquainted with Woodes Rogers and the explorer-pirate William Dampier.

As he investigates the lives of Tookerman and the other men, Hahn remains fascinated with how piracy is one means by which the English colonial establishment was able to assert itself in the Americas. “There is a fine line between piracy and clandestine trade,” he says. “Many of the people invested with authority by the British Empire were involved in questionable activity themselves.”

The Golden Age of Piracy began to fade with the maturation of the colonies and the standardization of laws, and as local communities began to realize there was more profit to be made through legitimate commercial practices.

Not that piracy ever died out. It has existed for as long as people have used the sea for trade and will continue to bedevil ships on the high seas. Though today’s pirates have forsaken velvet waistcoats and flintlock pistols, they act as pirates have always acted — using intimidation and violence to steal from ships and their crews.

Our fascination with piracy is part of a longstanding tradition of making folk heroes out of bandits, rebels, and outlaws — think Robin Hood and Jesse James. “It’s a romanticized image that people admire,” Hahn says. “And as long as anti-authoritarian figures are admired, pirates will have a place in our imagination.” So while our interest is not likely to wane, just remember that, historically, the average pirate only survived for about two years, with most meeting their demise at the end of a rope. 🏴‍☠️

MARLA HILL HOLT '88 is a freelance writer living in Owatonna, Minnesota.

SEAWORTHY READS

Want to learn more about pirates? Read *Treasure Island* for a swashbuckling good time and then focus your one good eye on these books, as recommended by history professor Steve Hahn.

- *A General History of the Pyrates* by Daniel Defoe (The book is sometimes credited to Captain Charles Johnson, but scholars believe it was Defoe who wrote it.)
- *Villains of All Nations: Atlantic Pirates in the Golden Age* by Marcus Rediker

WORLD

THE 29TH ANNUAL GIMSE INTERNATIONAL

Each year, hundreds of St. Olaf students take advantage of international and off-campus study programs that offer profound, often life-changing experiences.

This past year, 764 students participated in international and off-campus study programs at one of fifty-one international sites and ten domestic sites during a semester or year-long program, or at one of twenty-four international and seven domestic sites during January Interim. Far from home, exposed to social, religious, political, economic, and cultural norms that differ markedly from their own, St. Olaf students use photography as one way to come to terms with such diversity.

As part of their re-entry into campus life, students are invited each spring to submit their photos in the Gimse International and Off-Campus Studies Photo Contest. This year, winning entries include images from Ecuador, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, France, Greece, Guatemala, India, Italy, New York City, New Mexico, New Zealand, and Nevada.

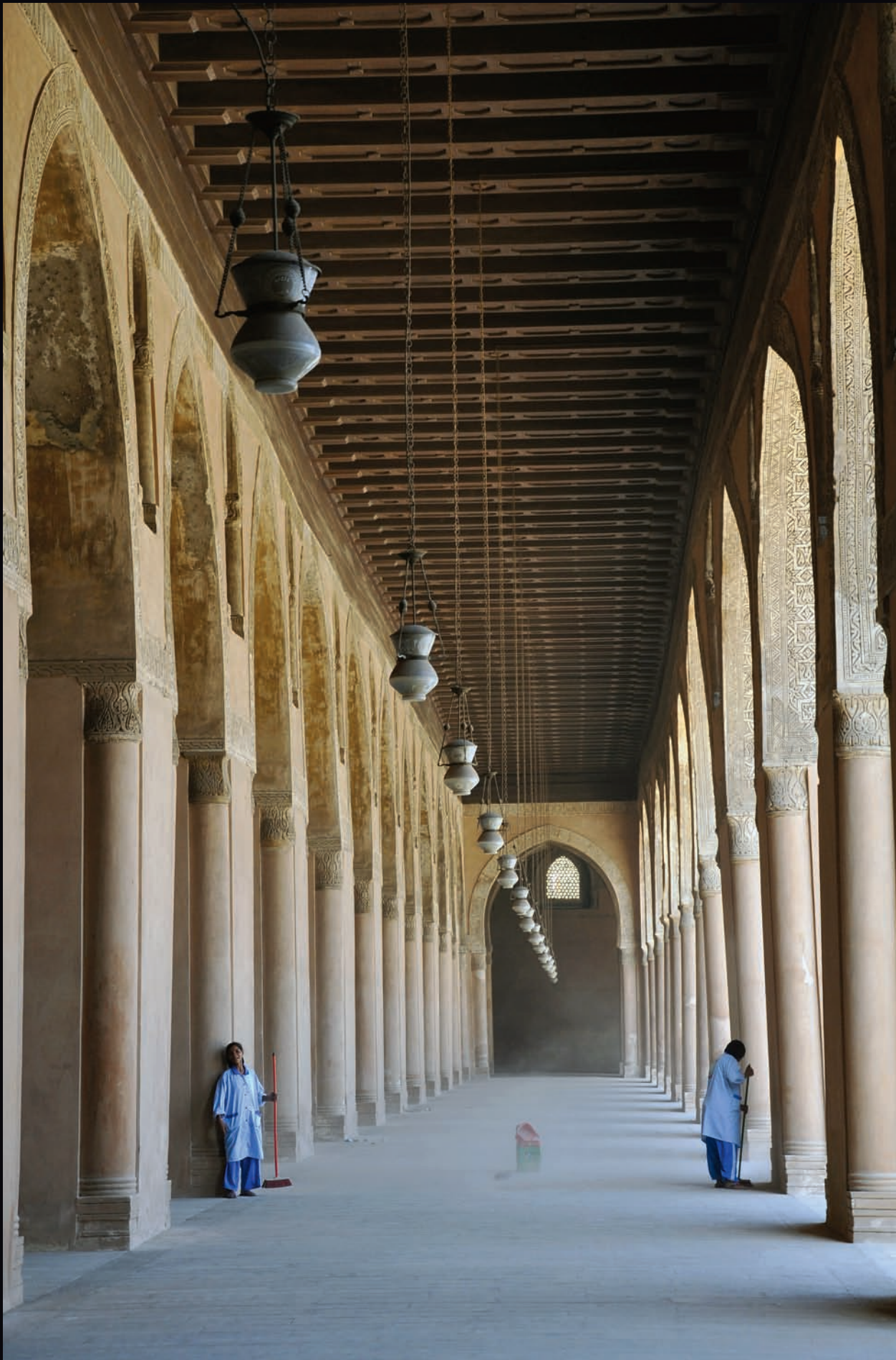
For comments from the photographers and to see more photos, visit stolaf.edu/international/photocontest

VIEWS

AND OFF-CAMPUS STUDIES PHOTO CONTEST



Camouflage · Monte Verde, Costa Rica
Knute Gunderson '12 · Costa Rica Biology Interim



Afternoon in the Mosque of Ahmed Ibn Tulun · Cairo · Arielle Johnson '12 · Global Semester



Bicycle - Florence, Italy · Vicki Anton '14 · Art in Italy Interim



Writing on the Wall - Zamalek Island, Cairo
Catherine O'Connor '13 · Global Semester



Cixi: Dowager Empress - Mei Lanfang Opera Theater, Beijing
Andrew Fuglestad '14 · Asian Conversations Interim



Devil's Spring · Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico · Charlie Reinertsen '13 · Desert Biology Interim



The Last Supper · Goldwell Open Air Museum, Rhyolite, Nevada
Will Molano '12 · Desert Biology Interim



Temple Treasures · Temple of Heaven, Beijing · Elsie Nord '13 · Global Semester



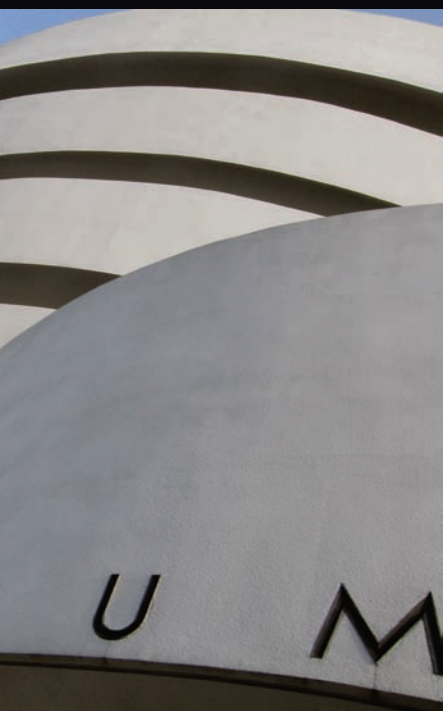
New Zealand's Pride and Joy · Dunedin, New Zealand · Kari Riley '13 · University of Otago Semester



Guggenheim Sky · New York City
Emily Karboski '14 · New York Art Interim



Gateway of the Renaissance · Piazza S. Martino, Lucca, Italy · Katie Lauer '13 · Art in Florence Interim



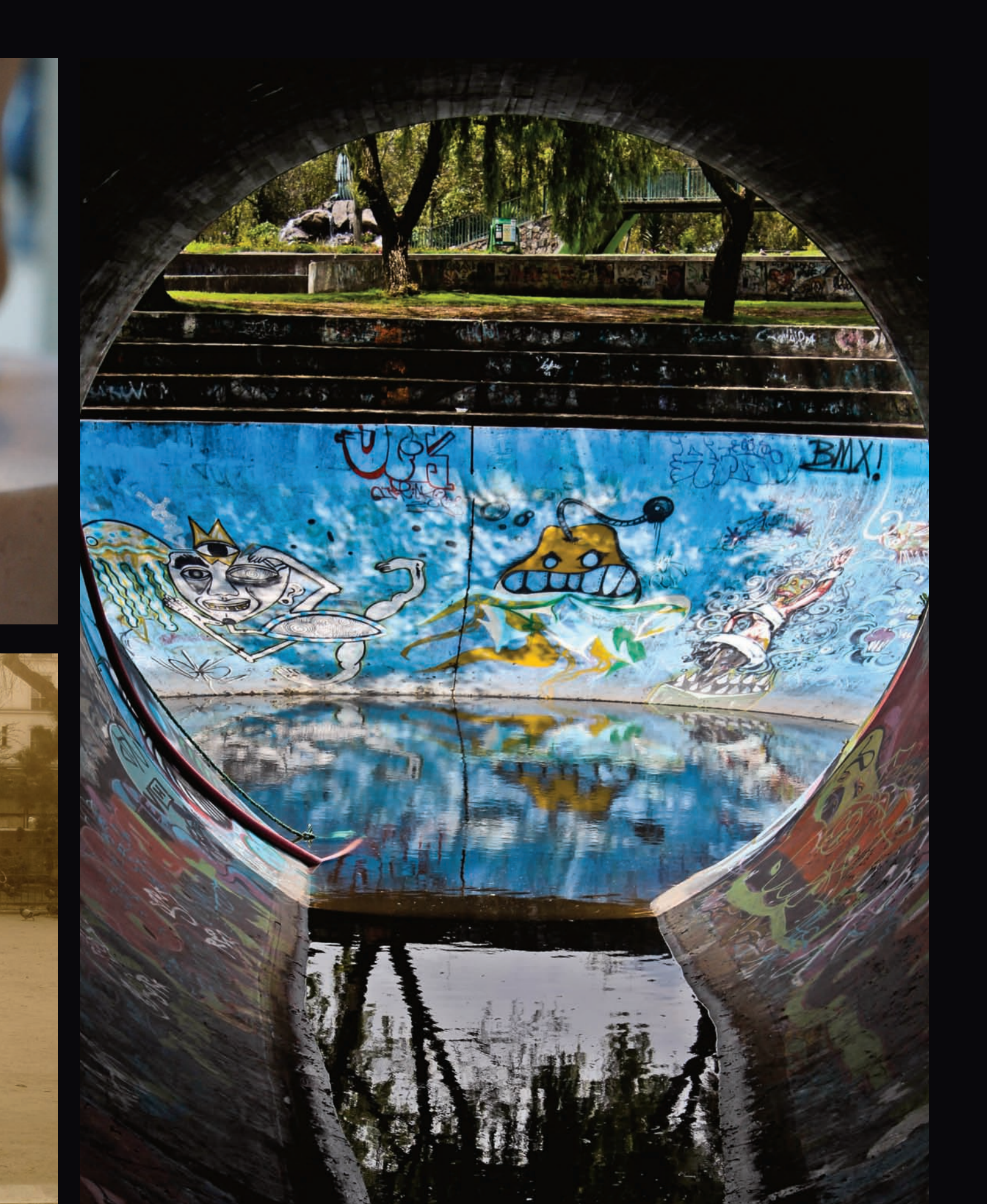
Adelante · Camaguey, Cuba · Michelle Frank '13 · Revolutionary Cuba Interim



Hands of an Angel · The Louvre Museum, Paris · TaKeyah Dominique '13 · French Interim in Paris



Feeding the Birds · Paris · Peder Garnaas-Halvorson '12 · CIEE Rennes Semester in France



Two Worlds - Dos Mundos · Carolina Park, Quito, Ecuador · Emma Crumley '14 · Spanish in Ecuador Interim

Building Relationships

Kathryn M. Lohre '99:
Providing Leadership, Seeking Unity

By Nancy Crotti | PHOTO BY BETH ROONEY

ON JANUARY FIRST OF THIS YEAR, at age thirty-four, Kathryn M. Lohre began her term as president of the National Council of Churches. In doing so, she became the first Lutheran and ELCA member — and the youngest woman — to lead the national ecumenical organization, which fosters relations among thirty-seven church denominations representing 100,000 local congregations across the United States.

Building relationships with those of differing Christian traditions, as well as with those who follow other faith traditions, has long been Lohre's passion. The daughter of an ELCA minister, Lohre, a laywoman, describes herself as an extrovert, even from childhood.

"I've always been a people person. I remember as a kid saying I was going to grow up and be president. I didn't exactly imagine that to be president of the National Council," Lohre says with a laugh.

She grew up in St. Paul's Macalester-Groveland neighborhood, close to Immanuel Lutheran Church, the ELCA congregation where her father served as pastor. Midway through her junior year at Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis, Lohre's father was called to be the pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pine Island, Minnesota, about 15 miles northwest of Rochester. The transition from the city to a small town midway through high school was difficult, but Lohre considers it a learning experience.

"It was a really wonderful opportunity for me to engage with a new community," she says.

The subsequent transition to St. Olaf College was a natural one. Lohre is the forty-third person in her extended family to attend St. Olaf. Her family legacy at the college includes some of her grandparents, as well as her parents, the Rev. John T. Lohre '67, and Mary Nasby Lohre '69.

Lohre found the faculty at St. Olaf College impeccable. "They have formed me and changed me in ways that are so life-giving," she says.

As a St. Olaf student, her majors in religion, women's studies, and psychology required her to think globally and critically, and also broaden her perspective. Lohre was midway through her undergraduate career at St. Olaf when she participated in the college's Global Semester, a life-changing experience.

Exposed to the cultural diversity of Switzerland, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, India, Nepal, China, Hong Kong, and South Korea, as well as the social and religious diversity of the people she met, Lohre began to examine more deeply



some of life's biggest questions, which ultimately would lay the foundation for her life's work: "How do I live out my faith in relationship with people who don't share my faith but who also are answering God's call or living out their faith in some other focused way?"

Lohre's interest in religion and religious diversity led her to study the roles of women in interreligious dialogue — engagement among people of different



religious faiths. In addition to Global Semester, where she did an independent study on women's religious leadership and practices, she also spent a January Interim studying women's spiritual autobiographies at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in the Cascade Mountains of Washington state.

L. DeAne Lagerquist, St. Olaf professor of religion, worked with Lohre on a research project for her senior thesis surveying women ordained in the ELCA. Lagerquist supervised Lohre's

senior year distinction project and saw a young woman who was poised for leadership, and well-grounded in knowledge and scholarship.

"She could see the big picture," Lagerquist says, "and was interested in what matters."

After graduating *summa cum laude* from St. Olaf, Lohre studied at Harvard Divinity School, where she obtained her master of divinity degree. She has since received an honorary

doctor of divinity degree from the Graduate Theological Foundation, a school of continuing education based in South Bend, Indiana.

“When I left St. Olaf and went on to graduate school, I found my niche at the intersection of women’s studies, religious studies, and international peace-building,” says Lohre. “What I found in my research was the critical role of storytelling. When we relate not just as women but as people with our stories, I think that’s a game-changer.”

As part of her M.Div. field work, Lohre spent time in war-torn Bosnia and the Balkans, working with an interfaith women’s project to learn about the role of women in peacemaking. She gained a new perspective on how religion can be manipulated to divide people — not only in other countries but also in the United States — and she strove to work with others to break down those barriers, to make religion a bridge for peace.

“I felt as if I had a faith-grounding to engage with neighbors of other faith traditions — and that doing so is part of my calling as a child of God,” she says.

...

UPON GRADUATION, LOHRE continued her work of engaging religious difference, spending twelve years working at the Pluralism Project at Harvard, a twenty-year research project that has documented the changing religious landscape in the United States. There she researched the unique contributions of women to interfaith dialogue, including women’s significant leadership in the interfaith movement’s exponential growth since 9/11.

Lohre found that women have been historically overlooked in international peacemaking efforts, as well as in some religious institutions. She sought ways for women’s leadership to emerge and be nurtured, and found that it’s not necessarily through the ministry.

Non-ordained women play important roles in the interfaith movement, says Lohre, because they have the “wiggle room” to shape the future of the movement without requiring official sanction from religious bodies and leaders. She believes this means that the work can often be more creative and free, cultivat-

ing religious leadership in unexpected people and places, and invigorating social-change movements.

“Working with people of other faiths has helped me to clarify my own faith convictions as a Christian,” Lohre says, “and to sort out what that actually means for my day-to-day life and relationships; and it has invariably inspired my leadership of a broader vision of Christian unity and interreligious harmony.”

“Working with people of other faiths has helped me to clarify my own faith convictions as a Christian ... and it has invariably inspired my leadership of a broader vision of Christian unity and interreligious harmony.”

— KATHRYN LOHRE '99

St. Olaf religion professor Anantanand Rambachan, who has been involved in interreligious dialogue for more than twenty-five years, recommended his former student for the position at the Pluralism Project.

“She had a very strong interest in interreligious dialogue and relationships among religions,” Rambachan. That interest was further fueled at the Pluralism Project.

“I think that’s where she developed a great deal of experience and expertise in interfaith relationships and interfaith dialogue,” says Rambachan, who remains in touch with Lohre. He believes she will be a strong leader as president of the National Council of Churches.

“What is going to be distinctive about Kathryn’s leadership, I think, is that she will bring all of the skills in fostering interfaith relationships,” says Rambachan. “I think she will be not only a good Christian leader but an interfaith leader.”

Lohre was very active with the World Council of Churches in 2009 when she received the phone call notifying her she had been nominated as a candidate for president of the National Council of Churches.

“I was shocked,” Lohre says. “I thought for certain that they had the wrong person.”

She’s had a strong supporter in the Rev. Donald McCoid, assistant to the presiding bishop of ecumenical and interreligious relations for the ELCA. In addition to becoming president of the National Council of Churches, Lohre was also asked to be the director of ELCA ecumenical and interreligious relations, which involves working under McCoid’s leadership.

“I was sure there were those who thought, ‘Someone so young?’” McCoid says. “But even to hear Kathryn speaking briefly, you wouldn’t say that anymore.”

Some did oppose her nomination, however, due to her age and perceived lack of experience. The opposition made her two-year term as president-elect difficult, but while she was learning about the National Council and its governance, Lohre realized that those who opposed her did not know her. She decided not to take the opposition personally and chose to listen to her heart.

“I had to consistently go back to my sense of calling in those months between the phone call and my election,” she says. “I felt so persistently called.”

A number of people, including St. Olaf Professor Emeritus of Art Mac Gimse ’58, believe Lohre has the potential to be a game-changer at the National Council of Churches because she’s young and engaging enough to attract younger people to the sixty-two-year-old organization.

“Kathryn seems to me to be one who can take hold of adversity and not let it get hold of her,” says Gimse. “She loves the learning curve.”

Lohre credits her family, which includes her husband, the Rev. Timothy Seitz who is pastor of Lutheran Church of the Cross in Arlington Heights, Illinois, and their four-year-old son, John, and her support network at church for her self-confidence and drive to succeed.

“My parents and mentors always taught me to believe that nothing is impossible,” she says. “I now believe that if I practice and work at it, and if I find the right people who share the same vision, there is nothing that cannot be achieved.”

NANCY CROTTI is a Twin Cities freelance writer.

EACH YEAR, ST. OLAF COLLEGE RECOGNIZES nominated alumni who exemplify the ideals and mission of the college. In honoring these graduates for their lifelong achievements and professional contributions, they become an integral part of college history and a testament to St. Olaf's tradition of excellence. ✨ Those who receive an Alumni Achievement Award have made their marks across the United States and around the globe, shining a light on what a St. Olaf education in action can do. ✨ The 2012 Alumni Achievement Award recipients — Mark B. Brown '78, Samuel L. Hanson '61, and Steven H. Miles '72 — will be honored on Friday, November 2, 2012.

Advocacy and Leadership

Distinguished Alumni Award Honoree
Reverend Mark B. Brown '78

By Kyle Schut '13 and Carole Leigh Engblom

PHOTOGRAPHED BY KARIN BROWN

Reverend Mark B. Brown has positively impacted the well-being of countless souls in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza. As regional representative for the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Jerusalem — whose motto is “Uphold the Rights of the Poor and Oppressed” (Psalm 82:3) — Brown oversees and coordinates LWF's health and educational programs. At the heart of Brown's ministry is his humanitarian work with Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH).

“The motto of the Lutheran World Federation Department for World Service,” says Brown, “is lived out every day through Augusta Victoria Hospital, the LWF's vocational training program for young men and women, and other services to those most in need.”

The century-old Augusta Victoria building on the Mount of Olives is a landmark for visitors to the Holy Land. The Church of the Ascension, adjacent to the hospital, was built as a devotional site dedicated to the Ascension of Jesus to heaven. The hospital provides specialized medical services to Palestinians and, as the main cancer care facility in the West Bank and Gaza, AVH is the only hospital providing radiation therapy.

The Lutheran World Federation has a long history of service in the region and continues to have a strong presence in the West Bank and Jerusalem. In 2004, when Brown arrived in Jerusalem, the future of the hospital was in jeopardy. The Israeli government had withdrawn the hospital's tax-exempt status and the ever-lengthening physical barrier separating Israel and the West Bank was creating long delays

for Augusta Victoria patients and medical staff traveling to the hospital from the West Bank.

Not only did Brown help secure an agreement between the LWF and the Israeli government to resolve the tax issue, his efforts contributed to an eventual agreement with Israel to let the LWF transport patients and staff to the hospital on designated bus routes from the West Bank. Crisis averted, the staff has continued to work hard through the years to upgrade its services for all its patients. Brown has seen the hospital improve its radiation oncology and dialysis treatment units in addition to making significant progress toward a bone marrow transplant program.

“Augusta Victoria Hospital has an amazing staff,” says Brown. “Their steadfastness, in the face of all sorts of difficulties and challenges, is remarkable and one of the main reasons the hospital is taking such a leading role within the Palestinian health care system and serving as a model within Palestinian society generally. In just a few years, [the hospital] has moved from being a secondary care facility to being the main cancer care center for Palestinians.”

Apart from his work with the hospital, Brown also oversees the LWF job-training program, providing vocation and job training to disadvantaged Palestinians, as well as managing the LWF's efforts to protect and develop the LWF Mount of Olives property, including the construction of affordable housing for Palestinian families. On another corner of the property, the LWF recently installed artificial turf on a soccer field that for decades has been one of the few play areas



Mark Brown at the 2012 LWF Vocational Training Program graduation ceremony in Ramallah



Mark Brown on the Lutheran World
Federation campus located on the Mount of
Olives, overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem

available to young people in East Jerusalem, despite its rough condition, uncontrolled access, and the lack of organized activities.

"The next step is to fully utilize the refurbished field by building programs that will serve and empower the youth of East Jerusalem in a safe and inviting environment," says Brown, who is involved in all aspects of the refurbishment, from fundraising to program development.

An important aspect of Brown's work is the careful management of fifty acres of land on the Mount of Olives, owned by the LWF. Each fall, volunteers are invited to pick olives from approximately 800 trees to produce olive oil. The LWF bottles and sells the oil to fund hospital care for the poor. The harvest is a festive occasion.

. . .

The seeds for Brown's affection for the people, the land, and the history of the Middle East were planted while on Term in the Middle East in the fall of 1976, three years after the 1973 Arab-Israeli War and two years before the Camp David Accords brought peace between Israel and Egypt. Brown was among thirty students who spent four months in the Old City of Jerusalem, led by the late religion professor Ansgar Sovik '34 — who co-founded the program and also the International and Off-Campus Studies office — and his wife, Muriel Rasmussen Sovik '38.

"St. Olaf was very intentional about exposing us to a variety of religious and political points of view, while at the same time instilling a special concern for the poor and oppressed," says Brown. "Ansgar and Muriel Sovik somehow captured this balance. There were many opportunities outside of the classroom to build relationships and hear perspectives that took us more deeply into the roots of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, helped us to think more equitably about solutions, and challenged us not to lose sight of the impact of the occupation and the ongoing violence on young people, families, and neighborhoods."

That experience also opened his eyes to the possibility of living and working abroad. Returning to campus, Brown — who majored in Greek, religion, and philosophy — continued the study of both Arabic and Middle Eastern history and culture. Upon leaving St. Olaf, Brown attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul, where he took advantage of an internship in Cairo, Egypt, at St. Andrew's Church and the Maadi Community Church, furthering his international experience.

This internship was meaningful, says Brown, because of the international and interdenominational character of the congregations. "I had an abundance of opportunities to experience the generous hospitality of Egyptians, learn about Islam and Christian-Muslim relations, and be challenged and inspired by the teachings and witness of Coptic Christians," he says.

Brown met his wife, Susanne, in Marrakesh in 1980; they married a year later, and raised their three children, Karin, Sebastian, and Nicholas, in Jerusalem and Silver Spring, Maryland. "I think if you had told me [in 1976] that Jerusalem would be a second home for Susanne and me, and that all of our children would be born there, I probably would have laughed," he says.

After his graduation from seminary and ordination in 1982, the American Lutheran Church — and later the ELCA's Division for Global Mission — called him to ministry in the Middle East where he worked as an assistant pastor at the Lutheran Church of Hope in Ramallah, taught religion and ethics at a local high school, and served as the Jerusalem liaison for the communication department of the Middle East Council of Churches.

Brown joined the ELCA's Division for Church in Society in 1991 and, as the assistant director for International Affairs and Human Rights at the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs in Washington, D.C., coordinated the ELCA's advocacy work on international affairs in relation to the U.S. government. Brown served on the National Board of Directors of the U.S. Inter-religious Committee for Peace in the Middle East and headed numerous coalitions, including as president of the Washington Office on Africa, chair of the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines, chair of the Jubilee 2000 National Mobilization to Cancel the Debt of Poor Countries, and chair of Churches for Middle East Peace.

Along with his professional service, Brown is a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jerusalem, where he serves as council chair and shares his musical gifts, both in the choir and as an instrumentalist. The Browns regularly open their home to the congregation, creating a tradition of potluck dinners and volleyball. Over the years, many St. Olaf students, faculty, and alumni have also enjoyed the hospitality of the Browns. And now, for the first time in more than a decade, St. Olaf students are studying in Jerusalem, Jericho, Bethlehem, and Galilee as part of a new January Interim, "Historical Geography and the Bible in the Holy Land."

"I hope to assist with the Interim in any way that is needed, but I am particularly interested in ensuring that the students have good connections with a variety of Jews, Christians, and Muslims, and Palestinians and Israelis," he says, "and that they connect with the advocacy and humanitarian work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and the Lutheran World Federation."

Like Ansgar and Muriel Sovik before him, Brown hopes that this new generation of Oles who study in the Mideast have a meaningful and balanced experience — and that perhaps a world of possibilities will open up the way it once did for him.

KYLE SCHUT '13 is majoring in music and Asian studies at St. Olaf.

CAROLE LEIGH ENGBLOM is editor of *St. Olaf Magazine*.

The Rule of Law

Distinguished Alumni Award Honoree **Samuel L. Hanson '61**

By Bradley West '13 | PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER

Sam Hanson's most memorable professor at St. Olaf College was Erling Jorstad '52, whose American history class fostered in him a great admiration for the American experiment and its reliance on the rule of law to govern all civic activities. Such respect for the law has served Hanson well over a forty-five-year career as a lawyer and as an associate justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Hanson didn't always plan on a career in law. As a high school student and college undergraduate, he admits he was more interested in sports than academic studies or making concrete plans for the future. During his senior year at St. Olaf, he took the Law School Admissions Test on a whim and scored surprisingly well. Although he had little awareness of what a lawyer actually does, he decided to attend law school.

"I am one of those lucky people whose uninformed life decision on a career turned out to be exactly the right one," Hanson says. "Ironically, my legal education trained me to avoid such casual decision making in the future."

He enrolled at the William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota, which at the time offered only night classes. This schedule allowed him to work full-time during the day, gaining practical experience in the legal world to supplement nightly classes taught largely by practicing attorneys. His employment during law school included a year as a law clerk to District Judge Douglas Amdahl, who later became Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

After completing law school, he worked for a year as a clerk for Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice Robert Sheran, who also later became Chief Justice. Those experiences taught him much about legal reasoning and writing, skills that would serve him well as a trial and appellate attorney, and especially when he became a justice on the Supreme Court many years later.

Hanson was hired as an attorney by Briggs and Morgan, a large and well-respected Twin Cities law firm, and for the next thirty-four years he remained with the firm, taking a leave of absence when appointed to the state Court of Appeals and Supreme Court, and returning to the firm as he approached mandatory retirement from the court.

"Briggs was the perfect place to learn how to become a real lawyer," says Hanson, "under the guidance of some of the most outstanding trial lawyers in Minnesota."

After several years handling a wide variety of cases, Hanson decided it was time to specialize. He chose to focus on commercial litigation, often representing public utility companies involved in disputes over regulatory issues or contracts. He rose through the ranks at Briggs and Morgan, and eventually served for five years as president of the firm.

Although Hanson had enjoyed working as a clerk at the Supreme Court, he never considered serving on the court himself because he

was not active enough on the political scene to be noticed by any governor. In 2000, however, Governor Jesse Ventura introduced a merit-based system for appointing justices. While they were working together on a Global Volunteers trip to China, former Chief Justice Sandy Keith encouraged Hanson to apply through the new process. Soon a position on the Minnesota Court of Appeals opened up. Hanson applied immediately and got the job.

In 2002, Ventura appointed Hanson to serve as an associate justice on the state Supreme Court. During his time on the bench, Hanson served on several boards and advisory committees, including the Gender Fairness Implementation Committee, the Children's Justice Initiative, and the Planning Committee for Access to Civil Legal Services.

Because all Supreme Court decisions must be made by majority, Hanson found the court to be a truly collaborative enterprise. "Although some lawyers might find shared decision making to be frustrating, I found it to be awesome," Hanson says.

He especially enjoyed the conferences that followed the oral argument. "Seven experienced lawyers, each searching for the correct rule of law, brought seven different perspectives to the conversation," says Hanson about the conferences. "Inevitably, the process forced each one of us to a deeper understanding of the issues and the implications of the decision," he says. The challenge is to turn those seven perspectives into one sound decision.

"My values of public service and compassion were born in my family, but they blossomed at St. Olaf because of the culture of commitment to service and inclusiveness."

To do so, justices must transform their usual ways of thinking. "Although we all had been trained in critical analysis, we found that was not productive in collegial decision making," recalls Hanson. "Finding the weakness in someone else's idea only gets you back to zero. Looking for what is valuable in the other person's idea allows you to build on it and, together, come up with a solution that is more sound than what any one of you could devise individually."

Throughout his distinguished career Hanson has valued life with family. While still in law school, he married Beret Brown '62, a fellow graduate of St. Olaf College, with whom he had three children, Greta, Chrystina, and Benjamin. After divorcing, they shared joint custody of the children and co-parented them over the years. In 1979, Hanson married Mirja Karikoski, who was born to Finnish missionaries in Japan and who now serves as the honorary consul general for Japan in Minnesota. They had one son, Leif, and later adopted sons Luke from Texas and Jai from India.

"Our family of six children has been a constant source of inspiration and pride, through the many twists and tribulations," Hanson says.

Alongside his career and family, Hanson has also devoted himself to a number of volunteer and community programs, showing a deep



Sam Hanson in
downtown Minneapolis

sense of compassion for and duty to others. He has received many awards and is part of numerous prestigious organizations. The organization that best exemplifies his outstanding work as a trial lawyer is his membership with the American College of Trial Lawyers. The college is limited to less than 1 percent of the participating bar in any given state and is by invitation only.

Hanson has been honored as a Distinguished Alumni and was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from his alma mater, William Mitchell, where he also served as chair of the board of trustees. Hanson has often lent his legal services and expertise to service organizations such as the Advocates for Human Rights and the Crossroads Adoption Agency. He has also spent time working with the Institute of Cultural Affairs International, which aids in the development of rural villages around the world, and on the board of Rural Ventures, which provides technology to help small farming operations.

In 1982, Hanson co-founded Global Volunteers, an organization that offers service opportunities around the world. "The projects vary from construction of schools in Zambia and rural China to supporting the work of orphanages in India, Romania, and Ecuador to teaching conversational English in Poland, Russia, and China to working on peace projects in Cuba, Ireland, and Vietnam," he says. Hanson continues to serve on the organization's board of trustees.

Hanson says his parents stressed the importance of education and felt St. Olaf was the place to start. His two brothers, Dale '52, a professor emeritus in the department of health and Kinesiology at Purdue University, and Perry '59, a Lutheran pastor, also attended St. Olaf.

"My values of public service and compassion were born in my family," says Hanson, "but they blossomed at St. Olaf because of the culture of commitment to service and inclusiveness."

BRADLEY WEST '13 is an English major at St. Olaf.



Steven Miles in the garden of his Minneapolis home with his dog, Freesia.

A Voice of Conscience

Alumni Achievement Award Honoree **Dr. Steven H. Miles '72**

By J. Trout Lowen | PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER

Bioethics, says Steven Miles, is the place where values and health care intersect. It is a crossroads that Miles knows well. As a physician and the Maas Family Chair in Bioethics at the University of Minnesota's Center for Bioethics, Miles has made a career out of standing at that intersection and asking some very difficult questions.

Moral questions, such as: Do we as a society have a duty to insure that everyone, regardless of race or income, has access to affordable health care? Should nursing home patients be restrained? Should physicians have the same right to privacy of their medical records as their patients? Should physicians participate in government-sponsored torture?

By answering those questions and many others in respectful, thoughtful, and relevant ways, Miles has changed the way we treat the elderly and care for the dying. He has increased privacy protection for physicians. He helped to create a health care safety net for thousands of low-income Minnesotans. His recent and exhaustive research documenting the complicity of medical professionals in the torture of prisoners by the U.S. military at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay has made him the respected go-to authority worldwide on the ethical issue of physicians and torture.

Rather than tout his accomplishments, Miles seems surprised that anyone should expect less of him, or from any other educated person for that matter. An individual with a liberal arts education, such as the one he received at St. Olaf, should incorporate civic engagement into his or her life, says Miles.

"A doctor is not just a body mechanic. He or she is the steward of knowledge which is needed for public life — going far beyond an individual patient," he says. "Vaccinating a patient is one thing — countering the myth that vaccines cause autism is another. Both are the responsibilities of a physician. Similarly, each citizen should know that their civic duty goes beyond paying taxes, to voting, jury duty, foster care, supporting charities, and all the rest of it."

As an ethicist, Miles's work is grounded in the principles of justice and fair play, and rooted in a personal upbringing shaped by national and global events.

As a boy coming of age in Minnesota, he watched the civil rights movement polarize not only the country but also his congregation in Minneapolis. He was profoundly influenced by the call to action in Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail." As a young man, Vietnam taught him lasting lessons about government, truth, and power, he says, and exposed him to the words and deeds of a cadre of "brilliant public intellectuals" who were not afraid to speak truth to that power: among them peace activists William Sloan Coffin and

Staughton Lynd, and University of Minnesota professor Mulford Sibley, an outspoken advocate of academic freedom. As an undergraduate at St. Olaf, Miles remembers dining with famed community organizer Saul Alinsky when he came to the campus to speak.

"These people were just extraordinary," Miles says. "They showed how to combine learning with a public voice that was really important."

He also remembers taking up a challenge by St. Olaf Religion Professor Oliver K. Olson to read a two-volume set on the Old Testament by German preacher-theologian Helmut Thielicke. Olson promised to buy dinner for any student who took on the work.

"I read both volumes," Miles recalls. "I was used to reading long novels, the Russian writers, *War and Peace*. That was no problem. But taking on a two-volume sustained academic argument was actually a new kind of challenge."

It also foreshadowed his desire and ability to tackle complex social and medical issues with dogged determination.

Miles graduated from St. Olaf with degrees in biology and social psychology. The second was a newly blended major created by St. Olaf psychology professor Olaf W. Millert, founder of the college's psychology department, which emphasized a bio-psychosocial model that looks at the interconnecting roles biology, psychology, and social factors play in relation to disease and illness.

"The [bio-psychosocial model] was just terrific, and it is absolutely a core skill that I use on a daily basis in my medical career," Miles says.

Although he clearly absorbed many of the lessons of his early undergraduate years, it was a decidedly personal experience while attending the University of Minnesota Medical School that may have changed Miles's career trajectory from caring physician to a voice of conscience in the medical community.

As a medical student — and the family authority on all things medical — he was charged by his family with providing in-home care for his grandfather at the end of his life. That involved building a "proto-hospice system" at a time when hospice did not yet exist, he says.

That experience influenced his thinking about how our society and our health care establishment provide and pay for care at the end of life, a topic Miles has returned to again and again during his career. It's a subject he addressed in his first book, *Protocols for Elective Use of Life-Sustaining Treatments: A Design Guide*, published in 1989.

Miles's influence, however, was being felt a decade earlier, thousands of miles away from Minnesota on the Thai-Cambodia border. In 1979, while still completing his residency, Miles was one of the first physicians to volunteer with the then-fledgling American Refugee Committee (ARC), which cared for Cambodian refugees fleeing the Khmer Rouge. ARC sent Miles and several other volunteers on a mission with a one-way ticket to Bangkok, all the organization could afford.

"We rented a truck at the border and found ourselves one of the first groups there," Miles recalls. "We started at a camp of 200,000 people."

Miles made his presence quickly felt, says Karen Elshazly, who served as ARC's director of international programs for more than two decades. "It was Miles who realized from day one that we couldn't just stand there and do for these people, that they had to be involved in caring for themselves."

It was due to Miles's work ethic and vision that ARC began early on to train refugees as health workers, nurses, medics, and midwives. He developed training materials based not on Western medical standards and protocols but on the available resources, and he drafted a philosophy of care for the organization that Elshazly can recite from memory today: "We will practice medicine that can be taught, that can be learned, and can be practiced by those we're serving."

For the next twenty-five years, Miles served as ARC's chief medical director for more than 45,000 refugees on the Thai-Cambodian border, with additional projects in Sudan, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Indonesia, and the Thai-Burmese border. His work continues to have an impact worldwide, including a protocol he developed for the treatment of tuberculosis in refugee camps that remains the standard of care today.

"Controversy is just another word for 'needs to be discussed.'"

In 1982, Miles accepted a position as a professor of medicine, starting first at the University of Minnesota and then the University of Chicago before returning to the University of Minnesota to teach as well as to practice medicine. Throughout his extraordinary career, Miles has used his position as a physician, his experience as a community organizer, and his well-reasoned, moral voice to challenge controversial issues, from conflicts of interest in pharmaceutical sales to nursing home care.

In the 1980s, confused nursing home patients were routinely restrained to their beds or chairs to make things easier for staff and keep the patients from wandering around. While there were many who rightly argued the restraints violated human dignity, Miles approached the issue from a medical perspective. He showed how a number of patients had been strangled by their restraints, creating both a health hazard and medical liability for institutions that used them. It was the two-pronged approach — the moral and the practical — that ultimately ended the practice across the country, he says.

In the 1990s, Miles made his personal struggle with depression public in order to challenge the Minnesota medical board's policy that required doctors who were seeking to renew their license to submit confidential, personal medical records, even when there was no allegation of malpractice or negligence. The standoff with the board lasted two years and could have cost Miles his career. Ultimately, Miles convinced the board that the policy actually discouraged doctors from getting help and had resulted in at least two physician suicides. The policy was changed.

"To my mind, it was an absolutely clean piece of community organizing," he says now. "All I wanted to do was speak to the question of whether a doc has the same right to confidential health care data as anybody else."

In his four books and more than two hundred journal articles, Miles has also taken on thorny and often controversial questions about physician-assisted suicide, racial and economic health disparities, end-of-life decision making, and legislative attempts to restrict women's access to birth control. The key, he says, is to "make the issue salient to other people in a way that they can see the change is needed."

It also helps that Miles is comfortable putting himself at the center of conflicting opinion.

"Controversy," he says, drily, "is just another word for 'needs to be discussed.'"

Like much of the rest of the world, Miles watched in 2004 as news unfolded about U.S. military personnel torturing prisoners in Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison. While the media focused on the conduct of the soldiers and their superiors, Miles was preoccupied by something else.

"I looked at those pictures and I said, 'Where were the docs?'"

He wondered not just where the doctors, nurses, and medics were while these abuses were occurring, but *why* they hadn't spoken out. Why had they betrayed their oath to do no harm? Searching for the answers to those questions led Miles on a four-year journey that culminated in what may be his greatest professional achievement. He spent months meticulously pouring over some 60,000 government documents, intelligence reports, and first-hand accounts detailing the involvement of health professionals in intensive interrogation methods or torture, obtained under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

At times, Miles says, he was so steeped in the graphic material, he would wake up sweating with fear, dreaming he was inside Abu Ghraib. But his medical training allowed him to piece together a picture from the records that hadn't been clearly seen before. Medical professionals in Iraq and Afghanistan and at Guantanamo Bay not only witnessed but participated in brutal interrogations. They also concealed injuries, faked death certificates, and pronounced torture victims fit for abuse. Physicians and psychologists helped interrogators develop the parameters for the government's harsh interrogation techniques. And across the system, medical personnel who witnessed these abuses stayed silent, in violation of the core values of medical ethics.

In 2006, Miles published the results of his inquiry in *Oath Betrayed: Torture, Medical Complicity, and the War on Terror*. In addition to his book, Miles has also created a searchable archive of his research, which is accessible online through the University of Minnesota's Human Rights Library. The impact of this work has been widely felt, drawing the attention of the American medical community and the media, as well as government and nongovernmental organizations here and around the world.

"His was a very principled voice at a time when there was a lot of obfuscation and lies, when many good people tried to justify the unjustifiable," says Curt Goering, executive director for the Minneapolis-based Center for Victims of Torture, where Miles serves on the board. "He called torture *torture*, irrespective of who was doing it."

But the full impact of Miles's research may not be felt for years, Goering suggests. "I think his voice is one we'll still hear decades from now, and [Americans] in the future will ask, 'Why weren't there more voices like Steven Miles around?'"

J. TROUT LOWEN is a Twin Cities-based freelance writer.

Fulbright Honors

Nine of St. Olaf College's newest alumni have been awarded Fulbright fellowships for 2012-13. Six will use their grants to conduct research on topics ranging from Chinese archeology to the dengue virus; three will be English teaching assistants.

Eric Becklin will study archaeology in Quanzhou, China.
Julia Coffin will work as an English teaching assistant in Nepal, helping students increase their language proficiency.

Zachary Erickson will join a synthetic chemistry group at the University of Giessen in Germany.

Lisa Drewry will conduct scientific research at the University of Würzburg in Germany.

Cecilia Noecker will work at the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico.

Jamie Mosel will research the effects of global warming at the Hokkaido University Silviculture and Forest Ecology Lab in Japan.



Fulbrighters (L-R) **Eric Becklin '12**, **Julia Coffin '12**, **Zachary Erickson '12**, **Lisa Drewry '12**, **Cecilia Noecker '12**, **Virginia Ma '12 (alternate)**, **Jamie Mosel '12**, and **Sarah McGivern '12** (Not pictured: **Sarah Chao '11** and **Jonathan Henn '12**)

Sarah McGivern will work in Turkey as an English teaching assistant.

Sarah Chao will be an English teaching assistant at Irkutsk State Linguistic University in Irkutsk, Russia.

Jonathan Henn will study the restoration of forests destroyed by invasive North American beavers in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.

Orchestra Tours China

The St. Olaf Orchestra's 12-day, five-concert tour of China took them to Shanghai, Hangzhou, Xi'an, Zhengzhou, and Beijing, where they performed in some of China's finest concert halls and at renowned universities. In Xi'an they connected with Zhang Jiahao '16 — the first Xi'anese to attend St. Olaf — who proudly introduced his hometown friends and family to St. Olaf and his St. Olaf peers to Xi'an. They also had a little fun during their tour, including visiting a tea village in Hangzhou, taking in an acrobatic show in Shanghai, viewing the Terra Cotta warriors in Xi'an, hiking in the Yuntai Mountains and along the Great Wall, all of which offered respites from a mostly urban itinerary. Visits to Beijing's Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City led up to the final concert at the Beijing Concert Hall.



STACY JUST

St. Olaf Orchestra conductor Steve Amundson with Zhang Jiahao '16 in his hometown of Xi'an, China

All-Ole Squad Wins National Soccer Cup

This past spring, former St. Olaf soccer standout Ben Langholz '11 wanted a good reason to reunite with his old teammates and meet some of the current players on the Ole soccer team. A good way to do that, he reasoned, was to build a team of both former and current Ole soccer



players to play in the National Sports Center (NSC) soccer cup, a Memorial Day weekend tournament held each year in Blaine, Minnesota. Langholz sent out one email to Ole soccer players to see if there would be any interest in the tournament. Within 24 hours, he had a team.

Despite not having practiced together before the tournament, the Ole squad found exceptional success at the NSC tournament. The team, which was comprised of players from the Class of 2008 to the Class of 2017, swept the competition and walked away with the first place cup.

The 2012 NSC Champions are: **Zach Newman '08**, **Mark Zietlow '09**, **Phil Kennedy '10**, **Scott Crider '10**, **Kumar Balasubrahmanyan '11**, **Tommy Van Wylen '11**, **John Zietlow '11**, **Logan Rathjen '11**, **Alex Kuehl '11**, **Jeff Stamp '11**, **Ben Langholz '11**, **Tyler Wadsworth '11**, **Harry Ullman '13**, **Stephen Johnson '14**, **Jake Stark '14**, **David Rosenthal '14**, **Kenzie Lund '14**, **Nick Lund '14**, **Matt Zietlow '14**, and **Luke Zietlow '17**

— BRADLEY WEST '13

JOIN THE ST. OLAF CHOIR IN



NORWAY

The 100th anniversary of the first St. Olaf Choir tour in Norway will be celebrated in 2013. Join the choir next June 7-17 as it recreates that first tour. The itinerary includes concerts in Bergen, Voss, Loen, Molde, and Trondheim, with guided tours in Bergen and Trondheim.

To learn more, visit stolafchoir.org and click on "Groupie Tour."

Student Leaders for Social Change Benefit from Kloeck-Jenson Endowment for Peace and Justice

By Suzy Frisch | PHOTO BY DAVID GONNERMAN '90

KATIE CRIDER '13 KNOWS she wants to make her life's work about helping other people, and she ultimately plans to pursue a master's degree in social work. After interning at the Minnesota AIDS Project in St. Paul this summer, Crider got deep insight into careers of service, as well as an experience that will guide her decision-making about the future.

Her internship, funded through the St. Olaf Leaders for Social Change program, only stoked Crider's fire for service. During the full-time, two-month internship, Crider trained as an HIV educator, participated in outreach events, and prepared and presented at several community meetings, where the organization informed legislators about the challenges of living with HIV/AIDS and facilitated discussions between service providers and people with the disease.

"I have a hard time understanding why people wouldn't want to do this work," says Crider, who hails from Downers Grove, Illinois, and is majoring in English with a concentration in women's studies. "How can they look at the world and [see] how messed up it is and not want to do something? Of course, this is what I want to do. Seeing the injustices in the world — you have to try to fight them."

Leaders for Social Change aims to open doors for students to channel their passion for social justice into real world experiences. Funded by the Kloeck-Jenson Endowment for Peace and Justice, the program's ultimate goal is to help students turn academic theories into practice and grow as effective leaders through internships with community organizations.

In addition, participants learn about social problems and possible solutions during weekly seminars with St. Olaf faculty and community leaders, and they continue the conversation by living with fellow interns in St. Paul or Northfield. Together, these experiences help students discern their vocations, develop professional skills, and grow as engaged citizens, adds Nate Jacobi, co-director of Leaders for Social Change and associate director for civic engagement at The Piper Center for Vocation and Career.

.....
Gabriel Trejos '14, Katie Crider '13, and Ben Cuddihy Taylor '13 are Leaders for Social Change



The Kloeck-Jenson Endowment for Peace and Justice was formed in memory of Scott Kloeck-Jenson '87, his wife, Barbara, and their two children, Zoe and Noah. The family was killed in a car accident while vacationing in South Africa in 1999. Kloeck-Jenson, known fondly as "Jens" during his student days on the Hill, was powered by a mission to make the world a better place. He served in the Peace Corps in the small African country of Lesotho and worked on social justice and land ownership issues as project director of the University of Wisconsin's Land Tenure Center in Mozambique.

The recipient of the prestigious Fulbright, MacArthur, and Sargent Shriver Peaceworker fellowships, Kloeck-Jenson conducted field work on rural poverty while pursuing his Ph.D. in political science. In his life, he drew inspiration from Micah 6:8, "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

"Jens spent his life's work in obedience to a call to serve the neediest among us," says former roommate and friend Eric Tostrud '87. "He studied injustice from an academic perspective, but he also worked digging in the dirt — and I mean that literally — alongside those who he served."

To honor Kloeck-Jenson's memory and continue his life's work, his family and friends established the endowment in 2001. "We created the endowment with the hope of giving current students the chance to study and work as Jens did to remedy injustice where they see it, and to learn from that experience," says Tostrud. "We are thrilled with the results. Every time we meet with students who have participated in the Leaders for Social Change Program, we feel like we're meeting a new Jens."

The endowment's advocacy for social justice comes through in numerous ways, including supporting students financially through Leaders for Social Change as they tackle issues like poverty, educational access, the environment, health, and housing. It also sponsors events and brings guest speakers to campus.

"Leaders for Social Change provides opportunities for students to enact their ideals and to put their theory into practice," explains Jacobi. "In the process, they are developing professional skills that will prepare them to effectively apply these ideals in future work roles. So it's not just, 'Go have a great experience and make a difference now.' It's, 'Make a difference now, and make an impact in the world after you graduate.'"

That's exactly what Ben Cuddihy Taylor '13 and Gabriel Trejos '14 plan to do. Like Crider, they recently took part in internships funded by the endowment. Trejos, who came to St. Olaf from Guapiles, Costa Rica, gained key experience in economic development and rural entrepreneurship as an economic analyst for the Northfield Area Rural-Urban Economy (NARUE) project and an intern at the Rural Enterprise Center.

Through its Grow a Farmer agripreneur program, Trejos taught people — especially immigrants — skills that will help them to move from subsistence jobs to owning their own businesses. It's precisely the type of economic development work he'd like to do after he graduates with a degree in economics and environmental studies.

Trejos also completed an in-depth economic analysis that revealed the financial impact of agriculture on Northfield's economy. Completing the analysis gave Trejos solid research skills that will help him both in school and with future jobs.

"There was no data or information to show the impact of the agricultural sector, so I had to create my own model and be resourceful," says Trejos, who came to St. Olaf through the Davis United World College Scholars Program. "I came from a high school focused on peace and justice, and I came to college seeking answers for how I can contribute to social change. From this project I learned that social change is really complex, and it may take years. I have to be patient."

For Taylor, his experience interning at the Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in Minnesota was equally eye-opening. As the coalition focused its efforts on environmental and hunger issues, Taylor observed policy work in action, and he saw the importance of building relationships with legislators — no matter their views — in order to gain a seat at the table.

"We created the endowment with the hope of giving current students the chance to remedy injustice where they see it, and to learn from that experience." — ERIC TOSTRUD '87

Taylor learned plenty from coalition director Rev. Mark Peters, observing and practicing Peters's approach to networking and lobbying. "He told us on our first day that our job is to build relationships so that if he wants five minutes of anyone's time, Democrat or Republican, he can have the conversation on whatever policy the coalition is working on," says Taylor, a sociology, anthropology, and environmental studies major from Hoosick Falls, New York. "It was really great to see that policy work can be calm and rational, and that the snippet we see on television of people shouting at each other is not the norm."

Taylor worked on many projects this summer, from a hunger simulation to gathering comments about the Environmental Protection Agency's more stringent guidelines on coal-fired power plants.

Taylor, who plans to apply for a Fulbright scholarship or to a non-profit service program before going to law school, is interested in a career in public policy on the federal level. He completed his internship armed with new skills in building alliances and effectively framing arguments, as well as engaging people with different views in respectful conversations en route to compromise.

"These conversations are crucial in every aspect of every issue we're facing today, and it's about finding ways to solve problems that work for everyone," he says. "It's part of making it a better world." And that reflects the Kloeck-Jenson Endowment for Peace and Justice — and its namesakes — perfectly.

SUZY FRISCH is a Twin Cities freelance writer and regular contributor to *St. Olaf Magazine*.

To support the Kloeck-Jenson Endowment for Peace and Justice, call 800-776-6523.

class notes

1933

In May, **Bernice Hofengen Haakenson** enjoyed meeting **Leah Svingen '13**, who was visiting her grandparents at a retirement center in Fargo,



where Bernice is also a resident. They had a good visit about St. Olaf and all that's changed on the Hill these past

80 years. Leah is preparing for a career in medicine, and her brother, **Kyle Svingen '11**, has joined AmeriCorps. ■ **Helen Strand**, 103 years young, has led a busy and rewarding life since graduating from St. Olaf and earning a master's



and doctorate at the University of Minnesota. A longtime teacher who began her career in a one-room schoolhouse, Helen worked in various agencies in Washington, D.C., during WWII, went to West Africa as a

Fulbright lecturer, and directed the elementary education program at Luther College until her retirement in 1974.

1952

Bob Stein has been elected a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. He writes, "I am working on a book on King George V definitive stamps in my area of specialty."

1955

Elizabeth "BJ" Huizenga Buntrock is the winner of the 2012 "For Good Awards" by the Community Foundation of Broward, Fla.



1956

George Kelling writes, "My most notable recent achievement is hosting the annual St. Olaf Old Guys Convention at Stormy Lake, Wis., which includes **Bob Flaten**, **Lee Greenslit**, **Chuck Hillstrom**, **John (Jake) Jacobson**, **Kris Paulson**, **John Shier**, and **Bill Weitcamp**. Although catching up on our personal health issues consumes most of the time, the conversations range from art (Jake) to Middle East policy (Bob) to health maintenance (John S.), and so on, as the rest of us try to get words in edgewise." The Guys reunited again this past June. ■ **Kathryn Voss**

Vigen met fellow alum **Tom Franek '06** in February when she embarked on her first cruise aboard the *Island Princess*, sailing to the Panama Canal, Costa Rica, Aruba, Cartagena, South America, and the Grand Cayman Islands. Passengers raved about the ship's entertainer, Tom Franek, a pianist, vocalist, and a comedian, and Kathryn was delighted to discover he was an Ole, though unsurprised, given his musical talent. "He had an amazing way of interacting with his audience," writes Kathryn, comparing him to Garrison Keillor, and he was a memorable part of her trip.



1957

An Ole Gathering

Louise Benson Griffin writes, "About 20 Oles enjoyed time together on April 10 at Mindekirken, the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church of Minneapolis, complete with a very Norwegian lunch and a fascinating presentation by classmate **Faith Fjeld**, who spoke about her Sámi ancestry and heritage."



(Back, L-R) **Joyce Nelson McManus**, **Geri Overland DeCorsey**, **Betty Vos Hemstad**, **Ede Andreasen Holmen**, **Shoonie Donhove Hartwig**, **JoAnn Heil Cherry**, **Bev Derscheid Sorensen**, **Sonja Larson Rathbun**, **Dorothea Tenney**, **Lois Carlson Willand**, **Judy Christensen**, and **Janet Bye Gambell**; (Front, L-R) **Faith Fjeld**, **Sindy Lier Tellekson**, **Louise Benson Griffin**, **Mary Bender Miller**, **Pat Preston Henke**, and **Barb Bjorkman Peterson**. Joining the ladies were **Wayne Tellekson '56**, **C. Richard Peterson '56**, and **Dennis Griffin '55**.

Richard (Dick) Norman was inducted into the 2011 Minnesota State High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame after an illustrious 36-year career as a science teacher and head track and field coach at Mayo High School in Rochester, Minn. Dick, who officiates at track events each spring, has also designed and produced a laser measuring device (LASAM). The

device is regularly used at championship track and field meets in several states and at all levels of competition.

1958



Longtime friends (L-R) **Sonja Hegge Hillestad**, **Meredith "DD" Wilson-Fleming**, and **Shirley Stolz Stenseth** returned to the Hill for Honors Day this spring. Sonja, DD, and Shirley were first-year roommates and have remained close all these years.

1959

Larry Erickson writes, "Greetings to my 1959 classmates. I'm sorry I couldn't make it to our 50th reunion. My wife, Valerie, and I recently celebrated our 31st wedding anniversary. I'm still practicing dermatology full time in Vero Beach, Florida, and have no plans to retire for at least three more years. I enjoy reading updates about what you all are up to these days and hope you'll continue [to write]."

1961

Rachel Mandsager Pechauer was delighted to receive a thank you note from **Nikita Shah '14**, who was the 2012 Honor's Day recipient of the Class of 1961 scholarship. Nikita, who lives near Chicago, will be a junior this fall and hopes to become a pharmacologist. In her letter to Rachel, Nikita wrote, "I greatly appreciate your generosity. It's helping me make my college experience wonderful." ■ **Faith Thorkelson Risser Swenson** is recording Christian music, with her most recent CD titled "Hush Little Baby." Faith writes, "I am donating 10% of the sales to the youth group at my church. I am blessed with the gift of music from my heart." ■ **Oscar Wehmanen** is playing viola in the Houston Civic Symphony and the Galveston Symphony, singing bass in church choir, and just got a Guiteron.

1962

Russell "Gene" Parta returned to the Hill for his 50th Class Reunion in June and thoroughly enjoyed his time back on campus. Gene, who had

been director of audience research for the U.S.-funded Radio Liberty in Paris until 1991 and then director for both Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty in both Munich and Prague until his retirement in 2006, has published two books on the subject of Cold War broadcasting to Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

1968

Rana Limbo, director of bereavement and advance care planning services at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation in LaCrosse, Wis., has been inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. Membership in the academy is one of the most prestigious honors in the field of nursing. Rana writes, "It wouldn't have happened without my foundational education at St. Olaf." ■ **Louis Ogaard** returned to Bolivia after a nearly four-year hiatus in the U.S., working for a nonprofit that conducted research into the conversion of algae to biofuel.

1970

When *Lutheran Quarterly* magazine celebrated its 25th year in March at its annual meeting and banquet, editor **Paul Rorem** discovered that the officers and key members of the editorial staff were all Oles. The gathering, he writes, turned into a St. Olaf reunion, "an inter-generational team of alums united by a common concern for Lutheran history and theology." Pictured:



(Bottom, L-R): **Roald Kindem '51**, **Oliver Olson '50** (president and founding editor), **David Hardy '53** (vice-president and treasurer), **Paul Rorem**; (Top, L-R) **Walter Sundberg '69**, **Mark Granquist '79**, **Mark Mattes '82**, and **Steven Paulson '80**. ■ **Rebecca Schmidt Taibl** retired from marketing research and is now a self-employed artist and communicator.

1971

Mary Ellen Andersen was welcomed to Tokyo by **Jonathan Sack '04** and his father **Jim Sack '74**,



where they enjoyed the annual Sakura Festival and the cherry blossoms. Jonathan teaches at the American School in Tokyo. Jim and his wife Carol are ELCA missionaries who have served in Japan since 1982. ■ **Ronald Johnson** married

for the first time in April. He and his wife, Janine, honeymooned on a European cruise that stopped in Italy, Greece, and Turkey, including the biblical city of Ephesus. He writes, "I am now a stepfather to two, a step-grandfather to three, and the owner of a mini-schnauzer."

1972

Kevin Grose has retired from the United Nations, where he served as director of information services for the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat in Bonn, Germany. He also served with the International Union for Conservation of Nature in Switzerland and the United Nations Environment Programme in Kenya. ■ **Katherine Wood** retired from federal government service, where she held senior management positions in public affairs, the arts, and international relations. She is now director of international and interfaith programs at Virginia Theological Seminary, and recently was appointed to a second three-year term on the Arlington Commission for the Arts.

1973

Rebecca Mitchell Lassen and **Melissa Johnson Wannigman** celebrated their 60th birthdays together in San Antonio! ■



Brent Mutsch became superintendent of the American School of Dubai in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on July 1, after serving five years as superintendent of the Singapore American School.

1974

Anne Shackelford Fish has a part-time job as coordinator of a free lunch program for high school students at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in San Angelo, Texas. ■ Former Minnesota State Senator **Ember Reichgott Junge** has authored a book about charter schools and innovation in large public school systems. Ember was the Senate author of Minnesota's 1991 chartered school law, the first in the nation, and continues to be active nationally in the charter school movement. ■ Leonard, Street and Deinard shareholder **David W. Kelley** was recently elected as a fellow of the exclusive American College of Real Estate Lawyers.

1975

Deb Carlsen Wilkinson is serving a two-year term as board chair of the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys' Board of Directors.



1976

Artist **Randi Kindem Siu** had two shows in Boston early last spring; "Asian Aspects" and "Appassionata!" Learn more at RandiSiu.com.

1978

Janet Zahn dreamed of starting a music school while still working in the corporate world in video production and pursued it, founding the Camden Music School in Minneapolis seven years ago. "It took a good year to become self-sustaining, but nothing stopped me," says Janet, whose school now has 16 part-time instructors and 224 students."



1980

Carolyn Mankell Sowinski is director of Gifts of Hope, sponsored by the Metro [Washington] D.C. Synod of the ELCA, which helps support 17 local non-profit organizations and companion synods. In her spare time, Carolyn sings with the Choral Arts Society of Washington and volunteers at the National Archives.

1981

Anne Montgomery was installed as president of the Washington Academy of Family Physicians by her husband, Glen Stream, who is president of the American Academy of Family Physicians. She writes, "We are certain this is the first time there have been national and state presidents who are spouses." Anne continues to teach at the family medicine residency and in her spare time, "just for fun," is pursuing an MBA in health care management at Gonzaga University.

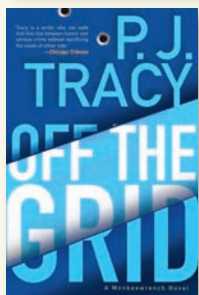
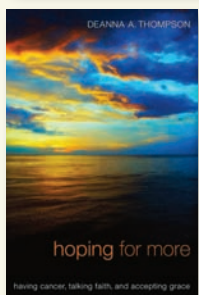
1982

Rolf Erdahl, who plays double bass, and his wife, **Carrie Vecchione**, who plays the oboe, will present 84 performances of their Pages of Music series to senior centers and residences across Minnesota in 2012-13. Check out oboebass.com for the calendar of events. ■

Kij Johnson, whose latest book, *At the Mouth of the River of Bees*, one of the most anticipated debut science fiction story collections in recent years, has accepted a position as assistant professor of fiction writing at the University of Kansas. Kij's short stories have received the Sturgeon, World Fantasy, and Nebula awards.



NEW BOOKS BY ST. OLAF ALUMNI AND FACULTY



Discovering the Hidden Listener: An Assessment of Radio Liberty and Western Broadcasting to the USSR During the Cold War (Hoover Press/Stanford University, 2007), by **R. Eugene Parta '62** (amazon.com)

Cold War Broadcasting: Impact on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe (Central European University Press, Budapest/New York, 2010), **R. Eugene Parta '62** and A. Ross Johnson, eds. (amazon.com)

Poems for Ordinary People (North Star Press, 2012), by **Carol Allis '68** (amazon.com, poemsforordinarypeople.com)

Zero Chance of Passage: The Pioneering Charter School Story (Beaver's Pond Press, 2012), by **Ember Reichgott Jung '74** (amazon.com)

At the Mouth of the River of Bees (Small Beer Press, 2012), by **Kij Johnson '82** (amazon.com, smallbeerpress.com)

A Concise Introduction to Programming in Python (Chapman & Hall/CRC Textbooks in Computing, 2011), by **Mark Johnson '83** (amazon.com)

Ash Wednesday (Ocone Spirit Press, 2012), by **Harold Eppley '84** (amazon.com, haroldeppley.com)

Exotic Gothic 4 (PS Publishing Ltd. UK, 2012), by **Danel Olson '87** (pspublishing.co.uk)

Christian Ethics: A Case Method Approach, Fourth Edition (Orbis Books, 2012), by **Laura A. Stivers '87**, Christine E. Gudorf, James B. Martin-Schramm (amazon.com)

Hoping for More: On Having Cancer, Talking Faith, and Accepting Grace (Cascade Press, Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2012), by **Deanna Thompson '89** (amazon.com, wipfandstock.com)

Off the Grid (Penguin Group, 2012), by **P.J. Tracy (P.J. Lambrecht '68 and Traci Lambrecht '89)** (barnesandnoble.com, amazon.com)

International Struggles for Critical Democratic Education (Peter Lang Publishing, 2012), by **Matthew Knoester '96** (amazon.com)

Grateful for Gluten-Free (Green Frog Publishing, 2012), by **Lisa Castle Larrive '01**; illustrated by **Jamie Mosel '12** (amazon.com)

Editor's Note: St. Olaf Magazine does not review books written by alumni and faculty, nor does it promote any publication. The publication of books written by alumni will be included in "On the Shelf" as information to be shared with classmates and to encourage interested Ole readers to learn more. Books by Ole authors also may be available in the St. Olaf Bookstore (stolafbookstore.com).

1983

Dave Kenney writes, "I thought you Oles might get a kick out of this. My two latest books — a pair of histories of, yes, Gustavus Adolphus College — have recently been published. Here's a link: news.blog.gustavus.edu/2011/12/13/gustavus-publishes-two-sesquicentennial-histories-2."

■ **Aaron Miller** recently was named director of volunteer services for NYC's Central Park Conservancy, a nonprofit organization whose mission, in partnership with the public, is to restore, manage, and enhance Central Park.

■ **Alan Shepard** has been appointed president and vice chancellor for Concordia University in Quebec, and recently began a five-year term. Alan was most recently at Ryerson University, where he served as provost and academic vice president, and chief operating officer since 2007.

1984

Keith Stelter, an associate director of the University of Minnesota-Mankato Family Medicine Residency Program, is serving a five-year term on the American Board of Family Medicine. ■ **Carol Stoutland** resumed dancing about four years ago and is currently taking classes at the University of Oregon's dance department. She writes, "I have been taking a hiatus from my chiropractic career, but will soon be returning to that life. Having received lots of chiropractic care, my body is functioning better today than it was 30 years ago!"

1985

Timothy Scheie writes, "On Dec. 9, 2011, I married my partner of 17 years, Craig Sellers,

in Rochester, N.Y. I can only hope that soon those in other states will have the same right to publicly affirm their dignity, commitment, love, and joy."

1987

This spring, **Brian Felton** and his family returned to Minnesota after a year in Switzerland, where he led a team of Medtronic lawyers in the emerging markets of Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East, and Africa. ■ **Danel Olson** dedicated his fourth *Exotic Gothic* volume of eerie fiction to Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes,



whose writing he was introduced to by Professor Walter Stromseth on a 1986 study abroad program. He writes, "My love for Mexico dates to the streets I walked down during my Liberation Theology

Interim. I admit I even took a bride from the Mexican border." His next book, due out in 2013, again plunges south, exploring Mexican director Guillermo del Toro's work.

1988

Steven Holland, an associate professor of economics at Luther College, received a Fulbright award to teach at a university in the southeastern European nation of Montenegro for the 2012-13 academic year.



1990

Kathryn Schifferdecker's writings were featured in *ON Scripture - The Bible*, a weekly column that was launched by the collaborative efforts of Odyssey Networks, the Huffington Post, and Day1.org. Kathryn is an associate professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

1991

Allison Wee received tenure at California Lutheran University and was promoted to associate professor of English.

1992

Alex Oana reports, "The real accomplishment in L.A. is living near the ocean. That air! Last fall my whole life changed: appeared on the cover of a magazine, got happily divorced, recruited to vice president of an audio company, and cut my distance to the ocean by one quarter. My two kids are awesome. Life is good."

1994

Sarah Ford, who recently welcomed a daughter with her husband, Spencer, writes, "I'm still working as a producer for NBC National News in Los Angeles and am slowly learning how to do this parenting thing." ■ **Nadia Winds Morgen** is enrolled in a Ph.D. program in sociology at the University of New Hampshire.

1995



Piet Fetsch is the owner and creative director of Big Table Studio (bigtablestudio.com) in St. Paul, Minn., a combination graphic design studio, poster craft printing shop, and storefront retail business.

1996

Heather Anderson has returned to her artistic roots and is engaged in an apprenticeship at a tattoo shop in Helsingør, Denmark. Her artist page can be found on Facebook. ■ **Katherine Crowley** is an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow in the SunShot Initiative at the U.S. Department of Energy. SunShot is a national initiative to make solar energy cost-competitive with other forms of energy by the end of the decade.

1997

Anthony Bolstorff is an integrated wealth advisor for Carlson Capital Management.

1998

Jennifer Fink Hellman, Goff Public's chief operating officer, was named a 2012 "Top 25 Woman to Watch" by the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*.

1999

Christopher Sheffert is a founder and managing director for the private equity firm Inoca.

2000

Jenny Benson Moran is serving as pastor at Christ's Community Moravian Church in Maple Grove, Minn. ■ **John Kusske** is working for the nonprofit charities Roundabout and Little Flower,

both in China. He is also singing in two choirs, the International Festival Chorus and Deutsche Kantorei Peking, and tries to connect with Oles whenever they're in Beijing or Shanghai.

2002

Luke Anderson graduated in May from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and has become director of finance and business operations for an administrative unit of the University of Colorado, Boulder. Luke and his wife, **Kelly Banks Anderson '03**, were excited to return to their home state with their two children. Luke also continues to engage in math education initiatives through his website, TeachPi.org. ■ **Sarah Paulson Kovacic** has received her master's degree in human resources.

2003

Jonathan Cornell accepted a call to be pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Wabash, Ind. ■ **Branden Grimmert** is the new director of The Piper Center for Vocation and Career at St. Olaf, which provides career resources and experiences for students. ■ **Joshua Olsen** is a trail project coordinator for Gallatin Valley Land Trust, a conservation organization committed to protecting southwest Montana's open spaces for wildlife, recreation, and agriculture. ■ **Matthew Pelikan**, a third year law student at the University of Minnesota Law School, is clerking for Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Paul Anderson during the 2012-13 term.

2004

Lauren Gloede earned a master's of international business from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and is a management consultant with Fidelity Investments in Boston. ■ **Sara Himmerich**, who is employed by Veterans Medical Research Foundation, the research wing of the VA San Diego Healthcare System, is working on two PTSD research studies involving veterans from Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn. ■ **Jill Johnson** writes, "After graduating from Georgetown [with a] master of science in foreign service in May 2011, I took a job with Target Corporation. I am a senior analyst in Sustainable Sourcing, focusing on the environmental sustainability of the facilities that produce Target-owned brand product across the world." ■ **Ryan Shiek** was named the 2012



patient administration officer for the entire U.S. Navy. Ryan is a lieutenant naval officer and health care administrator at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. The official announcement noted Ryan's exceptional

EXPERIENCE A MINDFUL WAY TO TRAVEL.



**JOURNEY TO ANTARCTICA:
THE WHITE CONTINENT**
January 16/17-29, 2013
Led by Bob Jacobel

**EGYPT: AT THE CROSSROADS
OF CULTURES**
March 9/10-23, 2013
Led by Rich and Wendy Allen

THE ARTS AND CULTURE OF SPAIN
Along the Way to Santiago de Compostela
Sept. 1/2-16, 2013
Led by Jim Dunlop and Mac Gimse '58

COMING IN 2014!

**MINI TERM IN ASIA:
THAILAND AND VIETNAM**
14 to 16 days in January 2014
Led by Mary Griep and Randolph Jennings

THEATER IN LONDON
10 days in late April/early May 2014
Led by Pat and Kathy Quade

GREECE
14 to 16 days in June 2014
Led by Jim and Donna May

SPAIN, FRANCE AND ITALY
12 to 14 days in June 2014
Led by Meg Ojala and John Barbour
in conjunction with the St. Olaf Band tour

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
16 days in September 2014
Led by Ted and Michelle Johnson

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leadership, numerous accomplishments, and establishment of programs that will have a far reaching impact.

2005

Carolyn Brostrom Phillips has earned her master of divinity degree from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Carolyn and her husband, Rory, who is also an M.Div student, are seeking their first call in the ELCA. ■ **Allison Dowe** has earned her master's degree in writing, rhetoric, and discourse from DePaul University in Chicago. ■ **Elizabeth Duthie** received her Ph.D. in public and community health from the Medical College of Wisconsin. ■ **Matt Green** and his wife, **Marit Sletten '06**, are living in Minnesota and "enjoy spending time at the cabin, farm, and travelling." Matt is a regional sales manager, providing leadership to independent financial advisors in the Midwest, helping them grow their practices through coaching and training.

2006



Lindsay Hench Snyder was awarded the Sprenger Scholarship at the Minneapolis Abbott Northwestern Hospital's Annual Nurse Week Celebration in May. The scholarship, named for **Dee Idstrom Sprenger '59** and **Gordy Sprenger '59** in honor of their long-standing service to Abbott Northwestern Hospital and the community, will allow Lindsay to pursue a doctorate in nursing. ■

Bryan Hinck graduated from the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, Chicago Medical School, and is a resident in urology at Cleveland Clinic. ■ **Travis Mattson** is doing a one-year residency in general dentistry at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. ■ Composer **Matthew Peterson** earned second place in the American Prize in the composition-professional division for his orchestral work, *Hyperborea*. The American Prize is a series of nonprofit competitions that recognize and reward the best performing artists, ensembles, and composers in America.

2006

Erin Preloger, a fourth-year medical student at the Medical College of Wisconsin, was presented with the prestigious 2012 Houghton Award by the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation. The award honors medical students who excel in their knowledge of both the scientific and socioeconomic issues related to medicine.

2007

Ian Campbell, a Ph.D. candidate in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory University, took a little detour this summer to put the writing skills he developed at St. Olaf to use. Ian, a 2012 IEEE-USA Engineering Mass Media Fellow, spent 10 weeks as an intern at *The Oregonian* in Portland, reporting on science and technology. ■ **Elsa Marty** will serve as a pastoral intern with the Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ranchi, India, during the coming year. ■ **Allison Simonton**, who recently graduated from George Washington University Law School, accepted a commission into the U.S. Army JAG Corps and is serving in Grafenwoehr, Germany. She writes, "I've also gotten engaged, and my fiance, Kevan Marvasti, will be joining me on the adventures in Europe. Our wedding will be in the Finger Lakes region

of New York, September 2013. It might take a bit more time [to plan] a wedding from the other side of the planet!"

2008

Sarah Goldberg just signed a contract with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, where she will choreograph Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Sarah writes, "Once my contract with OSF ends I will be moving to Chicago in the hopes of finding more opportunities to dance and create." ■ **Suzi Hintz Hinck** started a masters program in nutrition at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. ■ **Matt Majerus** graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School in May. ■ **Elizabeth Sanders** is pursuing a Ph.D. in English literature at the University of Iowa.

2009

Martha Stuckey, who has studied music and performance under Koo Nimo in Ghana and later presented a concert series throughout Southern Spain, is now studying physical theater and ensemble work at the Pig Iron School for Advanced Performance Training in Philadelphia. ■ **Lauren Vick**, along with several other recent Olaf grads, has founded a theater company in the Twin Cities called the Buoyant Theatre Collective (buoyanttheatre.com).

2010

Chenoa Albertson is in a five-month training program with the Academy of Circus Arts UK. ■ **Brianna Hall** currently holds several part-time positions. "I'm writing children's nonfiction for the publishing company Capstone Press. I also volunteer as an administrator for the Minneapolis-based dance company Threads Dance Project, and I communicate with publishing companies and artists to obtain music performance rights." ■ **John Howard** is running for U.S. Congress as a representative for the Minnesota third district. His campaign team includes a number of bright Oles who are embracing the Ideals to Action motto. Friends can learn more at JohnHoward3.com. ■ **Kate Tecku** has accepted a new position as the healthy food promotions coordinator at the Food Bank. She writes, "I have been charged with supplying and promoting healthier food options to our clients, and educating and empowering them to buy, cook, and eat healthy meals on a budget." ■ **Cody Venzke** will be teaching high school math at Elsie High School in Houston with Teach for America for the next two years.

2011

Emily Quinnell is pursuing a master's degree in social work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a focus on child protection.

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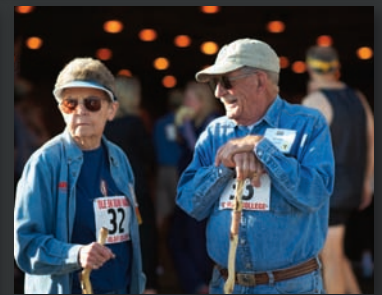
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Reunion Weekend 2012

THIS YEAR'S REUNION WEEKEND WAS A BLAST! Thanks to all the alumni and friends who came back to the Hill to celebrate your connection to St. Olaf. And a special note for those of you who participated in the 50th or the 25th Reunions: you can now order a print of your reunion group photo. Place your order by calling the Alumni and Parent Relations Office at 888-865-6537 or go online to stolaf.edu/alumni/reunion. For the rest of you, it's not too soon to mark your calendars for next year: **May 31 - June 2, 2013!**



future oles

Erik Lindberg '88 and Liana Odrdic, twins, Evjen and Isak
Andrea and Greg Egbert '93, a son, Charlie
Todd and Sarah Embury Lafrentz '94, a son, Jacob
Sarah Ford '94 and Spencer Downing, a daughter, Louisa
Jennifer and Michael Rogan '94, a son, John
Simon and Michelle Becker Webster '96, a son, David
Missy Graner '96 and Rhys Jones '96, a daughter, Olivia
Randi Grundahl Rexroth '96 and Rick Rexroth '94, a daughter, Kristina
Mauricio and Heather Nelson Lopez '97, twins, Mateo and Nina
Maria and Nate Beaudin '98, a son, Max
Anna Leighton Stier '98 and Jeremy Stier '96, a son, Connor
Sarah Gioe '99 and Robert Neel, a son, Zachary
Beret Jorgensen Froehle '99 and Joel Froehle '99, a daughter, Violet
John and Shelley Merwin Steingraeber '99, a daughter, Freida
Alyssa and Nils Snyder '99, a daughter, Mette
Stephen and Andrea Hedding Tietjen '00, a son, Elijah
Meg and Richard Pearson '00, a son, Eamon
Jennifer Terhune Streit '00 and Daniel Streit '01, a daughter, Lucie
Claire Campbell Prestwood '01 and David Prestwood '01, a daughter, Ainsley
Christina Moses '01 and Ross MacMullan '02, a son, Easton
Marianne Aarvik Hennessy '02 and Bryant Hennessy '99, twins, Eva and Liv
Daniel and Erica Starr Erickson '02, a son, Samuel
Laura Berg Holst '03 and Phil Holst '03, a daughter, Melanie
Amy and Jonathan Cornell '03, a son, Christian
Neil and Allison Quetel Hall '03, twins, Alexander and Thomas
Leah Abbe Bloem '05 and Michael Bloem '05, a son, Thomas
Jonathan and Kimberly Schuh Chester '05, a son, Kellan

weddings

Ronald Johnson '71 and Janine Marcus, April 28, 2012
Jennifer Winberg '99 and Steve Skavnak, May 14, 2011
Kristen Thompson '00 and Micael Dunavant, April 21, 2012
Erin Vos '00 and Paul Witcomb, March 27, 2011
Alison Bonow '01 and Michael Galdys, May 14, 2011
Becky Molstad '01 and Nathan Sheldon, Jan. 28, 2012
Joshua Olsen '03 and Bina Peters, July 2010
Carolyn Brostrom '05 and Rory Phillips, Aug. 13, 2011
Lauren Gioe '06 and John Lee, Sept. 4, 2011
Juliann Luce '06 and Luke Moretti '00, March 2012
Marit Sletten '06 and Matt Green '05, Aug. 13, 2011
Rachel Dougherty '08 and Mikael Witte '08, Oct. 29, 2011
Anna Johnson '08 and Brian Roach '07, May 19, 2012
Kate Horvat '10 and Jason Teiken '10, August 1, 2011
Karl Smithback '10 and Emily Sedgwick, Aug. 13, 2011
Mathew Deram '11 and Eleanor Davis, June 25, 2011

deaths

Orville Running '31, Decorah, Iowa, Feb. 6, 2012
Laura Kramer Hatleli '32, Woodbury, Minn., April 1, 2012
Ruth Bang '33, Red Wing, Minn., March 20, 2012
Oriet Fardal Thompson '34, Clifton, Texas, Jan. 31, 2012
Solveig Farseth '37, St. Paul, Minn., March 31, 2012
Marvel Thompson Lillemoe '37, Rapid City, S.D., Feb. 1, 2012
Belva Nerlien Walla '38, Spokane, Wash., April 13, 2012
Ruth Glesne Hanson '39, Muscatine, Iowa, Feb. 10, 2012
*Oscar Larson, Jr. '39, Fort Wayne, Ind., Jan. 21, 2012
Dorothy Remme Nilsen '39, Golden Valley, Minn., April 18, 2012
Virginia Husby Roise '40, Minneapolis, Feb. 26, 2012
Margarit Nicholson Anderson '40, Superior, Wis., April 6, 2012
Doris Urdahl Johnson '40, Northwood, Iowa, April 15, 2012
*Orville Bakko '41, Oakland, Calif., Jan. 24, 2012
Milton Nesse '41, Port Angeles, Wash., March 4, 2012
Metta Stockdal Cogburn '41, Sacramento, Calif., March 28, 2012
Irene Erickson DeSart '42, Elgin, Iowa, Jan. 25, 2012
Doris Fevold Mikelson '42, Minneapolis, Jan. 20, 2012
Ruth Hansen Stefferud '42, Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 15, 2012
Doris Hansen Waterman '42, Hopkins, Minn., March 15, 2012
Clara Herseith Bogda '42, Mesa, Ariz., April 24, 2012
Alf Hjemboe '42, Altoona, Wis., Dec. 25, 2011
George Husske '42, Dubuque, Iowa, March 1, 2012
Jane Patrick Cradick '42, Indianapolis, Feb. 15, 2012
*John Ronning '42, Burr Ridge, Ill., April 4, 2012
Ruth Cornelius Nelson '43, Stow, Ohio, Feb. 28, 2012
Dorothy Hodgkins Gigeay '43, Waseca, Minn., March 4, 2012
Evelyn Berge Casselman '44, San Juan Capistrano, Calif., May 7, 2012
Beatrice Engh Johnson '45, St. Paul, Feb. 12, 2012
Shirlee Gustafson Thorsen '45, Chicago, April 14, 2012
*Darwin Holian '45, Santa Barbara, Calif., April 27, 2012
Alice Hosfield '45, Owatonna, Minn., Feb. 14, 2012
Emma Mittermaier Frey '46, LaCrosse, Wis., March 8, 2012
Ruth Stolee Johnson '46, Edina, Minn., Feb. 3, 2012
Alice Erlander Wilcox '47, Wayzata, Minn., March 21, 2012
Mathilde Reinert Lambert '47, St. Joseph, Mo., April 29, 2012
Irene Bringle Hill '48, Story City, Iowa, Dec. 2, 2011
Kathleen Hanson Mason '48, Globe, Ariz., April 27, 2012
*D. Duane Nielsen '48, Loretto, Minn., Feb. 22, 2012
Dorothy Olson '48, Oak Park, Ill., Sept. 9, 2009
*J. Elvern Rommereim '48, Kalispell, Mont., Feb. 13, 2012
Irene Andresen Scatliff '49, Chapel Hill, N.C., Dec. 31, 2011
Mavis Elstad Nienow '49, Faribault, Minn., Feb. 13, 2012
Jane Glaettli Sloop '49, Lawrence, Kan., March 13, 2012
Thomas Beck '50, Owatonna, Minn., Dec. 4, 2011
Robert Brennan '50, Tampa, Fla., March 10, 2012
*Carsten Haaland '50, Powder Springs, Ga., Dec. 18, 2010
*Noel Hansen '50, Omaha, Neb., March 23, 2012

- *Ronald Henriksen '50, Milwaukee, Wis., April 2, 2012
- Darrel Meyer '50, Mill Valley, Calif., Oct. 9, 2010
- Harald Petersen '50, Albert Lea, Minn., May 8, 2012
- *Walter Reitan '50, Green Bay, Wis., March 27, 2012
- *Kermit Roisen '50, Des Moines, April 8, 2012
- *Lloyd Swenson '50, Austin, Minn., April 4, 2012
- Joanne Bjork Klein '51, Tahuya, Wash., Jan. 29, 2012
- Donna Holen Stein '51, Edina, Minn., May 31, 2012
- Dolores Ihde Kopseng '51, Albert Lea, Minn., Jan. 23, 2012
- Joyce Joul Engelkes '51, Rushmore, Minn., May 3, 2012
- *Philip Juhl '51, Waverly, Iowa, Jan. 21, 2012
- Grace Kylling Kennedy '51, Beresford, S.D., May 13, 2012
- Marilyn Moen Miller '51, Bloomington, Minn., Sept. 26, 2008
- *Algernon Johnson '52, Spicer, Minn., March 18, 2012
- Harald Nielsen '52, Peoria, Ill., May 7, 2012
- Carol Engelstad Johnson '53, Stephen, Minn., March 11, 2012
- *John Gustafson '54, Albuquerque, N.M., June 5, 2012
- *Lawrence Peterson, Jr. '54, Ogema, Minn., Feb. 7, 2012
- John Walledom III '54, Manteno, Ill., Aug. 26, 2011
- Carol Hoper Hagen '55, Fosston, Minn., May 14, 2012
- Forrest Glick '56, Mankato, Minn., Feb. 17, 2012
- Beverly Hansen Best '56, Northfield, May 11, 2012
- David Jordahl '56, Habichtswald, Germany, May 4, 2012
- *Kristoffer Paulson '56, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, March 3, 2012
- Floyd Larson '57, Honolulu, Dec. 8, 2011
- Marcus Ede '58, Mission, Texas, April 8, 2012
- *David Jarratt '58, Newton, Mass., March 19, 2012
- *Lowell Rygg '58, Colorado Springs, Colo., Feb. 28, 2012
- John Mason III '59, Vancouver, Wash., May 12, 2012
- George Miner '60, Surprise, Ariz., Jan. 23, 2012
- Judith Manes Nelson '61, Berkeley, Calif., May 28, 2012
- Jacqueline Vangen Loper '62, Park City, Mont., April 22, 2012
- *David Grovdahl '63, Orlando, Fla., Feb. 8, 2012
- Lynne Forbord Sethre '65, Circle Pines, Minn., May 7, 2012
- Donald Twito '66, Billings, Mont., April 17, 2012
- Gloria Dittmer Faivre '67, Eitzen, Minn., Jan. 21, 2012
- George Moffett, Jr. '68, Ledyard, Conn., Feb. 25, 2012
- Karen Sjoquist Jenkins '70, Fallbrook, Calif., April 1, 2012
- Sigfred Peck '74, Los Angeles, May, 11, 2012
- Anne Odland '77, Richfield, Minn., March 31, 2012
- Richard Wilson '81, Beldenville, Wis., Feb. 9, 2012
- Kristen Day Hewett '85, Wauwatosa, Wis., March 2, 2012
- Ross Michehl '89, Gold River, Calif., March 3, 2012
- Leah Cook McDowell '98, Peterson, Minn., March 21, 2012
- James Graner '98, Minnetrista, Minn., Oct. 14, 2011
- Sara Banks Tiedeman '01, Blaine, Minn., April 3, 2012
- Christian Balzer '08, Santa Barbara, Calif., March 28, 2012

* Veteran

ALUMNI AWARDS

A Call for Nominations

The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations is currently accepting nominations for alumni who should be considered for awards in the following categories:



Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA)

The Distinguished Alumni Award is given to alumni who excel in the following categories: professional accomplishments, community service, church and/or religious involvement, and St. Olaf involvement. These alumni have used their talents or skills in their profession or beyond to benefit the community. They have not only accomplished a job competently, they also have excelled in a profession through unusual success in or contribution to a field, through innovation or research that has caused the profession to advance, or for extraordinary contributions and achievements that have improved the quality of life for a segment of society.

Alumni Achievement Award (AAA)

Candidates for the Alumni Achievement Award are judged for their professional achievements. The criteria shall be that the candidate has not merely accomplished a job competently but has excelled in a profession through unusual success or contribution to a field; through innovation or research, which has caused the profession to advance; or for extraordinary contributions and achievements that have improved the quality of life for some segment of society.

Distinguished Service Award (DSA)

This award was established to honor those who have distinguished themselves in a life-long pursuit to serve their community and to support the advancement of the college, but may not have excelled in a particular profession.

Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD)

Graduate of the Last Decade is given to young alumni who have set themselves apart in professional accomplishments, community service contributions, and St. Olaf involvement. Like the Distinguished Alumni Award candidates, these young alumni have used talents or skills in their profession or beyond to benefit the community. They have not only accomplished a job competently, they also have excelled in a profession, made significant contributions to a field, or improved the quality of life for a segment of society. What is more, this candidate has achieved such success within 10 years of graduation from St. Olaf.

LEARN MORE

Visit stolaf.edu/alumni/awards or contact Alumni and Parent Relations at 507-786-3028, 888-865-6537, or alum-office@stolaf.edu

The Golden Girl

BY SUSAN HVISTENDAHL '68

WHEN I LIVED IN NEW YORK CITY and told anyone that my alma mater was St. Olaf, more often than not the response was, “Oh, St. Olaf. Like in *The Golden Girls!*” For years, actress Betty White played the naïve, childlike character Rose Nylund on the popular television series, and Rose — a Norwegian American who hailed from the fictional farming town of St. Olaf, Minnesota — had made St. Olaf famous.

In 1989, Dan Jorgensen, then director of public relations for St. Olaf College, arranged for the St. Olaf Choir to visit the Hollywood set of *The Golden Girls* during their West Coast tour. Prior to the evening taping of the show, Betty White and Rue McClanahan (“Blanche”) surprised the audience — more than half of whom were St. Olaf Choir members — by coming onto the set and singing the college fight song, “Um! Yah! Yah!,” which Jorgensen had taught them earlier.

“Don’t any of you know this song?” White asked, and immediately every Ole joined in. It also happened to be White’s birthday, and the choir sang “Happy Birthday to Betty” in four-part harmony. White said that “after hearing those glorious voices, Rue and I crawled off the stage. It was such fun.”

Betty White reconnected with St. Olaf on May 3 and 4, 1992, with a two-day campus visit. Jorgensen remembers picking up Betty White and her assistant, Gail Clark, in Minneapolis and driving them to Northfield, where they planned to stay at the Archer House. As they neared Northfield, they came upon a farm dog sitting on the highway. White, a long-time dog-lover and animal welfare activist, worried the dog would be run over and insisted Jorgensen stop the car. White coaxed the dog off the road and into the ditch, ordering it to “Stay!” then returned to the car, remarking, “There! I feel better!” As they drove off, Jorgensen looked in the rearview mirror. The dog had already resumed his position on the highway.

Betty White’s St. Olaf visit was a whirlwind of activity, from attending a St. Olaf women’s softball game to attending both a St. Olaf Choir rehearsal and spring concert, where she once again joined the choir in singing “Um! Yah! Yah!” The next morning, White had breakfast at the Ole Store and toured the Northfield Historical Society museum. Upon seeing a photo of the outlaw Jesse James, she remarked, “Look at his eyes. Is it any wonder [Henry] Fonda played him?”

White returned to the campus in time for chapel and a talk by St. Olaf president Melvin George, who spoke on the topic “Becoming like Children.” President George concluded by thanking Rose Nylund “for reminding all Americans that being open, humble, dependent, and vulnerable is something to be admired, that naïveté is not all bad, and that happy endings are, in fact, what God had in mind all along when He made the world.”

White also met with St. Olaf student government leaders, was interviewed on WCAL, and treated theater majors to stories about her acting career “I feel like I’ve been seeing St. Olaf from the inside,” White told the students before leaving the campus. “It will make a whole difference in my Rose characterization, I can assure you. I won’t be as tentative. I will be surer-footed, because you really understand where Rose is coming from, and she really is coming from your values.”

When I later wrote Ms. White, requesting a photograph to use with a story about her trip to the college and Northfield, a picture and letter soon arrived in the mail. The letter read:



“We come from St. Olaf, we sure are the real stuff...”
The same could be said for Betty White, who twice joined the St. Olaf Choir for a rendition of “Um! Yah! Yah!”

Dear Susan,

Thanks so much for your nice letter. I remember my visit to St. Olaf very well. I was a little apprehensive, as I was afraid they would resent the fact that Rose wasn’t the brightest bulb in the chandelier, but they couldn’t have been warmer and more welcoming. To this day I have my Uff Da cup and shirt.

I remember meeting an exchange student from Germany who told me a story that made me laugh. He said that when he told friends that he was going to go to school in America, at St. Olaf College, they would say, “Oh, Golden Girls!” He would say no, and explain that St. Olaf was a school famous for its magnificent choir! And then they’d say, “Oh, we didn’t know the Golden Girls sang!!”

Please give my regards to all on your beautiful campus, and keep up that wonderful singing.

Warmest regards, Betty

SUSAN HVISTENDAHL '68 writes a monthly column, “Historic Happenings,” for the *Entertainment Guide of Northfield, Faribault, and Cannon Falls*.

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Iowa City, Iowa
Coralville Center for the Performing Arts

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14 · 4 P.M.

Oak Park, Illinois
Oak Park River Forest High School

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15 · 7 P.M.

Kettering, Ohio
Kettering Fairmont High School

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16 · 7 P.M.

Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania
Upper St. Clair Theater

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17 · 7 P.M.

Hershey, Pennsylvania
Hershey High School

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18 · 7 P.M.

Meadville, Pennsylvania
Allegheny College

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19 · 7:30 P.M.

Goshen, Indiana
Goshen College

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20 · 7:30 P.M.

Middleton, Wisconsin
Middleton High School
*Joint concert with the Wisconsin
Youth Symphony Orchestra*

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The hopes and dreams of countless young men and women have begun on Manitou Heights. In 1942, President Lars Boe saw his dream for a good library at St. Olaf come true. Boe envisioned the library to be “the workshop of the college, its intellectual center.” Today, in addition to providing a universe of information, knowledge, and art, Rølvaag Memorial Library is home to the English department and the rich collections of the Hong Kierkegaard Library, the Norwegian-American Historical Association, and the Shaw-Olson Center for College History. PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER