

STOLAF

FALL 2013



OLES
ROCK

BEARING WITNESS

WORLD VIEWS 2013

COMMON GROUND

ON THE COVER:

Chris Koza '01, lead singer and songwriter for the band Rogue Valley, performs at a recent outdoor concert in the Twin Cities.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER

ST. OLAF MAGAZINE

FALL 2013

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St. Olaf is known worldwide for its music and musicians, and its conservatory-style training. But there's another side to music at St. Olaf. The college has long been an incubator of musicians who follow a very different musical path than one might expect of a St. Olaf graduate.

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Individuals
and institutions
grow and flourish
by recognizing
challenges,
discerning
opportunities,
and moving
boldly forward.

Greetings, Oles!

“**B**earing Witness,” the story in this issue of the magazine about the Witness Tree Vineyard owned by Oles Dennis ’61 and Carolyn Devine ’60, got me to thinking about sowing and reaping. The cycle of planting, growing, and harvesting provides an apt metaphor for the work of colleges. Students come to us not yet fully emerged. We nourish them intellectually and help lead them to independence and adulthood, after which they leave the soil of their alma mater to take their place in the world.

Though the metaphor is apt, colleges are counter-cyclical with regard to natural rhythms. Unlike farmers, we plant in the fall when students arrive on campus and reap in the spring when they graduate. Winter is — counter intuitively — our growing season.

It’s planting time at St. Olaf.

As I write these words, 52 new international students are arriving on campus to begin their four-year journey at St. Olaf. Over Labor Day weekend, the rest of our 777 new first-year and transfer students arrive, and the uncommon journey that is their St. Olaf experience begins. We eagerly await them.

By the time you read this, our new students will have chosen their classes, taken their first exams, written their first papers, played in their first rehearsals or athletic events, and settled into life in community with their roommates and new friends. The mixture of hope and fear that many readers of this magazine may remember from their own first month at St. Olaf will have modulated in our first-years into something more like excitement at all of the opportunities before them.

The 18-century English writer Samuel Johnson wrote searchingly about hope and fear. The former draws us; the latter repels us. Out of balance, hope can abstract us from the realities of our daily life, while fear can paralyze us. In balance, they provide the energy to move forward and the caution to do so wisely.

The articles in this magazine display the dynamic of hope and fear at work in the lives of people and the college. The vintners and the musicians profiled here are all Ole entrepreneurs who had a vision, bet on themselves, and made that vision a reality. In the same way, St. Olaf, together with our friends at Carleton College, is being entrepreneurial, looking for new solutions to challenges and new opportunities available to both of our institutions. This is how individuals and institutions grow and flourish: recognize challenges, discern opportunities, move boldly forward.

I hope you enjoy the energy and optimism displayed in the stories in this issue of our magazine and, as always, I thank you for your support and care for our college.

David R. Anderson

St. Olaf partners with Posse Foundation

St. Olaf College is one of the latest institutions to join the Posse Foundation, a college access and youth leadership development program that partners with 47 of the most selective colleges and universities in the country.

For the past 25 years, the Posse Foundation has sought out public high school students with strong leadership potential who may be overlooked by traditional college admission processes. Posse extends to these students the opportunity to pursue their academic and personal goals by placing them in supportive, multicultural teams — or “posses” — of 10 students. After a year of mentoring, the posses are presented to some of the top colleges in the nation and awarded four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarships.



“Other highly regarded liberal arts colleges like ours have had great success working with Posse,” says St. Olaf President David R. Anderson '74. “I am optimistic that we will too.”

Since first sending five students to Vanderbilt University in 1989, the foundation has supported nearly 4,900 scholars and maintained a graduation rate of 90 percent — significantly above the national average.

St. Olaf's collaboration with the program begins this fall, when the college admits its first posse of 10 students from the Chicago area. The campus posse liaison, Dean of Students Rosalyn Eaton-Neeb '87, is responsible for fostering a relationship between the campus and the incoming students. Over the course of their undergraduate career, the posse will continue to meet with each other, their liaison, and their chosen faculty mentors, while simultaneously serving as leaders for multicultural understanding and awareness within the St. Olaf community.



McNair Scholars

Seniors involved in student-faculty research as part of the St. Olaf McNair Scholars Program included (L-R, front row) Zoua Xiong '14, Gabriella Coll '14; (second row) Amanda Moua '14, Erick Marigi '14, Associate Professor of Education and McNair Research Coordinator Heather Campbell '90; (third row) Britt Letcher '14, Chiamaka Isiguzo '14, Lansa Dawano '14, Guttu Maskalo '14; (fourth row) Zoey Slater '14, McNair Scholars Program Director Janis Johnson, and McNair Scholars Program Assistant Director Melissa Hinderscheit '04. Not pictured are Melissa Songpitak '14 and Susan Vang '14.

The wide variety of projects included developing training programs for new cochlear implant users, examining the impact of Spanish-English bilingualism and race on callback rates for job interviews, researching photoreceptor cells, and evaluating current campus sustainability projects.

THE ST·OLAF ORCHESTRA

STEVEN AMUNDSON · CONDUCTOR

Fall Tour 2013

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 7 P.M.

Rapid City, South Dakota
Rapid City Central High School
New Theater

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 7 P.M.

Denver, Colorado
Bethany Lutheran Church

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 7:30 P.M.

Boulder, Colorado
Macky Auditorium, University
of Colorado at Boulder

JOINT CONCERT WITH THE GREATER
BOULDER YOUTH ORCHESTRA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 7 P.M.

Fort Collins, Colorado
Rocky Mountain High School

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 7 P.M.

Albuquerque, New Mexico
Simms Center for the Performing
Arts, Albuquerque Academy

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 7:30 P.M.

Phoenix, Arizona
Pinnacle Presbyterian Church

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 3 P.M.

Cottonwood, Arizona
Mingus Union Auditorium

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 3:30 P.M.

Home Concert
Skoglund Center Auditorium

stolaf.edu/music · stolaftickets.com

A Summer of Hands-on Learning

Throughout the summer, St. Olaf students have opportunities to participate in a variety of professional internships and research projects, which are conducted both on and off campus. These experiences not only enrich the professional skills of undergraduates, they provide students with invaluable skills they can use in graduate school and in their future careers.

Legal Scholars

The Summer Legal Scholars Program afforded seven seniors firsthand legal experience in university law programs. The program — one of only two like it in the nation — immersed students in the legal world for six to eight weeks of intensive research and training. Participants served law clinics at the William Mitchell College of Law, University of Minnesota, University of St. Thomas, and Drake University.

Under the direction of law students and practicing attorneys, the students provided assistance to legal clinics devoted to serving under-resourced communities. Guided by their mentoring attorneys, the students worked on a day-to-day basis with a variety of cases involving criminal law, child advocacy, community justice and development, immigration law, and assistance for prisoners reentering the community.



Through the work they did this summer, these seniors helped change lives well before entering the legal profession: (L-R, top row) Joel Jaeger '14 (Drake University), Alexander Hsu '14 (Drake University); (middle row) Nicole Cervenka '14 (University of Minnesota), Matthew Johnson '14 (William Mitchell College of Law), Derek Waller '14 (University of Minnesota); (bottom row) Cianna Bedford '14 (University of St. Thomas), and Gina Tonn '14 (University of St. Thomas).

Read more about summer research at stolaf.edu/news



Undergraduate Research

This summer, 84 students collaborated with faculty on research and inquiry across a wide range of disciplines — from music, biology, chemistry, and physics to history, theater, economics, sociology, neuroscience, and computer science to mathematics, English, art history, and family studies. Learn more at stolaf.edu/academics/curi.

Rare Books

A summer internship at the Library of Congress gave Johnna Purchase '14 access to a select collection of rare materials written by James Joyce, including a first edition of *Ulysses*. What's more, the experience allowed her to work with Mark Dimunation '74, who heads the Rare Book and Special Collections Division at the Library of Congress. The internship, which culminated in a lecture by Purchase on the legacy of Joyce's *Ulysses*, required her to examine the role of books from a deeper perspective. "Rather than valuing a book solely for the text, I examined the importance of *Ulysses* as a material object with the cultural agency to shape fields as diverse as typography, art, American book clubs, literary movements, and even censorship law," she says.



Purchase's internship and lecture serves as a bridge between the fall of 2012, when she studied at Trinity College in Dublin, the city in which *Ulysses* takes place, and the research she will be doing this fall on the stream of consciousness technique Joyce used in the novel.

Wireless Probes for Pacemakers

A St. Olaf research team has been working to develop a wireless probe that could change the way devices like pacemakers work. Guttu Maskalo '14, Erick Marigi '14, and Shane Allen '14, led by Associate Professor of Biology Kevin Crisp, are working on technology that will send and receive signals wirelessly using three computer software systems. They're hoping this innovation will replace relatively heavy and clunky pacemakers, most of which still use wires and large batteries.

The wireless probes appear to be promising, but the process to construct them is time-consuming and labor-intensive. However, "because St. Olaf students have a natural tenacity and a willingness to challenge themselves, they are very good candidates for real-world projects with real-world applications that are interdisciplinary in nature and have an element of entrepreneurship and innovation," Crisp says.

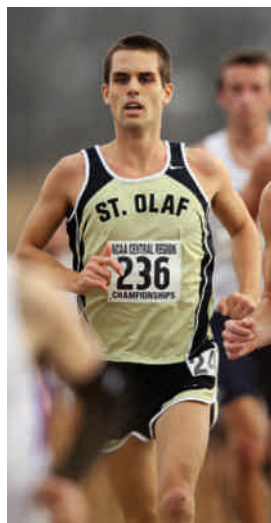


(L-R) Guttu Maskalo '14, Shane Allen '14, Erick Marigi '14

Ole Athletic Highlights

DAVE HAUCK AWARD

Cross country and track student-athlete Tim Lillehaugen '13, a four-time All-MIAC honoree, was named the college's Dave Hauck Award winner in May. The honor is awarded annually to a senior in his or her final year of eligibility in recognition of athletic excellence, distinguished service and leadership, and academic achievement.



In addition to an outstanding athletic career at St. Olaf, Lillehaugen was an academic all-conference and academic all-region honoree twice and earned U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association all-academic honors.

A Rhodes Scholar nominee for St. Olaf, Lillehaugen spent

time in Costa Rica on an independent research project during his junior year and was a member of the Economics Honor Society. An active community volunteer, he also served in the student government and student senate. Lillehaugen is the fourth recipient of the Hauck Award, joining John Schantzen '10 (football, track and field), Abigail Ho '11 (tennis), and Leon Clark '12 (football, track and field).

WOMEN'S GOLF

Molly Erickson '13 fired a final round of 79 to finish in a 22nd place tie as she led St. Olaf to a 15th place team finish at the NCAA Division III Championships in May. The two-time MIAC MVP was named Women's Golf Coaches Association All-America second team on Wednesday for the second time in as many years. Molly Knutson '13 was the team's next-best finisher. St. Olaf was making its second appearance in the NCAAs after competing in the event for the first time last spring. The Oles have won each of the last two MIAC Championships.

BASEBALL

The St. Olaf baseball team battled a snowy spring climate to finish 20-15 overall and 9-9 in MIAC play. The 20-win season was the team's 18th in 19 seasons under head coach Matt McDonald '89. The Oles were led by catcher Jack Schechinger '14, who hit a team best .396 while leading the team in



hits (42), homers (3), and RBIs (29). He earned a pair of third team all-region honors (*D3baseball.com* and American Baseball Coaches Association) and was the team's only All-MIAC selection. Second baseman Nick Kulla '14 was also a third team *D3baseball.com* all-region selection.

SOFTBALL

The Ole softball team went 15-17 overall and 8-8 in MIAC play. St. Olaf appeared in the MIAC playoffs, which became a 12-team event after weather shortened the league schedule. The Oles advanced to the tournament's semifinals on the heels of a pair of high-scoring wins. Senior Mackenzie Wolter and first-year Ole Becca Walz earned All-MIAC honors. Wolter hit .300 overall and .296 in league play. Walz had four homers in her rookie campaign and was one of three first-years on the league's 25-person All-MIAC squad. St. Olaf had four players named All-MIAC honorable mention: Jessica Wilson '13, Julie Fergus '13, Amy Prok '13, and Danielle Collins '15.

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

St. Olaf had two All-America performances at the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships in May to round out a tremendous season. Dani Larson '15 was seventh in the high jump and Emma Lee '13 was sixth in the 10,000 at the championships to earn the All-America honors. Larson set a school record in the MIAC Championships as she won two events: the 400 hurdles and the high jump. Lee won the 10,000 at the MIACs and finished second in the 5,000. The third place finish at the MIAC Outdoor Championships is the best for St. Olaf since 1999.

MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Brian Saksa '14 won the 1,500-meter run, and Grant Wintheiser '15 won the 5,000 to lead St. Olaf to fourth place at the MIAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships in May. Saksa advanced to the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships in the 1,500, where he qualified for the event final. His preliminary time of 3:49.79 placed him behind only Mike Palmquist '80 (3:47:84 in 1980) in the St. Olaf record book.

MEN'S TENNIS

The team advanced to the MIAC playoffs via a late league victory over Macalester College. St. Olaf was defeated in the quarterfinals of the event and finished the season 6-7 overall and 5-4 in MIAC play. St. Olaf won three of its last five MIAC contests. Stephen Nolan '15 and Andy Catania '13 were named All-MIAC for doubles in men's tennis, while Nolan's outstanding play also earned him a spot on the All-Conference team for singles. Nolan and Catania occupied the No. 1 doubles position for St. Olaf and posted a 6-7 record.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The Ole women finished 9-9 overall and 6-4 in league play to reach the MIAC playoffs. The Oles were ranked 20th in the region by season's end. Julia Ellis '13, Lisa Hall '16, and Kristi Kroker '15 were named to the 2013 MIAC Women's Tennis All-Conference team. Ellis and Kroker earned the honor for the second straight year, while Hall's recognition came during her debut season in the MIACs. In her senior season, Ellis compiled a singles record of 11-6 overall and was 8-1 in MIAC play, which led all No. 2 singles players.

stolaf.edu/athletics



LASTING TIES

The St. Olaf Choir returns to Norway to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

BY MARLA HILL HOLT '88 · PHOTOS BY NANCY BUNDT

The abiding connection between St. Olaf College and Norway was strengthened this past June when the St. Olaf Choir commemorated its 100th anniversary with a centennial tour of the Scandinavian country. The three-week tour marked the seventh time the choir has traveled to Norway.

"It was important to go back to the roots of St. Olaf College and the St. Olaf Choir during our centennial year," says St. Olaf Choir Conductor Anton Armstrong '78. "In 1913, F. Melius Christiansen, the founder of the choir, had the pioneering vision to return to his homeland. It was special to return to some of the same cities from that first visit a century ago, as well as to recognize the vision and bravery of the Norwegian immigrants who built a college in Minnesota that has always celebrated the arts."

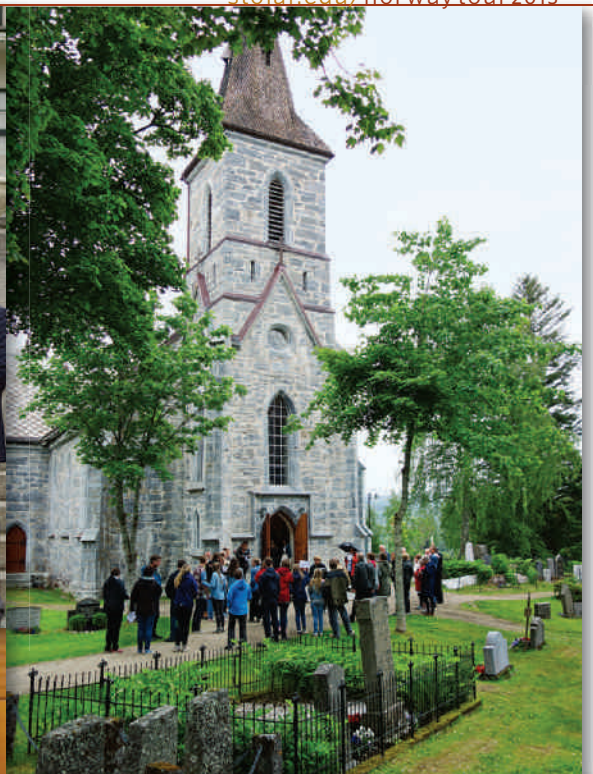
The 74-member choir performed 11 concerts, delighting and dazzling audiences in a return to many familiar venues, including churches, concert halls, and cathedrals in such locations as Oslo, Bergen, and Trondheim. The choir sang in new and old places, from Stavanger's sparkling concert hall, or *Konserthus*, which opened in 2012, to Trondheim's famed Nidaros Cathedral, Norway's national sanctuary that dates to the 11th century. In Oslo, the ensemble sang for King Harald V at the Oslo Konserthus and was received at the residence of the U.S. ambassador to Norway. They visited the Norwegian parliament, the Stortinget, and in Bergen, they spent time at Troidhaugen, the home of 19th-century Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg.

The choir also paid homage to St. Olaf's historical connections to Norway. They worshipped and sang in Larvik at the *Kirkelige Fellesråd*, the church at which F. Melius Christiansen played the organ in his teenage years before immigrating to the United States. In Trondheim, the choir sang *Beautiful Savior* at a ceremony honoring Bernt Julius Muus, a founder of St. Olaf College who is buried in the Nidaros Cathedral cemetery.

While singing in Norway's finest concert halls is certainly memorable, sometimes performing in more intimate venues can prove to be just as meaningful. The choir had one such experience in Snåsa, which is Muus's birthplace. The town is a regular stop for St. Olaf ensembles traveling in Norway, and the townspeople turn out en masse to fill a small church for concerts.

At the conclusion of the tour, the choir — joined by Norway's Nidarosdomens Jentekor Girls' Choir — spent three additional days at Trondheim's Nidaros Cathedral to film a new one-hour Christmas program, *Christmas in Norway with St. Olaf*, which will air this holiday season on PBS.

Read more about the centennial tour of Norway on the St. Olaf Choir blog at <http://pages.stolaf.edu/norwaytour2013>.



COMMON GROUND

After more than a century of shared history in Northfield, St. Olaf and Carleton are entering a new era of collaboration.

BY MARLA HILL HOLT '88 | PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM ROSTER

When Steven Poskanzer was named president of Carleton College in 2010, St. Olaf College President David R. Anderson '74 was the first person to offer him congratulations.

"The very first note I got was from David, and it was very gracious and kind," President Poskanzer says. "He and his wife reached out to me and my family, and were great guides on how to make life work as a college president in Northfield."

President Anderson spoke at Poskanzer's inauguration — a longstanding tradition between the two colleges — and so began what has become an enduring friendship between the two men.

"I do think that personal relationships matter, and the two of us connected on a personal level. We both understand that there are many more things that are shared by our two colleges than divide us, and it's great to have a colleague and someone I trust to turn to for advice and counsel. It's a friendship that matters to me," Poskanzer says.

Anderson and Poskanzer share a refreshing lack of defensiveness about their individual institutions, and both recognize the need for St. Olaf and Carleton to identify their commonalities, and to take advantage of them.

"It's such a pleasure to have a colleague who shares my view that we need to leverage what we have in common and use it to make both of us stronger," Anderson says.

Though the colleges enjoyed a congenial relationship (and a well-documented sports rivalry) dating to their earliest days, St. Olaf and Carleton have recently begun to focus anew on ways the two well-regarded liberal arts colleges can collaborate and share services to the benefit of both communities. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation recognized these efforts in spring 2012 by awarding the schools a \$50,000 grant to explore how they could work together more closely to enhance the quality and cost-effectiveness of administrative and academic programs.

Anderson and Poskanzer know that collaboration has a greater chance at success when it's built on mutual trust. That trust allows both presidents to set a meaningful example of cooperation for the college communities they govern. ►



“Collaboration tends to be more successful and you get more done when it rests upon personal acquaintance and, if possible, affection,” Anderson says. “Steve and I both say all the time that we like and respect each other. As I tell alumni, ‘We’re friends with Carleton now.’ If you have that as the basis, you have the ability to get incredible things done institutionally.”

Marci Sortor, provost and dean of the college at St. Olaf, agrees that collaboration begins with relationship building. “Once you have good relationships, you start seeing what you can accomplish,” she says. “It becomes very easy and natural for people to think about what good things they can do together, and then they get excited. That’s when imagination takes off.”

The colleges’ desire to look at additional ways to collaborate has grown out of past and current successful partnerships. Most notable is the Bridge, a combined catalog that allows the colleges’ two library collections to operate as one. This collaboration, which began in 2004, has proven beneficial to both campuses by essentially doubling the number of materials available to students and faculty members and by streamlining the information-gathering experience for all library users. The libraries share systems software and work together in collection development to avoid excess duplication of materials.

“The most exciting thing about the libraries’ Bridge experience is that it has been such a great foundation for us

to build on,” Sortor says. “Their success is something we can look to as we explore other areas of collaboration.”

The \$50,000 Mellon grant is for exploration only. As the colleges identify collaborative projects they’d like to pursue, they will apply for additional grant funding to support implementation.

“Human resources and payroll, the library, information technology, and the curriculum have been our focus during the year we’ve had the exploratory grant,” Sortor says. “We see these as areas with the potential for further and new collaboration, so we are investigating, asking questions, brainstorming, and thinking about what is really possible.”

The staffs at the two college libraries continue to look at ways to enhance their already successful collaboration. “We’re interested in taking things to the next level,” says Roberta Lembke ’81, director of Information Technology (IT) and libraries at St. Olaf. For example, the staffs have formed working groups to focus on creating an even more seamless library experience for patrons. “We want students and faculty to be at home in each building, so we’re looking at ways to make sure our facilities, services, and policies are welcoming and familiar,” Lembke says. The work involves paying attention to details like having similar signage, providing adequate bussing between the campuses, and creating an online interface that looks and acts the same, whether you’re accessing it from Carleton or St. Olaf.

Lembke sees great potential for sharing faculty and staff expertise at both colleges. Last year, professors, reference



librarians, and IT instructional technologists from both colleges formed learning communities to explore how iPads might best be used in the classroom. It's this sort of collaborative sharing of expertise that Lembke is most excited about.

"It's a way to conduct professional development that works to the benefit of students on both campuses," she says.

St. Olaf and Carleton have just begun to consider ways to collaborate in IT, Lembke says. "Our discussions are in their infancy," she says, as the staffs are starting to document their processes and discuss the types of services they provide to their campuses, exploring what areas or systems might be ripe for sharing.

A current collaboration in IT is a shared server that manages the One-Card system, an all-purpose identity card program that the colleges implemented in 2006. The card can be used at either campus for services such as meals, library transactions, bookstore purchases, and access to fitness facilities.

The colleges also installed and share a cross-campus fiber connection and have jointly purchased a remote desktop assistance program that enables IT helpdesk personnel to fix a computer user's problems or install software remotely. "The cost savings on every project won't be substantial," Lembke says, "but over time, as we do more and more of them, we could start seeing some significant cost savings."

Such savings are just one reason to pursue further collaboration between the two colleges. There is no doubt that the liberal arts education provided on both sides of the Cannon

River is expensive, and higher education institutions are under increasing pressure to contain costs.

"We're at a point in higher education in America when you have to say, 'It doesn't make sense to have two of everything in Northfield, Minnesota, given the pressures upon us as institutions to deliver a very high quality experience at a price that people are willing and able to afford,'" Anderson says.

The current foray into collaboration is being approached thoughtfully, at a measured pace, and with each institution's mission carefully in mind.

While creating cost efficiencies is certainly beneficial, Poskanzer says it's not the only driving force behind these cooperative efforts. "I think all colleges recognize that reinventing the wheel alone, all the time, is not the smart way to go," he says. "Collaborative-shared services let us be not only more efficient, but help us provide a better and more reliable learning environment for our students." ►



Administrative or “back-office” services are logically the first place St. Olaf and Carleton have looked to for potential collaboration, but cooperation among the colleges’ academic programs is an exciting area of exploration as well, Anderson says. “Though it may take the longest to accomplish some of our ideas in this area, collaboration in the academic program likely would be, in my view, the most richly productive,” he says.

Working together in the classroom is a bit more challenging, with the colleges’ different academic calendars — St. Olaf uses two 14-week semesters plus a one-month interim, while Carleton uses three 10-week terms — providing the biggest barrier. There is, however, no talk of changing either calendar, so the colleges’ faculties are discussing “creative ways to think around the obstacles, and maybe in the process, come up with some interesting new models of teaching,” Sortor says. Funds from the Mellon grant have allowed both faculties to begin the careful work of exploring ways of sharing academic resources and building a sense of shared purpose.

The St. Olaf faculty has been receptive to the idea of regularized, welcomed, and supported conversations with their colleagues across the river, Anderson says. “It’s encouraging that everyone is open to the conversation. Who’s going to say, ‘No, I don’t want to talk to the people at another very fine college in the same town that I’m in?’”

Tony Lott, associate professor of political science at St. Olaf, and Al Montero, professor of political science at Carleton, have been facilitating discussions among their colleagues about a series of projects that could enhance teaching and learning,



A SHARED HISTORY

St. Olaf and Carleton, just a mile apart in Northfield, have for the most part been friendly rivals. Their proximity also has helped the two well-respected liberal arts colleges to collaborate and share resources throughout their history. The following timeline highlights some of the many ways the colleges have nurtured a congenial relationship since their earliest days.

1875 | St. Olaf had no library when it was established as St. Olaf’s School. Andrew Veblen, a Carleton student and brother of economist Thorstein Veblen, gave the school a 10-volume set of *Chamber’s Encyclopedia* — which he had acquired by selling magazine subscriptions — effectively establishing the St. Olaf Library.



Northfield may look upon this institution with pride, both on account of this ornamental structure and far more on account of the school itself, which bids fair to become one of prominence. Carleton sendeth to St. Olaf her most hearty wishes for prosperity and success.”

1877 | In a notice addressed to “St. Olaf’s College” during the construction of Old Main, Carleton sent the following greeting: “Surely

1887 | A Carleton baseball team defeated St. Olaf in a doubleheader at the base of Old Main. It was St. Olaf’s first formal intercollegiate athletic contest. St. Olaf lost both games, 25-20 and 14-11.

1900 | The two colleges competed against each other in the first Ware Oratorical Contest. St. Olaf and Carleton debated annually

through 1918, with each college winning nine contests. It wasn’t all about oratorical rivalry, however. In 1899, the *Carletonian* thanked the St. Olaf Band for helping the Carleton team celebrate an oratorical victory, and in 1926, the St. Olaf team aided the Carleton team in preparing for a debate trip to the East Coast.



1908 | The *Manitou Messenger* announced the first joint musical program given by students from both colleges in Hoyme Memorial Chapel, stating, “Non-competitive programs of this nature cannot help but prove very valuable in fostering a spirit of good will between the two colleges.”



1910 St. Olaf and Carleton competed against each other

for the first time in basketball when Carleton constructed its Sayles-Hill gymnasium. In 1913, the teams began competing for the Goat Trophy, given to the school that wins both of the annual contests.

1918 | The Board of Education of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America granted St. Olaf permission to participate in intercollegiate football, but World War I had greatly reduced the number of male students on campus. Both Carleton and St. Olaf had Student Army Training Corps units, and the War Department stipulated that for

athletic competition to take place, the units would have to be merged. The combined St. Olaf/Carleton football team defeated Pillsbury Baptist College 40-0 in the first official intercollegiate football



game involving St. Olaf students. The following year, each college fielded its own football team.

1923 Carleton offered the St. Olaf community the use of its facilities to help with the loss of space due to a fire at Hoyme Memorial Chapel.

1927-36 | In 1927, Carleton English professor Thomas Job adapted O.E. Rølvaag's newly translated novel *Giants in the Earth* for the stage. He was assisted by Rølvaag himself, a 1905 St. Olaf graduate and professor of Norwegian at St. Olaf. Carleton staged the first

dramatization of the story in late 1928. Rølvaag wrote the *Forward* to the play, which was published in 1929. St. Olaf staged *Giants in the Earth* in 1936, using Job's adaptation.



1939-40 | A St. Olaf student using the *nom de plume* Jay Arr wrote a weekly column for Carleton's newspaper, providing an intimate glimpse into student life at St. Olaf.

1940 St. Olaf and Carleton formed the intercollegiate library loan service for faculty, students, and staff to procure materials available at either campus.



1943 At the memorial service for St. Olaf President Lars Boe

(Class of 1898), Carleton president Donald Cowling called for friends of St. Olaf to "by their gifts make possible the erection on this campus of a great chapel" in Boe's honor. Boe Memorial Chapel was dedicated in 1954.

1954 | Carleton freshmen hosted St. Olaf freshmen in the first Mud Tug on Carleton's Bell Field. Three tug-of-war contests, each divided by weight class, took place over a 120-square-foot, four-foot-deep mud pit.

The event concluded with a picnic for the freshmen classes of both colleges, with the college presidents as honored guests. The Mud Tug continued until 1958.



including integrating their departments' extracurricular activities and events. "The idea is that we think more intentionally about what these events can offer our students," Lott says. "Perhaps a guest speaker could attend classes on both campuses and then give a public lecture. Our combined resources would allow that person to stay for a longer period of time."

Lott also noted that the departments are talking about ways that professors can be of help to each other in the classroom. "For example, I don't do foreign policy work, but I do teach international relations, and obviously foreign policy is one aspect of that," he says. "So perhaps a Carleton professor could teach a mini unit on foreign policy in my class, and I could return the favor by teaching a mini unit on international law in a foreign policy class at Carleton."

Most exciting is the idea of offering a class — perhaps in the evening — that could be taught in the fall during what Lott calls "our common calendar, when both campuses are in session." The course would be filled with both St. Olaf and Carleton students. Lott says that if all goes well, the colleges' political science departments hope to pilot such a class in fall 2014.

While Lott is encouraged that conversations are happening between the two faculties about ways to enrich student learning, he cautions that all of these ideas are in the planning stages. "This is geared toward improving students' opportunities for learning," he says. "Of course if we find that these ways of collaborating

aren't beneficial, we'll stop, and then evaluate other ideas."

A recent academic collaboration between Carleton, St. Olaf, and the Northfield Downtown Development Corporation (NDDC) may be a model for shared educational experiences that the colleges can build on in the future.

The colleges' desire to look at additional ways to collaborate has grown out of past and current successful partnerships.

In 2011, the NDDC's College-Community Collaboration Committee, which seeks ways to strengthen the bonds between the colleges and Northfield, met with approximately 50 professors from Carleton and St. Olaf to identify potential collaborative projects. One result was the Cannon River Modeling Project.

During Interim 2012, a group of 16 St. Olaf students began work on the collaborative project by researching and reviewing existing river models to study key issues such as bank stability, flood potential, and sediment toxicity. The goal was to shed light on the river's impact on the Northfield community. Carleton students continued the work in the spring and summer. The

1959 The colleges opened the first small college-computing center in Minnesota. They rented an IBM 610 computer with the help of a shared Hill Family Foundation grant. The computer spent half of each school year on each campus.



1960 St. Olaf and Carleton students participated together in the Freedom Safari, protesting



in Minneapolis against apartheid in South Africa and in support of civil rights in the United States. This event is recognized as the first time U.S. college students actively protested apartheid.

1963 Several Oles have received honorary degrees from Carleton, beginning with President Clemens Granskou in 1963. Other recipients include St. Olaf Choir director Olaf C. Christiansen in 1968, President Sidney Rand in 1980, and Howard '34 and Edna Hatlestad Hong '38 (founders of the Hong Kierkegaard Library) in 1987.

1965 St. Olaf and Carleton voluntarily began making a joint financial contribution —

of equal amounts — to the city of Northfield. This annual tradition, in which representatives from both colleges present one check to the mayor of Northfield, has continued for nearly 50 years.



1968 The colleges jointly purchased a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer. The machine was housed in the science center at St. Olaf and was used by faculty members and students of both colleges.

1970 Carleton College president John Nason received an honorary doctoral degree from St. Olaf. In his commencement address, Nason predicted the future, asking, "What better economies than by combining instruction, jointly purchasing expensive equipment, avoiding unnecessary duplication of expensive or little-used library books, and cooperating on summer programs?"



1973 The colleges joined forces to create shared Greyhound Bus transportation to the Twin Cities.

1974 Carleton and St. Olaf hired a doctor and opened a joint student health service at the Northfield Hospital, enabling both colleges to

benefit from access to equipment and staff at a full-sized hospital.



1977 Carleton chemistry professor Jerry Mohrig conceived a "Liter Bowl" between the St. Olaf and Carleton football teams. It attracted 10,000 fans and became the only NCAA-sanctioned metric football game ever played. The game was covered in *Sports Illustrated*, the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and on NBC-TV. St. Olaf won, 43-0.



1979 St. Olaf and Carleton began sharing a science librarian, a position that is still shared today.

1981 The colleges published a joint student newspaper, the *Mantonian*. There have been other

project culminated in student presentations of their findings and recommendations based on their combined research.

The Cannon River Modeling Project kicked off a multiyear, interdisciplinary series of nearly 60 additional collaborative projects — led by professors from both colleges and involving both Carleton and St. Olaf students — that the NDDC hopes will further engage undergraduates with the community.

Sortor says that this way of thinking creatively about the colleges' strengths — such as their shared commitment to excellence in teaching and learning and their desire to provide the very best experiences for their students — will lead to the most beneficial collaboration between the colleges.

"It's exciting to think about how to continue to enrich our learning environment," she says. "Anything that allows us to do that in smart and efficient ways is to our benefit. I'm heartened that we have two presidents who support us in mutually exploring our strengths and distinctive resources to increase our toolbox for enriching teaching, research, and student learning."

As St. Olaf and Carleton push forward in creating new and stronger collaborations, some may worry that such shared services and experiences will dilute the distinctive identities of each college.

attempts to do this: In 1975, a paper called the *Spectrum* was jointly published, and in 1998, the *Olaf/Carleton Standard* made an appearance. None of these publications have been particularly successful or lasting.



1991 | Carleton dance professor Mary Easter performs her original piece, "Some People," at St. Olaf in Kelsey Theater as a video production, sponsored by the St. Olaf student organization MACO.

1999 | "Bridging the Gap," a music event co-sponsored by Carleton and St. Olaf, is initiated by Jon Reyerson '01, featuring bands from each campus and the Honeydogs and Bobby Llama. The event aimed

to provide a relaxed, friendly, social atmosphere for Oles and Carls to interact and form new friendships.

2000 | The alternative website *55057.com* was created by Chris Hanson '02 and Dave Marotz '02 for St. Olaf and Carleton students, with information about campus events, meals, weather, and more.

2001 | Following the terror attacks on 9/11, St. Olaf and Carleton students organized a variety of events to help students process the incident, including a blood drive, a fundraising dance for the Trade Center Tragedy Relief Fund, a teach-in, and an interreligious candlelight vigil in Bridge Square.

2004 | St. Olaf and Carleton launched the Bridge, a shared library catalog that enabled the colleges to have two collections functioning as one, resulting in access to a greatly expanded number of materials for each college community.

2005 | The colleges co-hosted "Innovations in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at the Liberal Arts College," a national conference that addressed the importance of scholarly inquiry into student learning.

Not so, says Anderson. "We're not going to have a St. Carleton football team or a Carl/Ole Christmas Fest," he says. (Although a joint football team did form in 1918 as a result of World War I. See timeline.)

"One of the things about small liberal arts colleges, and our two in particular, is that we both have very strong cultures," Anderson says. "I'm not kept awake at night thinking that we would somehow lose a sense of who we are because we're engaged in collaboration with another place. We might change something we do, but only because we found a better, smarter way to do it."

The current foray into collaboration is being approached thoughtfully, at a measured pace, and with each institution's mission carefully in mind, Poskanzer says.

"It's not like we're talking about something that hasn't existed before," he says. "We're just taking what has existed and pushing it harder and faster and further. All collaboration has to be premised on the belief that we share more than divides us, that there are academic, pedagogical, operational, and financial reasons why it makes sense to do this — and then we need to build it in trust." 🦄

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

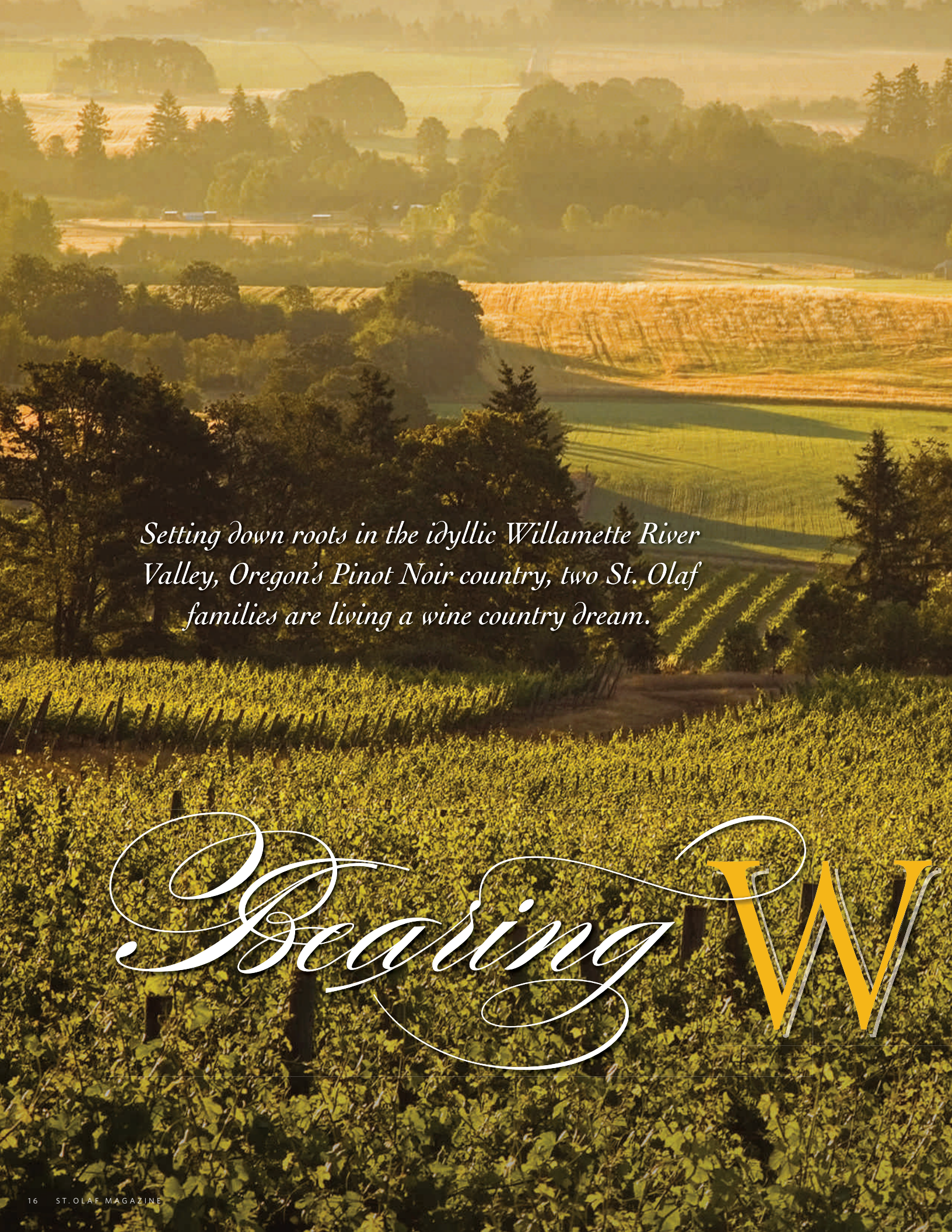


2010 | St. Olaf and Carleton faculty, staff, and students worked side by side filling sandbags to contain widespread record flooding along the Cannon River. When Carleton's West Gym, Laird Stadium, and surrounding practice fields flooded and closed, its football and volley-

ball home events relocated to the St. Olaf campus, and the Carleton and St. Olaf diving teams, which already practiced together, trained at Skoglund Center.

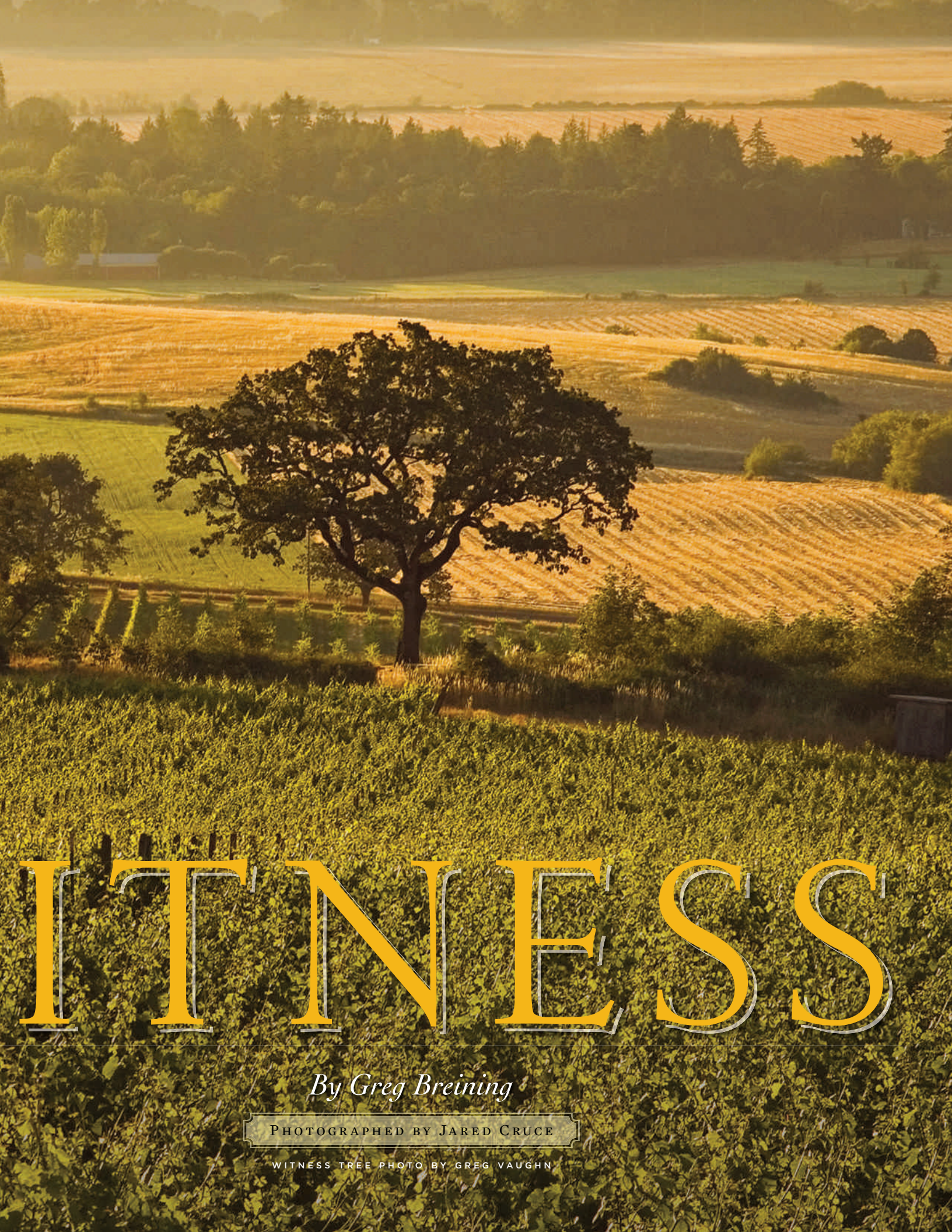
2012 | St. Olaf President David Anderson and Carleton President Steven Poskanzer agreed in 2011 that the president whose team lost the annual St. Olaf-Carleton football game would don a sweatshirt from the winning institution and serve breakfast to its students. The Oles won that game in 2011 and 2012. This year's match is set for Oct. 26.





Setting down roots in the idyllic Willamette River Valley, Oregon's Pinot Noir country, two St. Olaf families are living a wine country dream.

Bearing **VW**



WITNESS FITNESS

By Greg Breining

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JARED CRUCE

WITNESS TREE PHOTO BY GREG VAUGHN

L

ATE ONE SUNDAY summer afternoon nearly 40 years ago, Dennis '61 and Carolyn Devine '60 took a fateful drive north from San Francisco. Dennis worked for a pharmaceutical company and had to fly out to Saskatoon, Canada, the next day to monitor a clinical study of a

veterinary antibiotic. Driving Highway 128 through the Alexander Valley north of Santa Rosa, they passed a little vineyard called Johnson's.

"Carolyn saw some pretty cars in there," Dennis says. So they spun around and drove in. The vineyard was having an open house and car show. The car that caught Carolyn's eye was a forest green 1939 Jaguar, with a rakish hood and chrome headlights. The car may have drawn them in, but the vineyard itself made the real impression. The Devines can still recall joining other visitors as they spread a blanket on the ground, ate tasty cheeses, drank wine, and listened to a tiny orchestra. In the midst of it all, a cat ran through the scene, chased by three dogs and a passel of shouting kids.



In the sunny days and cool evening breezes of the Willamette Valley, Dennis Devine has found contentment at Witness Tree Vineyard.

“I said to Carolyn, this is so Rockwellian I can’t stand it,” Dennis remembers. “Someday, we’re going to do this.”

And so they did. In 1994, the Devines bought Witness Tree Vineyard, not only fulfilling their dream, but creating an outpost of St. Olaf alumni in Oregon’s Willamette River Valley near Salem. Their winemaker and vineyard manager, Steven Westby, is another St. Olaf grad. He and his wife, Sonja, raised three children — Nelson, Maren, and Swan — on the vineyard property and two, Nelson ’09 and Maren ’12, have graduated from St. Olaf.

Witness Tree Vineyard represents a territory blessed. Its 52 planted acres rise on a slope in the Eola-Amity Hills that faces east-southeast to catch the day’s first sun, when the morning is cool and moist. Up on the hill stands the vineyard’s namesake,

a 250-year-old Oregon white oak with branches outstretched as if in benediction. Towering over the 100-acre estate, the oak was used as a surveyor’s landmark in 1854 and “bears witness” to the northeast corner of the property.

The vineyard is located in the Willamette River Valley, which cuts a wide swath through the western side of Oregon. Winters are mild and wet. Summers are made of cookie-cutter days — bright sun with highs in the 80s. Farms, orchards, and nurseries fill the valley one side to the other. Farms by mid-western standards seem small, broken by copses of trees and rolling hills. It is agriculture the way you imagine it used to be.

The moderate climate and mix of sedimentary and volcanic soils supports a small but thriving wine industry — tiny by the standards of, say, California, but renowned especially for its Pinot Noir, a temperamental thin-skinned cool-weather grape. It makes a delicate wine-lovers’ wine that contrasts with the heavier wines of California.

Out of this land, the Witness Tree Vineyard has carved a niche in markets across the country for its moderately priced wines, mostly Pinot Noirs, with a small selection of Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, and Viognier.

The vineyard’s namesake is a 250-year-old white oak that was used as a surveyor’s landmark in 1854, “bearing witness” to the northeast corner of the 100-acre property.

Dennis Devine and Carolyn Hanson met and fell in love at St. Olaf; he was majoring in biology and health sciences, she in English and American Studies. The U.S. Army drafted Dennis after he graduated, but he landed a job at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in “experimental psychology.” A clerk noticed that Dennis had taken a class at St. Olaf of the same name and thought the position would be a good fit, apparently ignoring the fact that Dennis hadn’t done particularly well in the course. After his stint in the army, Dennis returned to Minnesota, married Carolyn in a “Lake Wobegon” country church in Terrace, and, with their sons Daniel and David ’89 in tow, set off on a peripatetic life up the East Coast and then to California, where he monitored clinical research for the drug company Squibb.

At the time, Dennis didn’t know much about wine, except that he liked it. He even tried his hand at winemaking in his basement. “Because it had a wine cellar, I thought, what the heck — make wine. Actually, the first apricot wine I made wasn’t that bad. And everything else was awful. I never tried it again.” That is, not until he purchased his own vineyard many years later and hired fellow Ole Steven Westby.

Westby, in recounting how he ended up at Witness Tree,



speaks of coincidence — of “interlooping things,” “interconnection,” and “the circles that all of this encounters.”

He and Sonja began dating just after graduating high school. They grew up in Minnesota, he in Willmar, she in Spicer. Sonja told her cousin, Carolyn Devine, about her new crush. “Dennis and Carolyn heard about my first date with this cute guy who was going to St. Olaf, and they loved him before they ever met him.”

At St. Olaf, Steven majored in biology. In one of his courses, taught by biology professor Harold Hansen, who coincidentally had been Dennis Devine’s faculty advisor, Westby wrote a paper on the grapevine, a subject that interested him partly because his dad was an early devotee of domestic wines. “In the 1970s, no one had heard of Napa,” says Steven. Adds Sonja, “Not where we lived.”

Steven graduated from St. Olaf in 1983. He and Sonja, a College of St. Catherine graduate, married soon after. Steven needed a job and found one as a floor salesman for Haskell’s, a wine shop in St. Paul. The work further kindled his interest in grapes and wine, and he began to volunteer at the Alexis Bailly Vineyard in the town of Hastings.

He and Sonja solidified their interest in winemaking by visiting vineyards and wineries on a six-month backpacking tour through Europe. Steven then began a ten-year gig at Surdyk’s Liquor in Minneapolis, first as a salesman and then as a wine buyer.

All the while, at family gatherings on Green Lake in Minnesota, Steven Westby and Dennis Devine discussed their mutual interest in wine and the idea that, one day, Dennis would buy a vineyard and Steven would work with him.

After Squibb merged with Bristol-Myers and Dennis Devine was directed to fire his department, he quit. “I called Steve and said, ‘It’s time.’”

It has been 18 seasons. They’ve brought in 18 harvests. They’ve planted new acreage. They’ve battled mildew and root lice. They struggled with the death from ALS of their original winemaker, who taught Steven Westby what he knows about making wine.

On this day, Westby leads a tour of the vineyard, chugging up the slope in a six-wheeled Gator. He wears a ball cap from Hungry Jack Outfitters, a business in the Minnesota Boundary Waters owned by friends. He parks the Gator near the witness tree, midway up the slope. “We take very good care of the tree because we don’t want to change the name of the winery to Witness Stump,” he jokes.

Overlooking the property, Westby explains that vineyards do best on thin soils, where plants struggle to grow. “It forces the plant to focus energy on the fruit. It’s the sugars; it’s the acids; it’s all the good stuff that makes great wine.”

The soil itself traces back to Oregon’s ancient geology, beginning millions of years ago with the collision of tectonic



plates that created the Coast Range and Cascades, which embrace the valley. The eruption of mountains raised the seafloor and set off cascades of volcanism. Over time, the rocky landscape eroded, and glacial-era floods brought new sediments into the valley, leaving a “bathtub ring” of soil at about 350 feet above sea level, right through the waistline of the Witness Tree Vineyard. As a result, Westby has varied soils to work with.

“The quality of the grapes remains in flux during the growing season. It’s not until the harvest that you know what you have. It’s all about what happens in September.”

“The geologic parts of this are very important to what makes the wine quality,” he says, sweeping his arm across the valley. Fruit from the marine soils is redder, more silky and satiny. Grapes growing in volcanic soils are blacker and earthier. “It gives me blending components by virtue of having both of those.”


His Estate blends “have a little bit of everybody,” he explains, mixing grapes from various locations on the property. For example, the Vintage Select is made from a combination of grapes produced on the best sections of the vineyard. Westby compares the result to many voices coming

together in song. “To use a St. Olaf term, it’s like the St. Olaf Choir,” he says. “And then in the truly wonderful years, we’ll bottle up a little bit of each of those individual sections separately — three to four barrels, less than 100 cases, to capture the solo voices.”

Grapevines are notoriously fussy, and Westby is always considering ways to cut his reliance on pesticides. “Here at Witness Tree, we’re not an organic winery, but we’re very


close,” he says. The vineyard is “sustainable,” conforming to the standards of LIVE (Low Impact Viticulture and Enology), a certification organization in Salem. Earlier this summer, Devine hired a goatherd to help thin the blackberries overgrowing the slope between two fields. Confined by a solar-powered electric fence, 40 goats chomped on the brambles while Monty the Llama guarded them from coyotes.

The work never ends. Today on the field above the Witness Tree, four field hands untangle vines and position them on the trellises to maximize their exposure to the sun. “Any shaded leaf is a parasite,” says Westby. “This speaks to the incredible



“We take very good care of the tree because we don’t want to change the name of the winery to Witness Stump,” says Steven Westby.






amount of labor involved.” Grapevines require pruning, tipping, tying, shoot positioning, leaf pulling — more than a dozen visits to every single plant during the growing season. Depending on the width of rows, an acre may support more than 2,200 individual vines.

The quality of the grapes remains in flux during the growing season, says Westby. “It’s not until the harvest that you know what you have. It’s all about the fall — what happens in September. You want it to come together in perfect harmony at the end of the season.”

“Harvest is a lot of very hard work,” he adds, “but it’s exhilarating. It’s the promise of the new — what are we going to get? By virtue of having a good crew, it makes it fun.”

Last year was a case in point. After the late season of 2011, the vines greeted 2012 without much stored carbohydrate. They grew tiny clusters of tiny berries. “But from a winemaker’s point of view, that gets you all quivery,” says Westby. “Low yield, tiny berries — that’s exciting from a quality point of view. Not from an income point of view, but from a quality point of view, because now that vine during the rest of that growing season is using its energy on fewer clusters, tinier berries. Once we started to bring that fruit in, I knew right away it was going to be magic. From the moment it hit the press pan, I knew: Wow! This is going to be a phenomenal year,” says Westby.

Running a vineyard and winery, like the struggle of being an artist, actor, writer, or musician, is a labor of love.



Witness Tree hires a contractor to bring in a picking crew. But the vineyard also brings in “willing victims,” mostly young volunteers who wish to learn about wine. Last harvest, Westby’s older son, Nelson, helped out. So did Frank Heller ’11, a friend of their daughter’s and a helper from the previous year. “Consider this a month of your life that will evaporate,” Westby likes to tell the volunteers. “On the other side of harvest you’ll wonder, what the heck just happened. But it’s fun at the same time.”

Picking begins early in the morning, when the day and the fruit are still cool. The goal is to delay fermentation until the grapes have had a chance to sit for several days, leaching flavorful compounds into the juice. Harvesters clip the fruit clusters and gather them by hand into five-gallon buckets, keeping the grapes as whole and undamaged as possible. Pickers spill the buckets into bins hauled up and down the slope by two tractors. “We have an advantage here of being able to process almost instantaneously,” says Westby. “As one tractor is rolling up the hill, the other one is heading back down with the fruit. That fruit is being processed probably within a half-hour of being off the vine.”

Dennis and Carolyn Devine can often be found in the vineyard with their dog, Charlie Snow, or sitting on their front porch, enjoying the view and a glass of wine, and watching the grapes grow.

Grapes are unloaded into a hopper, which shakes and spreads the fruit out on a sorting table, where everything other than ripe, healthy fruit is picked out. The remaining clumps of grapes ascend in an elevator and drop into the de-stemmer, which jettisons stems and drops the fruit into an open-topped fermenting tank that can hold more than five tons of grapes. (Grapes for white wines undergo an additional step: because wine takes its color from the grape skins, white wines are pressed first, and only the juice goes to the fermenter.)

In the fermenter, yeasts gobble the fruits’ natural sugar, converting it to alcohol. The reaction raises a “cap” of grape skins. Twice a day helps punch the skins back into the fermenting juice with long-handled plungers. “It helps,” says Westby, “to have young backs around.”

After about two weeks, when yeasts have converted all the sugar to alcohol, Westby drains the free liquid from the fermenter. But the skins still hold a lot of juice, so they are shoveled — literally, with snow shovels — into the press, which wrings out the rest of the liquid.

The fresh wine then undergoes a “malolactic fermentation” as bacteria convert tart malic acid into a softer-tasting lactic acid. With a trace of sulfur dioxide to prevent spoilage, the wine is siphoned into oak barrels. At \$800 apiece, the barrels, made of French oak, are another expense of winemaking. “American oak is really loud. You need to be putting a very big, bold wine into an American oak barrel or it will be overwhelmed by the

oakiness,” Westby explains. “Subtle wines like the Pinot Noir or Chardonnay that we’re doing — it just would be overwhelming.”

Through winter, spring, and summer, the barrels sit on racks in the “cellar” (actually an air-conditioned steel building). Once a week, Cellar Master Heath Payne uncorks each barrel to check on the wine level. Any pocket of oxygen increases the risk that acetobacter bacteria will turn the wine to vinegar. So Payne tops off each barrel with wine as needed to replace losses due to seepage and evaporation — as much as 10 percent of the total, known as “the angel’s share.”

Days before the next harvest, Witness Tree contracts with a mobile bottler to put up 6,000 cases of wine or more (5,000 are Pinot Noir). And the barrels are readied for the next batch.

“We’re on the high side of a small winery,” Westby says. Witness Tree employs four field hands, two part-time hostesses who tend to visitors in the tasting area, and Payne, who also splits national sales calls with Westby. Carolyn, with a background in teaching and banking, serves as the vineyard’s corporate president and business manager.

Westby says he’d like to boost production to about 10,000 cases a year, but not much more, which would

require adding employees and expenses. “Then pretty soon it’s running you. I’m not an empire builder. That doesn’t motivate me.”

Life on an Oregon vineyard may seem idyllic, yet even a near-perfect site in a near-perfect climate doesn’t add up to a fortune. Running a vineyard and winery, like the struggle of being an artist, actor, writer, or musician, is a labor of love.

“It’s very difficult to compete in a business with other businesses that don’t need to show a profit,” says Dennis Devine. “This is just fun for them. They’ve got all the millions of dollars they’re ever going to want and they just want the lifestyle.” In the nearly two decades the Devines have owned Witness Tree Vineyard, they’ve seen only two profitable years.

“We thought we’d be making a lot of money by now,” says Dennis. “And we’d have an office manager. And we’d actually get a salary. And we’d go on cruises — spend four months in Minnesota in the summer with the grandchildren. Doing things like that was the dream. Didn’t come to pass.

“But we look at it this way: We have eight or ten families in housing, food, and shelter. We’ve been their sole provider for these years. And that’s a good accomplishment. That’s a reward in itself.”

And there are the sunny days and the cool evening breezes that pour from the Pacific through the Van Duzer Corridor into the Willamette Valley. The Devines enjoy sitting on the front porch of the winery, watching day by day as the grapevines reach taller, until they obscure all but the roof of the red barn Dennis built on the other side of the property.

He recalls a similar moment of contentment early in the vineyard days. “We had been out here six months, I think, and I had been on the tractor mowing between the lanes. As I turned around up there to come back down a new row, there was Mount Hood out there like a marshmallow. I’m looking down — I’ve got on my sneakers and my blue jeans. For business I had a three-piece suit, wingtips, everything, you know. I said, do I want to go back to that? No. No way. I’m very comfortable here. I never was a farmer, but I became one.”

And he found a like-minded community of “farmers” who have done what he did, as much for the intangible rewards as for the living it affords.

Devine’s birthday is the Fourth of July. He just turned seventy-four. Each year he sets up tents and puts out toys for kids, and invites the neighborhood and friends and anyone else who might drive by with an afternoon to spare. “On my 65th, we had a talent show and we had those antique cars,” he says, watching the summer shadows lengthen. “Didn’t get a green Jag. But we did have people singing and dancing. We really have some nice parties.” 🍷

GREG BREINING is a Minnesota author and journalist whose articles and essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Audubon*, *National Geographic Traveler*, and many other publications.





WORLD VIEWS

THE 30TH ANNUAL GIMSE INTERNATIONAL AND
OFF-CAMPUS STUDIES PHOTO CONTEST



Walls of Piccolomini Library
Siena, Italy · Madeline Berger '14
Italian Art in Context: Florence Interim

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, 809 students participated in international and off-campus study programs at one of 48 international sites and eight domestic sites during a semester or year-long program, or at one of 25 international and three 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.

For 30 years, as part of their re-entry into campus life, students have been invited to submit their photos in the annual Gimse International and Off-Campus Studies photo contest, named in honor of Professor Emeritus of Art Mac Gimse '58 who, with his wife Jackie, led more than 500 students on study abroad programs, helping them achieve an informed global perspective.

Winning entries in 2013 include images from Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Morocco, Norway, Russia, Tanzania, Thailand, and the Ukraine.



The Painter · Houhai Lake, Beijing · Mackensie Quade '14 · Term in Asia



Village Ganesh Festival · Tamil Nadu, India · Michelle Logsdon '13 · Biology in South India



Indian School Girl · Tiruvannamalai, India · Corinne Dickey '15 · Global Semester



Spires of St. Basil's · Red Square, Moscow · Lydia Bundy '13 · Term in St. Peters



Ornamental Elephant · Jaipur, India · Michelle Logsdan '13 · Biology in South India



Mysteries · Delphi, Greece · Kelsey Bean '13 · Classical Studies in Greece Interim



There is a sheep in my kitchen! · Fez, Morocco
Meg Kirchoff '14 · Term in the Middle East



Eyes of Cairo · Mosque of Ibn Tulun, Cairo, Egypt
Matt Johnson '14 · Term in the Middle East



burg, Russia (CIEE)



The Blue Town · Chefchaouen, Morocco · John Schwirtz '14 · Term in the Middle East



View from the Top · The Reichstag, Berlin · Marcia Klopf '14 · Danish Institute for Study Abroad, Copenhagen



Greek Wisdom · Aegina, Greece · Sophie Dekker '15
Sacred Places in Greece and Turkey Interim



Monkey See, Monkey Do · Chiang Mai, Thailand
Mackensie Quade '14 · Term in Asia



Street Art · Henningsvær, Norway · Reed Deardorff '13 · Scandinavian Studies in Telemark



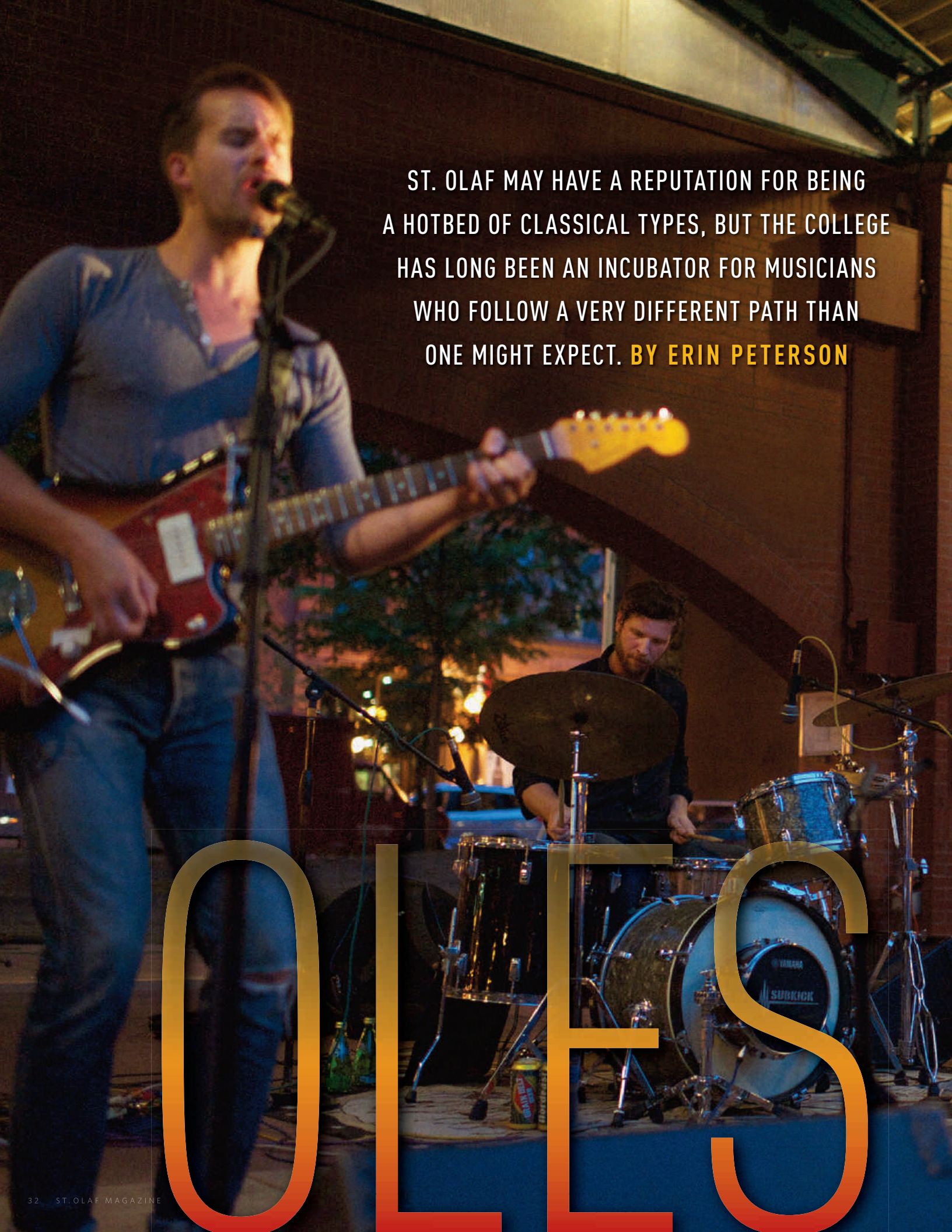
On the Banks of the Buriganga · Dhaka, Bangladesh · Clara Johnson '14
Development & Community in Bangladesh Interim (HECUA)



Solitary Prince · Serengeti National Park, Tanzania · Ryan Powley '13 · Hemingway in East Africa Interim



Graffiti Revolution · Cairo, Egypt · Katie Sieger '14 · Term in the Middle East



ST. OLAF MAY HAVE A REPUTATION FOR BEING A HOTBED OF CLASSICAL TYPES, BUT THE COLLEGE HAS LONG BEEN AN INCUBATOR FOR MUSICIANS WHO FOLLOW A VERY DIFFERENT PATH THAN ONE MIGHT EXPECT. **BY ERIN PETERSON**

OLAFS



ROCK

For generations, St. Olaf College has been known as a musical juggernaut: its world-class choir, orchestra, band, and other ensembles attract talented students from around the world.

But students' musical ambitions aren't limited to these options. Many Oles hone their musical skills rocking the stage at The Lion's Pause or strumming folk tunes on a guitar at Hogan Brothers Café in downtown Northfield. For some, it's a sideline to their studies. But for many others, these performances spark a real passion that can take on a life of its own.

Today, dozens of alumni are using their musical skills and business savvy to

make a career of writing and performing music, touring nationally and internationally, releasing award-winning albums, and packing the house at Twin Cities' institutions like First Avenue and the Fitzgerald Theater.

We recently talked with some of these music-making Oles to find out what it feels like to be in their shoes.



The Ericksons

TRACY WALSH



Storyhill

A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION



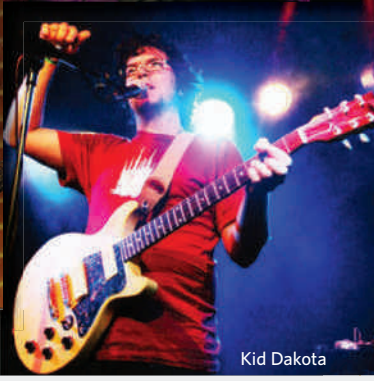
Rob Meany



Sarah Pray



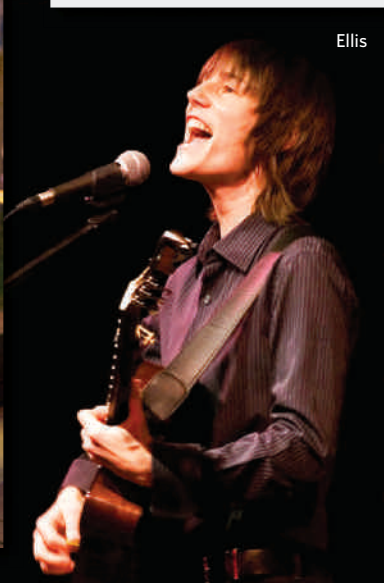
Kristen Graves



Kid Dakota



Rogue Valley



Ellis

JAKE JACOBSON

ROB MEANY and TERRAMARA

When Rob Meany '87 was a kid, he desperately wanted to learn how to play the piano. But his family didn't own one, so the 10-year-old concocted a fool-proof plan: "I snuck out to the church to play their piano," he says.

He plunked out tunes by ear with the bemused assent of church employees until he was 12, when his parents decided it was time to invest in lessons for the young musician. Meany has been playing music ever since, maintaining the same canny problem-solving mentality that helped him get his start.

Today Meany is a popular Twin Cities solo artist as well as the vocalist and keyboardist for longtime pop group Terramara. The band performs shows regularly but can be slow to release new material, with three to five years elapsing between albums — something that Meany knows can frustrate even their most dedicated fans.

To help quench fans' ravenous hunger for new music, he's developed a "Demo Download Series." The project gives fans on his email list a raw version of a new song every few weeks.

While Meany created the project primarily as a way to bulk up his email list and his audience, he's found plenty of other unexpected benefits. "Fans have started emailing me directly with their feedback, and I've developed a real bond with them," he says. "They want me to come to their city, they want to help me set up a gig. It's a whole new world [of music promotion], and the more connections you make, the better."

In addition to his solo projects and his work with Terramara, he's engaged in a side business writing music for organizations including the Smithsonian, National Geographic, 3M, and Best Buy. These companies and others tap him to write soundtracks for commercials, websites, and other media. The work, he says, keeps him sharp between performances and gives him an outlet to pursue different types of music. "I'm doing an all-of-the-above-approach with my music — A, B, C, D, and E" he says. "I always want to do more."



ROGUE VALLEY



ROGUE OLES
Peter Sieve, Luke
Anderson, and
Chris Koza. PHOTO
BY TOM ROSTER



When Chris Koza '01 dreamed up a plan to release four albums in a single year with his brand-new band, Rogue Valley, plenty of people thought that the musician — despite his reputation for drive and discipline — might have bitten off more than he could chew. But when he also made it clear that he'd launch each album with bold stage shows, the skeptics came out in force. The *Minneapolis City Pages* called the plan “preposterously ambitious.”

Indeed, it was as though Koza had agreed not just to scale Everest, but also to launch four fireworks displays on his journey to the summit. “I wanted to push myself conceptually to a place I hadn't been before,” he says of the project. “I'm sure some people wanted it to fail.”

To accomplish his lofty goals, Koza enlisted the help of several Oles. Of the four additional members of Rogue Valley, three graduated from St. Olaf: Joey Kantor '07, Luke Anderson '02, and Peter Sieve '03. And while they were critical to the project's success, Kantor is quick to add that the project's real mastermind was Koza. “We helped flesh out the project,” he says. “But Chris brought the blueprint.”

In the end, the project did anything but fail. Two of the four albums spent a total of 15 weeks on the CMJ charts, which measure college radio airplay. The shows — which included poets, actors, and even the Waconia High School drumline — were packed. And *City Pages* piled on the praise, using words like “epic,” “dazzling,” “beautiful,” and “flawless.” In truth, it shouldn't come as a surprise: Koza has a history of thinking big.

Koza, who wrote songs and played in fledgling bands in high school, says he was drawn to St. Olaf for its reputation as a musical powerhouse, and he sang in the Viking Chorus during his first year. But it wasn't long before he saw how he could use the vast resources outside the school's music department to improve his craft.

As a double major in philosophy and studio art, he drew inspiration from both fields while he was writing songs and promoting his musical work. “Philosophy classes helped me consider songs and song topics from different points of view,” he says. “So many songs are about love or unrequited love, and I wanted to be able to expand my horizons — to dig deep and get to the heart of things like existence and being. [Philosophy] was a really good tool to have in my songwriting toolbox.”

Thanks to his studio art major, he was able to marshal the skills he'd gained in software programs like Photoshop to create CD covers, promotional posters, and other materials he'd need to be a successful musician.

And all the while, he was writing songs and performing at St. Olaf's then-new high tech nightclub, The Lion's

Pause, with bands he formed, Katnapping and the Channels. “We thought we were hot, but the music was not good, and it was very awkward,” he recalls. “We were just trying to find our footing.”

Koza sidelined his music career for a few years after college, but by 2004, music tugged him back. He loved losing himself for hours crafting music and lyrics, and he knew he had something to say. He also knew he'd have regrets if he didn't give a music career a shot.

As he had done at St. Olaf, Koza pursued his goal with steadfastness and an eye toward the future. He booked solo gigs on Fridays and Saturdays nearly every weekend and often tried to get away from Minneapolis for performances so he could test out new material and approaches. “I just needed to cut my teeth a little bit,” he says. “So many young artists come here, they [create] something, and people go see them and make up their mind about them. It's really hard to make a different impression.”

He didn't want to make that impression until he was ready; by the end of that year, he released his first solo album, *Exit Pesce*, to critical acclaim, and his music went into regular rotation on local radio stations.

While relentlessly pursuing his music career at night, Koza saved up a little money from his day job at a café. By 2007, he was ready to take another leap to pursue his next big dream: a life — however temporary — in New York City. “I figured there were plenty of people who took internships or went to graduate school to learn more [about their craft],” he says. “It was my way of doing my own thing while learning a lot.”

He did a residency at the Living Room, a much-loved club for up-and-coming musicians in New York City. He loved the raw ambition and seriousness of the city, where no one saw their music as a side gig and it seemed like everyone was ready to be discovered on a national scale. “It was so inspiring to see how hungry people were, and how capable they were of chasing what they wanted,” he says.

Koza came back from the trip a few months later even more determined to succeed. After he returned, he launched a successful album, *The Dark, Delirious Morning*, at the popular music venue First Avenue; as the album cycle wrapped up, he conceived of the four-album project that would consume 2010.

These days, he's keeping busy not only with Rogue Valley and solo projects, but also with a soundtrack for a documentary about war veterans and peace activists. He even landed a project for Hallmark to create a musical birthday card. “I wrote a birthday song that was sung by a dinosaur,” he explains.

But he admits he's always dreaming of getting on the road to perform more. “I try to be where I am all the time, instead of thinking about the grass on the other side,” he says. “But all I want to do is play shows.”

Big shows. Amazing shows. Of course, he would accept nothing less.

Jenny Kochsiek Kapernick, left, and Bethany Kochsiek Valenti



On a steamy Friday evening this past June, sisters Bethany Kochsiek Valenti '02 and Jenny Kochsiek Kapernick '05 were playing to an enthusiastic audience at an outdoor summer music festival on the University of Minnesota's Northrop Plaza. The clouds were ominous, but the pair blazed through their set to an appreciative crowd.

Moments after the applause died down after their last song, the skies opened up. "It was a horizontal, torrential downpour," recalls Kapernick. "Cement blocks that were holding down big [patio] umbrellas lifted off the ground." The festival's performers and audience huddled in a building

next to the plaza while the storm raged, knocking out power for half a million homes and uprooting 100-year-old trees.

Despite the dramatic weather, everyone at the festival escaped unscathed. But the event served as an apt metaphor for the duo: even as life's most catastrophic events whirl around them, they find a safe space in their music.

Kapernick and Valenti didn't begin their musical journey together until 2006, when the sisters were living in New York City. But the force that propelled their gritty songs was back home in the Midwest, half a continent away.

Much of their music was borne from tragedy: their father died when they were teenagers. And in 2006, Valenti's husband,

Lee Erickson, died of cancer. The yawning chasm created by those deaths made Valenti rethink the life she'd built in her hometown of La Crosse, Wisconsin. Staying put didn't feel like an option, she recalls. "Jenny and I had been best friends since high school, and at the time, she was in New York [as a teaching fellow]. I was writing music, and I had no idea what else to do. The only thing that was clear to me was that I needed to leave [Wisconsin] to find my path." She headed to New York to build a new life.

While Jenny continued her work as a teaching fellow, Bethany worked odd jobs and kept writing music. Every night, the sisters sat down and played music for each other. Eventually they started playing at weekly open mic nights in the neighborhood. They called their two-woman band

the Ericksons, a name that was not only a nod to Valenti's husband, but served as a reflection of their midwestern roots. A name that would have been commonplace in Minnesota or Wisconsin was unique in New York. "It was almost exotic," says Valenti.

The open mics offered the perfect opportunity for them to explore their musical horizons without repercussions. "When you're somewhere where you don't know anyone, you can do whatever you want, because nobody's saying, 'Well, you used to do this. You're really like this,'" says Kapernick. "People want to put you in boxes when they've known you your whole life."

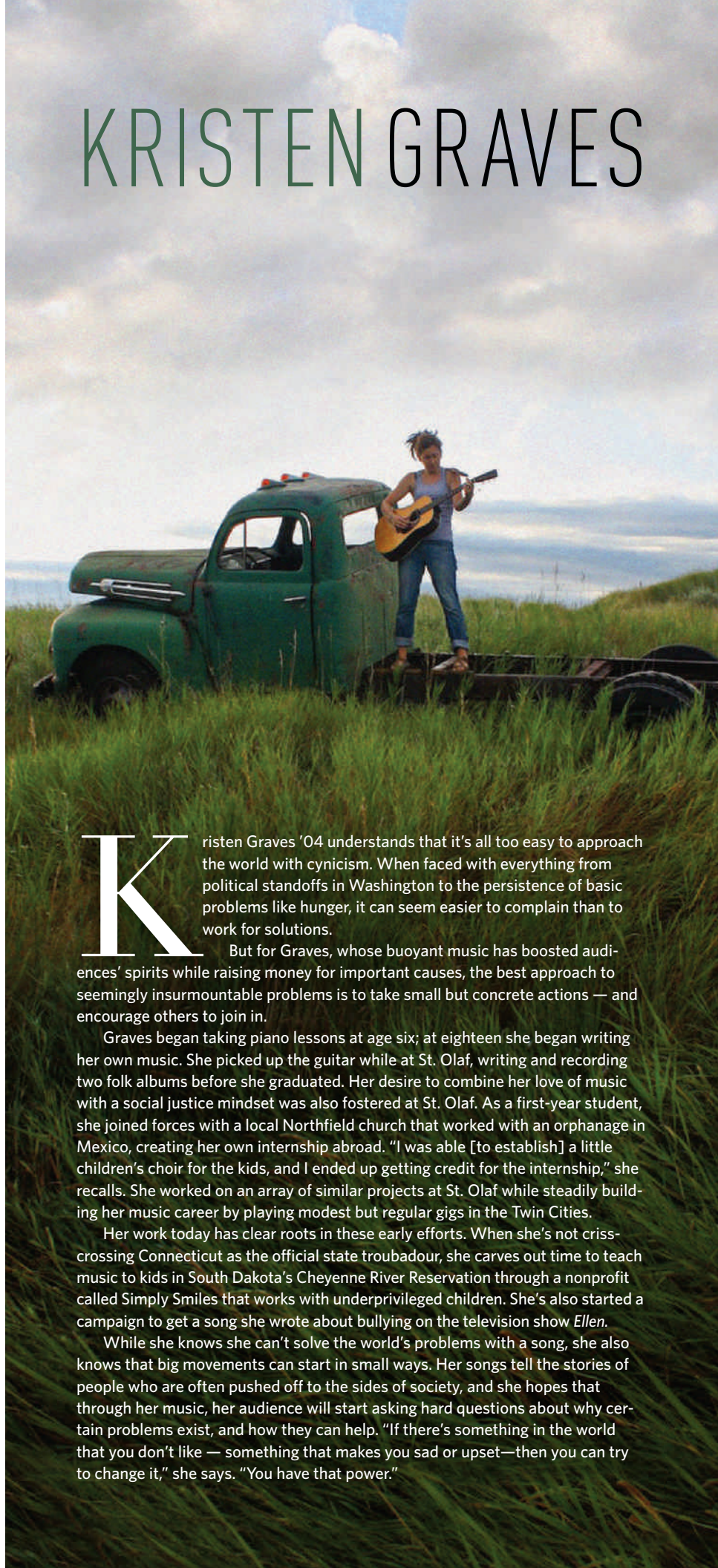
That creative freedom helped them develop edgier music with haunting, dark lyrics. When they ultimately returned to Minnesota in 2009 to rebuild their career on turf that was closer to home, they felt far from finished with their musical development, but they were now deeply comfortable with the musicians that they had become.

But coming home, like so much else in their lives, was also a process of letting go of the security they'd made for themselves. They built a new audience, booking small but regular shows. And though they had once trusted only each other to create music, they opened themselves up to new musicians and influences, like the pedal steel player they brought in during the recording of their most recent album. "We needed to have the confidence to understand that other people's talents and suggestions wouldn't take away from who we are at our core. They could only make us stronger," says Valenti. Eventually, Valenti extended that trust to her love life, remarrying in 2010.

In January, the Ericksons released their third album — the second since returning to Minnesota — called *The Wild*. Almost immediately, the spare and smoldering song "Gone Blind" was put into heavy rotation by The Current, a Twin Cities radio station that can rocket local acts to greater heights. (The *Star Tribune* later named *The Wild* one of the best local albums released in 2013.) The band spent the summer playing locally and will head south to Chicago and St. Louis this fall for an extended tour. With a little luck, they will have even more new music in store by 2014.

Though they admit their lives are more comfortable in the Twin Cities — they aren't crammed into a tiny New York apartment, and their daily struggles don't feel quite so intense — they still draw from their big city experience to create the beautiful, risky music for which they're best known. Like that turbulent June night, their music attracts listeners with howling tempests. But the Ericksons have never let the stormy weather stop them.

KRISTEN GRAVES



Kristen Graves '04 understands that it's all too easy to approach the world with cynicism. When faced with everything from political standoffs in Washington to the persistence of basic problems like hunger, it can seem easier to complain than to work for solutions.

But for Graves, whose buoyant music has boosted audiences' spirits while raising money for important causes, the best approach to seemingly insurmountable problems is to take small but concrete actions — and encourage others to join in.

Graves began taking piano lessons at age six; at eighteen she began writing her own music. She picked up the guitar while at St. Olaf, writing and recording two folk albums before she graduated. Her desire to combine her love of music with a social justice mindset was also fostered at St. Olaf. As a first-year student, she joined forces with a local Northfield church that worked with an orphanage in Mexico, creating her own internship abroad. "I was able [to establish] a little children's choir for the kids, and I ended up getting credit for the internship," she recalls. She worked on an array of similar projects at St. Olaf while steadily building her music career by playing modest but regular gigs in the Twin Cities.

Her work today has clear roots in these early efforts. When she's not criss-crossing Connecticut as the official state troubadour, she carves out time to teach music to kids in South Dakota's Cheyenne River Reservation through a nonprofit called Simply Smiles that works with underprivileged children. She's also started a campaign to get a song she wrote about bullying on the television show *Ellen*.

While she knows she can't solve the world's problems with a song, she also knows that big movements can start in small ways. Her songs tell the stories of people who are often pushed off to the sides of society, and she hopes that through her music, her audience will start asking hard questions about why certain problems exist, and how they can help. "If there's something in the world that you don't like — something that makes you sad or upset — then you can try to change it," she says. "You have that power."



STORYHI



Storyhill's Chris Cunningham '94, left, and John Hermanson '93 performed and recorded as "Chris and Johnny" while at St. Olaf.

Every year, on the edge of Clearwater Lake in the heart of Minnesota, hundreds of people gather for a weekend to listen to John Hermanson '93 and Chris Cunningham '94, the duo that forms Storyhill. The annual gathering, known as

Storyhill Fest, has grown to attract nearly 500 attendees who also take in the music of a dozen or so bands that Hermanson and Cunningham handpick for the event.

The two take great pains to help all the musicians look and sound their best, with a stage, professional sound rig, and lights. Yet for all of the great performances that happen from midafternoon to well past dusk each day, the most thrilling event — and to some, the most magical — happens long after the final encore, when a smaller group of performers and attendees head down to the lake and light a bonfire. Underneath a star-splashed sky and lit by the glow of a crackling fire, this smaller group gathers for a quieter but more profound musical experience. “There’s such a simplicity to passing around a guitar and hearing someone sing a song stripped down,” says Cunningham. “It’s authentic. It’s sincere.”

During the decade or so that Hermanson and Cunningham have hosted the annual festival, the campfire has become one of the most loved parts of the weekend — an event, they say, that harks back to an earlier time in their musical lives. “I remember similar feelings even back at St. Olaf, just playing in the dorms, unplugged,” says Cunningham. “It’s up close and personal.”

The pair have performed together for more than a quarter century, and in that time, they’ve learned that bigger doesn’t always mean better: sometimes the best music comes in the most intimate settings.

Hermanson and Cunningham first met in elementary school in Bozeman, Montana, and by high school, the friends — who played violin, guitar, and piano — began writing songs together. They even began booking small coffeehouse shows, recording an album before they graduated and headed their separate ways: Hermanson to St. Olaf, Cunningham to Spain.

They kept in touch, and eventually Hermanson, who had sold hundreds of copies of their high school album doing solo shows at St. Olaf, persuaded Cunningham to apply to the college. “[Those album sales] were an indicator to me that if Chris came, we’d be able to pursue music,” Hermanson says. “St. Olaf was a big part of us getting a start.”

After graduation, they spent more than three years on the road playing at colleges around the country and recording several albums. They experimented with different instrumentation, from electric guitars to band

instruments. But their pace of writing, performing, and traveling turned out to be unsustainable. They admit that the constant travel — especially in the days before iPhones and GPS systems — got to be too much. In 1997, they split to pursue other musical projects and ideas.

But four years later, removed from the pressure cooker of constant touring, they realized that they'd created something unique with Storyhill. "When performing is all you're doing, day in and day out, it's easy to lose perspective on what you're doing and what other people are hearing," Hermanson says of their earlier work. "But later, we were able to hear our music with fresh ears. We saw the value in it, and we wanted to do it again."

They got back together in 2001, performing a successful reunion tour and putting together new albums. They kept their ambitions modest, keeping Storyhill as a small piece of a wider range of musical and personal endeavors. Instead of trying to bend

the group into something it was not, they focused on the simple, clean approach they knew best: two voices and accompanying guitars.

By 2006, they were thinking bigger. They pulled in producer Dan Wilson, best known as the front man for Semisonic and a Grammy-winning songwriter for Adele and the Dixie Chicks. The album that came from the partnership was simply called *Storyhill*. A blend of Americana, folk, and pop, the project was an immediate hit that went on to win the Indie Acoustic Project's Best CD of the Year award. In 2010, they released their most recent album, *Shade of the Trees*.

These days, they write in separate locations — Cunningham in Montana and Hermanson in Minnesota — but they still work together for the annual Storyhill Fest.

And though they enjoy playing

together and mining a back catalog that extends well over 15 years, they find some of their greatest joy in nurturing young and upcoming singers and songwriters. "Our whole philosophy [of Storyhill Fest] was to share the music we listen to with the people who listen to us," says Hermanson. "There are so many amazing, under-the-radar songwriters out there, and we wanted a chance to showcase them."

In the end, it's the links they build — with musicians and fans — that drives them. For Storyhill, whose music artfully expresses common experiences, playing in vast theaters and arenas can seem almost counterproductive. Storyhill Fest is one way to ensure a real connection with listeners, says Hermanson. "If you can't see the people in the audience, you feel disconnected," he says. "But when you're in a small environment, you can feel the crowd responding and appreciating what you're doing. And that's what really gives us fuel."

KID DAKOTA

Even on a campus that had long teemed with quirky student bands, Round Trip stood out at St. Olaf. The early '90s group, led by Darren Jackson '94, performed hour-long themed pieces on self-discovery. They had slideshows and interpretive dances that accompanied their music. And they were always considering ways to expand the idea of music itself — like plotting out ways to get three bands to play at the same time in the same room. "We thought it would be great," Jackson says. "But I'm sure it would have been awful."

For Jackson, the band was a way to put his offbeat ideas into action. He loved avant-garde and minimalist musicians like Philip Glass and Steve Reich, and he took to heart musician John Cage's idea that music was everywhere. "We were trying to do something that was different," he says. And he's been pushing the limits of music ever since.

Inspired by the way bands like Pavement and Sonic Youth gained popularity while bucking the conventions of radio-ready pop confections, Jackson spent years after he graduated from St. Olaf writing dozens of songs with powerful, evocative lyrics. Eventually, longtime pal Alex Oana '92 urged him to record some of them with a local drummer, Christopher McGuire. The band Kid Dakota was born.

Jackson had done the project on a whim — he was, at the time, a few months into graduate school for philosophy in Chicago — but the promise of the project changed everything. He dropped out of grad school, moved to Minneapolis, and began working with Oana in earnest. The two musicians recruited new members, recorded several albums, and toured across the United States and Europe. Critics swooned, praising Jackson's moody, soulful voice, sharp lyrics, and nimble musicianship.

Jackson and Oana eventually moved on to other projects, but they recently reunited and hope to make a new record by the end of the year. Once again, Jackson will be working around academics: this fall, he's heading to graduate school in Virginia to get an advanced degree in philosophy. "The details [of the album] are up in the air," he admits. "But I have a lot of ideas I'd like to pursue."



In addition to his nearly 15-year career as Kid Dakota, Darren Jackson '94 (above, at a 2011 performance in Germany) also performed and recorded for several years in the Twin Cities bands *The Hopefuls* and *Alva Star*, both of which included former St. Olaf classmates Eric Fawcett '92 and John Hermanson '93 (of Storyhill).



SARAH PRAY

Sarah Pray '07 never intended to pursue a career as a musician. Although she loved writing and playing songs on her guitar while she was at St. Olaf, she rarely performed for an audience beyond a few friends.

But that was before she got an internship with the renowned Paradyme Productions recording studio in Madison, Wisconsin, during her junior year. The experience gave her a broader view of the music industry, and she saw her musical opportunities open up as wide as a Midwest horizon. "I loved the endless options that you have when you're in a recording studio," she says. "Things like whether you decide to mic the instruments, have a full band, or use specific effects — they all can transform a song. I realized it was a way to get a song exactly how you want it."

At the studio, Pray recorded some of her own songs, an experience that inspired her to take a real chance on a musical career. After she graduated, she spent long hours at the now-defunct 400 Bar — where many great local Twin Cities acts got their start — trying to figure out a way to break into the scene. So when the bar's owner asked if she wanted to do a weekly Linda Ronstadt tribute, she jumped at the chance to hone her chops as a performer. "I really didn't know much about Linda Ronstadt, but it was a great learning experience to play with a band and

develop confidence," she says. She ended up playing the weekly gig for six months.

Since 2010, Pray has worked extensively with musician Thomas Kivi. Her self-described "moody Fiona Apple" style evolved with their new group, Kivi & Pray; she now says her country-folk style is inspired by musicians like Gram Parsons and Emmylou Harris. She and Kivi tour frequently, and she'll soon move from her Minneapolis home to St. Louis, where she's eager to find a wider audience for her music. "It's been fun to try so many sounds and not feel like I have to narrow it down to one thing," she says. "I really like being a chameleon."

ELLIS

KAREN ROWAN



Ellis Delaney '98 knew she should have been thrilled to perform on *A Prairie Home Companion*. The much-loved radio show, helmed by storyteller Garrison Keillor, offered her an audience unlike any she'd ever had. But the talented folk musician admits her emotions were all over the map before her February 2013 appearance. "There was a moment of 'Am I ready?'" she recalls. "I've played to rooms as small as ten people, and with this show, there could be millions of listeners — more people in one show than I'd played to all together."

As it turned out, there was no need to worry: her performance went off without a hitch. It was a heady moment for Ellis, who had been penning songs since middle school. She got hundreds of messages after her *Prairie Home Companion* performance and was asked to perform on the show again just four months later.

Many of her classmates might have predicted her ascent: her skills and ambition were clear early on. During the summer

after her first year at St. Olaf, for example, the enterprising young musician made a solo album with the help of her friends in Bobby Llama, the popular campus band she was in. "I set up a boom box CD player to sell the CD during lunch, and I sold a thousand copies," she recalls.

There was never any question that she'd pursue music full-time, and an intense touring and writing schedule helped her build a strong, devoted fan base with relative speed. While she travels nationally for her gigs, the Twin Cities still sends her love notes in the form of best musician awards from local media, including *Lavender* and *Minnesota Women's Press*.

These days, she's sharing her life not just with fans, but her partner and three-year-old daughter. Though she admits that balancing touring with family life is tough, she's up for the challenge. "When you have a kid, you learn to love in a way that you didn't even realize was possible before," she says. "I still really love music and performing. It's like having two loves now, and I get to go between them." 🐼

ERIN PETERSON is a Twin Cities writer and editor.

class notes

A message from Alumni and Parent Relations: **We're going green!** In order to save paper and mailing costs, the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations will be posting class newsletters online for the classes of 1960 through 2013. Older classes will still receive a paper copy. Don't have email or a computer? No problem! Call our office at 888-865-6537 and we will be happy to send you a paper copy.

1938

Nels Glesne returned to the Hill during Reunion Weekend for his 75th Class Reunion, and while at the registration table, he met **Annie Erickson '03**.



Though 65 years separate their St. Olaf experience, they were delighted to meet each other. Glesne's classmate, **Mary Tucker**, also returned to campus for this milestone reunion, arriving with her son and daughter-in-law. Mary and Nels, both 97 years young, enjoyed chatting over lunch.

1949

Celia Flatberg Walther, a retired home economics teacher, has received the Kenosha County, Wis.,



Living Legend Award, representing the highest level of selfless service in the Kenosha community. Celia has been volunteering

for 54 years in Kenosha County, the last 19 as a mentor at the Kenosha Literacy Center, along with 18 years reading to the blind. She has also taught Sunday school, visited homebound members from her church, and has been a member of the Kenosha County Association for Home and Community Education for 50 years.

1953

Paul Lee's new book, *There is a Garden in the Mind*, is an engaging look at the work and life of pioneering organic gardener Alan Chadwick and his influence on the organic farming movement. In this wide-ranging memoir,



Paul recounts his first meeting with Chadwick in Santa Cruz, Calif., in 1967, and their subsequent founding of the Chadwick Garden at UC Santa Cruz, the first organic and biointensive garden at an American university.

1959

Roger Stolen, distinguished visiting professor in materials science and engineering at Clemson University, has been elected into the National Academy of Engineering (NAE). Election to the NAE is among the highest professional distinctions bestowed upon an engineer. Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to engineering research, practice, or education. The NAE cited Roger for "contributions to fiber nonlinear optics and invention of polarization preserving fiber." Roger, who began his research in the field of fiber optics in 1971, worked for Bell Labs for three decades and was part of the team that first observed optical solitons, ultra-short pulses that travel great distances without dispersion. He has also received the Optical Society of America's (OSA) R. W. Wood Prize and the Institute of Electrical Engineers/OSA John Tyndall Award for advancements made through his research.

1963

John Thorson, who has served Lutheran congregations in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana, writes, "Since I retired, I have served two interim ministries in western Michigan. I've also served as a volunteer through Lutheran Social Services with new immigrants to the Grand Rapids area by helping them to become adjusted to their new lives in America, as well as tutoring them in English. I have been pleased to work with new immigrants from Sudan, Burma, and Nepal. What a rewarding experience this has been. Besides church activities, I am president of the Sons of Norway Lodge in Muskegon, and live in a restored older house near Grand Rapids with my dog, Monica. I still take trips with my Nepali friends and I am enjoying my retirement. It has been a long adventure, from growing up in the house where St. Olaf College was started by Dr. B. J. Muus near Kenyon, Minn., to where I am today."

1965

Ruth Jacobson Bloedow and **Will Bloedow** received the Paul and Elaine Groth Mentoring Award sponsored by the Mielke Family Foundation during the Celebrating Our Volunteers event in Appleton, Wis. Will and Ruth volunteer with many education and community health organizations, including the Center for Grieving Children, the Community



Health Action Team, the Fox Valley Symphony, and the Fox Valley Diabetes Education and Support Group. Will says he and Ruth were surprised to win the award. "Mentoring isn't necessarily about sitting down with someone else — what we do is share our stories. In those stories are numerous examples of how we've been mentored, and I think that inspires others." ■ **H. Erik Lokensgard**, a professor at Eastern Michigan University, took second place in the 400 meter individual medley (100m crawl, 100m breast stroke, 100m backstroke, and 100m butterfly) in the Fina Masters World Championship, held in Riccione, Italy, last summer. He most recently participated in the U.S. Masters Championship in Indianapolis.

1966

Stewart Thoreson and his wife, Janet, fulfilled a bucket list journey to Norway last year. Stewart's great-great-grandfather traveled to the United States on the sloop *Restoration*, the first boat of Norwegians to emigrate to America in 1825. While in Norway, Stewart and Janet stopped in Stavanger, both to find relatives and visit the Emigration Museum. There they learned of the recreation of the *Restoration*. They met the captain, boat builder, and director, who treated them to a two-hour cruise up the fjord. "It was an incredible experience," writes Stewart.



1970

Christine Cornell doesn't view the volunteer efforts she's provided to the dying and their loved ones as work. She sees it as a privilege. This spring, Christine received the 2013 Health Care Volunteer Award during the 16th Annual Celebrating Our Volunteers event in Appleton, Wis. Christine, a hospice volunteer for ThedaCare at Home, has provided in-home respite care and family support for 20 years to patients with a life expectancy of six months or less.

1975

Gwen Brown Downing was ordained in the ELCA in May and is now serving as pastor at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Park Falls, Wis.

1976

John Johnson, manager of the Graphics Division/Public Affairs Department of Palm Beach County in Greenacres, Fla., has obtained lifetime certification. John manages a staff of eight, producing digital xerographic, inkjet, and offset printing products for all federal government departments.

“In 2011, Mary and I established a permanent endowment using the Charitable IRA Rollover. The Rockswold Endowment supports collaborative internship experiences for St. Olaf students at Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC).”

— DR. GAYLAN ROCKSWOLD '62, NEUROSURGEON



St. Olaf students who participated in the HCMC medical internship program this summer: (back row, L-R) Adam Hadro '14, Gaylan Rockswold '62, Chris Paradise '14; (front row, L-R) Maggie Flint '14, Tanya Bovitz '14, Liza Mussatto '14, and Jackie Rath '14

“This internship meant a great deal to me. The program has given me an unparalleled look into the world of a physician and health care in general. I am now in the process of applying to medical school, and I would ultimately like to practice medicine at a hospital similar to HCMC, where I can help the underserved. I am so appreciative of the Rockswolds and the support they have given to this program because it has helped give my life direction.”

— ADAM HADRO '14, BIOLOGY MAJOR



To learn more about the Charitable IRA Rollover and giving at St. Olaf, visit my.stolaf.edu/development, call 800-776-6523, or email development@stolaf.edu. The rollover expires December 31, 2013, so please act now!

1980

Erin Hart and her husband, Paddy O'Brien, met on a September night in 1981 on the stage of MacCafferty's



Irish Pub in St. Paul, Minn. Erin had just returned from studying in Ireland, and Paddy was performing with a trio playing traditional Irish music. Three decades later, Erin and Paddy are leaders of the Irish-American arts community and are known for their music and writing. In early March, they celebrated the publication of Erin's fourth mystery, *The Book of Killowen*, and Paddy's first book, *The Road from Castlebarnagh: Growing Up in Irish Music*.

1981

For Oles wishing to view **Bonnie Campbell's** photos of the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, the correct url is: nwreflections.net/midway.php.

■ **Mark Kilstofte** has received a Fulbright to Norway, during which time he will complete an opera based on Henrik Ibsen's *Brand*.

1983

David LaRochelle won the Minnesota Book Award for Children's Literature for *It's a Tiger!*

1984

Laurie Iudin-Nelson was promoted to full professor at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Laurie, who teaches modern languages and founded and directs the Luther College Balalaika Ensemble, has been on the Luther faculty since 1992. ■ **Craig H. Johnson**, artistic director and founder of the choral ensemble *Conspirare*, was named Texas State Musician for 2013 by the Texas legislature. Craig is respected nationwide as a conductor, teacher, songwriter, composer, arranger, pianist, and singer. He also is artistic director of the Victoria Bach Festival and is artist in residence at the Texas State University School of Music. In addition, Craig will become music director of the Cincinnati Vocal Arts Ensemble in January 2014. ■ **Laura Mezner Nelson** sent this note regarding the 30th reunion of the 1982-83 Global Semester group in May: "The members generally get together every five years during the weekend of the Class of 1983 St. Olaf reunions, thanks to organizers and hosts **Michael Braun '83** and **Connie Halling Braun '83**. The original group consisted of 25 students, along with their two advisors. Of these 27 members, 21 have attended at least one reunion in the last 10 years, traveling from all over the United States. Members have said their Global experience continues to impact their lives in ways as diverse as their choice of career to their political leanings to their taste in food."

1985

Scott Christensen currently is deputy head of Equity Research for Asia Ex-Japan. He has been with J. P. Morgan and Heritage Firms for 19 years.

■ **Daniel Mueller**, a member of the creative writing faculty at the University of New Mexico since 2001, now directs its creative writing program. ■

Justin Stets has been named president of Carlson Capital Management, an investment advisory and integrated wealth management firm in Minnesota. Justin and his wife, **Kristin Carlson Stets '84**, currently have three children attending St. Olaf: **Rachael '14**, **Emily '15**, and **Aaron '16**.



1987

Don and Doug Bratland decided that age 48 is as good a time as any to go on tour with their band, Matt Arthur & The Bratlanders. They rocked their way from Minnesota to the West Coast this summer



in support of their new album, with shows in Northfield, Des Moines, Spearfish, Livingston, Bozeman, Missoula, Spokane, and Seattle.

1988

Jonathan Steen is the Tennessee Bar Association's president-elect. Steen, a shareholder with Redding, Steen & Staton PC, a firm he cofounded in 2006, serves as trial and appellate counsel for health care, manufacturing, banking, and insurance companies. ■ **Liesl Heidi** and **Liza Crosson '98** have been growing Cornerstone Montessori, a preschool and elementary charter school that brings high-quality education to low-income communities. On July 1, Liesl took over from Liza as the new head of school at Cornerstone, which is connected to the Montessori Center of Minnesota. Liesl has served on charter school boards, and has been a trained elementary guide and elementary assistant teacher, as well as a maternal child instructor and infant developmental specialist. Liza, who is entering the post-graduate International Montessori Trainer of Trainers Program, will study in Hyderabad, India (four weeks a year) and at the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota.

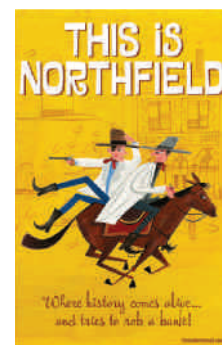
1989

Brad Hoff is St. Olaf College's new director of Engagement and Alumni & Parent Relations. Brad comes to St. Olaf from the University of Minnesota, where he served as the chief administration officer for the university's Facilities Management Division for the last six years. Prior to his role at the University of Minnesota, Brad was a public relations professional in Seattle. ■ **Heidi Pederson**, a successful financial services executive, was named director of investments and trust at Anchor Bank.

1990

Jennifer Brower and the teams at Haberman Modern Storytellers and Owl Marketing worked on a new image campaign for the Northfield Chamber of Commerce/Convention and Visitors Bureau. ■

Denise Prosek, a music director, pianist, and arranger in the Twin Cities for the past 20 years, has received a McKnight Theater Artist Fellowship at the Playwrights' Center. As resident music director of Theater Latté Da, Denise has directed 40 main stage productions and numerous cabarets.



1992

Jason Gruhl moved to Denver in 1996 and began working in the Denver public schools with children with autism spectrum disorders. Eight years ago, Jason and his staff quit their jobs, cashed in their retirements, and started one of the first schools in Colorado designed specifically for this population. He writes, "My education at St. Olaf certainly contributed to the incredible journey of this school and how it has been created." Friends can learn more at joshuaschool.org.

1993

Trombonists from the Class of 1993's 20th Reunion included (L-R) **Rob Grunewald**, **Greg Barton**, **JJ (Schroeder) Horning**, **Eric Molho**, and **Paul Anderson**. Seven trombonists in all attended the



reunion, "perhaps the largest representation of any campus group for our class," writes Horning. "Five of us were at the luncheon in Ytterboe Hall."

1995

Lia Kvatum's book, *Saving Yasha: The Incredible True Story of an Adopted Moon Bear*, was named a 2013 Outstanding Science Trade Book for Students by the National Science Teachers Association and the Children's Book Council.



1999

Travis Cross has left the position of director of bands at Virginia Tech and is now an associate professor of music and director of the wind ensemble at UCLA. ■ **Sarah Warren's** book,

Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers, won a Jane Addams Peace Association Honor for promoting peace, justice, and equality. Sarah writes, "I want to share this honor with the Ole community. My time on the Hill shaped my sense of social justice and my desire to serve."

2002

Sarah Beggs is loving her new job as education coordinator at Helen Day Art Center in beautiful Stowe, Vt. ■ **Jacob Burkman** was ordained in March at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pelican Rapids, Minn., following a call to serve as pastor at Hope Lutheran Church, Riverside, Calif.

2003

Paul Murphy's new artistic endeavor, the Declassified, is a cutting-edge chamber music society comprised of alumni from Carnegie Hall and Julliard's Academy Fellowship, and is forging an integrated role for classical music in communities around the world. A musician and member of Declassified's artist committee, Paul is working with colleagues to build

a strong entrepreneurial collective of some of the world's best classical musicians and reinvigorating cultural conversations around classical music, with the goal of engaging diverse audiences. ■ **Megan Parker Espe**, who graduated with an M.S. in natural resources from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, in May, is now the outreach coordinator at Schmeckle Reserve, a 280-acre natural area on the Stevens Point campus, where she is putting her research into action.

2005

Carolyn Albert Donovan was ordained in February at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and installed the following month as assistant pastor for child, youth, and family ministries at St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Austin, Texas.

2006

Sarah Fortman is a 2013 Woodrow Wilson Ohio Teaching Fellow and will receive a \$30,000 stipend to complete a special intensive master's program at the University of Dayton that will prepare her to teach math and/or science in a high-need Ohio school. Sarah, whose research has focused largely on spectroscopy in astrophysics, has also been a NASA Earth and Space Science Fellow (one of eight nationally in astrophysics). ■ **Kyla Taylor** is pursuing a Ph.D. in epidemiology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

2007

Dayna Burtness, who runs Laughing Loon Farm, a small vegetable and herb farm near Northfield, has been recognized for her dedication to sustainable food and farming through the 2013 Real Food



Awards, where she won in the producer category. The award acknowledges individuals who display outstanding leadership in an effort to create a more just and sustainable food system. When she's not busy farming, Dayna consults on starting college and corporate campus farms and is a proud new board member of the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota. ■ **Jake Mahler** is playing Vice Principal Douglas Panch in the two-time Tony Award-winning musical comedy *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at the Theatre Center in Munster, Ind. ■ **Michelle Vigen** is the new public affairs manager for Loudoun County, part of the Washington, D.C., metro area. She will oversee external and internal stakeholder outreach and constituent relations. Prior to joining Loudoun County, Michelle worked as a research analyst at the American Council for an Energy-Efficiency Economy in Washington, D.C. ■ **Andrew Voegtline** has been awarded a New Media Project Grant, a \$50,000 award from the McKnight Foundation for an innovative media



arts project, announced by the Independent Filmmaker Project Minnesota in April. In 2012, Andrew — along with Bobby Maher and **Erik Martz '07** — started *Minneapolisauce.com*, an interactive, multimedia website that brings together technology, art, music, and poetry. The new project Andrew is spearheading, Digital Cities, will also use interactive media of various genres but will do so through a smartphone app. Content will be created by musicians **Chris Koza '01** and Holly Newsom, visual artist Kate Casanova, and choreographer Stuart Pimsler. The project will include an array of media, including audio, video, and other images, that will be tailored to each listener's location and other external factors.

2008

Elizabeth Leslie has earned her Ph.D. in genetics from the University of Iowa. ■ **James McKone** recently completed his Ph.D. in chemistry at the California Institute of Technology and has received several awards: the Milton and Francis Clauser Doctoral Prize, awarded to the Ph.D. candidate whose research is judged to exhibit the greatest degree of originality; the Demetriades-Tsafka-Kokkalis Prize in Environmentally Benign Renewable Energy Sources or Related Topics; and the Everhart Distinguished Graduate Student Lecturer Award, awarded to a graduate student who has demonstrated exemplary presentation ability and graduate research. ■ **Laura Olson** has been serving in Cambodia as a health education volunteer for the Peace Corps since the summer of 2012. Her work is focused on five areas: maternal and child health, prenatal care, water sanitation and hygiene, noncommunicable diseases, and reproductive and sexual health. Laura is stationed in a local health center, where she works with patients,



primarily new mothers, who come in for services. ■ **Katherine Oyster** has earned her M.D. from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

2009

Bettina Hager is co-chair of the ERA Task Force for the National Coalition of Women's Organizations in Washington, D.C.

EXPERIENCE A MINDFUL WAY TO TRAVEL.



IMPERIAL CITIES OF THAILAND AND VIETNAM

January 1/3–18, 2014

Led by Mary Griep and Randolph Jennings

THEATER IN LONDON

April 25/26–May 4, 2014 (WAIT LISTED)

Led by Pat '65 and Kathy Quade

DISCOVERING HISTORICAL PARIS:

The Importance of Collective Memory

May 27/28–June 7, 2014

Led by Wendy and Richard Allen

GREECE: FROM ATHENS TO RHODES:

Circling the Rim of the Aegean

June 6/7–22, 2014

Led by Jim and Donna May

SPAIN, FRANCE, AND ITALY:

Pilgrims, Tourists, and Photographers

May 30/31–June 14, 2014

Led by Meg Ojala and John Barbour in conjunction with the St. Olaf Band tour

ST. OLAF STUDY TRAVEL

For more information, call 507.786.3028 or 888.865.6537, visit stolaf.edu/studytravel, or email studytravel@stolaf.edu.

2010

Hannah Langholz has completed her third year of working with infants and toddlers at New Horizon Academy and is earning a master's degree in social work from a dual program at the University of St. Thomas and St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minn.

2011

Rebecca E. "Becky" Carlson has joined the Neuger Communications Group in Northfield as a communications assistant.

2012

Lauren Harn has completed a year-long fellowship with the prestigious Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals. The fellowship, funded by the German Bundestag and the U.S. Congress, annually provides 75 American and 75 German young professionals the opportunity to spend one year in each other's countries, studying, interning, and living with hosts on a cultural immersion program. After returning to Minneapolis this fall, Lauren will be working at Target Corporation.

Six New Ole Fulbrights

Six recent graduates have been named Fulbright Fellows for 2013-14. Three will use their Fulbright awards to conduct research on topics ranging from social activism to cochlear implant use. The other three will take on English teaching assistantships. The group brings the college's Fulbright total to 94 since 1995.

Kristell Caballero-Saucedo '13 will be in Oaxaca, Mexico, researching the social activism of Afro-Mexicans in the Costa Chica region. She plans on interviewing activists and elected officials and will then analyze their responses alongside current literature on social activist strategies. **Lauren Carlson '13** will conduct public health research in conjunction with the Universidad de San Francisco Quito in Quito, Ecuador. **April Curtis '12** will work as an English teaching assistant in Bulgaria. **Kelsey Klein '13** will investigate the factors relating to the variable outcomes of cochlear implant use in Oslo, Norway. She will join a research group working at the University of Oslo and the Oslo University Hospital to help gather data through various cognitive tests and self-report surveys. **Martha Nielsen '13** will work as an English teaching assistant in a university setting in Argentina, and **Brynn Rathjen '13** will work in Malaysia as an English teaching assistant in primary or secondary schools.



Fulbright Fellows (top, L-R): Lauren Carlson '13, Brynn Rathjen '13, Kristell Caballero-Saucedo '13, (bottom, L-R) Martha Nielsen '13, and Kelsey Klein '13 (not pictured, April Curtis '12).

2013 ST. OLAF CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Heaven and Earth, Awake and Sing!

Thursday, Dec. 5 · 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 6 · 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 7 · 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 8 · 3 p.m.

Ticketing Code Change

Ticket reservation codes are required for ordering tickets to the annual St. Olaf Christmas Festival. The codes will be distributed in two new ways this year:

- * If you receive messages from St. Olaf College by email, your ticket reservation code will be sent to that email account. Be sure to watch for it.
- * If you do not receive email messages from St. Olaf, your reservation code will be sent to you via U.S. mail.

If you do not receive your code either by email or by regular U.S. mail delivery, please email reservationcode@stolaf.edu and you will receive a prompt response.

Ticket sales begin the week of Oct. 14.

For details, visit wp.stolaf.edu/christmasfest

Happy New Year!

It's Fiscal Year 2014!

But before an old acquaintance (Fiscal Year 2013) is forgotten, let's celebrate these amazing results:

More than 12,000 alumni, parents, and friends gave \$4.34 million to support current and future Oles.

The Class of 1988 broke the 25th reunion gift record with \$1.2 million raised.

9 classes each raised \$100,000 or more.

12 classes had 40 percent participation or higher.

With 34 percent participation, the Class of 2012 had the highest participation of any class graduating in the past 39 years.

Thanks to alumni, parents, and friends everywhere for your incredible support!

Please resolve to be among the first counted in Fiscal Year 2014. Visit my.stolaf.edu/giving today.

future oles

Mark and Sarah Engebretson VanderMeiden '88, a daughter, Anja
Jenny and Ryan French '94, a daughter, Tilda
Alison Gerlach Blaser '95 and John Blaser '97, a son, John
Lia Kvatum '95 and Kevin Connell, a daughter, Violet
Andreas and Lise Christiansen Knudsen '98, a son, Marius
Alexia Alafouzouss Gossett '99 and Ryan Gossett '98, a daughter, Wren
Brian and Sarah Chelgren Duffy '99, a son, Peter
Seth and Elizabeth Drotning Hartwell '99, a son, Jacob
Matthew and Rachel Grundahl Schemelin '99, a son, Trygve
Jennifer Packer '00 and Gregory Richardson, a son, Harrison
Karissa Shepard Finley '00 and Paul Finley '99, a son, Liam
Mike and Traci Taylor Kiss '00, a son, Sullivan
Leslie Johnson '01 and Dan Smith, daughter, Kaya
A.J. and Jamie Bown Literski '02, a daughter, Elise
Becky Lenius McKeever '02 and Nickie McKeever '02, a daughter, Ella
Christopher and Sarah Onnen Ash '02, a daughter, Madelyn
Kelly Banks Anderson '03 and Luke Anderson '02, a daughter, Molly
Amos and Mercedes Gabse Sheldon '03, a son, Quint
Shane and Sarah Larson Moldenhauer '03, a son, Aaron
Marit Grorud Sullivan '04 and Mark Sullivan '03, a son, Andrew
Andrew and Bekki Hagen Zaffke '06, a son, Hagen
Lauren Cassat Evans '07 and Dylan Evans '08, a son, Micah
Troy and Britt Paulson DeRuyter '07, a son, Osten

weddings

Kirsten Peterson '96 and Paul Wickman, Oct. 7, 2012
Jennifer Packer '00 and Gregory Richardson, Sept. 10, 2011
Anneka Anderson '01 and Luis Uresti, Sept. 22, 2012
Maret Wilson '03 and Ian Walker '04, Aug. 18, 2012
Anne Samuelson '05 and Ben Clarkson, Sept. 8, 2012
Leif Eikevik '06 and Lucy Kurtz, Aug. 17, 2012
Tremaine Versteeg '07 and Andrew Monshizadeh, May 25, 2013
Laura Hiller '08 and Evan Thunell, Aug. 24, 2012
Rachel Foster '09 and Jacob Gucker, Jan. 7, 2012
Rosie Harris '09 and Johnny Becker, Sept. 1, 2013
Kathryn Baber '12 and Scott Hansen '11, June 30, 2012
Ellie Holtz '12 and Scott Boros '11, Sept. 21, 2012

deaths

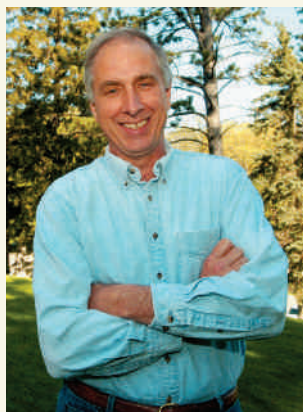
Florence Edman Rokke '29, Mesa, Ariz., April 18, 2013
Adeline Paulsrud Lippoldt '30, Oct. 26, 2011
Marjorie Skogstad Joseph '35, Naperville, Ill., Feb. 23, 2013
Alvin Johnson '36, Osseo, Wis., May 19, 2013
Theodore Maakestad '36, Cedar Falls, Iowa, June 4, 2013
Eleanor Wall Syverson '36, North Richland Hills, Texas, Feb. 18, 2013
Leila Halverson Ellingson '38, Federal Way, Wash., April 8, 2013
Philip Paulsrudd '38, Olympia, Wash., Jan. 22, 2013
Lydia Shafland Schreiber '38, Marshfield, Wis., Feb. 14, 2013
Winifred Hansen Stewart '39, West Bend, Wis., March 20, 2013
*Howard Berge '40, Eugene, Ore., March 20, 2013
Dorothy Goodmanson Skindlov '41, Spokane, Wash., Feb. 22, 2013
Robert Mueller '41, Arlington, Minn., April 6, 2013
Raymond Alfred '42, Melbourne, Fla., Jan. 13, 2013
*Olaf Cartford '42, Moorhead, Minn., Nov. 16, 2012
*Stanton Saterstrom '42, Minneapolis, April 22, 2013
Jeanne Grose Enstad '43, Duluth, Minn., April 26, 2013
Jean Hillestad Perman '43, Northfield, Minn., April 19, 2013
*Robert Siegel '43, Chatfield, Minn., March 26, 2013
*Kenneth Thompson '43, Fairfax, Va., Feb. 2, 2013

*Marlen Torgerson '43, Mason City, Iowa, April 4, 2013
*Helen Gabler Ramsammy '44, Gainesville, Fla., May 27, 2013
Maynard Stokka '44, Pelican Rapids, Minn., May 20, 2011
Muriel Hegstrom Nelson '45, Crown Point, Ind., May 15, 2013
*John Meekma '45, Evergreen Park, Ill., Jan. 9, 2013
Carol Nikolai '45, Edina, Minn., May 11, 2013
*Oliver Peterson Jr. '45, Minneapolis, April 23, 2013
Marjorie Schoening Bryan '45, Pompano Beach, Fla., Jan. 26, 2013
Dolores Van DeVelde Pederson '45, St. Paul, Minn., March 16, 2013
Lois Thompson Hetrick '46, Elk River, Minn., March 13, 2012
*Roger Burtness '47, Urbana, Ill., March 23, 2013
Jurine Fjare Schellberg '47, Green Valley, Ariz., March 11, 2013
*Mavis Johnson Allen '47, Salt Lake City, March 17, 2013
Andi Kindem Shouse '47, Olympia, Wash., March 27, 2013
Lucille Westergard Gould '47, Cambridge, Minn., Feb. 24, 2013
*Stanley Klyve '48, Middleton, Wis., March 2, 2013
*Merlyn Olson '48, Northfield, Minn., March 16, 2013
Marcia Petersen Vanderbilt '48, St. James, Minn., May 5, 2013
Frank Pooler '48, Los Alamitos, Calif., Jan. 19, 2013
*Stephen Reinertsen '48, Salinas, Calif., March 15, 2013
Ruth Stanley Heath '48, Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 10, 2013
Donald Thorp '48, Fargo, N.D., April 20, 2012
Arlene Honnette Croudy '49, Concord, N.H., May 30, 2013
*Richard Sisler '49, Edina, Minn., May 25, 2013
Paul Andersen '50, Decorah, Iowa, March 11, 2013
*Thomas Anderson '50, Rochester, Minn., Jan. 29, 2013
*Merle Bygness '50, Pine River, Minn., Dec. 28, 2012
Robert Kompelien '50, Boynton Beach, Fla., Feb. 16, 2013
*Douglas Lund '50, Pittsfield Township, Mich., May 6, 2011
*Ralph Lund '50, Alpena, Mich., Dec. 20, 2012
*Richard Sieber '50, Eagan, Minn., March 18, 2013
Elsa Blom Lund '51, Alpena, Mich., March 2, 2013
Ruth Gabrielson Kirby '51, North Oaks, Minn., April 25, 2013
*James Tolzmann '51, Iowa City, Iowa, Feb. 21, 2013
Lois Korslund '52, Columbia, Mo., June 1, 2013
Doris Lewis Grunwald '52, St. Joseph, Mo., April 26, 2013
June Torkelson Kalsem '52, Des Moines, Iowa, April 21, 2013
Joyce Ytterboe Lokken '52, Litchfield, Minn., Feb. 19, 2013
*David Davidson '53, Onalaska, Wis., Feb. 27, 2013
Mildred Gerland '53, Rice Lake, Wis., Apr. 7, 2013
*Richard Johannsen '53, Fort Collins, Colo., May 31, 2013
Shirley Syverson Helleckson '53, Wanamingo, Minn., Feb. 11, 2013
Eudry Bringsly Sell '54, Brooklyn Center, Minn., Dec. 14, 2012
Dennis Falk '54, Clinton, Mich., May 22, 2012
*Paul McGuire '54, Northfield, Minn., March 22, 2013
*Robert Olson '54, Edina, Minn., April 28, 2013
Merlin Melby '55, Fargo, N.D., March 10, 2013
*William Adams Jr. '56, Santa Rosa, Calif., May 18, 2013
Edwyna Evenson Brown '56, Ajijic, Mexico, March 23, 2013
Darlene Gillette Field '56, Solon, Iowa, Feb. 7, 2013
Carol Johnson Fossum '56, Northfield, Minn., March 31, 2013
Joan Michelson Thorsen '56, Mound, Minn., May 16, 2013
Paul Schmidt III '56, Evergreen, Colo., Feb. 25, 2013
Diane Coon Martin '57, Albert Lea, Minn., March 6, 2013
Deaun Sheggrud Peterson '57, Northfield, Minn., March 15, 2013
Harry Benson '58, Georgetown, Colo., April 13, 2013
Elsie Garthwaite Boss '58, Bend, Ore., May 10, 2013
Karen Hanson Larson '58, Afton, Va., Jan. 7, 2013
*John Kvidal '58, Sioux City, Iowa, April 13, 2013
Donald Nichols '58, Preston, Minn., Feb. 18, 2013

- *Kenneth Nordaune '58, Lakeville, Minn., May 24, 2013
- *Ronald Shovan '59, Clearwater, Fla., April 2, 2013
- *Dwynne Arneson '60, Auburn, Wash., March 23, 2013
- Ruth Molter Houts '60, Fairchild, Wis., May 27, 2013
- Ronald Bjokne '61, Las Vegas, Feb. 8, 2013
- Priscilla Long Grubbs '61, Winston-Salem, N.C., Feb. 4, 2013
- *David Droen '62, St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 15, 2013
- Daniel Freeman '63, Northfield, Minn., May 6, 2013
- Paul Gooding '63, Sun Lakes, Ariz., April 25, 2013
- Margaret Oestreich Pfeiffer '63, Clayville, N.Y., Feb. 20, 2013
- Dale Hartwig '64, Grand Rapids, Mich., Feb. 15, 2013
- Susan Bennett Batori '65, Orlando, Fla., Jan. 23, 2013
- *Philip Stafne '65, Fargo, N.D., May 21, 2013
- Howard Felber '66, Overland Park, Kan., May 11, 2013
- Richard Gillette '66, Aiken, S.C., Sept. 21, 2012

- Marcia Wunderlich '66, Chicago, May 14, 2013
- Robert Peterson '67, Bloomington, Minn., March 28, 2013
- Paul Anderson '68, Centennial, Colo., April 15, 2013
- Cathi Mahin Lee '68, Chaska, Minn., Feb. 17, 2013
- Kirk Dean '69, Fargo, N.D., May 4, 2013
- Reginald Evans '70, Feb. 21, 2013
- *Steven Guntner '71, Claremont, Calif., Sept. 28, 2012
- Karen Kildahl Woodward '71, Minneapolis, May 5, 2013
- Elizabeth Benson Peterson '72, Minneapolis, April 28, 2013
- Gregory Heacox '72, Stillwater, Minn., May 15, 2013
- Allison Aydelotte '90, Austin, Texas, Jan. 15, 2013
- Stacy Vogt Her '92, La Crosse, Wis., Feb. 2, 2013
- *James Kuk '96, Gold Canyon, Ariz., April 24, 2013
- * Veteran

I N R E M E M B R A N C E



James Farrell

James Farrell, professor of history, American studies, and environmental studies, died on July 25, 2013, due to complications from leukemia. He was 64.

As an interdisciplinary scholar and teacher, Farrell's teaching — by his own description — was "weird, if not innovative." He taught courses on a wide range of topics that included environmental history, the Mall of America, nuclear weapons and American culture, Walt Disney's America, consuming college culture, and campus ecology.

Farrell, who joined the St. Olaf faculty in 1977, was chosen as the college's first Boldt Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Humanities. An active member of the St. Olaf Sustainability Task Force, he wrote the first environmental review of the college as well as St. Olaf's Sustainability Principles. He also worked with colleagues from the Associated Colleges of the Midwest to develop a variety of workshops on sustainability across the curriculum and was an engaged member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. He most recently worked as St. Olaf's "environmental catalyst" to assist in the creation of the campus-wide SustainAbilities program.

After earning a B.A. in political science from Loyola University in Chicago, Farrell earned both an M.A. in history and a Ph.D. in American culture from the University of Illinois. He wrote a number of books, including *Inventing the*

American Way of Death 1830-1920; The Nuclear Devil's Dictionary; The Spirit of the Sixties: Making Postwar Radicalism; One Nation Under Goods: Malls and the Seductions of American Shopping; and The Nature of College: How a New Understanding of Campus Life Can Change the World.

Born in Washington, D.C., Farrell grew up in Danville, Illinois, where he came to appreciate the sublimity of corn fields. As a young man, he wanted to become president to change the world. Although he followed a different path, Farrell did change the world by touching countless lives as a teacher, mentor, and friend. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Barb; sons, John (Kristin) Farrell '01 and Paul Farrell (Laura Wood); three grandchildren, Zack, Ben, and Meredith; and many other family members and friends.

Mary Ellen Ross

Associate Professor Emerita of Psychology
Mary Ellen Ross died May 5, 2013, at Three Links Reflections Care Suites in Northfield, Minn., after a long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's. She was 67.

Ross earned a bachelor's of science degree in psychology from Fordham University in 1968 and an M.A. and Ph.D. in developmental psychology at Syracuse University, with a research focus on children. For the next two years, she served as an adjunct faculty at several universities, as well as an elementary school counselor in Pennsylvania. Ross joined the St. Olaf psychology faculty in 1977.

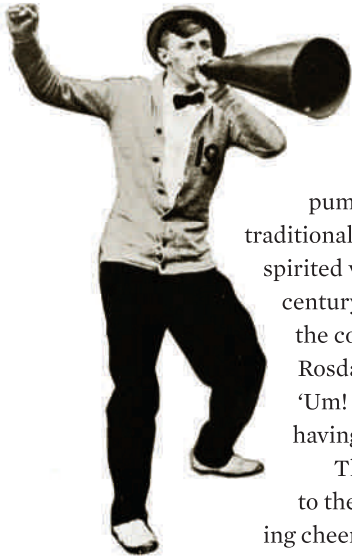
Ross taught in the psychology department for 30 years, and her courses included counseling, child development, listening, and communication. She taught in the Paracollege, was active in the Women's Studies program, and served as director of the college's Teaching and Learning Center. She also worked as a therapist, primarily with children, and as an artist who used the quilt form as her medium to document her struggles with depression.

During her time at St. Olaf, Ross was particularly interested in developmental and school psychology. Early in her career, she spent time in Cuba studying psychology as it relates to medical and school systems. As her research subjects aged, however, her focus evolved. Much of her later research dealt with the psychology of aging women, especially in regard to biological phenomena like menopause. Ross retired from St. Olaf in 2007.



Bound by Song: *Um! Yah! Yah!*

BY JEFF SAUVE | PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SHAW-OLSON CENTER FOR COLLEGE HISTORY



Every spring since 1993, graduating seniors at St. Olaf College have marked the conclusion of commencement with a jubilant, fist-pumping rendition of the school's traditional fight song, "Um! Yah! Yah!" With spirited voices, they belt out this thriving, century-old rouser, which binds them to the college and each other. As Kris Rosdahl Ehresmann '84 noted, "Having 'Um! Yah! Yah!' as our fight song is like having a secret handshake!"

The origins of "Um! Yah! Yah!" date to the early 1900s, when college shouting cheers known as "yells" were all the rage in the United States. St. Olaf's official yell in 1903 included such lines as "Yah! Yah! Yum! Yoh!"

and "Waho Manitou! Rick! Rick! Rick!" The following year, in 1904, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* mentioned one of Harvard's cheers, "Um yah, yah! Harvard. Harvard. Um yah, yah!"

Over the next few years, a number of yells — which relied upon words like "Rah!" and "Zip-Boom-Bah!" — developed at St. Olaf. Student-appointed "yell-masters," or cheer leaders, wielded megaphones along the sidelines, encouraging the crowd.

In 1986, 99-year-old Hagbarth Bue from the Class of 1911 was interviewed about the origins of "Um! Yah! Yah!" He credited fellow classmate and official yell-master Jacob Frohlin with creating the fight song. Frohlin thought it best to set the words for "Um! Yah! Yah!" to the tune of an old Scandinavian song, "Jeg Har Ute Pulten," as everyone would readily know the more modern chant, and it was easier to lead students sitting on both sides of the basketball court.



Um! Yah! Yah! has been a staple at St. Olaf events for more than 100 years.

The first official publication of "Um! Yah! Yah!" occurred in the college yearbook, issued December 1912. Over time, the fight song has become synonymous with St. Olaf. Notable national publications, such as the *New York Times*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Runner's World Magazine*, have taken notice, particularly of the song's unique three-quarter time, or waltz, meter.

For each generation of Oles, stories abound about how "Um! Yah! Yah!" manifested itself in student life. In the 1920s, St. Olaf women sang the song at the start of their Saturday night Bible studies in old Mohn Hall. When the St. Olaf Choir went on tour in 1955, "Um! Yah! Yah!" served as the rallying cry for students gathering at subway stops in New York City.

"Having 'Um! Yah! Yah!' as our fight song is like having a secret handshake!"

— KRIS ROSDAHL EHRESMANN '84

Today's students randomly sing the fight song in the Stav Hall Cafeteria. Lauren Kalish '14 remarked, "I get the chills every time it happens because I feel an overwhelming feeling of pride." The pride she mentions typifies what many Oles have expressed — a special bond or a connection to one another and to their alma mater.

This connection has presented itself in unique and varied ways throughout the years, and from many locations throughout the world, including a memorable gathering in the South Pacific's Solomon Islands during World War II.

In a letter to the student newspaper, the *Manitou Messenger*, dated January 31, 1944, Marine Captains Paul G. Groth '41 and Henry M. Helgen, Jr. '41 recounted the evening of Tuesday, January 18, when five other St. Olaf Marine officers joined them in a mini-reunion held in Helgen's quarters. Those attending included Captain Lyle Petersen '41, and First Lieutenants Floyd Knutson '42, Emile Molle '41, Reuben Monson '42, and Murley Severtson '41. Prior to enlisting, all seven men had lived at the same time in either Ytterboe Hall or an off-campus house.

Their evening "bull session" was spent laughing, reminiscing, and learning the latest scuttlebutt about campus activities. Questions arose such as "Do you remember ...?" or "What's so-and-so doing?" or "Is so-and-so married?" Groth and Helgen's letter noted that "the evening wouldn't have been complete without a few choruses of "Um! Yah! Yah!"

As the Marines departed into the tropical heat, the Ole men exchanged handshakes and farewells. For them, this brief respite from the war was deemed a "glorious event and a great reminder that St. Olaf is very much a part of our lives and that Ole friendships are indeed binding." 🍷

JEFF SAUVE is the associate archivist at the Shaw-Olson Center for College History. Share your own Um! Yah! Yah! story with him at sauve@stolaf.edu.

A large choir of men and women, dressed in dark formal attire, is performing in a grand Gothic cathedral. They are holding lit candles, which create a warm, golden glow. A conductor stands on a small wooden platform in the center, facing the choir. The cathedral's architecture is highly detailed, with pointed arches and intricate carvings. The lighting is dramatic, with blue light highlighting the architectural details and warm light from the candles illuminating the performers. The overall atmosphere is solemn and festive.

Christmas in Norway with St. Olaf

FILMED AT NORWAY'S TRONDHEIM CATHEDRAL

Tune in during the Christmas holidays for a one-hour PBS special featuring the St. Olaf Choir with Norway's Nidarosdomens Jentekor Girls' Choir.

Check your local television listings for program information.



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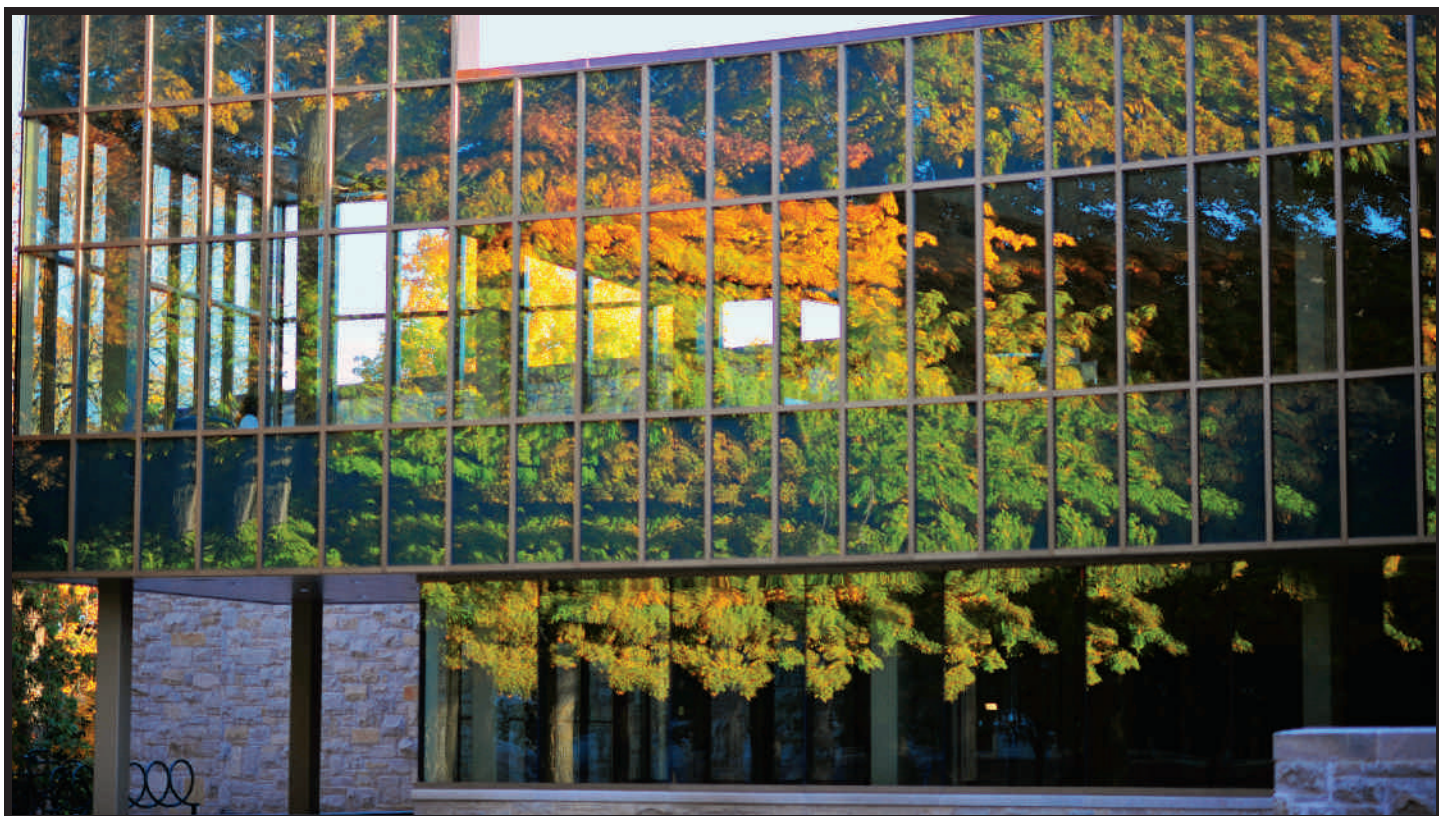
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“IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE,
YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE.”

— WENDELL BERRY



The landscape on Manitou Heights has slowly transformed to strengthen St. Olaf and accommodate its future. Sitting in the heart of campus is Tomson Hall, filled with natural light and energized students. Dedicated in 2011, Tomson Hall houses the college's education and languages departments, administrative offices, and essential student services, from admissions and financial aid to the Piper Center for Career and Vocation. PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER