

FALL 2016

ST. OLAF

MAGAZINE



GLOBALLY
ENGAGED

FROM THE
HEART

POLITICAL
INSIDERS



ON THE COVER

Oles Rose Doda '19 and Siyabonga Nkosi '19 study outside Rølvaag Memorial Library on a beautiful fall day. PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER

ST. OLAF MAGAZINE

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Anna Palmer '04 has always been ready and willing to go wherever the story is. Among the most tenacious and successful reporters for *Politico*, covering Capitol Hill and the historic 2016 election, she just landed one of the most prestigious positions in political journalism today as one of two writers for *Politico's* daily newsletter, *Playbook*.

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FROM THE DESK OF
PRESIDENT DAVID R. ANDERSON '74



Dear Oles:

This issue of *St. Olaf Magazine* highlights one of the most important outcomes of a St. Olaf education: a passion for productive engagement with people and ideas toward the goal of making the world a better place.

In a presidential election year, when the attention of Americans is especially focused on politics, we bring you the stories of two Oles engaged in the business of providing all of us with information to help us make informed choices as voters and citizens. Peter Slen '85, a producer and on-air host for C-SPAN, provides “unfettered access” to politicians and policymakers through interviews and call-in shows. “Scrupulously objective” and resolutely independent, Slen provides not only a platform for people and ideas that clamor for our attention but also the ability to evaluate those people and ideas for ourselves.

While C-SPAN is shining television lights on Congress, politicians, and policymakers, Anna Palmer '04, a reporter for *Politico*, is shining a light into darker corners, reporting on topics like corruption by lobbyists and politicians, sexual assault in the military, and harassment in the workplace. Now, as one of two writers for *Politico*'s daily newsletter, *Playbook*, she will be helping to direct the attention of political reporters everywhere to matters the public needs to see and understand. “Tough and fair,” she too provides information that enables all of us to make good decisions about our government and the people in it.

Pastor Thomas Rusert '06 embraces another — very personal — form of engagement: offering prayer to individuals in coffee shops in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Souls in trouble, persons of faith speaking to their God, spiritual questers — he speaks to, with, and for all of them. Driven by a powerful sense of vocation, his “entrepreneurial approach to pastoring” has opened doors for other pastors seeking new ways to engage with people and provide spiritual support for countless souls.

Where does this passion for engagement come from? Some portion of it was cultivated at St. Olaf, where the needs of the world are never far from the conversations that take place in classrooms and residence halls across campus. Connecting learning with action is one of the college's goals. You can see early examples of that in the photographs by current students taken during their international study and travel. The commentary accompanying these compelling images makes clear that the international study programs at St. Olaf open students to new worlds, new experiences, new people, new opportunities to engage.

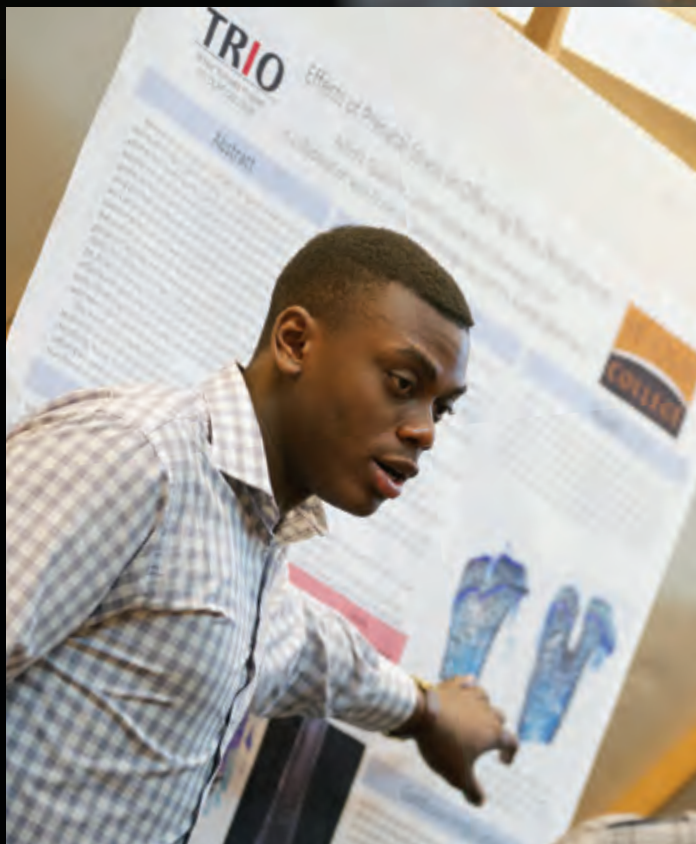
Our mission statement expresses this well: “St. Olaf College challenges students to excel in the liberal arts, examine faith and values, and explore meaningful vocation in an inclusive, globally engaged community nourished by Lutheran tradition.” By design, the “engaged community” on the Hill produces Oles who seek engagement in their nation, their communities, their relationships.

Fram! Fram!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R. Anderson".



UM! YAH! YAH!



RESPONDING TO STUDENTS' GROWING DESIRE for research opportunities across a broad range of disciplines, St. Olaf's Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (CURI) Program provides students with opportunities to develop practical skills they can use in graduate school and in their future careers.

More than 60 St. Olaf students collaborated with faculty mentors this summer, obtaining valuable hands-on research experience. TRIO McNair Scholars Abigail Smith '17 and Dua Vang '18 (above) investigated system identification theory as it applies to the earthworm shortening reflex, while Aji Opakunle '18 (left) was one of three McNair scholars researching the effects of prenatal stress on offspring bone development. Their research was guided by biology professors and McNair mentors Kevin Crisp and Sarah Amugongo.

The intensive faculty-student research conducted through the CURI summer program included the disciplines of biology, neuroscience, chemistry, environmental studies, mathematics, physics, computer science, economics, psychology, music, theater, French, history, political science, Asian studies, social work and family studies, and education.

PHOTOS BY TOM ROSTER



BLUE SKIES IN BEIJING
Beijing, China - Robert Hanson '18
Asian Conversations Interim



THE 2016 GIMSE
INTERNATIONAL AND
OFF-CAMPUS STUDIES
PHOTO CONTEST

Globally ENGAGED

FOR MORE THAN A HALF CENTURY, St. Olaf students have taken advantage of the college's nationally renowned international and off-campus study programs. Living and studying abroad is fundamental to understanding other cultures and perspectives — and to becoming an educated citizen in a changing world. Each year, St. Olaf students document these profound experiences of academic exploration and self-discovery through the art of photography and through personal reflections.

LANZHOU DANCERS AT NIGHT

Dongfangheng Square in Lanzhou City, Gansu Province, China
Peter Willemin '17, Collaborative Undergraduate
Research and Inquiry (CURI) in China



THE BLUE CITY

Rabat, Morocco
Gretchen Burke '18
Morocco Interim



“While in Morocco, we spent two weeks living with host families in the Medina of Fez, a walled city built in the 9th century. Our complete cultural immersion impacted my experience in a positive way. Morocco widened my global perspective and encouraged me to continue seeking out new and unfamiliar experiences.”

— GRETCHEN BURKE '18



RAINY DAY IN BANGKOK

Bangkok, Thailand

Sydney Runkel '16

Global Semester

“What surprised me the most is how big our world really is. There are so many people who all have hopes and dreams just like me, who are all going about the business of their daily lives. On this day, it was raining and I was tired from traveling, but life in the city of Bangkok didn’t stop moving. It reminds me that I am not the only person in this world who has bad days.”

— SYDNEY RUNKEL '16

**THE SPRAWLING SALT MINES
OF THE SACRED VALLEY**

*The Salt Mines of Maras in the
Sacred Valley of the Incas, Cusco, Peru*
Jordan Litschewski '17
Peruvian Medical Experience Interim



"These natural salt mines have been in use since the Inca Empire in the 1500s, when salt was used as a source of currency. Families fortunate enough to own the mines farm the salt and sell it year after year. Our team met with the director of the mines to discuss the possibility of fluoridating the salt in the future to prevent tooth decay in the region." — JORDAN LITSHEWSKI '17





XI'AN CITY WALL

Xi'an, China
Jill Nilsen '17
Global Semester

"The Xi'an City Wall
was considered the
greatest military
defense system in
the ancient world."



A WALK TOWARD THE ROCKET · Peenemünde Army Research Center, Germany · Charlie Bahnson '17, Mare Balticum Interim

"Germany's center for aviation research, Peenemünde, is one of the few sites from Nazi Germany that was not destroyed after WWII. Peenemünde is now a museum showcasing aerospace engineer Wernher von Braun's development of the V-2 rocket."



FIDEL CASTRO: THE BEST FRIEND · Havana, Cuba · Maddie Leh '18, Collective Memory in Revolutionary Cuba

“What struck me most [about Japan] were the intentional efforts by citizens to bring community back into everyday life. I saw hope for the end of environmental degradation. My month in Japan forced me to think about the larger implications of my actions as they contribute to a wider society, while giving me insight into models for environmental stewardship.” — SOPHIA PFANDER '18



THE COMMUTE

Shinjuku Station, Tokyo, Japan
Sophia Pfander '18, Environmental Sustainability in Japan Interim



“LA EMOCIÓN DE LA PROTESTA” · Quito, Ecuador · Jake Barzen '17, Ecuador: Community Internships CILA (HECUA)

“For the first time, I was a minority. For the first time, I was unable to communicate exactly what I wanted to say. For the first time, I was out of my comfort zone for a sustained period of time. The mix of these struggles led to an emotional and memorable experience [in Ecuador] that I am very glad to have had.” — JAKE BARZEN '17



“Our visit to the desert offered a glimpse into the way the tourism industry encourages both adaptation and the preservation of traditions. We rode in and out of the desert in traditional camel caravans, but spent our night in the desert with a guide who spoke seven languages and was eager to show us that he could connect to Wi-Fi from the top of the sand dune.”

— ABIGAIL SENUTY '16

CARAVAN AT SUNRISE

Sahara Desert, Morocco

Abigail Senuty '16

CIEE Language and Culture in Rabat





ORGANIZED CHAOS
Chennai, India
Sarah Barton '17
Biology in South India

“India is not an experience for the faint hearted. Every day is full of challenges, surprises, and people — lots of people. But, if you can look past this, you will find a culture so rich, so diverse, and so welcoming that it will change your life forever.”

— AMANDA SPITZENBERGER '16



THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE · Village outside Pondicherry, India
Amanda Spitzenberger '16, Exploring India: Human Development in Cross-Cultural Context

DEFIANT HOPE

The Hill of Crosses, Šiauliai, Lithuania
Mike Erickson '16, Mare Balticum Interim



"Tens of thousands of crosses stand on a hill in Šiauliai as an expression of peaceful religious protest. After being bulldozed time after time by the Soviet Union, Lithuanians fought back by continuing to add crosses to honor their fallen loved ones. Today, it stands unthreatened, illustrating Lithuania's freedom of religion, something I often take for granted in the United States."

— CHARLIE BAHNSON '17

"The Hill of Crosses, once a reminder of conflict and bloodshed, is now a serene example of defiance."



"O GOD, PROTECT OUR FAMILY AND GIVE US HEALTH" · *The Hill of Crosses, Šiauliai, Lithuania* · Charlie Bahnsen '17, Mare Balticum Interim



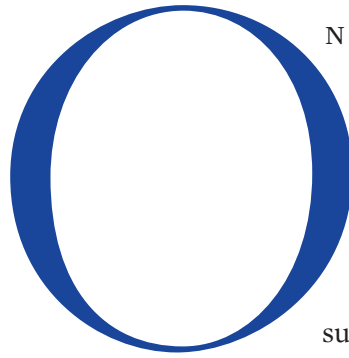
Politics PROSE

C-SPAN HOST **PETER SLEN '85** BELIEVES UNFETTERED ACCESS TO POLITICIANS AND POLICYMAKERS — WITHOUT DISTORTION BY MEDIA OUTLETS — IS KEY TO THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY.

BY JOEL HOEKSTRA

PHOTOGRAPHED BY **EVELYN HOCKSTEIN · POLARIS**





ON A SWELTERING DAY IN EARLY JUNE, Peter Slen was working in his office at C-SPAN headquarters in Washington, D.C., crisply dressed in dark slacks, a striped purple tie, and a white shirt fastened with American flag cufflinks. The environment that surrounded the 56-year-old producer and on-air host was less tidy, however. Stacked high on nearly every surface were hardcover and paperback books representing



Peter Slen conducts a live interview at the 2015 Los Angeles Times Festival of Books. PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROBB WILSON

an eclectic mix of the latest fiction and nonfiction. Chaos emanated from three video monitors as they streamed C-SPAN's live feeds of the roiling debates in Congress over gun legislation. And outside Slen's office, coworkers shuttled back and forth, talking on cell phones, answering emails, and complaining about the steam bath that had settled (once again) on Washington.

"We're on for Blackburn at two this afternoon, right?" asked a colleague at Slen's door. He was referring to U.S. Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn, a Republican from Tennessee, who had agreed to an interview with Slen about her current reading list. The interview was part of a series that included U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Lamar Alexander, among others.

Talking to movers and shakers in Washington is something Slen does almost daily. Tune into the network's morning call-in program, *Washington Journal*, which Slen occasionally hosts, and you'll see a journalist who is relaxed and confident asking questions of politicians and pundits. But Slen is equally passionate about talking with writers about books: C-SPAN's weekend viewers can catch him on Book TV, chatting up experts in history, politics, social trends, and culture. "Basically, C-SPAN pays me to do what I paid St. Olaf to get me to do," Slen says. "I get to read and learn and talk to interesting people. It may be the best job in the world."

* * *

Slen has worked at C-SPAN for nearly 25 years. Originally hired as a producer, he now serves as an on-air host for several programs, including *The Communicators*, which focuses on telecommunications and public policy. As the executive producer of Book TV, he helms the weekly creation of 48 hours of programming focused on books, authors, and publishing. The coverage, which requires a team of seven people to produce, is broadcast weekends on C-SPAN2.

Books and politics have always been a part of Slen's life. The household where he grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana, was full of newspapers and books, he recalls. His parents, Mark Slen '49, a hospital president, and Betty, a former nurse, were avid readers — his father preferred nonfiction, while his mother liked novels. Slen, the middle child of three (Erik and Ann '87), sang tenor in the high school choir and excelled at studies in French and civics. An interest in his father's military service during World War II fostered Slen's fascination with history, and books were a path into that bygone era.

His parents weren't particularly political, Slen says, but his grandfather, Theodore Slen, who graduated from St. Olaf in 1912, devoted himself to public service, working as a judge, legislator, and county attorney in Minnesota. (He also helped found the state's Democratic Farmer Labor party in 1944). Peter ultimately followed his grandfather's path to Northfield, majoring in political science and American studies. He admits he wasn't a great student: "A lot of political science was beyond me in that it was quantitative and mathematical — which were not my strengths." But professors like Jim Farrell and Suzanne Gunderson showed him how politics were related to fields such as sociology and art history. "St. Olaf was influential in broadening my outlook, getting me to ask about motives and the reasons why people did what they did or thought what they thought. I learned to read and write and think — and that's what I do today."

"St. Olaf was influential in broadening my outlook, getting me to ask about motives and the reasons why people did what they did or thought what they thought."

After graduation, Slen landed an internship in the office of Senator Richard Lugar in Washington, D.C. The job, which mostly consisted of answering constituent mail, wasn't glamorous, but it introduced him to the world of politics and put him in touch with powerful people. In 1989, he accepted a job as press secretary with California Representative Christopher Cox.

The pace and pressure of politics suited Slen, but he worried about long-term job security. In the early 1990s, the prospects for the party that employed him, the GOP, looked relatively bleak. "It was 1993, and I thought, 'The Republicans are never gonna take the House of Representatives,'" he recalls, then laughs and rolls his eyes. "Of course, in 1994, they won the House. So much for my ability to forecast politics." When a friend suggested he apply for job as a producer at C-SPAN, whose offices sit just a block from the Capitol, Slen decided to submit a resume. A few months later, the network hired him.

"I thought I would miss the partisanship, the selling of ideas to your boss and others, as well as the day-to-day hustle on Capitol Hill," Slen says. "But I didn't. Not at all. It was such a relief."

* * *

C-SPAN was founded in 1979 with a mission to give Americans an unfiltered look at what went on in the nation's capital. By televising the talk and actions that occurred on the floor of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the network's founder, Brian Lamb, hoped to provide the nation with a view of legislative proceedings, minus the "filter" of the media.

"Our mission today is still the same as when we started," Slen says. "We still bring you unfettered access to public officials and public affairs, and we show you what's going on in Washington."

C-SPAN's initial broadcasts — limited to eight hours a day — have evolved into "gavel to gavel" coverage. In 1986 and 2001, the network added two additional channels. More recently, the network proved its mettle when congressional leaders pulled the plug on C-SPAN cameras during a sit-in by Democratic representatives in the House. Cut off from its own feed, the network aired video recorded by participants live-streaming the event via social media.

But C-SPAN now also goes beyond simply presenting the proceedings of Congress as they happen. Shows like *Washington Journal* have been added to the network's lineup, featuring hosts that ask politicians and policymakers to explain their proposals and actions. Slen contributes to the richness of this programming as a host.

"We think the world of Peter, both personally and professionally," says C-SPAN co-president Susan Swain. "I happen to think that Peter is particularly good at hosting our call-in programs. He's genuinely interested in people and their stories."

"We give everyone a chance to voice their opinions and to question politicians and policymakers directly. The goal is to get information."



Behind the scenes on the last day of the 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia

TWITTER.COM/CSPANWJ

Terry Murphy, C-SPAN's vice president of programming, says Slen also succeeds because he's managed to retain a Midwestern sensibility in a city of big egos. "He doesn't take himself seriously just because he's on television," Murphy says.

Slen believes a broad interest in a lot of things has helped fuel his career and kept him engaged in his work. "That's where a St. Olaf education comes in handy," he says. His experience on the Hill laid the foundation for digging deeper and asking questions like "Why is it, if we float the dollar, for example, that people in Minnesota will benefit?"

"I'm curious. That's what I bring to the table," says Slen. "Curiosity leads to questions that can offer insights."

* * *

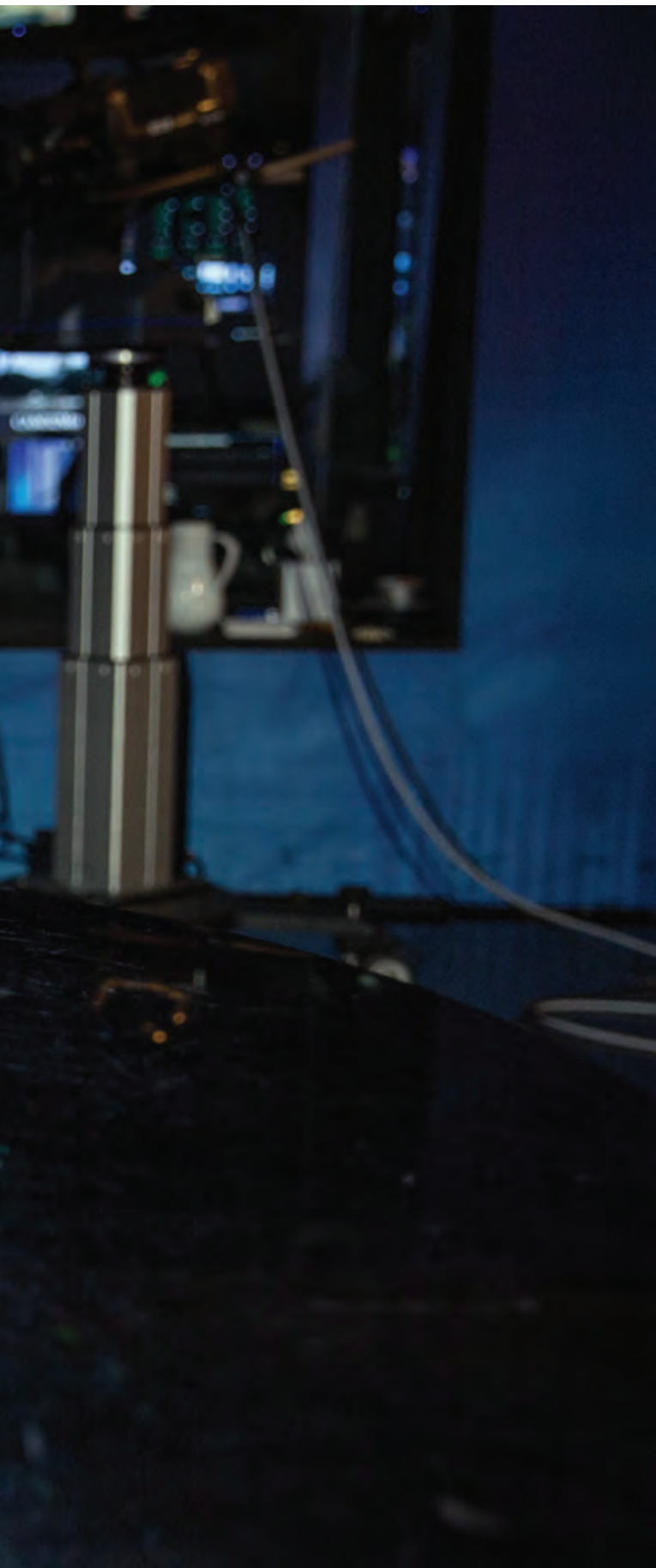
Questions and curiosity about myriad subjects has certainly made Slen a good fit for Book TV. Slen became senior executive producer of the program in 2007 and has interviewed hundreds of authors and publishers in the intervening decade, including "most of the people on my bucket list."

Concepting Book TV programming is almost as much fun as conducting interviews with authors, Slen says. Sometimes coverage coalesces around a book fair. In other cases, the weekend programs center on an idea or a historical event. "My favorite part of the job is the birth — saying, 'I have an idea for a program' and then seeing the realization of what the team puts together," Slen says.

While his interests may drive the programming, Slen is careful to let experts have their say when the camera is on. And he makes a concerted effort to showcase a variety of views when he selects or interviews the newsmakers and guests who appear on Book TV and other C-SPAN programs. ("It's not about the host!" he says.)



Slen sees C-SPAN as an important source in today's media mix of cable channels, social media, talk radio, and more. "We tend to go toward things we agree with. We tend to segregate ourselves."



As a journalist, he believes it's his duty to remain scrupulously objective, avoiding leading questions and commentary that might cause viewers to regard him as an ally or adversary in any debate. His background as a staff member for Republican legislators suggests a conservative bent, but Slen refuses to claim allegiance to any political party. Online commentators, meanwhile, have delivered mixed assessments of his political leanings, earning him criticism from liberals and conservatives alike.

Slen sees C-SPAN as an important source in today's media mix of blogs, tweets, cable channels, magazines, talk radio, and more. "We tend to go toward things we agree with. We tend to segregate ourselves. So in order to really get to the bottom of this, we have to reach out and go to the uncomfortable level. We have to start at the source. What did the person say? What was the proposal? And then we have to ask ourselves, 'Why is this journalist or media source saying this and what supports that position? What's the basis for this opinion or idea?'"

Questions and curiosity about myriad subjects has made Slen a good fit for Book TV.

Slen says C-SPAN's approach differs from that of other networks. You won't see cheerleading or attacks led by C-SPAN hosts. "The goal is to get information," he says. "It's non-advocacy journalism," he says.

In fact, Slen takes particular pride in being part of an organization that tries to present an "unfiltered" view. "We give everyone a chance to voice their opinions and to question politicians and policymakers directly," he says.

That premise is particularly vital in an age when the news outlets often seem partisan and the clamor of pundits can sometimes drown out the original ideas and statements offered by political leaders, he says. "We serve as an information resource for left, right, and center, and in this particular moment, that seems a useful thing for our body politic." 🦁

JOEL HOEKSTRA '92 is a freelance writer based in Minneapolis.

Tulsa Douglas '18

Captain, St. Olaf Vortex Ultimate

Photographed by Rick Friedman in Boston, where
Douglas plays on the women's club team, Siege


Ultimate Recognition

Vortex, the St. Olaf Woman's ultimate team, was one of five college ultimate teams in the United States to receive national attention when USA Ultimate, the governing body for the sport in the United States, announced the first five teams to be accepted into the organization's new Achieving College Excellence Program. Vortex was recognized as a Five-Star team, the highest level possible.

"Our program has been developing at St. Olaf for 20 years, and we strive to improve each year," says Tulsa Douglas '18, an exercise science and psychology major from Amherst, Massachusetts. "We take pride in the game we play and in the work we do as a team."







ANNA PALMER '04, ONE OF THE MOST TENACIOUS AND SUCCESSFUL REPORTERS FOR *POLITICO*, HAS A NEW, HIGHLY VISIBLE ROLE THAT WILL BE SHAPING POLITICAL JOURNALISM FOR YEARS TO COME.

POLITICO

INSIDER

BY ERIN PETERSON
PHOTOGRAPHED BY
EVELYN HOCKSTEIN · POLARIS

Anna palmer is well acquainted with traditional shoe-leather reporting. As a reporter for *Politico*, she's been ready and willing to go wherever the story is.

She's flown across the country to interview women who accused one-time presidential candidate Herman Cain of sexually suggestive behavior — a discovery that likely led Cain to drop out of the 2012 presidential race. Similarly, she's traveled to Pennsylvania to track down leaders who could shed light on the romantic relationship between House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster and a top lobbyist whose organization spent millions to influence a panel he led.

But sometimes, the most amazing information lands quite literally on Palmer's doorstep. Last year, as she and her colleagues at *Politico* started to uncover the lavish lifestyle that U.S. House Representative Aaron Schock was funding through public and campaign money, she got an unexpected boost. "I had a box delivered to my house that was full of his calendars detailing his whereabouts for multiple years," she says. "Sometimes, things come from the ether."

It was a stroke of great luck, to be sure. But it is also a testament to the deep trust that she has engendered in the political world: given valuable information, Palmer has proved again and again that she will use it to craft stories that are tough, that are fair, and that will make an impact.

Those calendars were among the pieces of evidence that she and other *Politico* reporters marshaled in their reporting on the story. In fact, Schock resigned just half a day after being pressed about reimbursements he received for tens of thousands of dollars of nonexistent travel.

And in July, Palmer landed one of the most prestigious positions in political journalism today, as one of two writers for *Politico's* daily newsletter, *Playbook*. (She shares the role with colleague Jake Sherman.) It's a must-read for political insiders of all stripes in the nation's capital. It helps shape the stories that political reporters across the country write and holds the potential to make an impact on what is the most remarkable election season in decades. Palmer is determined to make the most of the opportunity.

* * *

Reporting on an election season that promises to be as unconventional and as vicious as most of us have ever seen, Palmer will have both a front-row seat and a unique opportunity to help frame the issues journalists cover in the coming months.

In a way, Palmer seemed destined for an outsized role as a political journalist. She's known since second grade that she wanted to be a reporter, recalling three additional factors that shaped her future career choice: "I like to ask questions, we always watched the news [as a family], and I really liked writing." Later on, as a Kindred, North Dakota, high schooler, she was a page for U.S. Senator Kent Conrad.

While she thought journalism school would be the best fit for her interests, her parents nudged her to consider a liberal arts college, which they believed would give her the strong foundation for whatever direction she ultimately pursued. Her brother, John Palmer '02, is an Ole, and her visits to see him persuaded her that St. Olaf would be a good fit for her, too.

At St. Olaf, Palmer assembled all the pieces she needed to fuel her plans, double majoring in English and political science, and adding a concentration in mass communications. After joining the *Manitou Messenger* as a first-year student, she quickly scaled the masthead from reporter to executive editor. She also did multiple internships as a student, including a summer in *The New York Times'* bureau in Washington, D.C.

Professor Emerita of English Jan Hill, who oversaw the *Mess* while Palmer was editor, recalls that Palmer always carried herself like the exceptional journalist she would become. "She was a standout writer and editor, she had a quiet, unassuming confidence about her, and she was really grounded and centered," Hill says. "She seemed able to handle any crisis — and there were always two or three a year at the *Mess* — without coming unhinged."

Palmer says her *Mess* experience was the perfect test run before she launched her full-time journalism career. "I enjoyed figuring out what was going to be the important thing to cover, and I liked managing things, which taught me skills like interpersonal relations," she says.

After four years at St. Olaf, she had all the elements she needed to succeed.



Palmer at a *Politico Playbook Live* event in July at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland

* * *

Palmer's first key Washington job after St. Olaf came at *Influence*, a biweekly newsletter about the lobbying industry, where she honed her reporting skills and learned about the often below-the-surface lobbying world. In an interview with the *Forum*, a newspaper based in Fargo, North Dakota, she admitted it wasn't an easy first gig. "When I started, I was a young woman who had no idea what I was doing, interviewing mostly 50- to 70-year-old men," she told the publication. "But it's like a lot of life. Ninety percent is showing up, and there's a lot of faking it till you make it, and all of a sudden you write something and people take you seriously."

It turned out that Palmer had arrived at the perfect time to bring what's often under-the-radar lobbying work up to the surface. In 2005, she began working on stories for *Legal Times*, *Influence's* parent company, about lobbyist Jack Abramoff. Palmer played a key role in unraveling the complex story about Abramoff and his colleagues, who worked with clients linked to American Indian casino gambling interests and overbilled them by millions. Abramoff ultimately spent 43 months in prison as the leader of what turned out to be a vast network of corruption. In all, more than 20 people pled or were found guilty in federal investigations.

For Palmer, the story put a white-hot spotlight on her work. "It was my first time on a national stage — people were really paying attention," she says. She loved pulling the disparate pieces of the puzzle together to tell a messy, sprawling story with big consequences.

Politico Playbook co-authors Jake Sherman (left) and Palmer host a panel discussion during the 2016 Republican National Convention.



ROD LAMKEY JR.

While Palmer hadn't gone into the job with a specific fascination for the lobbying industry, she quickly saw that lobbyists were underutilized among journalists. She realized that she could tap them to find some of the most interesting and important stories in politics. "I'm definitely interested in covering power — who has it and what's happening behind the scenes," she says. "Lobbyists are a wonderful resource [to help answer that question]. They've been staffers and they have an enormous depth of knowledge, but they're not usually the first person a reporter will go to in order to get information."

The Abramoff story also highlighted Palmer's indefatigable reporting skills — a necessity for a scandal that kept spiraling. For classmate Nathan Soland '04, a friend and one-time colleague at the *Mess*, that drive was always deep within Palmer's DNA. "Her work will never be incomplete," he says. "In college, she was always working so hard to make sure the *Mess* was great, even if she was up until 3 a.m. while everyone else was headed to Dundas on a Wednesday night," he recalls.

* * *

Palmer's reporting on Abramoff had put her on the radar among political publications; she moved over to *Roll Call* in 2007 and then, in 2011, to what many insiders consider the pinnacle for political reporting, *Politico*. Often described as the ESPN of politics, *Politico* is designed not to take sides, but to give a sense of the daily political landscape as well as the larger issues that drive politics forward.

It was there that Palmer worked with other reporters to break stories about Herman Cain and Representative Aaron Schock. She also teamed up with her fellow reporters to dig into disturbing stories about rampant sexual assault in the military against female recruits, which led senators to develop bills to fight the problem.

While Palmer has broken story after story exposing the often ugly underbelly of the nation's political systems, she has done so without alienating the sources who can help her craft her next piece. "It's a delicate balance," she admits. "You can write a hard story, but it's important you're honest with people upfront about what the frame of the story is going to be. People don't like surprises. They might not like the story, and they might argue their case for why they think your story is inaccurate or comes from a certain perspective, but I think for the most part, professionals in this industry appreciate having that conversation upfront. It's important not to be closed off to other people's positions or perspectives, even though you might think they're lying or it's not accurate. Most people just want to be heard."

That said, her high-profile work has occasionally made her a target for those who divine political leanings in any given story. Twitter "trolls" — typically, anonymous people who start arguments by posting inflammatory and often off-topic comments in a given discussion — can be particularly ruthless toward Palmer. "I'm human, so it's hard not to take it personally," she admits. "But I try to come to my job every day with a good perspective and understand that it's my job to keep people in power honest. We're in such a partisan era right now that you're never going to make everyone happy."

Palmer is interested in focusing coverage on the changing roles for women in Washington and in politics, an easy fit for someone who grew up admiring the skills of journalists such as Barbara Walters and Katie Couric.

POLITICO



Burning Questions

Palmer, the ultimate political insider, helps us outsiders understand what makes Washington tick.

Give us the scoop: is Washington more like *House of Cards* or *Veep*?

I'm asked this question a lot. There are seeds of truth to both stories, [but] people aren't out there killing members of Congress. And I like to think that people are running for office for more than just their self-interest.

What's the thing that most people fundamentally misunderstand about politics?

People are often frustrated by gridlock in Washington, but the system is designed that way — as a system of checks and balances. The rules and procedures of the House and Senate are set up so that it's hard to get things to happen, so we don't see crazy swings in policy.

Are there ways in which spending time with people in politics on a human level changes the way you think about politics?

I spent years working in the U.S. Capitol. That type of beat reporting allowed me to interact and develop relationships with lawmakers over years. Developing those relationships has allowed me to try to understand political figures' motives and calculations that go beyond just a vote or scandal.

If people are interested in making an impact in politics without running for office, what have you seen that actually influences politicians?

I think lawmakers and their staff pay a lot of attention to social media and feedback they are getting from constituents in their district. Get involved — often groups or professions have "lobby days," where they go up to Capitol Hill and talk to members of Congress or their staff.

For young Oles who are interested in pursuing a career in journalism, what advice would you give?

Work hard. No job is too small. If you get passed up for a job, keep going. There will be other opportunities. I can't underscore enough the importance of internships and real-world experience. Spend your summers and free time trying out lots of different careers within a certain industry, whether that is journalism or anything else. Crossing off the things that you don't want to do is as important, if not more important, than finding the perfect job.

In the end, Palmer's powerful combination of insightful and tenacious reporting, along with an essential belief in humanity that has prevented her from getting cynical or jaded, has been the recipe for her success. Indeed, her strong record of reporting positioned her for the coveted gig at *Playbook*, which reporter Mike Allen exited this past summer after nine years on the job, allowing Palmer and Sherman to take over in July.

In his selection, John Harris, *Politico's* editor in chief, said that Palmer "personif[ied] values — fierce competitiveness, love of the political game, journalistic integrity — that animate [the] entire publication." The *New York Times* jokingly referred to the transition as a "millennial takeover," but also suggested that Palmer and Sherman's work would be expected to create a "daily sense of cohesion for a town at war with itself."

For Palmer, it's a perfect time to take on the mantle as the nation readies itself for the presidential election. Reporting on an election season that promises to be as unconventional and as vicious as most of us have ever seen, Palmer will have both a front-row seat and a unique opportunity to help frame the issues journalists cover in the coming months. "It's our Super Bowl," she says.

Even beyond November 8, Palmer is thinking big about the role she's stepped into. She's stated publicly that she's particularly interested in focusing coverage on the changing roles for women in Washington and in politics, an easy fit for someone who grew up admiring the skills of journalists such as Barbara Walters and Katie Couric. "Beyond Clinton and the growing number of Democratic and Republican women elected officials, one area I am particularly interested in is the growing number of female donors," she explains. "I've done several pieces about how women political donors have lagged behind men and how that is starting to shift. This election, women donors are playing a key role — particularly bundling a lot of money for Clinton."

She and Sherman also will be moving the much-loved *Playbook* into new and more sophisticated types of media. "Right now, it's basically an email compilation — a guidebook that Washington needs to pay attention to — and we plan to expand on that," she says, ticking off just a few of the plans. "We'll be refreshing the format, we'll be launching a website in the fall, and we'll be doing a 90-second audio [clip] through a partnership with Amazon Echo."

In addition to all of her plans, she'll also be adjusting to a new schedule: the newsletter is sent out every morning at 6 a.m., which means her workday will demand extremely early, coffee-fueled mornings.

Some might be overwhelmed by the transition. It's a big and demanding role, and all eyes — from national political journalists to those at some of the very highest levels in the White House — will be on her. She says she's more energized by the opportunity than anything else.

But perhaps that makes sense. She's made a career of grabbing opportunities when they present themselves and turning them into something that's both important and unforgettable. 🍷

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



FREE
PRAYER

"Pray, and let God w



From the
Heart



PASTOR THOMAS RUSERT'S
FREE PRAYER MINISTRY
INVITES STRANGERS to SHARE
in GOD'S LOVE and COMFORT.



By Marla Hill Holt '88



PHOTOGRAPHED BY JULIE HAGENBUCH
AND JESSICA KOURKOUNIS · POLARIS

THOMAS RUSERT '06 HAS RECEIVED a lot of advice in his young career as a pastor. The first bit, from a favorite seminary professor, was this: Pastors must take good care of their people. So Rusert, who is serving his first call as associate pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, focused his first year of ministry on getting to know his parishioners, visiting them in their homes for dinner and conversation. He'd also been advised that a mark of a pastor's job well done is spending at least half of his or her time outside the office, so Rusert left his desk regularly to work on his sermons at local coffee shops.

But he wasn't really engaging the community in a conspicuous pastoral way or putting himself "out there," he says, which is why Rusert began brainstorming ways to push himself in a new direction. "I wanted to meet people, especially those who weren't going to step into my building on Sunday morning," he says. He recalled hearing a fellow pastor talk about a campus ministry that involved students sitting on a couch in the middle of the quad, inviting others to take a seat and share their stories, whatever those stories might be.

"I let the idea of that stew inside me for about a year, while I was desiring to be a more public pastor," Rusert says. "I knew middle-aged working adults — the majority of people I'd see in coffeehouses — weren't likely to stop and share their story with me. That seemed like too much of an ask. But I started to think that maybe they'd be willing to have me say a quick prayer for them."

So one Thursday morning in the summer of 2015, Rusert packed up his books, laptop, and sermon notes and headed to Panera Bread. Although he normally drinks tea, he ordered a cup of coffee, settled into a booth, and propped up a sign that read, "Free Prayer."

"I was terrified and so, so nervous," he says. "I felt foolish, but I also knew I'd feel shameful if I didn't at least try to do what I set out to do."

Not one person stopped.

Rusert wasn't surprised. "I put the sign up and then proceeded to look as unavailable as I could," he says, recalling that no one took him up on his offer to share comforting words. "I was sitting there in a shirt and tie, huddled in a side booth with my nose stuck in a book, with my MacBook in front of me. I wouldn't have stopped for me, either."





Rusert has made himself available to his Doylestown, Pennsylvania, community, and for visitors who stop at his coffee shop table, he lends comfort and support.

A week later, Rusert tried again at Dunkin' Donuts, this time wearing his clerical collar, choosing a more visible table, and forcing himself to adopt a more inviting posture.

"It opened the floodgates," he says.

The first person to stop asked Rusert what kind of prayer he offered. "I was struck dumb for a moment," he says. "What was she asking, exactly?" He also sensed that this woman was the owner of the store, so his answer might be the difference between staying or having to move on. Rusert deflected and asked her what kind of prayer she would like.

"She said that she is Hindi and that she says prayers of thanksgiving every morning," he recalls. "She asked me to pray for the store, so I prayed for the Dunkin' Donuts and its owner."

All in all, 10 people stopped by Rusert's table that day.



SINCE THEN, HE HAS PRAYED with hundreds of people, sharing in their burdens and joys while being amazed at the variety of seekers whom God has sent his way. Visitors to his table include people of all faiths, be they unchurched or lapsed churchgoers, people connected to a church community — even other pastors — or members of his own congregation who seek him out. Rusert has prayed for strength, courage, and peace for a woman with schizophrenia who told him she sees and talks to witches; for the healing of a prematurely-born nephew of an old acquaintance; and for the continued power of Christ to transform the life of a Starbucks manager, who was drawn to the church while working for the company and spent nearly an hour discussing her faith journey with him.

While Rusert offers prayers for many, he has received prayers and encouragement as well.

“I find that people who do have a church community will stop by quickly and offer words of encouragement, like ‘It’s so cool that you’re doing this. I love this idea and I’m going to tell my pastor about it;’ or ‘I said my prayers this morning, but I’ll add a prayer of thanks for this ministry.’” Often these comments are followed with a request, such as “Could you hold my father-in-law in prayer? He’s having back surgery next week.”

Rusert puts no requirements or parameters on the prayers he offers. His sign includes a quotation from Martin Luther: “Pray, and let God worry,” which serves as a reminder that Rusert’s prayers are the comforting and inviting kind, not the proselytizing or judging kind. He has shared prayers of concern, thanksgiving, and intercession. Some prayers are short in length; others happen over the course of an hour-long conversation. He has some repeat visitors and occasionally receives updates via email or social media on the outcomes of surgeries or other concerns.

“The first person to stop asked me to pray for the store, so I prayed for the Dunkin’ Donuts and its owner.”

“My offer of free prayer is an invitation to whomever walks in to share their load,” Rusert says. “It’s a statement that you’re not alone. There’s a person, a pastor, someone here who cares. It’s life-changing.”

In October, a young man named Amari came into the Starbucks in which Rusert had set up shop. He glanced at the table as he walked by to order coffee. On his way out, Rusert says Amari froze in front of the sign, cocked his head, and asked, “Free prayer, what’s that?” Rusert told him that he is a pastor who tries to get out where people are, offering to pray and to listen.

“His eyes welled up with tears and he set his coffee and his papers down on the table,” Rusert says. “I thought he was going to sit down, but then he just left.” After a moment or two — while watching Amari brace himself against a railing outside — Rusert gathered Amari’s things, approached him, and invited him for a walk. An hour later, Amari had shared the heavy burden that he’d been carrying for several years, including many deaths and strained relationships that had led to him feeling as though he needed to be the strong one for his family. Rusert’s invitation to prayer was the first time Amari let someone else bear the load with him.



“That was the encounter that woke me up to the power of this ministry,” says Rusert, noting that his experience with free prayer has been overwhelmingly positive. “I’m clearly unusual, but so far no one has yelled at me or asked me to leave,” he says. He has used social media to expand the ministry, posting photos of his weekly choice of location so that people can find him easily. While waiting for visitors to stop at his table, Rusert prays silently for those who post a request via Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

“I’m clearly unusual, but so far no one has yelled at me or asked me to leave.”

RUSERT’S FREE PRAYER MINISTRY hasn’t resulted in an upswing in the numbers of people attending church at St. Paul’s, but that was never the goal of the program, he says. “I hope that God’s love and the witness that God cares about people and listens to them is encouraging enough.”

The idea of such an outreach program, led by Rusert’s example, has taken hold among pastors worldwide, gaining notice with ministers of all faiths. Rusert wrote a column about his experience for Duke Divinity School, inviting other church leaders to join in, and offering tips for starting their own Free Prayer Ministry. Those tips include paying attention to appearance (noting how people stopped at his table once he started wearing a clerical collar), using social media to further engage people, and creating a sign that is both professional (“don’t just scrawl something with a Sharpie”) and inviting.

Rusert himself recruited Cyndi Ross, a member of his congregation, to make his Free Prayer sign, as well as additional signs — over 200 — requested by other ministers as word of the ministry has spread. Ross and Rusert recently attended the Hatch-a-thon conference at the Institute for Youth Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary, which is Rusert’s alma mater. They spent three days at the faith-based incubator, inspiring and being inspired by other modern-day faith builders, sharing ideas about ministries outside of traditional church buildings.

“Our goal for the Free Prayer Ministry is to put forth the tools that help it become a movement that has its own life,” Ross says. “To keep it moving and breathing and to maybe see signs all over the world someday.”

Rusert says the entrepreneurial approach to pastoring he’s taken with the Free Prayer Ministry has blown up his sense of vocation, noting that it has changed his views on what it means to be a faithful and effective parish pastor.

“The bread and butter of my work — caring for the people in my congregation and preaching well — has been enriched with this experience of creating a new form of ministry for dozens if not hundreds of people. It’s humbling and almost overwhelming,” he says.

Rusert has made himself available to his community, and for visitors to his coffee shop table, he uses prayer to lend comfort and support and to impart that — to those who seek God — God is listening all the time.

“I trust in that,” Rusert says. “So many of the people I speak with don’t have that trust, so I hold it for them. They often are carrying things alone, and I think prayer is the best way to break that open and help them share the burden.” 🙏

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

A LASTING LEGACY



"We have devoted our lives to helping teenagers become full adults, teaching for 35 years, and hosting 27 foreign exchange students. We both feel our St. Olaf education made that possible. We'd like to help others have the same chance we did, which is why we chose to include St. Olaf in our will."

DAVE HOKENSON '72 AND
CYNTHIA LUEHMANN HOKENSON '72
PRESTON, MINNESOTA



In the summer of 2016, Dave and Cynthia Hokenson became the newest members of the Manitou Heights Society, the college's planned giving recognition group, by including St. Olaf College in their estate plans. Through their generous deferred gift, the Hokensons will sustain and enhance the St. Olaf experience for future Oles by creating an endowed scholarship in the humanities.

A planned gift is an enduring expression of your most closely held beliefs. Create a lasting legacy and join nearly 1,600 alumni, parents, and friends in the Manitou Heights Society in any of the following ways:

- Include the college in your will or revocable trust.
- Establish an income-generating charitable gift annuity or charitable trust.
- Name the college as a beneficiary of a retirement plan.
- Name the college as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.
- Transfer ownership of a life insurance policy to the college.

**To learn more about these and other giving opportunities, contact the St. Olaf Development Office:
800-776-6523 · plannedgiving@stolaf.edu · go.stolaf.edu/plannedgiving**

Alumni Achievement Awards

Each year, St. Olaf College recognizes alumni whose service and leadership exemplify the ideals and mission of the college. In honoring these graduates for their exceptional achievements and professional contributions, they become an integral part of college history and a testament to St. Olaf's tradition of excellence. The college was pleased to recognize the 2016 recipients — William T. Collins '84, Dean M. Maki '87, Joseph M. Shaw '49, and Douglas W. Koons '71 and Jane Baker Koons '71 — during Homecoming Weekend, September 23-25, 2016.



BY MARLA HILL HOLT '88

WHEN MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM COLLINS arrived at St. Olaf — having never visited the campus — from his home in California in the fall of 1980, he soon discovered that the college would push him to excel academically and teach him skills he has carried throughout his long and storied military career.

"A military experience is not necessarily only one of applying force," Collins says. "I have to understand culture, religion, and the mores and



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Major General William T. Collins '84

values of various people throughout the world in order to affect peace. Studying the liberal arts at St. Olaf taught me how to do that." During the fall of Collins's first year, he excelled at the United States Marine Corps's (USMC) aptitude tests to become an officer and a pilot, accepting a risk-free contract to spend summers in the USMC's Platoon Leaders program. He was commissioned a second

lieutenant on the Thorson Hall patio shortly after graduating

in 1984 with a degree in sociology and religion. In more than 32 years of service with the USMC, Collins has held command at every level and holds the distinction of being the longest-serving Air Wing Commanding General in the history of the Marine Corps.

in 1984 with a degree in sociology and religion. In more than 32 years of service with the USMC, Collins has held command at every level and holds the distinction of being the longest-serving Air Wing Commanding General in the history of the Marine Corps.

Collins recently relinquished his role as the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Air Wing (in charge of the entire USMC reserve aviation force in support of active duty forces around the world) to become the Mobilization Assistant to the Commander at NORAD, North American Aerospace Defense Command. "As adviser to the commander, I stand watch for the defense of North America, so it's my duty to advise, assess, and make recommendations should any attack happen," Collins says. "It's an incredible responsibility, and I take it very, very seriously."

Collins has been recognized for superior achievement throughout his military career. From the beginning, he set himself apart as a Top Student Naval Aviator. He was chosen for elite military schools, including Top Gun, and distinguished himself as an Honor Graduate at Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Va. He is a CAPSTONE graduate of National Defense University and has traveled throughout the world meeting with ambassadors, ministries of defense, and heads of foreign militaries.

During Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Collins ran the entire air campaign in all of Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Horn of Africa. During Desert Storm, he was one of the USMC's primary mission planners and strike leaders. From 1997 to 2013, Collins flew four different aircraft (DC-10, 737, 757, and 767) for United Airlines as a senior captain.

Collins's many personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal Gold Star in lieu of Second Award, Air Medal two Gold Stars in lieu of Third Award with Combat "V" and bronze numeral 4, Navy Commendation Medal Gold Star in lieu of Second Award with Combat "V", Navy Achievement Medal two Gold Stars in lieu of Third Award, and Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Collins splits his time between NORAD, NorthComm, in Colorado Springs and his home base of Albuquerque, where he is president and COO of CSI Aviation, a diverse global air transportation and aviation logistics services company that holds multiple government contracts. The company specializes in air charter services, including medical evacuations, athletic and military charters, and campaign support. In 2014, CSI was given the Pro Patria Award from the U.S. Department of Defense in recognition of its exceptional support for employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

Collins's family includes his wife, Rosalia, and daughters, Lauren, a junior at St. Olaf, and Rebecca, a ninth grader. He represented St. Olaf at the Albuquerque College Fair in 2014 and actively promotes the college to prospective students across the country.

DEAN MAKI IS A RENOWNED ECONOMIC ANALYST and forecaster. As managing director and chief economist for Point72 Asset Management, he leads a team responsible for analyzing and forecasting the U.S., Asian, and European economies, as well as their monetary and fiscal policies. Maki previously was managing director and chief U.S. economist at Barclays Capital in New York City from 2005 to 2014, and prior to that was vice president of economic research at JPMorgan Chase, where he was responsible for forecasting Federal Reserve policy, the federal budget, and U.S. Treasury debt issuance. Earlier in his career, Maki worked as a U.S. economist at Putnam Investments and was a senior economist at the U.S. Federal Reserve Board of Governors, where his research focused on the relationship between household balance sheets and consumer spending. While at the Fed, he had opportunities to work closely with then-Fed chairman Alan Greenspan.

"I enjoy trying to understand what is happening to the economy now, how it is likely to change in the future, and explaining my views to others in a clear way," Maki says. "The most fun part of my career is when I



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Dean M. Maki '87

realize that the conventional wisdom on some important issue is wrong, and that almost everyone is assuming a scenario that seems unlikely to happen. There is a lot of groupthink in financial markets, and that makes it very important to think for yourself and hold an independent view, especially when most people disagree with you.”

After graduating from St. Olaf with a degree in economics, Maki traveled to

Finland on a Fulbright Scholarship to study Finnish-

Soviet trade. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University. He is a member of the Economic Club of New York and is a former president of both the Forecasters Club of New York and the New York Association for Business Economics. He is the author of many articles on economic trends, and his research has been published in a number of academic journals.

“I learned to write well at St. Olaf,” Maki says. “I write virtually every day, and being able to express myself clearly is critical to being an economist.”

Maki’s work is widely recognized as among the best in the economic forecasting industry. He is a two-time winner (in 2013 and 2016) of the Lawrence R. Klein Award for Blue Chip Forecast Accuracy — one of the best-known and longest-standing awards in economics — for being the most accurate overall forecaster of the U.S. economy over the previous four years, finishing ahead of approximately 50 of the nation’s top economic forecasters. *Bloomberg News* named Maki the most accurate forecaster of U.S. gross domestic product in 2009 and of consumer price index and producer price index inflation for 2008-10. While at Barclays, Maki was named the most accurate economic forecaster in the nation by *Business Week*. He is a frequent contributor to CNBC, Bloomberg, and other national financial news programs, providing insight into the financial world and discussing trends that may be useful to investors.

Maki has remained actively involved with the college, visiting the campus several times in a professional capacity, most recently as the Kleber-Gery Lecturer and guest of the Economics, Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science Departments.

“It’s important to stay connected to the people and places that shaped me and to help others have the same kind of experience I had at St. Olaf,” he says.

Maki and his wife, Jody Kamrowski '89, established the Dean Maki and Jody Kamrowski Endowed Scholarship, which provides unrestricted financial aid to St. Olaf students. Maki also volunteers on the St. Olaf Board of Regents Investments Committee and has mentored students through Career Connections programs for the Piper Center for Vocation and Career.

...

PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF RELIGION JOSEPH SHAW’S relationship with St. Olaf, which has spanned nearly 70 years, embodies an exceptionally strong connection to the college. He has dedicated himself to the advancement of its programs and mission through significant service and loyalty, most notably in 34 years of teaching in the Religion Department and as historian of the college. He is the author of numerous books about St. Olaf, beginning with *History of St. Olaf College 1874-1974*, published in 1974 for the college’s centennial celebration.

Shaw’s meticulous recording of St. Olaf’s history provides data and insight for future St. Olaf constituencies. “Knowing the college’s origins helps to affirm its identity and clarify its mission of faith and learning,” he says. “There’s also the sheer fun of having some windows through which we can view St. Olaf’s uniquely interesting story and its colorful characters.”

Shaw graduated from St. Olaf in 1949 with a major in English. He went on to earn a theology degree from Luther Theological Seminary in 1953, and while a student there, he received a Fulbright Scholarship for study in Norway that led to the publication of his first book, *Pulpit under the Sky: A Life of Hans Nielsen Hauge*, in 1955. Shaw also holds a Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. He joined the St. Olaf Religion Department in 1957 and retired from teaching in 1991.

During his tenure as a religion professor, Shaw taught an introductory course on the Bible, as well as courses on church history and the New Testament. He

also taught Greek, served as chair of the Classical Languages Department and the Religion Department, and co-led study abroad programs to Rome, the Middle East, and Mexico. He is highly respected for his attention to scholarship in relation to the church and academe, both within the Religion Department and the college as a whole, and he has inspired hundreds of students, supported colleagues, and brought a deeper appreciation for St. Olaf’s mission to countless audiences.

“Through the study of religion, students, free from indoctrination, could consider personal, social, and global issues of faith,” Shaw says. “Such study provided a more complete liberal arts education because religion is at the heart of human society’s search for meaning.”



OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD
Joseph M. Shaw '49

Shaw aimed to investigate, research, write, and speak for the greatest common good. With colleagues from the College of St. Catherine, Luther College, and St. John's University, Shaw was involved in the Christian Humanism Project, supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. "The four colleges had a tradition of Christian humanism that needed to be recovered in order to enrich the humanities and also to counter assumptions that humanism is intrinsically anti-Christian," Shaw says. The project resulted in two publications, new courses in Christian humanism at each college, and a series of lectures and concerts. Shaw's additional publications include books on justification, the New Testament, and the People of God.

Shaw's historical research and written works about St. Olaf's leaders and heritage chronicle many aspects of the college's history. In 1992, he published *Dear Old Hill*, a book filled with anecdotes about campus buildings, faculty and staff, and college myths and legends. At the request of the music department, Shaw wrote *The St. Olaf Choir: A Narrative* in 1997. Additional publications include *Bernt Julius Muus: Founder of St. Olaf College*, *Th. N. Mohn: First President of St. Olaf College*, *Ole Time Religion: A History of the Department of Religion at St. Olaf College*, and, in 2014, *John Nathan Kildahl*, a biography of the college's second president. On Founders Day in November 2000, the college archives were renamed the Shaw-Olson Center for College History in honor of Shaw and long-time archivist Joan Olson.

Shaw maintains an active presence within the campus community, frequently giving talks on St. Olaf's history during Reunion Weekend. He has been featured in videos about St. Olaf's buildings and the centenary of the St. Olaf Choir. In November 2015, he delivered the Founders Day talk.

...
DOUGLAS KOONS AND JANE BAKER KOONS went on their first date the Sunday before classes started for their first year at St. Olaf. As sophomores, they were among the students on the inaugural Global Semester in 1968. That

experience, combined with the consistent, high-quality education they received from dedicated St. Olaf faculty members, grounded and prepared them for lives of service.

"The old English hymn *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* resonates with us when we think of St. Olaf," Doug says.



OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Douglas W. Koons '71 and Jane Baker Koons '71

The couple was married during December of their senior year in what is now the Dittmann Center. "Our friends gathered to sing classic folk songs, recite poetry, make toasts, and hear classmates read from Dylan Thomas's *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. It was quite a night at the college of our dreams."

Two years after graduating from St. Olaf in 1971 (Doug majored in philosophy and Jane in English), the Koons moved to Hong Kong to teach for two years at the Yuen Long Lutheran Middle School. Upon their return, Doug earned a master of divinity degree from Luther Seminary and Jane received a Ph.D. in library and information science from the University of Minnesota. The couple then entered the business world, with Jane working in international exporting and hospitality for Homecrest, a casual furniture manufacturer in Wadena, Minnesota, and Doug opening the DouglasBaker Gallery in downtown Minneapolis, where he exhibited and sold fine art.

Twenty-four years passed, with memories of Hong Kong and new dreams for India — both regions the Koons had visited on Global Semester — percolating in their minds.

"I began thinking of these two quite different places as the bookends of our service to others," Jane says. "Our love for the young kept calling. Enriching the educational lives of children, especially underserved children, is a heartbeat that does not stop."

Through Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry in Minneapolis, the Koons began exploring how they could collaborate with the Arcot Lutheran Church (ALC) in India and its 95 village and town schools. In 2007, they retired, sold the gallery, and moved to Tamil Nadu, India, to partner with donors, publishers, and skilled educators to create libraries in each of the schools. Within two years, they'd built a system of libraries that became a model for the Indian government school system. Jane also developed English+, a series of multi-faceted programs to enrich English language curriculum in ALC schools that benefits some 20,000 children each academic year. Jane continues to collaborate with the ALC school project.

In 2011, Doug returned to his experience with the arts, creating a global registry of working professionals in the creative arts who are affiliated with Lutheran congregations. The online registry connects creative talent with congregations, social service agencies, and colleges and universities, facilitating the development of projects and commissions.

The Koons remain connected with St. Olaf by hosting students at the ALC school project, as well as visitors to the Quo Vadis Interfaith Dialogue Center and the Center for Empowerment of Women and Children in Tiruvannamalai, India. They also partnered with St. Olaf, Waldorf, and Luther colleges to provide scholarships for two young men from Ethiopia, enabling the men to graduate from those schools.

The Koons have also helped plan three class reunions. They donated an Arnold Flaten sculpture, *Despair and Hope*, to the college's Hong Kierkegaard Library, and they commissioned and raised funds for bronze busts of Howard Hong '34 and Edna Hadlestad Hong '35. Together with a group of St. Olaf classmates who've met regularly for fellowship since 1975, the Koons formed the Fjord Foundation, which provides support to individuals and families with immediate financial stress who may otherwise be overlooked by institutional donors.

MARLA HILL HOLT '89 is a freelance writer and regular contributor to *St. Olaf Magazine*.



Magnum Chorum: We Sing with Joy in our Hearts

THIS YEAR, MAGNUM CHORUM celebrated its 25th anniversary season, having been founded in 1991 by St. Olaf alumni with a mission to “transform audiences through artistry and spirit.”

“We were deeply inspired by the legacy of Dr. Kenneth Jennings, who had a profound influence on many of us as the third director of the St. Olaf Choir,” says Martha Kunau ’90, executive director and co-founder of Magnum Chorum. “Ken had an extraordinary ability to draw the music out of us until it was perfectly blended. He instilled in us a desire to continue singing at the highest level of musical expression, while singing with joy and offering a message of faith. It’s in our DNA.”

The anniversary milestone arrived just as Mark Stover ’01 completed his second season as artistic director of Magnum Chorum. “I felt drawn, even called, to lead this choir because my values align so deeply with Magnum Chorum’s core values of musical excellence, sacred music and faith, fellowship and stewardship,” says Stover, who also is the interim director of the college’s music ensembles Viking Chorus and Chapel Choir. “Even though this was the choir’s 25th year of bringing beautiful music to our community, in some ways, we feel like we are just getting started.”

Originally formed for St. Olaf choral alumni, the choir opened up auditions in 2005 to singers of all backgrounds, and membership has grown from 30 to over 65 singers, who re-audition each season. Along with continuing to grow the choir, Stover plans to offer more innovative programming, pursue the music of young and emerging composers, and expand the choir’s service to the community.

One of Stover’s passions is creative concert programming that inspires audiences and singers alike. “Lately,” he says, “I find myself seeking renewed inspiration in the concert-going experience. So often, we hear the

same music over and over, offered in a similar format. I’m looking for ways to break the mold in programming and form, to enliven the choral concert experience and make it as accessible, fresh, and inspiring as possible.”

Stover harnessed this innovative spirit as he programmed the *My Song in the Night* concert last March. He decided to experiment with repertoire and pacing by inviting the singers to audition, in solos and small groups, with pieces inspired by the concert theme. He asked the singers, “What is *your* song in the night?” The chosen works — music by Grieg, an Irish folk song, American pop music, and an original work with guitar and violin written by one of the singers — were woven throughout Stover’s program of traditional and contemporary choral works.

In a tribute to the life and legacy of Jennings, the concert was dedicated to him and three of his *Spiritual Songs* were included in the program. Audience response to *My Song in the Night* has been overwhelming — so much so that Magnum Chorum plans to release a live recording of the concert.

“What excites me about Magnum Chorum is the blend of the old and new,” says singer and bass section leader Benjamin Simmons ’12. Each of our programs incorporates something new, and stretches the bounds of what our audience is comfortable with. We take what they know and love and keep coming back for, and give them something new to think about. It provides a rich experience for both the listener and singer.”

As the 26th season opens, Stover is invigorated and excited about building on Magnum Chorum’s choral legacy. “We had an exhilarating 25th season,” he says, “and I cannot wait for the next 25 years of amazing music. We are so blessed. How can we keep from singing?”

— Kim Bowman ’88, director of development for Magnum Chorum

Ole Paddlers

The Mississippi River has hosted three adventuresome Oles for the past 13 summers.

THIRTEEN YEARS AGO, Debra Stephens Knutson '74, Anne Sherve-Ose '75, and Deborah Lenox White '75 decided to canoe the entire length of the Mississippi River, beginning at the headwaters of Lake Itasca and continuing until reaching the Gulf of Mexico. Their busy lives didn't allow them to navigate the Mighty Mississippi in one effort, so every summer these three Oles have carved out a week or two to paddle south, picking up where they left off the previous year. This summer, the women completed their years-long journey at the mouth of the Mississippi.

Paddling the length of the Mississippi was an impulsive decision but one born from a love of adventure. "We are all active people who like to camp, canoe, and travel," says White. "With the Mississippi River flowing right past our door, it seemed only logical to see it from the middle."

The women weren't new to long-distance river paddling. White and Sherve-Ose set off on a similar adventure in the 1980s with Nancy Fesler '74, traveling down the Thelon and Hanbury Rivers of the Northwestern Territories in Canada. They went 17 days without seeing another person or town. In comparison, says White, "this time around was tame in some ways."

During their yearly Mississippi expeditions, White, Sherve-Ose, and Knutson traveled an average of 25 miles a day — up to 50 miles in



Over the years, these Ole paddlers have enjoyed new experiences, new vistas, and new friends that seemed to come around every bend of the river. Each had their own personal favorite aspects of the trip: Sherve-Ose favored the starry nights, when fireflies would flicker; White, the incredible sunsets and sunrises that the Mississippi affords; and Knutson, the peacefulness of the water.

good weather. Distance covered didn't just vary by day but also by year. The women didn't make it out of Minnesota, the most notoriously difficult part of the Mississippi, until their fifth year of paddling.

Along the way, they were periodically joined by family and friends who paddled down sections of the vast river with them and provided transport to and from their starting and ending point each summer. Many were alumni, making it a truly collective Ole effort. On hand were Knutson's husband, Paul Knutson '72, as well as Sherve-Ose's mother, Alvhild Slen Sherve '49, and her daughter, Rachel Ose Ngendakuriyo '09.

Friends of the group, Maren (Missy) Klich '74 and Katherine Abell '11, also assisted the team by providing contact names for Louisiana and Mississippi. Another friend, Blair Couch '74, flew in from Pennsylvania to celebrate with the women at the end of their long journey this summer.

Adversity of some kind was a daily occurrence, and it was especially difficult when it was weather-related — from thunderstorms in Illinois to flooding in Louisiana, and the coldest spring in decades in Tennessee. But it was a wild thunderstorm in St. Charles, Missouri, that drove them to find assistance from others and make full use of St Olaf's inexhaustible alumni network. Good Samaritan Oles included Stephen McIntosh '86 and Mary Olson McIntosh '86 in Memphis, Tennessee, who willingly allowed the paddlers to store the canoe at their place until the following spring.

"The thing is," says Sherve-Ose, "you can't make a trip like this without help from a ground crew. It would be impossible. And so we are forever indebted not only to our families, but also to the many strangers along the way who helped us."

At the finish line this summer in New Orleans, the same families and friends who had helped the paddlers on their journey were waiting to congratulate them and celebrate their paddling one of the longest and most amazing rivers in the world.

The team is already looking toward its next endeavor, Knutson says. "We've talked about paddling the Red River to Hudson Bay or hiking the Superior Hiking Trail or the Appalachian Trail. Until we decide, we are happy to share our pictures and reminisce about our 13-year adventure on the Mississippi."

— Liam Jon Ransom '19



Three newly-minted Oles spend their first summer off the Hill paddling the entirety of the Mississippi River.

DAYS AFTER GRADUATING FROM ST. OLAF, Aaron Stets '16, Perry Tetreault '16, and Miles Tyler '16 embarked on a summer Mississippi River adventure that began in downtown Northfield and continued all the way to New Orleans. Why? According to their blog, it was "to reflect on journeys of the past, friends in the present, and opportunities for the future."

The idea first came to them as Northfield High School sophomores late at night sitting on the Stets' porch. Since then, they honed their skills and trained for the trip. Armed with supplies, a 10-year-old canoe named *The Ark of the Lost Raiders* (the excellent name is attributed to Tyler's father), and good humor, the friends of 15 years paddled the length of the Mississippi in a brisk 41 days, a reflection of the team's effectiveness.

According to their blog, the men faced numerous challenges during their 2,000-mile journey, not the least of which was paddling for 14 hours a day in sweltering heat. They also encountered "hordes of mosquitos, life-sized deer flies, sand that was really mud, unidentifiable animal noises uncomfortably close to our tents, rain storms, and surprisingly high tides, [one of] which quickly formed an island around our tent and nearly floated off our canoe."

Despite it all, the adventurers made it to the Gulf of Mexico intact. But they didn't do it in isolation. "The people we met were fantastic," says Stets. "Every small town from Iowa to Louisiana helped us out wherever we went."

This marks the last significant time that these friends will spend together before they go their separate ways. Stets, an economics major, is heading to Chicago where a job in finance and investment research awaits; Tetreault, an exercise science major, is taking a gap year at Prairie Creek K-5 charter school in Northfield where he will work with children before beginning nursing school; and Tyler, an environmental studies major, will travel to Hungary for a year of service through Young Adults in Global Mission.

— Liam Jon Ransom '19



JUSTIN STETS '85

2016 Ole grads Aaron Stets, Miles Tyler, and Perry Tetreault paddled from Northfield to New Orleans this summer.

Your adventure awaits with St. Olaf Study Travel! All you have to do is decide where you want to go and we'll take care of the rest!



ST. OLAF STUDY TRAVEL

Holidays in Puerto Rico

December 27, 2016–January 2, 2017

Led by Kristina Medina-Vilariño, Assistant Professor of Spanish, and Sebastian Buset

Biological Wonders in Costa Rica and the Panama Canal

February 25–March 4, 2017

Led by Ted Johnson, Professor Emeritus of Biology, and Michelle Johnson, Retired Medical Technologist

Divas and Delights: An Opera Tour of Italy | March 16–28, 2017

Led by Karen Wilkerson, Instructor in Music and Voice, and Gary Wilkerson, Pastor

Visual Arts in New York

March 18–25, 2017

Led by John Saurer, Associate Professor of Art/Art History

Portugal: Exploring Hilltop Cities by the Sea | May 14–28, 2017

Led by Eric Lund, Professor of Religion, and Cynthia Lund, Retired Assistant Curator and Special Collections Librarian, Kierkegaard Library

Norway: Highlights of Oslo and Bergen | June 1–10, 2017

Led by Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Professor of Norwegian

Sacred Stones and Sacred Sites of Turkey | June 10–23, 2017

Led by L. DeAne Lagerquist, Professor of Religion, and Richard Dunning, Instructor of Geology, Normandale Community College

View all the St. Olaf College Study Travel adventures and get details on all our international and domestic programs at stolaf.edu/studytravel



Class of 2016 Fulbrighters include (L-R) Lisa Koetke, Sophia Magro, Erin McHugh, Mari McClelland, Nora Uhrich, and Mason Braden.

ELEVEN RECENT ST. OLAF GRADUATES have been named Fulbright fellows for the 2016-17 academic year. Six will use their Fulbright awards to conduct research, and the other five will take on English teaching assistantships. The men and women who receive Fulbright awards address global challenges — from sustainable energy and climate change to public health and food security — while building relationships, knowledge, and leadership in support of the long-term interests of the United States and the world.

Andrew Hoffman '16 will analyze the atmospheric chemistry of surface snow layers in northeastern Greenland's ice sheet. **Lisa Koetke '16** will travel to Dehradun, in the Indian state of Uttarakhand, to study the diet composition of livestock and wild ungulates through the Wildlife Institute of India. **Sophia Magro '16** will study teacher-student interactions in elementary schools in Kiel, Germany. Udall Scholar **Mari McClelland '16** will conduct research on forest tenure and national forest policy at the local level in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. **Erin McHugh '16** will work as an English teaching assistant at the University of Osijek in Croatia, which gives only one teaching grant to a U.S. citizen. **Cameron Rylander '16** will work as an English teaching assistant in South Korea. **Christa Schmidt '16** will work as an English teaching assistant in Malaysia. **Nora Uhrich '16** will investigate Norway's response to victims of sexual violence seeking asylum from other countries. **Elizabeth Bews '15** will conduct archeological research in the Middle Strymon River Valley in Southwestern Bulgaria, comparing patterns of surveys and excavations in this area with Bulgarian governmental nationalist trends in order to determine why some sites have been neglected. **Mason Braden '15** will work as an English teaching assistant in Mexico, and **Sophia Butler '15** will work as an English teaching assistant in Malaysia.



Clockwise from top left: Elizabeth Bews, Sophia Butler, Andrew Hoffman, Cameron Rylander, Christa Schmidt

SUBMIT YOUR CLASS NOTES ONLINE!

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

1936 | **Gladys Oscarson Olson**, who has missed only two reunions between her 5th and 70th class reunions, recalls her St. Olaf days, noting that when her future husband, Stan Olson, was editor of the *Manitou Messenger* and she was its literary editor, Stan was reprimanded by President Boe for letting the word "damn" appear on the editorial page. After Gladys and Stan graduated and landed jobs at the *Worthington Daily Globe*, they yearned for their own newspaper where, she writes, "our powerful and well written editorials would make a difference." They acquired two community newspapers, merged them into one, and published it for nearly 20 years. Gladys's journalism career included a faculty position at Mankato State University, writing work for the *Minneapolis Star*, and an interim position at the University of Stavanger in Norway. Now 101 years old, Gladys says she is "more devoted than active" at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Mankato, Minn., and "living in a pleasant and comfortable retirement residence, a warm place to call home."

1940 | **Frances Sanborn Poggenorf**, who graduated with a degree in music, music education, and performance, is still playing the piano at the age of 98.



1951 | **Sig Arnesen** writes of his recent class reunion, "It was a fine 65th reunion, except, of course, that our numbers are greatly diminished. Nevertheless, good to be together! Just prior to the reunion, Jean, daughter Kari, and I motored around Norway, including stops in Oslo, Grimstad, and Stavanger, where our parents grew up. It was an excellent journey, including traversing three times the 15 mile Laerdal Tunnel (one of over 900 tunnels in Norway). We drove some challenging roads, including an 18 percent grade: that's steep!"

1964 | **Roberta Aasen Pominville** writes, "The Class of '64 was well represented at an April luncheon at the Women's Club of Minneapolis event for St. Olaf alumnae. The main speaker was **Leslie E. Moore '77**, director of the Piper Center at St. Olaf. Pictured (L-R) are **Roberta Aasen Pominville**, **LeeAnn Lokensgard Meyer**, **Georgianna Loomis**



Gernes, **Alta Heneman Fossum**, **Linnea Rian Peterson**, and **Karen Aaker Minge**. The Class of '64 has also been meeting every month for breakfast in the Twin Cities area since the 50th reunion."

1965 | **Charles J. Kahlenberg** has spent his 40-year career doing hundreds of on-camera performances and voice-over work for film and television, as well as national, regional, and local commercials and advertising campaigns. Building on this, he's also narrated numerous audio books. Friends can learn more about his audio books on Amazon Audible.

1966 | **Bill Kuhlman** and his wife, **Yvonne Hommen Kuhlman '65**, recently hosted a reunion dinner at their Tucson, Ariz., home for **Dick Johnson**, **Jim Kerns**, **Bob Nielsen**, and **John Ninnemann**.



1970 | **Charles "Chip" A. Peterson** has retired after 35 years of federal service as a clinical psychologist with the Department of Veterans Affairs. He writes that his "swan song" is his recent article, "Military Service as Child Sacrifice: Oedipal and Odyssean Perspectives," published in the *International Journal of Applied Psychoanalytic Studies*. Still in school, he passed his orals and was awarded diplomat status by the American Board of Assessment Psychology. His most recent article is "Gilding the Philosophic Pill" in the *American Journal of Psychoanalysis*.

1972 | **Kevin McCrindle** of Waterloo, Iowa, was elected to the board of regents for the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, and was reelected to the board of directors of the college's foundation.

1976 | While in New York City on Mother's Day, **Craig Peterson** and **Barbara Peterson Burwell** worshiped at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, where they met a fellow Ole, the Rev. Dr. **Scott Black Johnston '86**. Craig writes, "We promptly sang the St. Olaf rouser on Fifth Avenue."

1977 | A group of first-year Hoyme women, who have remained friends throughout the years,



recently reunited at a Minnesota cabin to celebrate their friendship. They all turned 60 this year, and they have also gotten together in Chicago and Des Moines, and plan to reunite at St. Olaf next year. Pictured (L-R) are **Barb Palmer Watschke**, Dawn West Barnett, **Jane Currie Mylrea '76**, **Debra Olson Hendricks**, Marsha Brown, **Robin Naden-Semba '78**, Ann Carlon, Anne Duryea Becknell, and Sue Petraborg Guerard.

1981 | **Haley Nienhaus Fox** has joined the faculty of Adler University in Chicago, where she coordinates training practicums and teaches graduate students in the Counseling/Art Therapy Department. ■ The *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, published by **Tim Lyke**, was named the best weekly newspaper in Wisconsin for the fifth year in a row. During the 26 years Tim has published the *Commonwealth*, it has been named Best Weekly in the state eight times, competing in a field of 192 other weekly Wisconsin newspapers. ■ This one is for the "interesting places to meet an Ole file," writes **Anne**



Montgomery, noting that "**Chris Hansen '72** and I (along with our spouses, Linda Hansen and Glen Stream) were in the same group on an eight-day rafting trip in the Grand Canyon."

1982 | Zurich Insurance Group shareholders elected **Jeffrey L. Hayman** to the board of directors. Jeffrey will serve on the company's Risk and Investment Committee.

1985 | In another random Ole meeting, **Doug Smith** and **Steve Odland '91** were flying an A-319 together for the first time at Delta Air Lines when they were surprised to learn they were both St. Olaf alumni, possibly the only two Ole pilots at Delta.

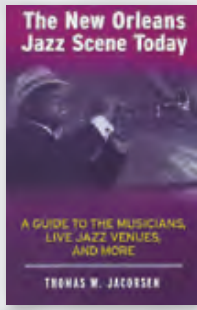


1986 | **Dean Martinson** and **Nancy Wilson** write, "Our daughter, **Madeline Wilson '16**, a nursing major, has chosen to initiate a dialogue on campus regarding Title IX policy. The reaction among students and faculty has been incredibly supportive. Although she has encountered some resistance to opening up this discussion, she and her supporters have responded with persistence and professionalism. Their movement has brought many alumni together, showing there is great concern and love for St. Olaf. The media response has been widespread. We want to recognize this group's courage and dedication. Thank you, St. Olaf, for promoting such socially conscious graduates!"

1987 | Prolific writer and editor **Danel Olson** was named a Bram Stoker Award finalist for his book *Stanley Kubrick's The Shining: Studies in the Horror Film*, which the *Washington Post* noted was "750 amazing pages [and] a major contribution to film history and scholarship." Mexican film director,



NEW BOOKS BY ST. OLAF ALUMNI AND FACULTY



The New Orleans Jazz Scene Today, A Guide to the Musicians, Live Jazz Venues, and More (Bluebird Publishing, 2016), by **Thomas Jacobsen '57**

Envisioning Writing: Toward an Integration of Drawing and Writing (Second Edition) (Davis, 2015; Heineman, 1992), by **Janet Olson '60**



Captaining the Corps d'Afrique: The Civil War Diaries and Letters of John Newton Chamberlin (McFarland Publishers, June 2016), by John Newton Chamberlin, edited by **John Bisbee '65**

One Day's Tale (Austin Lamp Press, January 2016), by **Lois Johnson Barliant '66**



The Integrity of the Body of Christ: Boundaries as Shared Responsibility (Cascade Books, May 2016), by **Arden Mahlberg '70** and **Craig L. Nesson**

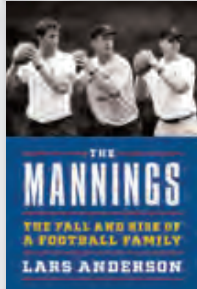
The Membranes of Cells, Third Edition (Academic Press, 2016), by **Philip Yeagle '71**



Suspending Modernity: The Architecture of Franco Albini (Routledge, 2014), by **Kay Bea Jones '79**

The Devil's Backbone and Pan's Labyrinth: Studies in the Horror Film (Centipede Press, May 2016), by **Danel Olson '87**

The Mannings: The Fall and Rise of a Football Family (Ballantine Books, August 2016), by **Lars Anderson '93**



Congregational Music-Making and Community in a Mediated Age (Routledge; Revised Edition, March 2016), by **Anna Nekola '96** and **Tom Wagner**

Political Advertising in the United States (Westview Press, 2016), by **Erika Franklin Fowler '00**, **Michael M. Franz**, and **Travis N. Ridout**

screenwriter, producer, and novelist Guillermo del Toro has written the introduction to Danel's latest book, released this spring.

1991 | **Lissa Flemming** writes, "I am excited to announce that I [have opened] a working studio and art gallery [in Bayfield, Wis.], which will house my growing business, Silverwaves Jewelry I am showcasing my jewelry art and a few select Lake Superior artists. I hope to see some Oles in the shop soon!"



2000 | Wesleyan University conferred tenure on Associate Professor of Government **Erika Franklin Fowler**. Erika specializes in political communication and directs the Wesleyan Media Project, which tracks and analyzes all political ads aired on broadcast television in real-time during elections. ■ **I'm Going to Vote Today!**, a project designed by **Aaron Sackett**, an associate professor of marketing at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., and research partner Christopher Bryan, a faculty member at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, was awarded a Knight Cities Challenge Grant by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Their project was one of 37 winning proposals, selected from an initial pool of 4,500 applications and 158 finalists.

2001 | **Benjamin French**, an associate senior scientist in the Department of Statistics at the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF) in Hiroshima, Japan, is collaborating with RERF researchers on clinical and epidemiological studies conducted among the survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and their offspring. ■ **Grant Riewe** has joined the global management consultancy McKinsey & Company as an expert in its digital labs practice.

2002 | **Abigail Betts Williams** writes, "While waiting for the ferry in the small town of Solvorn, Norway, I saw a woman with a Macalester College luggage tag on her backpack. I asked her if she worked [at Macalester] or went to school there — she works there, but come to find out, she's an Ole! Soon **Vanessa Seljeskog '78**, **Martha Nause '77**, and I were deep in conversation about our alma mater. What a wonderful happenstance meeting — and a connection I look forward to keeping!"



Pictured (L-R) are **Martha Nause '77**, **Vanessa Seljeskog '78**, and **Abigail Betts Williams '02**. ■ **Joshua Hanson** recently joined the Office of the Solicitor at the Department of the Interior as an attorney in the Division of Land Resources. Josh previously served as a senior advisor to the director of the Bureau of Land Management, where he led agency priorities related to public lands in Alaska.

2003 | **Bob Cline** was promoted to director of marketing at Pearson Embanet, where he has worked since 2007. Pearson Embanet partners with universities and colleges across the United States and provides online program management services. ■ **Brenna Gardner Meunier** completed her master's degree in differentiated instruction from Concordia University, St. Paul, and was elected to a second term as union president for the Sauk Rapids-Rice Education Association.

2006 | **Angie Boehmer** earned her master's of public health degree, with an emphasis in global health, from Vanderbilt University. During her time at Vanderbilt, she was named a Frist Global Health

Terramara frontman **Rob Meany '87** made his solo debut with *Ferris Wheels Unbound*, a pop-rock collection that came out in May. **Rich Larson '91**, publisher and editor of *Southern Minn Scene*, notes in his review: "Ferris Wheels Unbound is a lush, gorgeous gift for the grown-ups. Rob Meany is, among other things, a very good songwriter. After three Terramara albums and a decade-and-a-half of songwriting, Meany found himself with a number of very good songs that simply didn't fit his band's groove. He quietly began working on this batch of songs, recording where and when he could with producer Andy Thompson. Finally after nearly four years, Meany has emerged with his first solo album, *Ferris Wheels Unbound*, an accomplished collection of introspective, piano driven songs fixed with lush, string-laden arrangements. With *Ferris Wheels Unbound*, Meany has taken many years' worth of discarded work and created an album with vision, wisdom, intelligence and groove. The fact that it doesn't demand to be played at top volume gives it a knowing charm that should appeal to anybody with a few grey hairs and a need for babysitters."



Leader and worked with Lwala Community Alliance to reduce child malnutrition in rural Kenya. She plans to combine her expertise in pediatric nursing with her M.P.H. to work on projects that improve maternal and child health around the world.

2008 | **Molly Boes** has taken the position of operations assistant with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra in St. Paul, Minn. ■ **Anne Balkany Poulsen** received her M.D. from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and has been accepted for residency training in ophthalmology at Penn State Medical Center.

2009 | **Rachel Kafader** earned a master's of science degree in nursing from Marymount University in Arlington, Va. She intends to be a family nurse practitioner.



2010 | **Andrew Nussbaum** writes, "After I graduated from Tulane University Law School in May and my wife, **Sally Abell**, graduated from Louisiana State University's CARE nursing program, we moved to Birmingham, Alabama, for one year. While we are here, I will clerk for the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Sally will work on the neurology floor of the University Alabama at Birmingham hospital."

2012 | **Patrick Behling** was ordained a priest of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee



in May and has begun a three-year term as associate pastor of St. Charles Parish in Hartland, Wis. ■

Six Oles appeared in the Mill City Summer Opera's recent production of *Sweeney Todd* at the Mill City Museum in Minneapolis. The actors included (below, L-R) **Lara Trujillo '91**, **Thore Dossdall '12**, **Liz Steffensen '08**, **Eric Broker '15**, **Kat Middeldorp '15**, and **Phineas Bynum '12**.



2013 | This fall, **Sari Abelson** will begin graduate work at Regis University for physical therapy.

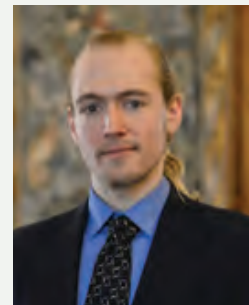
Alumni Fulbright Scholars

Kaomi Goetz '93 has been named a 2016-17 Fulbright U.S. Senior Scholar to Korea. Through feature stories and podcasts, she will share the experiences of Korean adoptees who resettle in Korea as adults. "The number of Korean adoptees going back to Korea and inquiring about a search for biological parents and extended relatives is at the highest it's ever been. The introduction of affordable DNA testing is also opening doors for international adoptees whose closed adoption histories often contain very little information or clues about their origins."



Rachel Howe Lucius '02, a music teacher at Rahn Elementary School of Arts and Technology in Eagan, Minn., is one of 45 U.S. citizens selected to receive a Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching grant. Beginning in January, Rachel will spend four months at the University of Jyväskylä studying children's choirs and music education in Finland.

Reid Murdoch '12 has received a Fulbright U.S. Student Program Grant to Slovenia in Law from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship



Board. He will conduct research at the University of Ljubljana and the Institute of Criminology as part of a project on comparative issues in juvenile justice. Reid earned his law degree from the University of Michigan in May and recently took the Nebraska Bar exam. He intends to work as a public defender, specializing in juvenile and mental health issues.

2014 | **Madeleine Steinhauser** is a senior behavioral therapist at the Lovaas Institute in Minneapolis, an organization providing on-site applied behavioral analysis to children on the autism spectrum. Madeleine's interest in advocating for and working with children with autism stemmed from her family experience as the eldest sibling and only girl in a family with three younger brothers on the autism spectrum, which gave her a decade's worth of "field experience" before studying the disorder formally. Out of necessity, Madeleine's mother, **Amy Braun Steinhauser '85**, pieced together a family life of dietary and behavioral interventions designed to mitigate the challenges associated with high-functioning autism, several of which have since been professionally documented and formalized by many researchers into protocols such as the GFCF diet, FloorTime, and ABA. Madeleine is currently pursuing a master's of education in curriculum and instruction at Arizona State University. ■ **Kelly Tomera** was promoted to financial analyst at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and is completing her master's in finance from George Washington University.

2015 | **Shannon Cron**, a freelance theater director in Minneapolis, recently worked with **Maria Coyne '15** and **Lindsey Mornson '15** co-producing and co-writing a "cabaret with a proclamation" titled *She Looks*, which premiered at the Phoenix Theater in Minneapolis in June. The show, directed by Shannon, with music and lyrics by Maria, focused on what goes on inside the mind of someone with an eating disorder, and the different ways this disease manifests itself. All ticket sales benefitted The Emily Program Foundation, a nonprofit organization that works for eating disorder prevention. ■ **Andrea Kratzke** received the Administrator Award for Innovation from FEMA



(Federal Emergency Management Agency). Andrea, who works in the Atlantic region, performed a comparative analysis for the New York Sandy Recovery Office's Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Office, studying the effects of Hurricane Sandy on endangered species.

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**FUTURE OLE SOCCER STAR
Arthur Shore Anderson '38**



**FUTURE OLES George
and Parker Dewald '38**

Future Oles

Angela and Brett Perry '91, a daughter, Annabella
 Kristen and Michael Aldrich '95, a daughter, Brianna
 Paul and Lynn Wetzler Dewald '99, twin sons, Parker and George
 Klaus and Krista Krohn Luhta '99, a daughter, Emma
 Nikolaus and Tasha Christensen Browne '01, a daughter, Frances
 Joseph and Brenna Gardner Meunier '03, a son, Roark
 Jenny Cho-MacSwain '03 and Ryan MacSwain '03, a son, Lincoln
 Kelsey Kreider Starrs '03 and David Starrs '02, a daughter, Miriam
 Joe and Andrea Drapcho Mitchell '04, a son, Jay
 Susan Prange Gatto '04 and JP Gatto '04, a daughter, Marcella
 Jonathan and Allison Pipal Parker '04, a daughter, Josephine
 Jamie Lepore Wright '04 and Matthew Wright '02, a son, Leander
 Tom and Megan Harris Bigelow '06, a daughter, Nora
 Michael and Bethany Jacobson Kok '06, a daughter, Alice Parker
 Brooke Smars '06 and Kale Langley, a daughter, Ronja
 Allison Helling Shabino '07 and Patrick Shabino '07, a daughter, Evelyn
 Sarah Shore Anderson '08 and Robert Anderson '08, a son, Arthur
 Sara VanDemark Erie '08 and Drew Erie '08, a daughter, Elin
 Brianna Hirst Heggeseth '08 and Paul Heggeseth '08, a daughter, Maren
 Tim and Marie Larson Mank '08, a daughter, Emma

Weddings

Steven J. Hill '76 and Pamela Vig, July 25, 2015
 Julie Mallgren '88 and Glenn Wallace, June 7, 2015
 Kimberly Meinecke '92 and Alex Barclay, June 20, 2015
 Jenny Buckley '00 and Peter Harrits, June 28, 2015
 Benjamin French '01 and Ireneo Bartolome, Aug. 28, 2015
 Kathryn M. Klister '03 and Andrew A. O. Brown '98, Feb. 27, 2016
 Andrea Drapcho '04 and Joe Mitchell, Aug. 9, 2014
 Colleen Collrin '05 and Michael Glennon, April 9, 2016
 Samantha MacDonald '07 and Collin Solberg '07, Sept. 6, 2015
 Marie Strampe '07 and Adam Voreis, April 2, 2016
 Anya Galli '08 and Jessica Robertson, June 5, 2016
 Danielle Stoermer '08 and Alec Niedermaier '08, June 12, 2015
 Hennessy Wadell '08 and Patrick Mclivaine, Jan. 16, 2016
 Erin Bonawitz '10 and Matthew Roe '10, Oct. 12, 2014
 Megan Hays '10 and Andy Graves, Jan. 23, 2016
 James Peterman '12 and Brooke Przybylski, Dec. 5, 2015
 Brittany Stevens '12 and Alex Raymond, June 18, 2016
 Dana Dass '13 and Kevin Zdon, July 30, 2016
 Carsten Bosselman '14 and Sarabeth Swift, June 20, 2015

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Deaths

- Anna Holt Strand '31, Port Orchard, Wash., Dec. 2, 2015
- Bernice Hofengen Haakenson '33, Fargo, N.D., March 29, 2016
- Helen Kantor Enger '39, Hatton, N.D., May 17, 2016
- Geraldine "Gerry" Wangsness Yates '39, Casa Grande, Ariz., April 11, 2016
- Elaine Peterson Schwarz '40, Waseca, Minn., Feb. 21, 2016
- Jeannette Krogh Severtson '40, Clear Lake, Iowa, June 19, 2016
- *Murley Severtson '41, Clear Lake, Iowa, April 15, 2015
- Phyllis Tripp Anderson '43, Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 21, 2015
- Ethelwyn Johnson Endahl '43, New Canaan, Conn., Nov. 12, 2015
- Elizabeth Lickfett Johnson '43, Lake Crystal, Minn., May 11, 2016
- Solveig Tvedt Jorgenson '43, Matthews, N.C., May 31, 2016
- Jean Love Marshall '43, Bigfork, Mont., Nov. 22, 2015
- Genevieve Elstad Prochnow '43, Hopkins, Minn., May 23, 2015
- Carol Smith Strootman '43, Tucson, Ariz., Feb. 18, 2016
- *Everett Tande '43, Missoula, Mont., June 5, 2016
- Ellen Mickelson Garfink '44, Silver Spring, Md., Feb. 14, 2016
- *Andrew "John" Meldahl '44, Shorewood, Minn., March 16, 2015
- Dorothy Monson Refling '44, Bozeman, Mont., April 21, 2016
- Sela Varland Cibelius '45, Puyallup, Wash., June 16, 2016
- Audrey Brenne Humlie-Peterson '45, Amery, Wis., Feb. 15, 2016
- Ruth "Bobbie" Tosdal Nourse '45, Palm Harbor, Fla., March 12, 2016
- Inez Langehough Rodning '45, Peoria, Ariz., March 12, 2016
- Lois Vevele '46, Northfield, Minn., April 2, 2016
- Jane Syltie Dehlin '47, St. Paul, Minn., May 1, 2016
- *Stanley Peterson '47, West Palm Beach, Fla., May 9, 2016
- Betty Larson Broadbent '48, Omaha, Neb., June 21, 2016
- Phyllis West Parker '48, Portland, Ore., April 4, 2016
- *Leon "Lee" Hansen '49, Bella Vista, Ark., Feb. 25, 2016
- Paul Hofstad '49, Sun City West, Ariz., May 17, 2016
- *Richard Larson '49, San Antonio, May 28, 2016
- Marie Delaitsch Lockhart '49, Vancouver, Wash., Dec. 15, 2015
- *David Monson '49, Minneapolis, June 11, 2016
- *Graydon "Soup" Stromme '49, Duluth, Minn., April 7, 2016
- James Elioff '50, Bovey, Minn., April 22, 2016
- *David Knudtsen '50, Northwood, N.D., March 22, 2016
- *Harold Reitan '50, Aurora, Colo., Feb. 15, 2014
- Orville Gulrud '51, Waukesha, Wis., May 11, 2016
- Donna Carlson Hornibrook '51, Bloomington, Ind., May 9, 2014
- Jeanne Bilden Knudtsen '51, Northwood, N.D., July 9, 2014
- *Roger Lonnevik '51, Glenwood, Iowa, Feb. 23, 2016
- Obed Sunde '51, Colorado Springs, Colo., March 25, 2016
- Charlotte Peterson Zillgitt '51, San Diego, March 2, 2016
- *Paul Klungtvedt '52, Minneapolis, May 14, 2016
- *Edward Roe '52, Silverdale, Wash., March 13, 2016
- Inanda Hoyme Bowers '53, Sylmar, Calif., Feb. 23, 2016
- *Leland "Lee" Christenson '53, Laporte, Minn., June 19, 2016
- John Hagen '53, Hudson, Wis., April 12, 2016
- *Keith Ingbritsen '53, Northfield, Minn., May 11, 2016
- *Douglas Lier '53, Los Alamos, N.M., March 26, 2016
- *Harold Sundet '53, Waverly, Iowa, July 17, 2015
- James "Jim" Wrede '53, Porterville, Calif., March 26, 2016
- *Leo "Duane" Eberhardt '54, Billings, Mont., Feb. 11, 2016
- Donald "Don" Hembre '54, Littleton, Colo., March 7, 2016
- *Gilbert Johnson '54, Fairfield Glade, Tenn., March 5, 2016
- Margaret Selgren Johnson '54, Sun City West, Ariz., June 1, 2016
- Inez Shelby Nelson '54, State College, Pa., March 5, 2016
- Marian Haraldson Messing '55, New York, April 22, 2016
- Edwin "Jack" Huus '56, Northfield, Minn., June 8, 2016
- *Donald Peterson '56, Battle Lake, Minn., June 1, 2016
- Martha "Marty" Stoutland '56, Alamo, Calif., July 27, 2015
- *Martin "Noel" Johnson '57, Denver, June 1, 2016
- *Walter Peters '57, Hill City, Minn., May 11, 2016
- Hjordis Olson Taven '57, Columbia, Mo., March 30, 2016
- Richard "Dick" Jenkins '58, Duluth, Minn., Feb. 20, 2016
- Patricia "Pat" Lexvold Kalass '58, Zumbrota, Minn., March 24, 2016
- Kenneth Moenck '58, Alexandria, Minn., May 20, 2016
- *Arthur Rajala '59, Deer River, Minn., March 20, 2016
- Karyl "Sonja" Honsey Ryskamp '59, Jupiter, Fla., May 11, 2016
- Wendy Withers '59, San Francisco, March 18, 2016
- John Hjortland '60, Northfield, Minn., May 17, 2016
- *James Anderson '61, Rapid City, S.D., March 25, 2016
- Ruth Ness Lerohl '61, Hot Springs National Park, Ark., March 10, 2016
- John Nesheim '61, Houston, May 24, 2016
- Gloria Gilsrud Funkhouser '62, Breckenridge, Minn., May 8, 2016
- Rolf "Scott" Haasarud '62, Phoenix, April 13, 2016
- Roger Olsen '62, Mesa, Ariz., Jan. 18, 2016
- Judith "Judy" Sande Brandt '64, Green Valley, Ariz., March 17, 2016
- Sandra Nelson De Classis '64, Monroe Township, N.J., March 17, 2016
- *David Gambill '64, Manomet, Mass., June 22, 2015
- John Ruohoniemi '64, Calumet, Mich., April 4, 2016
- Marcia Ericson '67, Rockford, Ill., April 4, 2016
- Robert Bratager '68, Seattle, Feb. 23, 2016
- Karen Groth Jankowski '68, Waunakee, Wis., April 15, 2016
- Ott Lukk '68, Minneapolis, March 21, 2016
- Martin Oyten '68, St. Paul, Minn., March 13, 2016
- Karen Wicks Helz '69, Roswell, Ga., May 24, 2016
- Willard Klunder '69, Wichita, Kan., Sept. 24, 2015
- Douglas Munson '71, Toledo, Ohio, April 21, 2016
- John Munyon '71, Kissimmee, Fla., March 12, 2015
- John Groettum '72, Maple Grove, Minn., April 28, 2016
- Jan Bartness Swenson '72, Coralville, Iowa, March 18, 2016
- Paul Egge '74, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., May 28, 2016
- Bridget Duoos '75, North Branch, Minn., June 21, 2016
- Stephen Richards '76, Jamestown, N.D., June 12, 2016
- *Ralph Allen '78, Maumelle, Ark., June 11, 2016
- Robert Brach '78, Brighton, Mass., March 11, 2016
- Mark Orendorff '78, Eau Claire, Wis., April 19, 2016
- Jill Olsen Connolly '81, Dunstable, Mass., April 5, 2015
- Beth McGregor Young '82, Coon Rapids, Minn., May 20, 2016
- Lisa Foerster '83, Athens, Ohio, May 18, 2016
- Karla Luetzow '83, Brookings, S.D., Feb. 14, 2016
- Stephen Schonebaum '83, Newbury Park, Calif., March 30, 2016
- Adam Smolik '95, Coppet, Switzerland, Jan. 3, 2016
- Bret Betterman '99, Minneapolis, April 22, 2016
- Nicholas White '04, Stillwater, Minn., June 8, 2015
- Claire Gilbert Marty '10, Monticello, Ill., March 19, 2016
- Logan Johnson '11, Plymouth, Minn., June 11, 2016

* VETERAN

Cherishing PEACE

BY JEFF SAUVE

This summer, a small box belonging to the late Sidney Rand, president of St. Olaf College from 1963 to 1980, was entrusted to the St. Olaf Archives by Sid and Lois Rand's daughter, Sarah Buck. In addition to Rand's personal papers, one item found in the box was a small peace symbol strung on leather.

Rand can be heard explaining the origin of the peace symbol necklace in a taped interview conducted in 1983 by Betty Coaker Christ '70 and coincidentally received by the college archives last fall. Speaking about the state of the college in the early 1970s, Rand defined the contentious anti-Vietnam War days of early May 1970 as a "strenuous time" [on campus], fraught with tension within the faculty as well as within the student body.

Feelings of anger and hopelessness about the escalating involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War was headline news when, on April 30, 1970, President Richard M. Nixon announced to the nation that a Cambodian invasion had just been launched by U.S. combat forces. Immediately, anti-war rallies and protests broke out at colleges and universities across the country, including at Kent State University in Ohio.

There, on Monday, May 4, after three days of angry demonstrations, approximately 2,000 Kent State University students went ahead with their planned protest, and 77 Ohio National Guardsmen were brought to campus in an effort to break it up. After some students began throwing rocks in retaliation for a failed attempt to disperse the crowd with tear gas, the National Guardsmen — bayonets attached to their rifles — advanced on the unarmed protestors, driving them from the campus commons. The situation grew increasingly tense as some students continued to confront the soldiers. Twenty-nine guardsmen, fearing for their lives, opened fire on the students. Of the four students killed, two had participated in the demonstration and two were simply walking to their classes. Nine other students were shot and wounded, some critically.

The national outrage that followed the Kent State shootings resulted in more than four million students striking in protest, as well as the closure of numerous universities, colleges, and high schools



throughout the country. On May 5, Rand issued a statement from St. Olaf College that contained these words:

"In view of the grave international situation in which the United States is presently involved, the faculty and administration of St. Olaf College join with students in their desire to express their concern regarding the issues related to American military involvement in Southeast Asia and their repercussions on campuses across the land."

Over the next few days, the St. Olaf community gathered three times to discuss options regarding the course of academic work and extra-curricular activity for the remainder of the year. The final campus assembly took place the evening of Monday, May 11, when more than 1,700 students and faculty gathered in the women's gymnasium (now the theater building).

In the archived interview from 1983, Rand recalled vigorous discussions about the war and recent events, with one senior philosophy major, Gary Harke '70, suggesting the college close in a show of solidarity with other colleges and universities. Suddenly, Harke asked, "Is President Rand here?" Rand acknowledged his presence, even though "I was back in the corner trying to be insignificant." He

remembered Harke saying, in effect, that while the students were doing all of this discussing and skipping classes, "There is one man around here for whom this simply means more work than ever, and that is [our] president. He gets letters and calls from our parents wondering why he doesn't get us to behave ourselves." Harke then surprised Rand by acknowledging his recent birthday and invited him to come forward. As everyone sang happy birthday

and brought out a surprise birthday cake, Harke hung a peace symbol strung on leather around the president's neck.

Several years later, Rand was invited by members of the Class of 1970 to attend their reunion luncheon and speak to the class. He did so wearing the peace symbol they gave him. After his death in 2003, Lois Rand also was invited to speak to the Class of 1970 at their reunion. Like her husband, she accepted the invitation — and wore his peace symbol. 🕊️

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

Just wait until you see what we have in store for you this year as we go *All in for the Hill*.

Drop in this October 25, join us for this adventure, and make an impact.



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"Running in the desert is the perfect combination of joy and connection to the nature of the place you visit. Wadi Rum disconnects you from technology, makes you focus on the people around you; and it creates a connection of joy and gratefulness with the world." Photographed by Karla Lorena Huamán Ruiz '17, ACM Jordan program