

ST. OLAF

SPRING 2012

CALL OF THE WILD

COUNTER BALANCE PEACE MAKERS CAREER CONNECTIONS

ON THE COVER: Alaska's Bristol Bay region is the world's best wild salmon habitat and the proposed location of one of the world's largest gold and copper mining operations. *Photograph*
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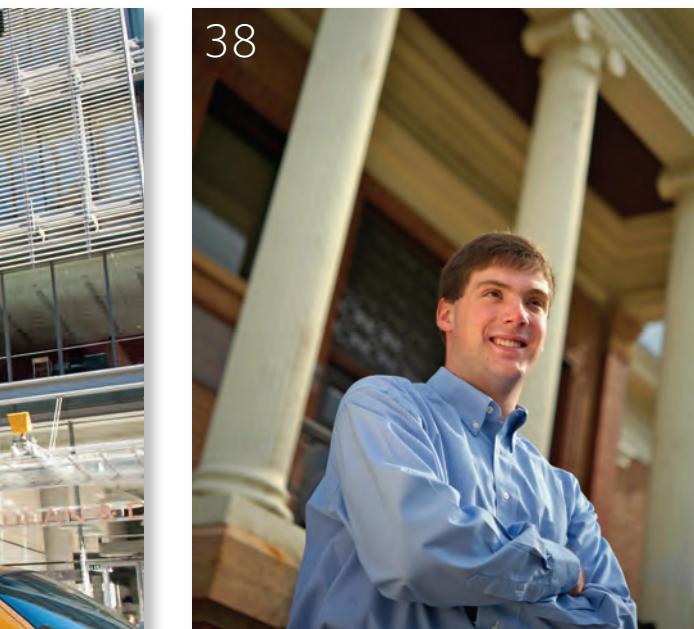
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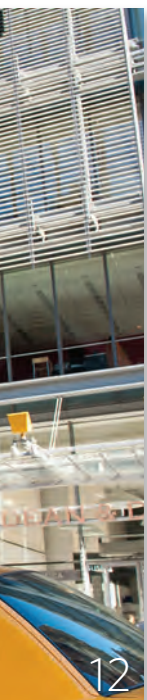
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"The significant investment a family makes in a St. Olaf education must lead to a path that points to independence and accomplishment."

Dear Oles,

"IN THE SPRING," according to the Victorian poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson, "a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." Perhaps so. I won't speak for young men. But I can report that in the spring a college president's thoughts turn to something quite different: outcomes.

Unlike farmers, who plant in the spring and reap in the fall, St. Olaf plants in the fall and reaps in the spring. In May we see the results of the learning that has taken place during the academic year. For our graduating seniors, May brings to fruition four years of intellectual, spiritual, and personal development that occurred in classes, in the residence halls, on the playing fields, in rehearsal halls, in Boe Chapel, in off-campus study experiences, and in gathering spaces all over campus. That growth sets our seniors on a path to financial independence, professional accomplishment, and personal fulfillment.

One of the nice things about outcomes is that you can measure them, but it's important to measure the right things. Later this month, you will see displayed on the St. Olaf website comprehensive information about the outcomes for the Class of 2011 one year after graduation: where our graduates are employed or studying. We are committed to measuring and reporting our graduates' outcomes each year.

However, as the stories in this issue of *St. Olaf Magazine* demonstrate, most people's life trajectories aren't set one year after graduation. To truly understand the path and the impact of a life, you have to step back and see how it develops over time.

One year out of St. Olaf, Scott Hed was financing medical equipment. Now, he's lobbying to preserve Bristol Bay in Alaska. One year out of St. Olaf, Gretchen Morgenson was, as she puts it, a "slave" to the travel editor at *Vogue* magazine. Now, she's a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter at the *New York Times*. One year out of St. Olaf, Susan Thompson was serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines. Now, she's retired after thirty years of service to the Lutheran church. All of us who know Oles could think of dozens of similar examples.

We will continue to be very focused on the immediate outcomes our graduates experience, because the significant investment a family makes in a St. Olaf education must lead to a path forward from the college that points to independence and accomplishment.

But we will also continue to monitor, to measure, and to report the longer-term outcomes Oles experience. In particular, we will attend to the impact of their lives on the individuals and communities in which they are planted, for this is where the ultimate value of a St. Olaf education resides.

David R. Anderson

Oles win 2012 Rube Goldberg competition

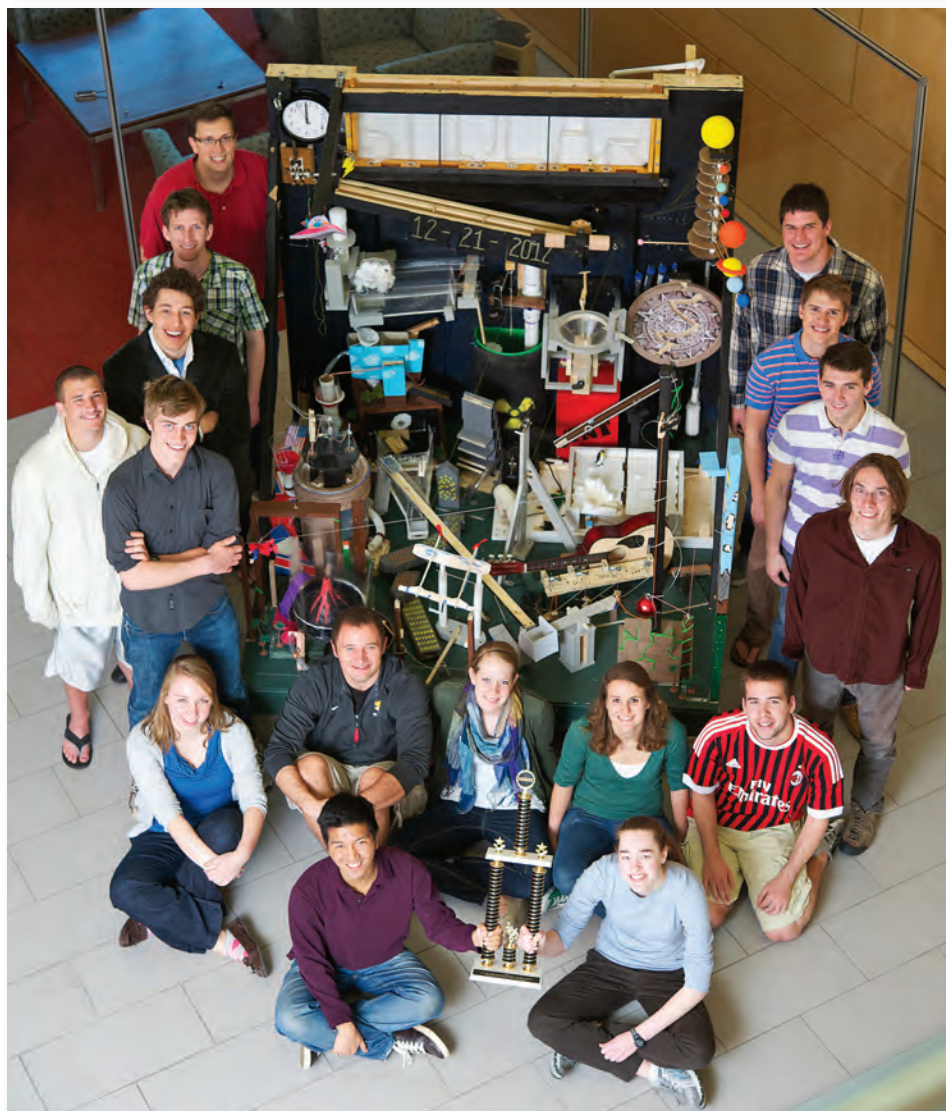
For the second time in four years, St. Olaf won the national Rube Goldberg Machine Contest. This year's contest had an end-of-the-world theme that incorporated music throughout the run, and each competing team was tasked with inflating and popping a balloon.

Created by 16 students with majors in physics, chemistry, math, and music, the St. Olaf machine had 191 steps and made one perfect run in less than two minutes, effectively combining creativity with inefficiency and complexity. Alec Noll '13 played the theme from *Jaws* on the piano while the machine performed flawlessly, culminating with an erupting volcano and a balloon exploding in a puff of smoke.

"We faced some stiff competition from the home favorite, Purdue University, but I knew our students had a machine that deserved to win," says Jason Engbrecht, associate professor of physics and team adviser. "When the awards were announced and we had won, it was an ecstatic moment for the team. A spontaneous chorus of *Um! Yah! Yah!* broke out, and I was so excited I nearly forgot the words!"

The creative Oles, who believe their liberal arts education gives them an edge over their competitors, who are all in engineering programs, competed against Purdue University, Pennsylvania State University, the University of Illinois, University of Arizona, University of Texas, Texas A&M University, and Ferris State University.

The Rube Goldberg Machine Contest dates back to 1949, when it began as a competition between two Purdue fraternities. It was held until 1955, then revived in 1983 and opened to all Purdue students. The first national contest was held in 1988. This is the fourth time St. Olaf has entered the competition.



THE WINNING TEAM. Holding the Trophy: Ronald Cung '13 and Katherine Nygren '14. Around the Machine (top left to top right): Professor Jason Engbrecht, David Forman '13, Maxwell Collyard '13, Charles Whitmore '13, Theodore Knaeble '13, Catherine Yokan '13, Severin Bialke '13 (co-captain), Anne Jacobson '13, Justine Tawel '12 (co-captain), Alec Noll '13, Matthew Schrandt '12, Thomas Hadley '13, Michael Paradis '13, Michael Yankello '14. Not pictured: Colin Huffer '12. Top: the team celebrates its victory at Purdue in March.

Ole Athletic Highlights

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The team won nine of its last ten regular season games to finish third in the MIAC for its second straight postseason appearance. Seniors Bobby Fong and Stu Neville earned all-region honors, the first such honor for an Ole in at least 15 seasons, and both were All-MIAC. Neville, a two-time All-MIAC honoree, was also on the MIAC's five-member all-defensive team. He was in the league's top 10 in several statistical categories and finished his career with 1,186 points, which ranks eighth all-time at St. Olaf. The all-conference honor was the second for Fong, who finished his career with 1,322 points, which is fifth in school history.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The women's team posted its second straight winning season and best since 1998-99, finishing 17-9 and 14-8 in MIAC play. The team's fourth place finish earned it a home playoff game and was the program's second-best finish in conference play since 1992-93. Mackenzie Wolter '13 earned her second All-MIAC honor and was in the top eight in the league in almost every statistical category.



MEN'S HOCKEY

The team advanced to the post-season for the seventh time in the last nine seasons, reaching the league's playoff championship game for the second time in program history. The team was led by senior defenseman Derek Grogan, a three-time All-MIAC honoree, who was named to the American Hockey Coaches Association CCM Division II-III All-America West First Team. Four seniors — Grogan, Ben Lies, Charlie Raskob and Peter Rohn — were named to the MIAC men's hockey all-conference team. Raskob earned All-MIAC honors.



WOMEN'S HOCKEY

The Ole women made the five-team MIAC playoffs for the eighth time in the last nine seasons, finishing fourth with a 9-7-2 record in

league play. Senior Kristen Latta earned her fourth straight All-MIAC honor, while Nicole Stumpf '13 earned her third straight. The team had two named honorable mentions, Taylor Orr '12 and Margot Fleming '14.

MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

St. Olaf finished second at the MIAC Championships, a mere three points off the winning pace. Ian Straehley '12 was named Diver of the Meet after he won the three-meter event on his final dive to keep the Oles in the hunt for a team title. Michael Gratz '15 was a three-time winner at the event, winning the 200 IM, 100 Free, and 200 Free. Colby Kubat '14 won the 100 Breast title, winning in a NCAA time of 55.95, which ranks second in school history.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Meghan Weiss '13 was named the MIAC's Swimmer of the Meet as she led the Oles to a second place finish in the leagues championships. Weiss won the 500 Free, the 200 Free, and the 100 Free, and later swam in the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships, where she had a 15th place swim in the 500 Free and 11th in the 200 Free, setting a school record (1:51.60).

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Brian Saksa '14 earned All-America honors with his seventh place finish in the mile at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships, capping a solid winter for the Ole men's indoor track and field team. Saksa and the Oles were fifth at the MIAC's in March, as the team picked up 10 top-eight finishes at the championships.

WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Dani Larson '15 earned two All-America honors, finishing eighth in the pentathlon and tying for seventh in the high jump at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships. Larson was named the 2012 MIAC outstanding field athlete, leading the Oles to a third place finish in



the league's championships. Moriah Novacinski '14, Emily Stets '15, Jamie Mosel '12, and Maren Westby '12 combined for a new MIAC-meet record time to win the distance medley relay on the first day of the championships.

ALPINE SKIING

The men's alpine ski team was second in the giant slalom and third in the slalom to finish third overall as a team in the U.S. Skiing and Snowboarding National Championships. The Oles were paced by Hakon Schonheyder '15, who finished second overall by taking third in the giant slalom and fifth in the slalom. Max Lund '12 was eighth overall and was the top American finisher in the event.

The women's team finished fifth at the event. The Oles, led by Katie Ulvestad '14, were third in the giant slalom and seventh in the slalom in the event. Ulvestad finished ninth in the overall standings.

NORDIC SKIING

The women's nordic ski team was second at the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association (USCSA) National Championships. St. Olaf had three skiers — Sarah Fleming '12, Emma Lee '13 and Kelsey Cork '14 — finish in the top nine overall.

The men's team was third in the seven-team USCSA National Championships. Brandon Piechowski '12 was second overall, finishing second in the freestyle and third in both the spring and the classic, and Joel Bransky '14 was eighth overall.

St. Olaf won the President's Cup for combined title between the finishes of the alpine and nordic teams.

WRESTLING

Ryan Timmerman '12 advanced to the semifinal round of the NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships, with wins in his first two bouts, to pick up his second straight All-America honor. Timmerman finished fourth in the event. St. Olaf finished fourth in the 15-team regional, the team's best finish in school history.



PHOTOS BY MIKE LUDWIG '01

Farewell, Friends!

Twelve St. Olaf faculty are retiring this year after having served St. Olaf for a combined total of 395 years. They have taught, mentored, and inspired countless students, and their presence will be missed on the Hill. PHOTOGRAPHED BY BILL KELLEY

John Ferguson | Elliot and Klara Stockdal Johnson Professor of Organ and Church Music *By Amy Lohmann '14*

“Often I find myself remarking that I’m not smart enough to have designed the job that has evolved [for me] here at St. Olaf,” observes John Ferguson, who appreciates the opportunity to balance his dual passions for making church music and teaching organ.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Ferguson earned degrees from Oberlin College, Kent State University, and the Eastman School of Music. After a 15-year tenure with the music faculty at Kent State, where he also served as organist-choirmaster for the Kent United Church of Christ, Ferguson accepted an appointment as music director and organist at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

“As I reflect upon my work before St. Olaf, I realize how much I was being prepared for what I was asked to do here at St. Olaf,” says Ferguson. “Serving on the hymnal committee and as music editor for the 1974 UCC hymnal, writing a book on the practice of church music and another on organ building all contributed to the experiential fund of knowledge that impacts my teaching to this day.”

It was at Central Lutheran Church that Ferguson found St. Olaf, “or St. Olaf found me,” he says. “I knew that if I was going to go back to teaching in higher education, it would have to be in a place where I could really teach church music.”

Ferguson joined the St. Olaf music faculty in 1983 and for 29 years has stressed both the development of excellent performance skills and the vocational understanding of being a church musician. Ferguson has enjoyed three important roles on campus: professor of organ, cantor to the student congregation, and conductor of the St. Olaf Cantorei. His tenure at St. Olaf has also been the inspiration and catalyst for a career in composing and arranging, including scoring hymns sung at the St. Olaf Christmas Festival.

“I think composers are allowed to have favorite children, and many of my most satisfying pieces have been for the Cantorei or for hymn singing at Christmas Fest,” he says. In 2005, Ferguson’s composition for choir and viola, *Who Is This*, was awarded the prestigious Raabe Prize for excellence in sacred composition.

Ferguson says it has been especially rewarding to share and experience some of these pieces around the country, in places like the Washington National Cathedral or Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago, where he has presented hymn festivals.



In his retirement, Ferguson looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Ruth, and with his hobby of taking care of seven antique military vehicles he owns. He also plans to continue composing and has commissions awaiting time to complete.

In addition, Ferguson has a contract to write a book, which he says will focus on “how church musicians need to think of themselves as collaborators.” Each chapter will contain a brief response from several of Ferguson’s co-workers, including former college pastor Bruce Benson, and St. Olaf Choir conductor Anton Armstrong. Ferguson is most grateful for the teamwork and cooperation he has shared with his colleagues throughout his years at St. Olaf.

“When we do something in collaboration, people can feel it,” he says. “They can feel how comfortable we are with each other, and how completely happy we are to let the music be the vehicle for a spiritual encounter with the transcendent. And all of that has been for me, very, very special.”

Andrea Een | Associate Professor of Music

By Amelia Schoeneman '12

Thirty-five years ago, a piece of auspicious news traveled the grapevine from St. Olaf to Florida. The St. Olaf Music Department was interviewing candidates for violin professor Beatrix Lien’s open faculty position and none met the criteria they were looking for. At the time, Andrea Een was a member of the Florida Symphony Orchestra’s first violin section while finishing her doctor of musical arts degree in violin performance and music literature at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Een’s stand-partner, Isabelle Thompson, professor emerita of violin at Concordia College, shared the news with her.

“Isabelle called St. Olaf’s music chair to recommend me, and we set up an interview for the week that I defended my dissertation at Illinois,” Een recalls. After her interview, Een knew St. Olaf was a perfect fit.

“I was excited about St. Olaf’s Norwegian heritage. I knew I would have new opportunities to share my enthusiasm about the Hardanger fiddle, Norway’s traditional folk instrument, and even to study the Norwegian language,” Een says.

Since joining the St. Olaf music faculty in 1977, Een has made the Hardanger fiddle her legacy. She received a summer grant in 1980 to travel to Norway to study the Hardanger fiddle, a trip she repeated 12

times. She has been recognized numerous times for her work promoting Norway's musical tradition and heritage in the United States.

Een currently teaches ten St. Olaf students to play the instrument and says teaching has helped her realize why she is so drawn to the Hardanger fiddle. "Playing it is a way of loosening up, physically and emotionally. It's a fiddle tradition, one where you stamp your foot and play for dancing and learn by ear. In other words, we have fun!"

During her St. Olaf career, Een founded the St. Olaf Trio with colleague Nancy Paddleford and former colleague Dale Newton, and is currently a tenured member of the Minnesota Opera Orchestra first violin section. Een has performed as a violinist, violist, and fiddler in Norway, France, Germany, Austria, Puerto Rico, and Costa Rica.

Een's proudest moments, she says, come from the growth of the St. Olaf string program. Most illustrative for Een is the St. Olaf Philharmonia, which she conducted from 1977 to 1994, transforming the 12-piece string ensemble to a 55-piece symphony orchestra and adding winds and percussion. Today that orchestra is 90 musicians strong and complements the St. Olaf Orchestra.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Een's fondest memories are of time spent with students. "I've cherished the relationships with students. Mentoring for music and for life has been my most valuable experience. I hope to see my students after I've left the Hill," she says.

Given the many endeavors Een will take on after St. Olaf, "retirement seems more like graduation," she jokes. Een will continue playing as a member of the Minnesota Opera Orchestra and composing Hardanger fiddle pieces. She hopes to become more active as a member of Penchant, the Northfield Women Poets group, and to finish "the 300-page novel in the drawer," she says. Een even has plans to travel to Italy and visit the birthplace of her 1760 Neapolitan violin. But first on her list is walking across the stage at Commencement this May with her son, Jonathan Een Newton '12.

Ann Leming | Instructor in Education

Michael Leming | Professor of Sociology and Anthropology

By Jessica Moes '14

Michael and Ann Leming share a passion for Thailand and its people. And now, in retirement, the Lemings are living part of each year in Thailand, where they are among friends and feel very much "at home in the culture."

For Mike Leming, the path to Thailand has been long and rewarding. A Los Angeles native, Leming did his undergraduate work at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California, and by age 22 he had earned a master's degree in sociology from Marquette University in Milwaukee. He joined the St. Olaf sociology faculty in 1972, teaching for one year before leaving to complete his doctorate degree at the University of Utah. He then rejoined the St. Olaf faculty in 1975.

During his nearly 40-year career at St. Olaf, Leming's area of expertise has focused on the sociology of the family, as well as the sociology of religion, death, dying, and bereavement. He has written twenty-seven books and numerous articles on these topics. He also has taught courses and

given lectures on the subject of kinship, religion, and behavior in relation to death, and is often told by students that his courses have helped them deal with their own bereavement after the death of a loved one.

Leming also has played a leading role in the Association of Christians Teaching Sociology, founded the St. Olaf College Social Research Center, and served on the boards of the Minnesota Coalition on Terminal Care (now the Minnesota Coalition for Death Education and Support) and the Northfield AIDS Response.

Leming's love of Thailand began while serving as the 1990-91 field supervisor for the college's Term in Asia program. "I simply fell in love," he says, in reference to the county's culture and people. He grew especially interested in the Karen tribe, a community that immigrated to Northern Thailand from Burma 300 years ago. He later held a visiting research professorship at Chiang Mai University, in the city of Chiang Mai, for the purpose of doing further ethnographic research about Karen village life and has since completed a documentary film about the Karen tribe.

Leming has not limited his time in Thailand to research. Over the years, he and his wife, Ann, have significantly given back to communities in Thailand, developing water systems, churches, and schools. Leming has even used his humor and imagination to raise money for some of these programs, playing Santa Claus during the Christmas holidays and taking pictures to raise funds for impoverished orphans in Thailand. The willingness of St. Olaf students to participate in his efforts to help the orphans inspires him. "My life overfills with joy," he says. "This school has enhanced my faith and encouraged me to apply what I know for the good of our global society."

Ann Leming has found a similar sense of purpose in life. Her own vocation has been in special education and working with students with learning disabilities. She completed her undergraduate work in psychology and sociology at Westmont College in Santa Barbara and earned a master's degree in special education, with an emphasis in learning disabilities, from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

Her experience in special education brought her to the St. Olaf community in 1982, when she became an instructor in the college's education department. "I believe," she says, "that we have a hard-working, caring faculty at St. Olaf that models what they encourage each student to do — discover his or her vocation and passionately pursue it."

Over the years, she has taught secondary psychology and elementary special education, instructing her students on the distinct teaching styles needed for special education. In the process, she has worked with a wide network of students and faculty who interact with community members on a daily basis.

Ann has continued to be actively involved in the lives of St. Olaf



students, working with athletes and supporting the arts. In addition, she has designed and developed alternative learning centers and specialized reading programs, and coordinated efforts to mainstream blind and deaf students into public school settings.

For the Lemings, their passion for people will guide the next phase of their life as they look to retirement. Here in the U.S., they will continue to spend time with their three grown children and four grandchildren. They will also continue to lead the Spring Semester in Thailand, a study abroad program they started in 2001, which places undergraduate students from around the United States in internships and classes at Chiang Mai University.

What is perhaps most exciting, however, is the newest project the Lemings have taken on. Mike's fascination with culture and emotion, coupled with Ann's expertise in special education, has helped them create a partnership between the Interact Center in Minneapolis and the Rajanagarinda Institute for Child Development (RICD) in Chiang Mai. Over the past three years, that partnership has established and run a performing arts center for the disabled.

"People are coming alive, finding their dreams," says Mike Leming. "It's why we enjoy doing [our work] so much."

Bonnie Sherman | Professor of Psychology

By Catherine Monson '12

Bonnie Sherman grew up on a college campus, William & Mary, where both her parents taught. "I climbed the walls and arches to towers with statues of William and of Mary, high above the campus entrance. Sometimes my sister climbed one and I the other, arguing over whose turn it was to be with Mary," she says. "I knew the library stacks, where I did my homework. I knew the Christopher Wren Chapel, where there were services Wednesday mornings and Canterbury-led evening prayer."

Sherman earned her Bachelor of Science degree at William & Mary, and completed her doctorate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with the goal of becoming a teacher. As a new Ph.D. student working in computer science at Duke University, Sherman was initiating a trial study under an IBM grant, looking at the possibility of voice operated computers when she received a telephone message from St. Olaf Psychology Professor James Dickson asking her to call him.

"My daughter, Elizabeth, said, 'So we are moving to Minnesota.' She had heard a bit of the original phone message and drew the immediate assumption, more certain than anyone of what was about to happen." Sherman joined the St. Olaf psychology faculty in 1981. St. Olaf was everything she had hoped for and, too, "I was really pleased to be at a college of the church," she says.

During her 31-year tenure, Sherman has taken part in major developments in her department, including a grant to expand the lab space in Holland Hall, and then, three years later, a curriculum grant to develop the laboratories for introductory psychology. Here, she instigated a

preceptor program in which advanced students, participating in a seminar, teach with faculty in the laboratory.

As department chair, Sherman shepherded the movement of the psychology department from the behavior sciences to the natural sciences and mathematics. The fundamental change was an important step for the department's transition into Regents Hall of Natural and Mathematical Sciences, where students flourish in a variety of research and laboratory-based courses. She also was one of the founders and directors of the Neuroscience Concentration, which brought an added crossover between the philosophy and psychology departments.

Of the many grants, projects, and developments Sherman has helped foster, she has never lost touch with her role as an advisor and mentor to individual students, which has given her great satisfaction, she says: "Just to see our people get to where they're supposed to go has been a thrill."

Sherman's ongoing research lies in synesthesia, especially number-forms, or the ways numerals are mentally represented spatially. She has made three trips to London to collect 19th century archival data of the first documented cases of number-forms in individuals and has followed this literature into Europe, Japan, and the Americas, developing a bibliography of number-form cases. Working with Associate Professor of Computer Science Richard Brown and his software development team, Sherman is currently expanding this into an electronic resource for broader analysis and usage.

Sherman will continue to "play with" these data in her retirement. Beyond this, her plans are to remain in Northfield, "go wherever the Spirit leads me and do whatever my heart desires."

Howard Thorsheim '63 | Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience

By Jessica Moes '14

"Look at your feet," says Howard Thorsheim. "Now move about a stride to your right. Look back at where your feet were. That is where you can make a difference."

This advice, stemming from a conversation he had with a global leader at UNESCO during a conference in Paris, has guided Thorsheim throughout his teaching career. "Only you have a special opportunity and responsibility for the ground you stand on," he recalls hearing. "Just try to make a difference there."

Howard Thorsheim has covered a lot of ground during his tenure at St. Olaf. His time on the Hill began as an undergraduate student, where he met his wife, Julie Loken '63, at a freshmen mixer. He fell in love, first with Julie and then with psychology, after taking a course his junior year with Professor Olaf W. Millert. "Professors at St. Olaf taught me to find the beauty in science," he says with a smile. "I am intrigued with how people think and what things they create when they think."

Thorsheim earned his master's degree and Ph.D. in experimental psychology, with a focus in what is now called cognitive neuroscience, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. When he began his job search, a position opened at St. Olaf.



"I wanted to do research *and* teach," says Thorsheim, who joined the St. Olaf psychology faculty in 1968. "Teaching keeps faculty engaged with students in the classroom and lab, and keeps faculty engaged even as they engage students as partners in research — we learn together. I knew I could do that here."

Forty-four years later, Thorsheim strives to help students discover connections between psychology and their interests, encouraging them to contribute their talents to the world to make it a better place.

Thorsheim's desire to encourage others extends to his published work, which includes *I Remember When*, a book about the health benefits of personal story-sharing, co-authored with Professor Emeritus of Psychology Bruce Roberts. It also guides his research in intergenerational reminiscing and narrative memories.

Thorsheim recently completed six years of research funded by the National Science Foundation to develop psychophysiology materials and pedagogy for community college instructors across the country. His work helps those instructors encourage their students to explore the cognitive neuroscience of mind-body interactions.

As he makes the transition to retirement, Thorsheim is working on a number of projects, including a collaborative video with a colleague from Norway on cognitive neuroscience using functional magnetic resonance imagery. Another project is the creation of an innovative textbook on undergraduate psychophysiology research skills, using the graphic novel form to combine visual and text information. "I'm simply trying a new strategy to help students learn, in this case, a more visual approach."

Thorsheim looks forward to more time for hobbies, such as working on the family's 1930 Model A Ford, "Lulu," and perfecting his musical skills on the saw. "I use a cross-cut saw for slow numbers," chuckles Thorsheim, "and I use a rip saw for fast pieces!"

He also plans to travel with his wife and spend more time with their sons, grandchildren, and many other family and friends in Northfield and beyond. Says Thorsheim, "Family and friends are a special blessing from God."

Deborah Anderson | Associate Professor of Psychology

By Amelia Schoeneman '12

Deborah Anderson never intended to teach, let alone teach psychology. "I had intended to become a doctor, and the biggest surprise about finally ending up at St. Olaf was that I went into teaching at all. I had terrible stage fright," Anderson says.

An unexpected experience in her fourth year of graduate school forced her to overcome her fears. She was hired as the teaching assistant for an abnormal psychology course, but "the professor decided that he shouldn't subject the students to his lectures, so he handed out all of his class notes on the first day and was on hand during scheduled class times simply to answer questions," says Anderson. "As a result, some students were very upset, and I was cajoled into doing more teaching than I had expected. In an odd way, it was an excellent first experience. I had to think on my feet quite a bit."



After working as a clinician and researcher, Anderson took a one-year teaching position at Ohio State University, where she had earned her master's and doctorate degrees in psychology. In 1980, she left Ohio to join the psychology faculty at St. Olaf, where she will retire this year after a 32-year-long career.

Anderson credits the teacher-student relationships she has developed at St. Olaf for her passion for teaching. "When I was a graduate student, a professor of mine once said that the best thing about teaching is the students. I was skeptical at the time, but I understand it today. There have been many students that I worked with closely — teaching assistants, Paracollege students, those who struggled with me doing research, and others in my classes. I will miss those conversations, explorations, and struggles."

Her fondest memories of working with students come from the decades she spent as a Paracollege tutor. "It was very easy to develop, together with students, new ideas and seminars. It was a lifesaver to many of the students and professors, who had the freedom to pursue an intensely interesting and engaging way of learning within a community."

The Paracollege fit with Anderson's teaching style. "I am usually intellectually flexible," she says. "I am willing to entertain other ways of seeing the universe, at least for a while, and I can get incredibly interested and involved in any number of problems and questions."

Flexibility is the main thing Anderson plans on taking into retirement.

Her first thought about potential plans for the future is that there is no need to make any. However, "my second thought is that I need to develop some. Finding other interests is easy. I have many," jokes Anderson, whose passions include horseback riding and sailing on Lake Harriet in Minneapolis. "Retirement, however, involves a profound change in rhythms, and for me this means trying to discern a more natural one, not set by the requirements of the job."

Vicki Harper | Associate Professor of Philosophy

By Catherine Monson '12

Vicki Harper still has vivid memories of a college production she took part in as a student: the eloquent Greek lines in Euripides's *Trojan Women*, the outdoor amphitheater where she performed, and the moon's rising as the play came to an end.

"The Greek language is beautiful, and the literature covers a vast range of human experience," she says. "It is part of the fiber of Western thought, and closely related to philosophy — and to human life."

Although Harper planned to major in biochemistry as an undergraduate at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, she fell in love with Greek and philosophy as a freshman and hasn't parted with them since. Her areas of focus are ancient Greek philosophy and ethics, which she has taught since coming to St. Olaf in 1979. Among her other favorite classes are philosophy in literature, formal logic, the Great Conversation, and a team-taught course on mathematics in Western culture.

Harper resonates deeply with the mission of St. Olaf and sees it as critical to her



teaching. "The idea of liberal education was developed as a mark of a free person with the leisure to contemplate the big questions that confront humanity, and to explore and to integrate a wide range of disciplinary perspectives on these questions," she says. "A liberal education enables us to situate knowledge with respect to time, place, and context, but also to think about commonalities across the whole range of human experience."

Harper has served as the chair of the Philosophy Department since 2008. Before that, she held the position of president of the Minnesota Philosophical Society in 1978 and 2004, as well as vice president in 1977. She has also been a contributing writer for three books: *An Unconventional History of Western Philosophy* (Rowman & Littlefield), the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (Oxford University Press), and the first volume of *A History of Women Philosophers* (Springer). Harper is currently working on a chapter for the first volume of *The History of Evil*, an upcoming six-volume work edited by Professors of Philosophy Charles Taliaferro (St. Olaf) and Chad Meister (Bethel College).

Harper's passion for lifelong learning is already evident in her retirement plans, which include finishing a chapter for an upcoming philosophy book and learning some Sanskrit or Anglo-Saxon. Outside of the classroom, Harper hopes to renovate and redecorate her house. She has also enjoyed making friends at the Northfield Retirement Community, where she became involved when her parents resided there. But while she will have plenty to do in retirement, Harper will miss the community of St. Olaf.

What have been the highlights of her tenure at St. Olaf? "Every year: colloquia and retreats with my fellow philosophers," she says. "Every day: wonderful students and colleagues."

Rita Glazebrook | Professor of Nursing

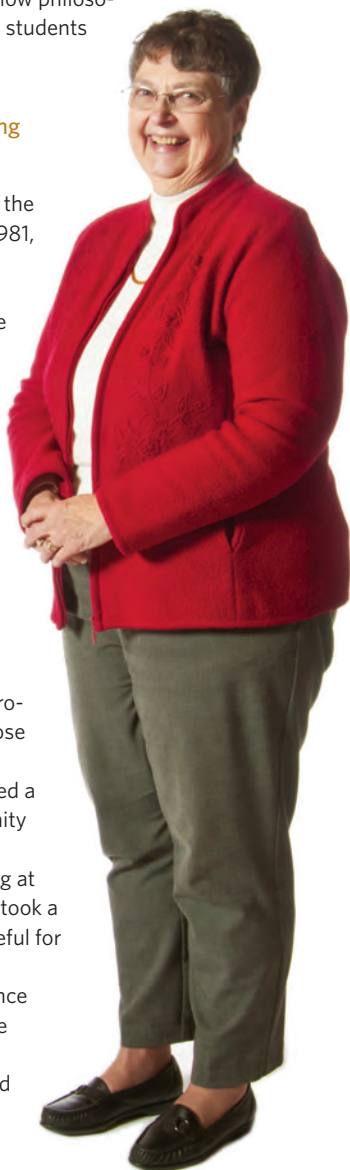
By Amy Lohmann '14

When Rita Glazebrook joined the St. Olaf nursing faculty in 1981, she had no idea she would stay until retirement. Thirty-one years later, she still appreciates every day she spends with her students and colleagues.

Glazebrook, who earned her bachelor of science in nursing at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, spent 11 years at United Hospital in St. Paul working as a maternity nurse and teaching childbirth education. While earning her masters of science degree at the University of Minnesota, she knew that she wanted to teach nursing students.

"I applied to every baccalaureate program in or near the Twin Cities, and those with student clinical placements in the Twin Cities, hoping someone would need a faculty person with expertise in maternity nursing," says Glazebrook. "Thankfully, Dorothy Mrkonich, then chair of nursing at St. Olaf, saw some potential in me and took a chance on hiring me. I'm eternally grateful for that opportunity."

Chair of the nursing department since 1990, Glazebrook, is also director of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Nursing Consortium (established by St. Olaf and Gustavus Adolphus College in 1986)



and a nurse practitioner at a community clinic that provides reproductive health services for the uninsured and underinsured. Says Glazebrook, "These positions have afforded me the opportunity to see nursing from a bigger perspective both within and beyond the college."

During her tenure at St. Olaf, in which she earned her doctorate at the University of Minnesota, Glazebrook became increasingly interested in the administration of the college's nursing program. "St. Olaf does not only produce nurses. We create nursing leaders," said Glazebrook, when interviewed by *St. Olaf Magazine* in 2006 in honor of the St. Olaf Nursing Department's 50th anniversary.

Under her leadership, the St. Olaf nursing program has revised its curriculum and placed more emphasis on health promotion, multidisciplinary practices in integrated healthcare systems, cultural competence, gerontology, care coordination, and community-based care — all designed to prepare St. Olaf nursing graduates for leadership roles in the 21st century.

Glazebrook affirms that the students are the highlight of her career. She has loved watching them develop in both their academic and professional careers. "To see each student move from a beginner with hopes and dreams, as well as fears and anxieties, to a caring, professional nurse with a commitment to lifelong learning and high quality practice has been very rewarding," she says.

Now that she has reached retirement, Glazebrook has plenty of ideas about how to spend her time after leaving St. Olaf.

She intends to make her lake home in northern Minnesota a primary residence, while expanding her volunteer work by becoming a reading tutor, continuing to knit stocking hats for premature babies, and sewing quilts for injured military men and women.

"I hope to spend more time with our family, especially our nine grandchildren," says Glazebrook. "My greatest hope is to wear out, rather than rust out, as I move to the next phase of life, and fill my calendar with the activities that bring the most satisfaction."

Naurine Lennox | Associate Professor of Social Work

By Jessica Moes '14

When Naurine Lennox first came to St. Olaf as an undergraduate in 1960, a major in social work wasn't available. Instead, she majored in sociology but in time realized that her vocation was service.

"I went looking for a school with a social work major and settled on the University of Iowa in Iowa City," she says. There she completed her undergraduate work and continued her graduate studies at the University of Chicago, concentrating on group work studies.

After some time spent doing social work and teaching in Pennsylvania and Missouri, Lennox found herself back at St. Olaf in 1977 where she became the college's first full-time social work professor.

"My primary motivation for taking the position at St. Olaf was to facilitate the creation of a social work program so that students



who want to be social workers would not have to go elsewhere," says Lennox, who set to work shaping and developing the fledgling program as part of the college's sociology department.

Initially, the program was accredited as a part of a collaborative program with Augsburg College in Minneapolis, with the St. Olaf part of the program focusing on rural social work. With Lennox's guidance, the college's program received full accreditation, and she has served as both its director and field practicum coordinator.

"Today I can point to many licensed social workers [from St. Olaf] practicing all over the world," says Lennox, "and there are many other graduates of the program pursuing careers in education, health, human service management, and international services."

Her expertise was, and still is, in the areas of rural social work, families in poverty, and social ministry. During her thirty-five year career, Lennox's passion for rural Mexico has taken her to that country many times. She has led Interim social work programs to Mexico since 1999 and taught the semester-long program, "Social Work in the Latin American Context

In retirement, Lennox plans to spend at least parts of each year in the Mexican city of Cuernavaca, Morelos, where she has addressed policies related to the North American Free Trade Agreement along with social issues related to the environment, health care, the child welfare system, and the Mexican version of Social Security.

"This challenges me to learn enough Spanish vocabulary to carry on a conversation with my neighbor," Lennox says.

In addition to traveling to Mexico, Lennox is looking forward to spending time with her children and grandchild and pursuing her favorite hobby, riding trains. "I love 'mileage collecting,'" she says. "It's riding trains, especially on track that is not commonly accessible." In February, Lennox went with a small group of American rail fans to see Copper Canyon in northern Mexico. "This has been on my list for a while and I'm pleased that I was able to see it early in my retirement," she notes.

Despite the enjoyment she receives from train travel and its panoramic views, Lennox will still miss one special view from the Hill: "On mornings when the trees are covered in frost or when the leaves are red and gold, St. Olaf is especially lovely. I will miss working in such a pretty place."

Bruce Dalgaard | Professor of Economics and Asian Studies *By James Daly '13*

The year was 1987 when Bruce Dalgaard, then a professor of economic education at the University of Minnesota, took an opportunity to travel with a group of faculty to China for two weeks. "For a small-town boy who had never traveled outside the United States, I was awestruck by the number of people, the abject poverty, the natural beauty, and, most of all, the openness and resilience of the people," says Dalgaard.

Determined to return to China, he applied for and received a Fulbright grant to teach at Beijing Normal University. But mere weeks before he was to depart, the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 occurred, and the U.S. cancelled all scholarly exchanges. Shortly thereafter, he accepted an offer from the Fulbright Commission to do research in Japan and went on to become an expert on the Japanese economy.

"I always tell my students, 'International events can have profound effects even if far away.' Tiananmen Square changed my whole professional development. I'm sure I would have become an expert on China rather than an expert on Japan," he says.

What also proved to be life changing were the visits he made to St. Olaf College in the 1980s, while serving as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Minnesota Economic Association. Impressed by the college's community of scholars and eager to focus on teaching, he accepted a position as the Husby-Johnson Professor of Business and Economics at St. Olaf and began teaching in 1992.

In his first five years at the college, Dalgaard worked closely with Phyllis Larson, then recently hired professor of Japanese, to secure grants for a new Asian Studies Department. Next, he turned his sights to re-vamping the college's traditional career center. He hatched the idea to integrate under one roof the career center with the academic internship program, the entrepreneurial studies program, and a new civic engagement program, calling it the Center for Experiential Learning (CEL).

Dalgaard is extremely proud to have served as executive director of the CEL from 2001 to 2011, which allowed him to exercise his passion for helping students. During that time, he also directed the college's Fulbright program and the Lilly Grant Program. More recently, he launched a summer internship program, now approaching its third year, which allows students of Chinese and Japanese languages to intern in Taiwan and Japan.

Dalgaard's recent research concerns the intersection of economics with spirituality. That research ranges from a historical study of the 18th century Norwegian lay preacher Hans Nielsen Hauge to investigating what role spirituality plays in the success of micro-loan recipients in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Next year, along with a colleague of his in Bergen, Norway, he hopes to be part of a new school of business in Oslo that will incorporate ethical decision making into a comprehensive business program.

Clearly, Dalgaard is at home with the interdisciplinary thinking fostered by the liberal arts or, as he likes to call them, "the liberating arts." Yet that's not the only reason he will miss St. Olaf.

"I have developed profound, meaningful relationships with scores of students, many of whom remain in close contact with me. That's the most gratifying, fulfilling, meaningful part of being at a place like this."

Solveig Zempel '69 | Professor of Norwegian *By James Daly '13*

Solveig Zempel's desire to be a teacher of Norwegian language, literature, and culture began at a young age. Prior to graduating from St. Olaf in 1969, her undergraduate career included studies at the University of Oslo and the Oslo International Summer School. In 1971, Zempel earned a master's degree in Scandinavian languages and literature with a minor in history from the University of Minnesota, and in 1980 she earned a Ph.D. in Scandinavian languages and literature with supporting fields in English and linguistics.

Zempel was teaching as a graduate assistant in the department of Scandinavian languages and literature at the University of Minnesota when a teaching position in St. Olaf's Norwegian Department opened up. She seized the opportunity, joining the faculty in 1976.

"It was a natural fit for me. There aren't that many programs where you can be a Norwegian professor, and St. Olaf is the best and the biggest," says Zempel.

During her 36-year tenure, Zempel has taught beginning, intermediate, and advanced Norwegian language classes, introduced and taught an ethics course on the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen,



taught advanced courses on Norwegian literature, and served as the first director of the Oslo Year Program, a program she helped develop that allows North American students to study at the University of Oslo. She also has taught *The Art and Science of Translation* and a cycle of the Great Conversation, an experience, she says, that stands out as one of the most challenging and rewarding of her career.

Zempel also has served as chair of the Norwegian Department and director of the Nordic Studies concentration, in addition to a six-year term as associate dean for Interdisciplinary and General Studies. She currently is the O.C. and Patricia Boldt Distinguished Teaching Chair in the Humanities and has served on the Fulbright Faculty Advisory Group and the Fulbright National Screening Committee for Scandinavia, as well as serving as a Fulbright program advisor.

In 2008, in recognition of her efforts to foster appreciation of Norwegian culture, the Norwegian government named her an Officer of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit. "My brother jokes that I'm a 'Professional Norwegian,'" laughs Zempel.

Zempel's scholarly interest lies in immigration and immigrant literature, topics that have held an important place in her family history. Her interest in Norwegian immigration blossomed into a fascination with "the commonalities of immigrant experience," and led her to create

Chronicles of the American Immigrant Experience, a class in which students explore American immigrant literature from different cultures and time periods.

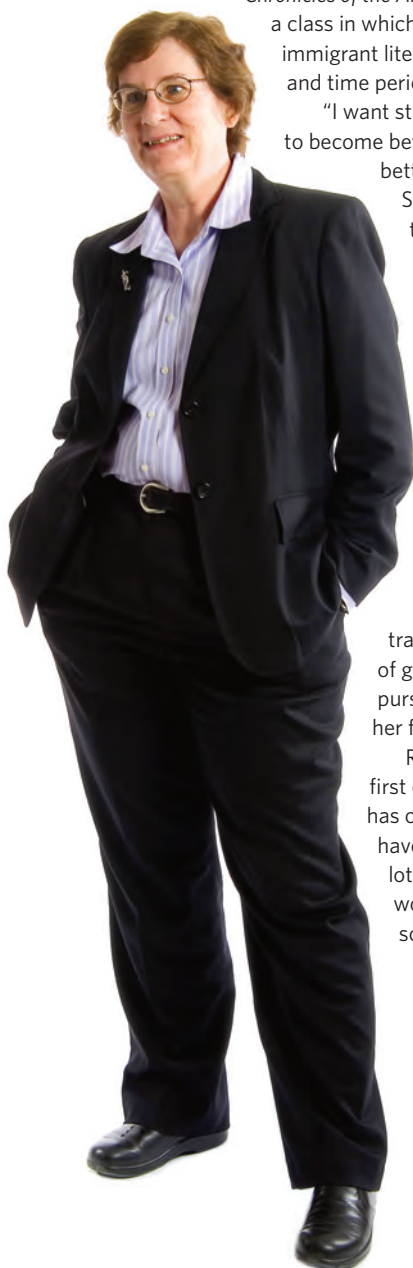
"I want students to be active learners, to become better writers, better speakers, better thinkers," says Zempel.

She encourages her students to study abroad, and not solely in Norway. "We really need to be exposed to different cultures, different lifestyles — experience fluency in knowing what goes on in the daily life of another country," she says.

Asked about her retirement plans, Zempel says her goals are fairly standard: writing, reading, traveling, and spending time with family. At the top of her travel list is Norway, but instead of going there for academic pursuits, Zempel wants to visit her family.

Regarding the college that she first came to know as child, she has only praise for St. Olaf. "We have an institution that attracts a lot of really good people, and working with them is a constant source of pleasure."

James Daly '13 is majoring in environmental studies. **Amy Lohmann '14** and **Jessica Moes '14** are English majors. **Catherine Monson '12** is a religion major. **Amelia Schoeneman '12** is majoring in political science and environmental studies.



Goldwater Scholars

Benjamin Keisling '13 and Sarah Ludwig '13 will each receive one of the 282 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships, awarded annually to undergraduate students who have shown significant achievement and potential in the fields of mathematics, science, and engineering. Since 1995, 31 St. Olaf students have been awarded this scholarship.



Sarah Ludwig and Benjamin Keisling have traveled as far as Siberia and Norway to perform scientific research.

Keisling, a physics major, is part of a student research team that spent the past two summers working with Professor of Physics and Environmental Studies Bob Jacobel to analyze the evolution of a subglacial lake in Antarctica. Last fall the students presented their findings at the Geological Society of America's annual meeting. Keisling also performed field work in Norway, measuring the seismicity of glaciers and how glacial processes work.

Ludwig, a chemistry and biology major, spent last summer in the Siberian Arctic researching the impact of carbon and nutrient transports on global climate change. Her work was part of the Polaris Project, a field course and research experience funded by the National Science Foundation. Ludwig is currently researching wetlands, with a specific focus on how various plant types influence wetland methane emissions. After graduation, Keisling plans to pursue a Ph.D. in geophysics. He would one day like to model earth systems, with a focus on applications relating to climate change, geodynamics, and alternative energy. Ludwig also plans to attend graduate school and earn a Ph.D. in biogeochemistry, with the goal of eventually teaching at the university level and conducting research in polar ecosystems.

The background of the cover is a photograph of the glass entrance of the New York Times building. The words "The New York" are visible in a large, white, gothic-style font at the top. In the center, there is a block of white text. The title "COUNTERBALANCE" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the middle. Below the title, there is more white text. The overall color palette is muted, with greys, browns, and reds from the building's interior and exterior.

The New York

PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING JOURNALIST
GRETCHEN MORGENSON '76 IS CONSIDERED
THE FOREMOST CHRONICLER OF AMERICA'S
FINANCIAL CRISIS AND ITS FALLOUT.

COUNTER BALANCE

BY DAVID MCKAY WILSON
PHOTOGRAPHED BY MICHAEL SOFRONSKI

Times



GRETCHEN MORGENSON IS DRAWN TO THE DARK RECESSES OF THE FINANCIAL WORLD.

An investigative reporter, business and financial editor, and columnist for the *New York Times*, she has uncovered bloated executive salaries, unethical stock analysts, and a home-mortgage industry formerly bent on selling loans to homeowners who couldn't afford them. ♣ For the *Times*, Morgenson explores a financial netherworld that includes collateralized debt obligations, mortgage-backed securities, and short sales, where billions of dollars are at stake. She celebrates the whistleblowers who have the courage to unmask financial chicanery and holds accountable the villains in these high-stakes dramas — the finance barons whose outsized bonuses and stock options were made, at times, on the backs of the lower- and middle-class.

Morgenson told her story one day in early March in a second-floor conference room at the *Times*, having walked eight blocks to work from her mid-town Manhattan apartment, which she shares with her husband, Paul, a fixed-income trader, and her seventeen-year-old son, Conor. The family had just returned from their annual Utah ski vacation at Snowbasin.

Morgenson explains that the foreclosure crisis, which has seen more than six million Americans lose their homes, has captivated her since the bottom fell out of the subprime mortgage market in 2007.

"These companies preyed on the most vulnerable," says Morgenson, fifty-six, who received a Pulitzer Prize in 2002 for her trenchant and incisive coverage of Wall Street.

In addition to appearances on CNN and C-SPAN, Gretchen Morgenson has been a guest on *Bill Moyers Journal*, discussing the economic meltdown and the obstacles facing substantive reform, and has appeared on *Charlie Rose* to discuss the lack of high-profile prosecutions in the aftermath of the financial crisis.

IMAGE COURTESY OF PBS

"The working poor and people of color were the hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis," she says. "The finance industry was putting them in homes they couldn't afford."

Revered by her peers and readers and reviled by her Wall Street targets, Morgenson says she enjoys the adrenaline rush of the daily newspaper world, cranking out stories on deadline and working on long-term projects that give her readers clear-sighted views into complex transactions.

Among her admirers is Michael Winston, the former enterprise chief leadership officer at Countrywide Financial Corporation, who was demoted and then fired after he questioned Countrywide's internal practices.

Winston recalls how he and his Countrywide colleagues cheered Morgenson for her in-depth reporting of the financial crisis. That reporting included coverage of Countrywide's CEO at the time, Angelo Mozilo, whom the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) eventually accused of making questionable stock trades.

In 2010, Morgenson wrote about the \$67.5 million settlement between the SEC and Mozilo, a man she called "one of the country's most audacious and flamboyant financiers." She went on to report on Winston's 2011 victory in a wrongful dismissal lawsuit against Countrywide, in which a California jury awarded him \$3.8 million.

"What provided consolation on the inside [of Wall Street] was knowing that Gretchen was letting people know on the outside what was going on," says Winston, who lives in Thousand Oaks, California. "It was heartening to know she was bringing the appropriate levels of pressure to bear."

Morgenson's aggressive reporting has also earned her enemies in the financial world. "From time to time, she has received ugly threats," says Glenn Kramon, assistant managing editor for the *New York Times*. "And she has been cursed at more times than she can count. But she never loses her cool, and even laughs about it."

He recalls a Wall Street firm's dinner menu that once featured Morgenson's face inside a red circle with a slash



through it. Morgenson herself breaks into a broad smile when reminded of that story. “You’ve got to wonder — do they have a day job?” she asks.

Morgenson’s work at the *Times* follows three overlapping tracks: her daily stories on breaking news; her long-term investigative projects, like the February 2010 piece she wrote with Louise Story detailing financial giant Goldman Sachs’s role in the downfall of the insurance firm, A.I.G.; and her weekly “Fair Game” columns, written in a more personal voice, which analyze, and provide her opinion on, the financial news of the day.

In one Sunday column, she laments the paltry 1 percent interest rate on bank savings accounts, hurting average Americans who have their life savings tied up in these accounts. In another, she rails against some banks’ practice of forcing struggling homeowners to take on overpriced homeowners insurance, putting them in even more financial peril. And in another, she lays bare the fact that the \$5 billion settlement five banks agreed to for their dubious mortgage practices was a pretty good deal — for the banks.

“There’s no doubt the banks are happy with this deal,” she wrote. “You would be too, if your bill for lying to courts and end-running the law came to less than \$2,000 per loan file.”

Her stories on Goldman Sachs have been particularly incisive, detailing how the financial giant made major bets against the questionable loans it was selling to investors, and how it ended up profiting from the very losses that left its clients reeling.

“I’m blessed with not having writer’s block,” says Morgenson. “I like helping people understand the wild and crazy field of finance. There is no shortage of stories out there.”

...

BORN IN STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA, Morgenson grew up in southwestern Ohio hearing tales of life on the St. Olaf campus. Her father, Donald Morgenson ’51, and mother, Rebecca Anderson Morgenson, met at St. Olaf and later married. Her father’s two siblings were also Oles, as were many of their children. Morgenson, who skipped two grades in elementary school, was college-ready at age 16. That’s when her mother insisted she go to St. Olaf.

“She told me I wasn’t going anywhere else,” says Morgenson. “That’s where I was going. And that’s where I went.”

St. Olaf was a good fit. Morgenson enrolled in the college’s Paracollege, where, similar to the system at Oxford University in England, students devised their own educational program with the assistance of a tutor. Her major focused on English and history and included a semester abroad studying the French Revolution at Oxford’s Nuffield College.

As a freshman, she took a first-year writing course with English professor David Wee, who taught her the fine points of sentence structure and the importance of creating an outline. She learned that the best writing comes in rewriting.



On September 27, 2008, Morgenson’s *New York Times* column, “The Reckoning: Behind Insurer’s Crisis, Blind Eye to a Web of Risk,” broke the story of the government rescue of the insurance giant American International Group (A.I.G.). It was the first article published by a major news organization revealing that the government bailout of A.I.G. benefited Wall Street investment banks, and it cemented Morgenson’s reputation as the most important financial journalist of her generation. In addition to her *Times* columns, Morgenson co-authored *Reckless Endangerment* (which spotlights the lax oversight of federal regulatory agencies and dubious practices on Wall Street).

“He really helped me to write sentences,” says Morgenson. “He was demanding, and he wanted us to learn how to communicate with the written word.”

Morgenson also benefited from the power of Wee’s personal caring. Just before graduating, she found one of her first college essays in her mailbox, tied in a bow, with a note from Wee that read, “See how far you’ve come!” When Wee retired in 2005, Morgenson reflected on the impact he made on her life, noting in a written tribute to her former teacher: “It must be wonderful to be a teacher because you get the chance to change someone’s life. I have always counted Professor Wee among the handful of teachers who did that for me. Each one of them taught me something different; he taught me how to write.”

Morgenson graduated from St. Olaf in 1976 with aspirations to become a crusading investigative political reporter. She entered into journalism just after *Washington Post* reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein unraveled the Watergate break-in that eventually brought down the presidency of Richard M. Nixon.

Morgenson headed to New York, intent on breaking into the city’s booming newspaper industry. She tried many

New York papers, including the *Times*, but she had neither the clips nor the connections for that particular dream. Her best offer came from the women's magazine *Vogue*, where she worked for its tyrannical travel editor.

"I was her secretary," says Morgenson, "and slave. The movie, *The Devil Wears Prada* — that was my life."

The job did have some perks. It opened her eyes to the power of journalism and its sway among New York celebrities. At the office, she met Jackie Kennedy Onassis and novelist Truman Capote. A colleague at the time was fashion editor Vera Wang, who later established her own fashion-design house.

Morgenson's break came when the magazine's personal-finance writer left. Though she hadn't taken economics at St. Olaf, she'd been line editing the magazine's finance column and regularly read the *Wall Street Journal*. She got the job and found a home writing about investing. Her own finances, however, suffered from low wages.

After five years at *Vogue*, Morgenson grew weary of her \$10,000-a-year salary and decided to shelve her investigative journalism dream. She'd acquired a taste for the financial world through the column. Now it was time to join the party.

...

MORGENSON BECAME A STOCKBROKER AT Dean Witter Reynolds, a brokerage house with offices at 57th Street in midtown Manhattan. It was early 1982, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average, currently at more than 13,000 points, hovered at 780. Morgenson hunkered down to learn about the world of

capital markets. She discovered how investments worked and didn't work — and made some money in the process. Despite that success, however, she eventually realized that the job wasn't the right fit.

"I just didn't like being out of control," she says. "You would do the best for your customer, and then the market would fall, and that customer would lose money. It was ultimately not what I wanted to do."

Her journalism dream, meanwhile, was still alive, and she discovered that editors valued a writer with Wall Street experience. She soon landed a job at *Money* magazine and, two years later, moved to *Forbes*, the fortnightly business magazine dedicated to in-depth articles that question the conventional wisdom of the media pack.

Morgenson worked under editor James Michaels, a hard-driving taskmaster who had a soft spot for the interests of small investors and avoided lionizing the corporate chieftains of the day.

"He was a real newsman, if you could get past the yelling and screaming," she says. "You had to marshal your facts. He insisted that you respect the reader's time by getting to your point quickly and with efficiency."

It was at *Forbes* that she began to develop a name for herself in the field of financial reporting, which, in the 1980s, was beginning to come into its own. She was fascinated by the business world and realized she was happier writing about finance than she would have been writing about politics.

"The financial world was a much better vein to mine," she says. "It's more varied and not a zero-sum game."



Though she had sources who kept her informed about machinations in the corporate board rooms, she also scoured the troves of documents that public companies disclose to shareholders.

“It wasn’t like I was a political writer in Washington, D.C. who had to get a gift [of information] from someone who had an agenda,” Morgenson says. “I like the clean aspect of financial reporting. There’s so much disclosed on the public record.”

The world of politics, however, intruded upon Morgenson’s life in 1995, when *Forbes* publisher Steve Forbes decided to

“I’M BLESSED WITH NOT HAVING WRITER’S BLOCK. I LIKE HELPING PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE WILD AND CRAZY FIELD OF FINANCE. THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF STORIES OUT THERE.”

run for U.S. president and asked her to be his press secretary. Forbes wanted someone he could trust who knew the sensibilities of the press and could explain his 17 percent flat income-tax plan. He even told Morgenson she could skip much of the travelling that is typical for a press secretary because she had an infant son, then five months old.

She was relieved when Forbes’ campaign dissolved a half-year later.

“It was six months of utter hell,” she recalls. “I had a baby, and I wasn’t willing to hang out at the bar every night. It was a scrum every day, and I experienced first-hand the pack mentality of the Washington press corps.”

Upon her return to *Forbes*, she both wrote and edited. Among her writers was Carolyn Geer, who says she thrived under Morgenson’s mentorship. Morgenson encouraged Geer to take risks with her prose, finding just the right edge to make her writing sing.

“Gretchen could take a small story and see the much bigger picture,” says Geer, who now writes for the *Wall Street Journal*. “Details were important, but you shouldn’t get so stuck in the trees that you missed the forest.”

Geer was also struck by Morgenson’s demeanor in the face of deadlines and the magazine’s more contentious stories. “She’s incredibly calm,” says Geer. “When she was my editor, on any number of nights, I’d be so nervous about my piece going to press that she’d gently pry my fingers off the chandelier and pull me down. She was such a rock.”

MORGENSON’S WORK AT *FORBES* LED HER in 1998 to the *New York Times*, more than two decades after she’d applied there straight out of St. Olaf. Now she was an established professional with the chops to write a column on finance or report on the financial world.

At her new job, she learned that the daily deadline was her friend. At *Forbes*, she’d often found herself sitting on stories, or not writing them at all, because the fortnightly’s news-hole was at such a premium. “I had so many more ideas than *Forbes* had space for,” she says. “A daily deadline can be

intimidating. But you go with the best you have, and tomorrow is another day.”

She arrived at the *Times* just before the hedge fund Long Term Capital Management imploded; the Internet bubble burst about two years later. Those events marked the start of a steady stream of financial crises: the bankruptcies at WorldCom and Enron, scandals involving stock analysts, the real estate bubble, and the subprime mortgage crisis.

Added to these crises were the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, which struck at the heart of New York’s financial community. On that fateful morning, Morgenson feared that her husband, who worked across from the street from the Twin Towers, might not have survived the attacks. He did, but so many others they knew died, including Gary Koecheler, her husband’s brother-in-law, a bond broker working on the South Tower’s 84th floor. The couple attended eight wakes in two days. “After 9/11, I lost my steam,” she says. “Everything seemed so irrelevant.”

To regain her footing, Morgenson began writing about the tragedy for the *Times*, contributing several of the paper’s “Portraits of Grief,” stories that profiled people who had died that day. Her personal column on 9/11 was part of the package of stories that won her the 2002 Pulitzer Prize.

“It was so moving, and so sad,” she says. “Writing those portraits made me feel like I was helping. The families wanted to talk about the person who had died. You really felt that you were helping by telling their stories. And I got my mojo back, too.”

...

IN 2009, MORGENSON TOOK ON A NEW PROJECT. Writing in her spare time, on weekends and at night, she co-authored *Reckless Endangerment: How Outsized Ambition, Greed, and Corruption led to Economic Armageddon*, a book that chronicles the subprime mortgage meltdown of 2008 and the near collapse of the financial system. Co-written with financial analyst Joshua Rosner, it was on the *New York Times* Best Seller list for several weeks in 2011 and will come out in paperback this summer.

“This [the subprime mortgage crisis] was the big kahuna,” says Morgenson. “It was obvious to me and Josh that this wasn’t going to go away. There was going to be a short-term impact and a long tail.”

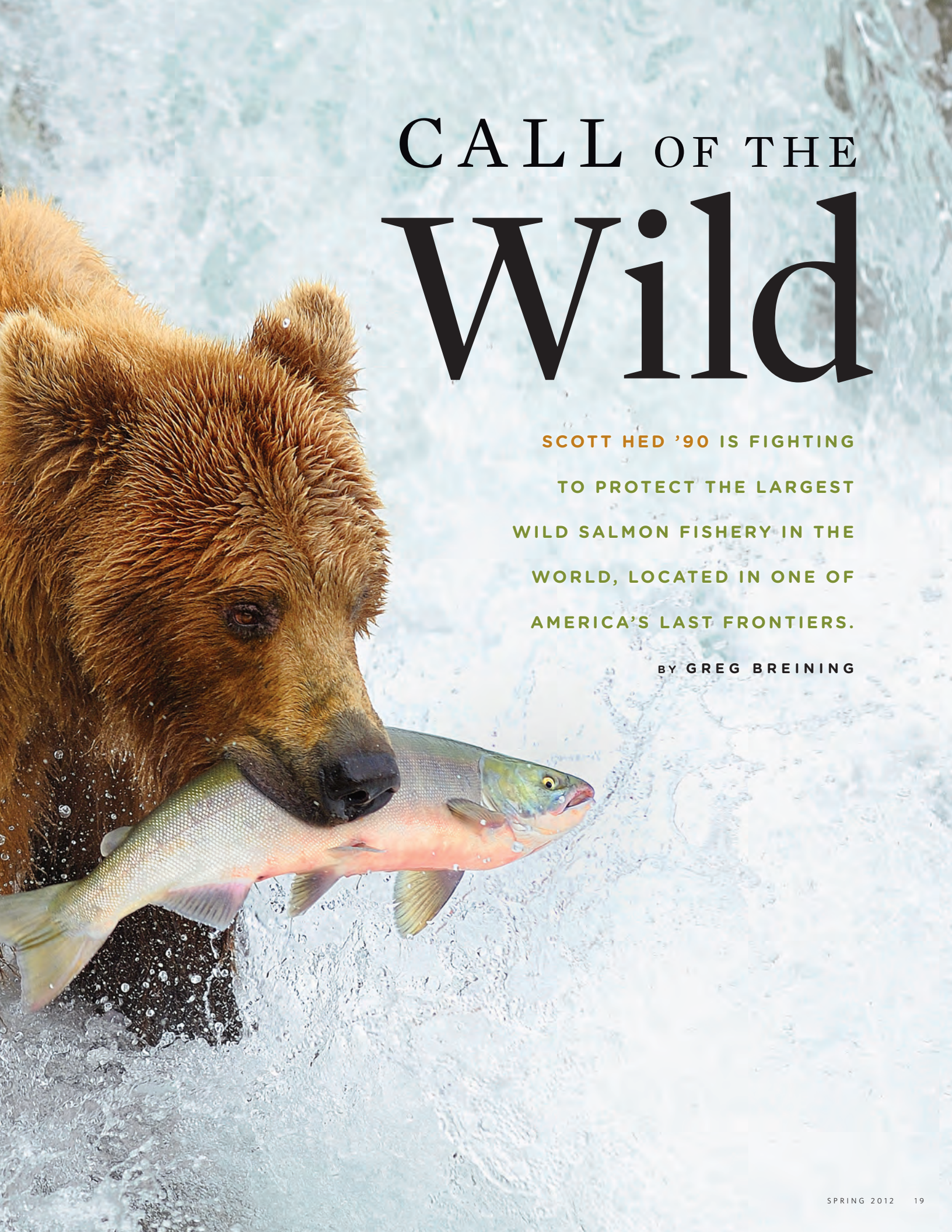
By late winter 2012, fallout from the financial crisis was ever-present in her reporting. “It has been a steady, nonstop horror show,” says Morgenson. “People have gotten badly hurt. The finance companies, members of Congress, and the home-building industry all wrapped themselves in the American flag of homeownership,” she says. “But the very people the government was trying to help were those hardest hit.”

Today, her mojo is working overtime as she continues to explore the catastrophic events that brought the American economy to its knees and help her readers make sense of it all. For Morgenson, it’s all in a day’s work. 🦄

David McKay Wilson is a freelance writer based in New York City who writes for college and university magazines across the country.



An Alaskan coastal brown bear fishes for spawning pink salmon in a tributary of southwestern Alaska's Kvichak River.



CALL OF THE Wild

SCOTT HED '90 IS FIGHTING
TO PROTECT THE LARGEST
WILD SALMON FISHERY IN THE
WORLD, LOCATED IN ONE OF
AMERICA'S LAST FRONTIERS.

BY GREG BREINING

“IF A PLACE LIKE BRISTOL BAY CAN BE LOST, I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE FEEL EVERYTHING IS ON THE TABLE. NOTHING IS OFF LIMITS.”

SCOTT HED SEEMED TO HAVE it all. Decent job. Good pay. Fun coworkers. Great town to live in — Sioux Falls, South Dakota. And on the best days, he could even claim that something he helped finance, a piece of medical equipment perhaps, might have saved a life.

But he wasn't feeling it. Back when he was fresh out of St. Olaf with a degree in economics, his job in the finance industry had been a great fit. But now, after several years of the nine-to-five grind, he was going to work because it was what he'd done the day before, and the week

before, and the month before, and because it was what he went to college for. Was that reason enough?

Sometimes change takes an inducement. Sometimes it takes a kick in the pants. With the announcement his office was closing, Scott Hed got one of each.

He had the chance to keep a job and move back to Minnesota, or to stay in Sioux Falls and find a new job. “I said to myself, I'm thirty-two, this is a chance,” recalls Hed a dozen years later. “What do I want to do with the rest of my life? So I asked: What's behind door number three?”

Door number three turned out to be a severance package, and the opportunity to take a few months off and fall in love — with Alaska, a place he visited years earlier. Soon, he was promoting the state to nature lovers and sportsmen and women in the Lower Forty-Eight and enlisting their help in protecting some of its treasured wild lands, including the famous Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.



The site of the Pebble mine claim, one of the largest open-pit mines ever proposed. If developed, “everything in this picture will be turned into a pit 2,000 feet deep and over two miles across,” says renowned conservation photographer Robert Glenn Ketchum.

PHOTOGRAPH © 2012 ROBERT GLENN KETCHUM

Most recently, the stakes have risen. Hed has been criss-crossing the country as director of the Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska in a crucial bid to protect Bristol Bay — one of the most spectacular wild salmon fisheries in the world — from the threat of an open-pit copper and gold mine and tailings basin that would cover twenty square miles and be deep enough to swallow the Empire State Building. "If a place like Bristol Bay can be lost, I think a lot of people feel everything is on the table," says Hed. "Nothing is off limits."

Hed spends weeks away from his wife and home every year. The work is exhausting. But it is also challenging and rewarding. He feels a purpose every day. "I have never looked back," he says. His decision to head off to Alaska and seek a new career teaches the value of taking a chance and cultivating a passion. It also highlights the advantage of a liberal arts education.

"I always tell people, don't let what you're going to school to get your degree in dictate what you do with the rest of your life," says Hed. "The world's a big place. There's a lot of opportunity out there."

. . .

Hed's high school graduating class in Gaylord, Minnesota, totaled fifty-five. As class valedictorian, he applied to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with the thought of going into engineering. After ending up on the waiting list, he decided to look at smaller colleges in Minnesota.

He had played in his high school band and knew someone who went to St. Olaf and participated in the college's music program. "So I learned a little bit about St. Olaf and came and took a look," says Hed. "I could see myself in this place."

Enrollment in a liberal arts college gave Hed the opportunity for a broader experience than he might have had as an engineering major. He chose economics, with an accounting concentration. "I thought the world of business seemed interesting. Seemed like something you could make some money at."

While Hed imagined someday working on Wall Street, his first job took him to Marshall, Minnesota, and, within a few years, to Sioux Falls. But that suited him. He grew up hunting ducks and pheasants, fishing around southern Minnesota, and canoeing each year with his family in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, near the Canadian border in northern Minnesota. "My mom and dad were really good about instilling a love of the outdoors, wild places, big landscapes," he says. They traveled to all the grand North American landscapes: Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, the Maine Coast, the Black Hills. Hed found it ironic that on the nation's bicentennial, his family was vacationing in Canada's Banff National Park.



Although he would rather be fly fishing for trout and salmon in southwestern Alaska, Scott Hed (above and far right) more often finds himself traveling to Washington D.C. in support of efforts to protect the region from development and other environmental threats.



But for all that, he wasn't quite prepared for his first trip to Alaska, a short jaunt on a bargain-price plane ticket. He rented a car and drove to Denali National Park and down the Kenai Peninsula. He was astounded by Alaska's scale and remoteness, by the sense that there were mountain ranges where humans had never set foot. "You cannot believe there's that much open country," he says. "It was just the wildest of the wild places I had ever been in my life."

So now, with his job ending and ten months pay coming, Hed decided to return to Alaska and see it in an "epic" way. He called an outfitter in Fairbanks and signed up to backpack across the Brooks Range in northern Alaska and then raft down the Kongakut River through the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

"You seem pretty interested in this," the outfitter said over the phone. "I'm working with a conservation group that's bringing people to Washington, D.C. to speak to members of Congress on behalf of Alaska. You interested?"

"It sounded kind of daunting," Hed recalls. He hadn't even taken the trip yet. "Why would my lawmakers care what Scott from Sioux Falls thinks about this place in remote Alaska?"

But he went to D.C. And he found he enjoyed representing a place he loved but barely knew. “What initially seemed very daunting and intimidating turned out to be a chance where I met some really great people,” he says. He discovered how easy it was to talk to someone about something he cared deeply about. He learned to “speak from the heart,” he says. “You don’t have to be an expert on it.”

That summer, he backpacked and rafted in arctic Alaska. Of many memorable experiences, one of the most spectacular took place on the banks of the Kongakut as hundreds, if not thousands, of caribou engulfed his camp in their migration from the foothills to the coastal plain. That day, he watched the caribou plunge into the racing water, the calves entering timidly and washing downstream before reaching the distant bank, where they rejoined their mothers.

“An incredible experience,” recalls Hed. “It really kind of locked in my passion about Alaska.”

He returned home to a message on his answering machine: The Alaska Coalition needed a representative in the Midwest to speak to groups on behalf of protecting Alaskan wild lands. Did Hed know anyone? Hed returned the call. He recalls saying, “Of course I know someone in the Midwest, and you’re talking to him. So let’s do a phone interview and see what comes of this.”

. . .

Hed went to work as a representative for the Alaska Coalition and later took a staff position with another conservation group, the Alaska Conservation Foundation. He continued to live in Sioux Falls, talking to midwesterners about the big Alaska issues, primarily protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling, and preventing clear-cutting in Tongass National Forest in the Alaskan panhandle.

Then, about six years ago, the foundation asked Hed to shift his focus to an area of emerging concern. — Bristol Bay in southwestern Alaska. Northern Dynasty Minerals, a mineral exploration and development company based in Vancouver, British Columbia, wanted to consolidate mineral claims in the headwaters of Bristol Bay. If approved, it would lead to a mammoth open-pit copper and gold excavation known as Pebble Mine. Would Hed, the foundation asked, be willing to talk to hunters, anglers, and sporting-goods companies across the United States about the danger the Pebble Mine posed to the salmon runs in Bristol Bay?

The proposed site of the Pebble mine is an area of tundra wilderness in the headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak Rivers, two of the eight major rivers that feed Bristol Bay.



The job seemed like perfect match — almost too perfect. Says Hed, “I thought to myself, do I need to read the fine print here? Where is the catch? Am I still going to get paid?” He would talk to sportsmen and women — his people in many ways — about a place they all loved or dreamed of going to. “So I said, sign me up.”

To carry out the lobbying effort, Hed started the Sportsman’s Alliance for Alaska as a project of the Alaska Conservation Foundation. So far, he has lined up the support of more than



500 hunting and fishing organizations across the country, including some 150 companies that cater to sportsmen and women, such as Sturm, Ruger & Co., a firearms manufacturer, and the Scott Fly Rod Company.

Says Hed, “I like to say I’ve got everyone from catch-and-release fishermen to big-game hunters. I have been able to work the fishing industry because [Bristol Bay] is honest-to-God one of the premier fly-fishing destinations on this planet for trophy rainbow trout as well as the salmon.”

Bristol Bay forms a huge notch in the coast of southwest Alaska, cradled by the sweeping arm of the mountainous Alaska Peninsula. Its watershed is a complex system of rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands that support the most productive wild sockeye salmon fishery in the world. Each year, up to 40 million mature salmon — Chinook, Coho, sockeye, chum, and pink — ascend the rivers of Bristol Bay to spawn. Most abundant are the sockeye, green and red in their spawning colors. They swim and thrash up the clear shallow tributaries in such numbers that they



Chikuminuk Lake, Wood-Tikchick State Park. The Bristol Bay basin is a complex system of rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands that support the most productive wild salmon fishery in the world.

MICHAEL MELFORD/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STOCK



Salmon is the most valuable commercial fish managed by the state of Alaska, and Bristol Bay is its richest commercial fishery.
NICK HALL/GETTY IMAGES



Each year, up to 40 million mature salmon ascend the rivers and streams of Bristol Bay to spawn. Most abundant are the sockeye, green and red in their spawning colors.
MICHAEL MELFORD/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STOCK

turn the streams themselves the color of blood.

The bay and its tributaries support a commercial wild salmon fishery worth \$350 million a year, with some 8,000 fishing jobs and another 4,000 in processing and other fishing-related positions. Anglers, especially fly-fishermen, flock to the spawning runs, paying as much as \$1,000 a day to stay at lodges on the best streams in hopes of landing the proverbial fish of a lifetime.

**BRISTOL BAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES
SUPPORT A COMMERCIAL WILD SALMON
FISHERY WORTH \$350 MILLION ANNUALLY,
WITH 8,000 FISHING JOBS AND ANOTHER
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FISHING-RELATED POSITIONS.**

The Pebble Mine, if developed, would sit on the streams that drain into the Nushagak River and the Kvichak River (by way of Iliamna Lake). These two river systems produce about 40 percent of Bristol Bay's sockeye salmon. No ordinary mine, Pebble would be one of the largest for copper, gold, and molybdenum in the world, a combination of underground shafts and an open pit that all together would measure up to 3 miles across and 1,700 feet deep.

One of the most troubling aspects of the Pebble Mine is the tremendous volume of low-grade ore that would be pulverized to get at scattered flecks and tiny veins of metal. Compared to the ore of the historic Kennecott Mine in the Copper River drainage, which averaged 13 percent copper over its life, the ore of the Pebble Mine is expected to yield only 0.34 percent copper, 0.023 percent molybdenum, and 0.01 ounces gold per ton.

The result? More than 99 percent of the estimated 10.78 billion tons of ore in the Pebble Mine would be pulverized and stored on site behind earthen dams up to 740 feet high. The metallic sulfide waste rock from these dams has the potential to produce acid drainage that could enter the salmon streams, poisoning the fish. To make matters dicier, that area of the Alaskan coast is riven with faults that frequently shift to produce some of the world's largest earthquakes, such as the magnitude 9.2 quake that shook Prince William Sound in 1964. Large earthquakes might lead to tailings dam failures that could wipe out entire watersheds.

In response to these very real concerns, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under the Clean Water Act, has undertaken a scientific analysis of the Bristol Bay watershed to better understand how large-scale development might affect water quality and the salmon. Hed calls this project "the biggest book report ever put together for Bristol Bay." The assessment, scheduled to be completed by late 2012, will inform the EPA's policies on protecting the area's water quality and the salmon fishery.

As the mining proposal continues to go ahead, developers will have to apply for dozens of permits from the state of Alaska and the federal government. One key permit would allow the creation of the massive dams to contain the mining waste.

Hed and other campaign leaders are hoping that the findings of the EPA's watershed assessment and other investigations lead the federal government to step in to stop the mine.

According to Hed, a lot rides on whether the Pebble project goes forward. "I think people view this as: If Pebble goes, a lot more is going to end up happening," he says. "Outside of the Pebble claim, there are 1,000 square miles of mining claims that exist and are simply lying in wait. If Pebble were permitted, the infrastructure would be in place that doesn't exist today." In other words, roads would provide access to other claims.

In an unusual showing of solidarity, native communities around Bristol Bay have joined with sportsmen and women, and commercial fishermen in Alaska and elsewhere. Chefs, restaurant owners, and food markets have opposed the mine. Even jewelry companies, including Tiffany & Co, Helzberg Diamonds, and Jostens have vowed to get their gold elsewhere.

"There are all these diverse interest groups that asked the EPA to get involved — all of whom have come out and said this is not an anti-mining initiative," says Hed. "This is simply the wrong idea in the wrong place, in an area that is extremely valuable in its current state.

"It's an incredibly unique set of circumstances that gives me cautious optimism that the good guys have a fighting chance," says Hed. "It is simply one of those iconic places that are far too few in this world, in this time."

...

Hed says he has no regrets about his midlife career change. On the other hand, he has no second thoughts about his original decision to get an economics degree at St. Olaf and work in the financial field.

"It gave me a lot of great experience. I made great friends that I'm still friends with to this day," he says. Still, he recommends the benefits of soul searching. "I think more people should take a bit of time to honestly look in the mirror when they get ready to go to work in the morning. Ask yourself a really hard question: Do I love, do I have a passion, do I really care about what I'm going to go and do for the next eight to ten hours today?"

"Just keep your eyes and ears open, because you never know what's going to present itself."

For the last three years, Hed has returned to St. Olaf to speak to students about his career and Alaska. It's an opportunity to talk about conservation and also a chance, he says, to give "broad guidance to kids that are here today."

During Hed's most recent visit to St. Olaf last spring, President David R. Anderson asked him what he'd do next in his career if conservation groups such as the Alaska Conservation Foundation and Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska prevailed in stopping the Pebble Mine.

"I've had other people ask me that question," Hed recalls answering. "I said, you know what? If this turns out right, I will have worked myself out of a job."

"But that means I will have done my job." 🦄

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

Learn more at sportsmansalliance4ak.org and savebristolbay.org.

PIONEERING *the* PEACE CORPS

BY CAROLE LEIGH ENGBLOM

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER

Susan Thompson was no stranger to the ideal of service when she came to St. Olaf as a first year student in 1957. Two years earlier, as a high school junior growing up in the small town of Wadena in North Central Minnesota, Thompson moved with her parents to Manila when her father, Joseph, accepted a short-term United Nations assignment. This early experience of living abroad exposed Thompson to a social, economic, religious, and cultural diversity quite different from what she'd known, and she enjoyed it.

When the time came for her to select a college, St. Olaf — being a college of the church with an excellent reputation in academics and music — seemed a good fit for Thompson, for whom these things were important. The same year that Thompson began her college career, Minnesota State Senator Hubert H. Humphrey — one of her heroes — introduced a bill to Congress that he noted was “of emotional importance” to him: the Peace Corps initiative.

Humphrey's goal of promoting peace and helping people in developing countries intrigued Thompson, but the idea was met with a lack of enthusiasm in Congress. “Some traditional diplomats quaked at the thought of thousands of young Americans scattered across their world,” Humphrey wrote in his autobiography, *The Education of a Public Man*. “Many senators, including liberal ones, thought it silly and an unworkable idea.”



Thompson was enjoying college life atop Manitou Heights. But Manila had whetted her appetite for another international experience. “I wanted to see the world and be part of the world,” she says. Spending a year in Europe seemed like a good idea, but it was expensive. Her parents suggested she find a way to study abroad and receive college credit, thus broadening her life and her educational experience. On the advice of her faculty adviser, political science professor George Shepherd, who had spent three years in East Africa as a Fulbright scholar, Thompson spent her junior year in Lebanon studying at the American University of Beirut. It was the beginning, says Thompson, of what would become a lifelong concern and involvement in issues of peace and justice between Israelis and Palestinians, and it made her eager for more overseas experiences.

The political science and history major was still studying in Beirut during Senator John F. Kennedy’s campaign for the presidency (though she was cheering for Humphrey, she says), keeping apprised of American politics through the English-language newspaper, the *Beirut Daily Star*.

It was President Kennedy’s inaugural call to action during Thompson’s senior year — “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country” — that made Humphrey’s innovative Peace Corps bill possible. The young president who connected with America’s youth pushed for its passage, resulting in the formal establishment of the Peace Corps in the spring of 1961.

Three months later, Thompson graduated from St. Olaf with an eye toward finding work in the Foreign Service, although the Peace Corps, she says, was “an attractive option, since I failed the Foreign Service exam!” And, too, “In so many ways the Peace Corps seemed a logical post-graduate step for me.”

Thompson’s father, however, preferred that she stay in

Minnesota and obtain a steady job rather than pursue Peace Corps service. “It was a completely uncharacteristic urging on his part,” she says. “My parents were leaving in June for the Middle East. They had signed up to work for the Lutheran World Federation in Jerusalem. Perhaps my father wanted me to be secure at home while they were gone.” Her mother, Gladys, a teacher, urged Thompson to take education classes at Moorhead State University.

Thompson’s friend and political science classmate, Robert (Bob) Hoyle ’61, suggested she join him in taking the Peace Corps exam in Minneapolis, observing, “It’s a natural for you!” She did, and then moved to Northern Minnesota to live with her maternal grandmother and began looking into continuing her education at Moorhead.

Not long after, a telegram from the Peace Corps arrived, telling Thompson that she had been accepted into the program. She was delighted. “This is what I had hoped for,” she says. “But my grandma was very sad. Her daughter was already halfway around the world in the Middle East, and now her granddaughter was going away, too. But I wanted to do this.”

She discovered that Bob Hoyle, too, had received an acceptance telegram. They would be the first two St. Olaf alumni to serve in the Peace Corps and among the first-ever Peace Corps volunteers to serve in the Philippines.

Within weeks Thompson was at Penn State with dozens of other volunteers, training for their work as “education aides” in the Philippines. The young trainees were largely “generalists,” and most had graduated from colleges of the liberal arts. They undertook their training with enthusiasm and seriousness, acutely aware that, as the first Americans many Filipinos would meet, they were the face of America. The project description was designed “to improve the quality of English spoken in rural areas of the Philippines, to help Filipino teachers of rural elementary schools



Susan Thompson (back row, fourth from right) and her fellow volunteers, Frances MacDonald, Joyce Edwards, and Phyllis Clemensen, spent the summer of 1962 in Zamboanga, Mindanao, teaching courses in “speech improvement” at Zamboanga Normal College. The four women were reunited in Washington D.C. last fall when the Peace Corps celebrated its 50th anniversary.

learn to speak better English and gain a great understanding of scientific principles, and to raise the teaching standards in both English and science.”

According to *Answering Kennedy's Call: Pioneering the Peace Corps in the Philippines*, a collection of essays written by those who volunteered in 1961 — Thompson among them — the young trainees spent six days a week, twelve hours a day in orientation classes, discussion groups, and cultural activities. The Peace Corps leadership felt some sort of “roughing it” training was also necessary, says Thompson, so the young men were sent to Puerto Rico for a brief Outward Bound experience and the young women were sent to the mountains of Western Pennsylvania with tents for an overnight camping experience.

**“IT HAS BEEN HELPFUL FOR ME TO
HAVE LIVED IN OTHER CULTURES
AND EXPERIENCED OTHER LANGUAGES.
I KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE
A STRANGER AND A NEWCOMER.”**

The Penn State training was followed by six more weeks of in-country training at the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture in Los Baños, where volunteers were instructed in the Tagalog language, learned more about the history and culture of the Philippines, and visited local schools and communities. The Philippine program wasn't the first to send its Peace Corps volunteers into training or arrive overseas — by the time Thompson arrived in Manila, the Peace Corps had established itself in five countries — but with twenty-five percent of the Peace Corps's volunteers, the Philippine program in 1961 was the largest program in the world and the first in Asia.

The volunteers were divided into three groups, Philippines I, II, and III. Thompson, part of the Philippine II, or Botch II, group, was sent with three young volunteers (Frances MacDonald, Joyce Edwards, and Phyllis Clemensen) to the inland Panay town of Alimodian, Iloilo. Its economic base was agricultural, with some local commerce and one large school in town with barrio schools in the countryside. Thompson, assigned to the Bancal Barrio School, and her three Peace Corps companions were welcomed by the Alimodianites, who were “gracious and patient as we learned.”

In time, Thompson, along with fellow volunteer Eric Peterson, was asked by her volunteer leader, David, to work with him. She notes, “Our main task was to visit volunteers, finding out if there were things our colleagues needed that the Peace Corps could help provide and hearing how things were going.” In this pre-cell phone, pre-Skype, pre-email and texting world, face-to-face contact was the best source of communication among the volunteers, so Thompson and Peterson traveled separately around the island by jeep. Thompson visited the women volunteers, and Peterson visited the men volunteers, learning about the ups and downs experienced by so many of their fellow Americans under conditions so very different from those they knew back home.

“I was twenty-three years old, and I had no training in psychology,” says Thompson, who often found herself arbitrating disputes between disgruntled roommates or trying to convince frustrated volunteers to fulfill the obligations of their Peace Corps service. “I've never worked so hard in my life!”

It was a lesson in resilience and cross-cultural understanding

that made a lasting impact on Thompson, shaped her, and influenced her professional choices in the years ahead. What experiences in Alimodian stands out in her mind fifty years later?

Among them, “the Cuban missile crisis, when we lived each day in anticipation of hearing the latest Voice of America news that evening on our neighbor's radio, and during which we had conversations about what we would do if war broke out — as if there was anything we could do!”

Thompson also remembers with fondness “the large Gonzagas family in Iloilo City, who provided a refuge for so many of us, sometimes Sunday dinners, Thanksgiving, joyous times around their piano, an occasional overnight in an air-conditioned bedroom, ice cream for the asking, and parental perspectives and wisdom as we, or at least I, continued to grow up.”

She returned to a United States quite different from the country she'd left two years earlier. This new country was one marked by the shifting “Leave it to Beaver” view of traditional American family life, widening career opportunities for women, the escalating military conflict in Vietnam, and the rising Civil Rights movement. It was a new world for Thompson, one that she was well prepared to contribute to thanks to her Peace Corps experience and her early St. Olaf study abroad experience in Beirut.


Her first post-Peace Corps job was at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in New York City, followed by a move to Washington D.C., where she held a position as assistant director of the inter-Lutheran government relations office and dealt with international and domestic issues.

The next thirty years were spent in new congregational development for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, first as field staff in Wisconsin, where she helped start new ministries for people who didn't speak English and for people of color, and later in the national ELCA offices in Chicago, where she helped start and nurture new churches for a variety of people while reaching out to immigrant communities.

Building on her interest in the Middle East in general and Palestinian and Lebanese life in particular, Thompson — in her work with the ELCA Division for Outreach — oversaw the development of an Arab mission strategy within the domestic mission/outreach program of the ELCA, and was one of the founders of the ELCA's Association of Lutherans of Arab and other Middle Eastern Heritage (ALAMEH).

“It has been helpful for me to have lived in other cultures and experienced other languages,” says Thompson. “I know what it feels like to be a stranger and a newcomer.”

Thompson returned to the Philippines for the 35th anniversary of the Peace Corps, revisiting old, familiar places. Last fall, the Peace Corps celebrated its 50th anniversary in Washington D.C. Thompson was there, joining former Peace Corps colleagues, including her former classmate Bob Hoyle.

“It was the joyous time I had hoped it would be,” says Thompson. “I left so impressed with the lives of service so many have led and are leading in this country and in others. And among the many high points was simply sharing a meal with my housemates from those years, with whom I had shared so many meals in such an extraordinary time in our lives. I'm grateful for what our town-mates taught us and what we learned from each other. I'm grateful that we, as young adults, had the interest and courage to step out across the world in an entirely new venture in 1961, and I'm grateful for Hubert Humphrey's idea and John Kennedy and Sargeant Shriver's implementation of it.” 

Carole Leigh Engblom is editor of *St. Olaf Magazine*.



Peace MAKERS

IN 2011, THE PEACE CORPS
MARKED FIFTY YEARS OF
PROMOTING PEACE AND
FRIENDSHIP AROUND THE
WORLD, WITH EACH GEN-
ERATION OF VOLUNTEERS
INSPIRING THE NEXT.
AMONG THEM ARE NEARLY
FIVE HUNDRED OLES,
WHO HAVE CHANGED
COUNTLESS LIVES
THROUGH EDUCATION
AND ENGAGEMENT.

By *CLAIRE CARLSON '12*
and *J. TROUT LOWEN*



Since the first group of young Peace Corps volunteers left their homes, families, and friends in 1961 to serve in remote corners of the world, more than 200,000 Americans — and nearly 500 Oles — have gone on to serve in 139 countries, impacting the lives of millions.

For fifty-one years, Oles have been volunteering for Peace Corps service, which has never lost its relevance as it adapted and responded to the issues of the times. They have taken their cue from Susan Thompson '61 and Bob Hoyle '61, who were the college's first Peace Corps Volunteers and who served in one of the first groups to be sent abroad.

St. Olaf has consistently earned a place among the nation's small colleges and universities as one of the top producers of Peace Corps volunteers. This year, St. Olaf

holds the No. 3 position among small colleges and universities, with twenty-four alumni currently serving in Azerbaijan, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jordan, Moldova, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Ukraine, and Zambia.

The mission of the Peace Corps has always complemented the mission of St. Olaf College.

Oles are charged with being responsible and knowledgeable citizens of the world and leading lives of unselfish service. In an ever-changing world, Oles who serve in the Peace Corps have helped countless individuals seeking to build a better life for themselves, their families, and their communities.

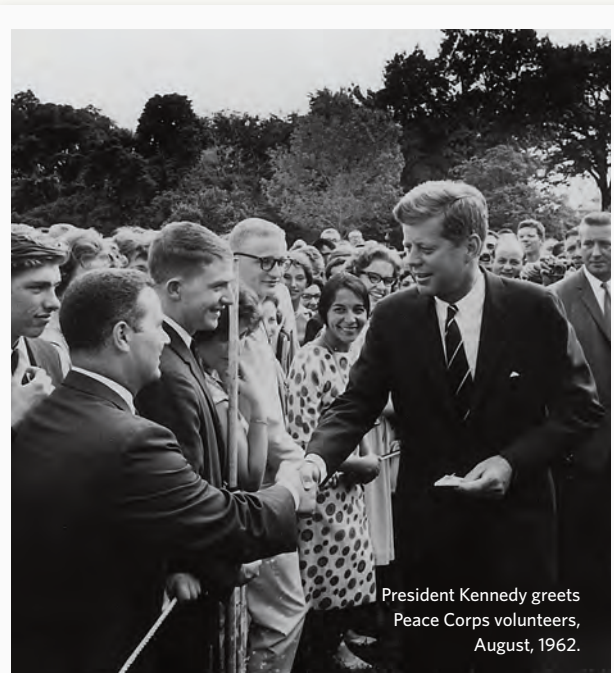
From AIDS education to emerging technologies to environmental preservation to new market economies, the work of St. Olaf Peace Corps Volunteers in small villages and urban environments around the world represents a legacy of service that is not only a significant part of St. Olaf's history but also of our nation's.



"Life in the Peace Corps will not be easy. There will be no salary and allowances will be at a level sufficient only to maintain health and meet basic needs. Men and women will be expected to work and live alongside the nationals of the country in which they are stationed — doing the same work, eating the same food, talking the same language.

But if the life will not be easy, it will be rich and satisfying. For every young American who participates in the Peace Corps — who works in a foreign land — will know that he or she is sharing in the great common task of bringing to man that decent way of life which is the foundation of freedom and a condition of peace."

— PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, 1961



President Kennedy greets Peace Corps volunteers, August, 1962.

Danielle Stoermer '08

KAYEMOR, SENEGAL · 2009-2011

DAKAR, SENEGAL · 2011-2012

For the past two years, Danielle Stoermer has worked with farmers from the central Kaolack region of Senegal to help improve the yield and diversity of their major field crops — cowpea, rice, corn, millet, and sorghum — as well as a wide variety of vegetable crops.

As a sustainable agriculture extension agent for the Peace Corps, she taught farmers a variety of useful skills, including composting and intercropping, proper seed selection and storage, and field monitoring and evaluation, as well as basic data collection and record keeping.

Now that her service is coming to an end, Stoermer, who has maintained a blog about her Peace Corps experience, feels that she has made a difference in the lives of the Senegalese she has worked with. “The Peace Corps is designed around making small, incremental changes at the local level, and I think that is exactly the type of impact that I have made,” she says.

Stoermer credits these changes to the dedication of the people she worked with, as well as the support and training she received from Peace Corps staff and Senegalese locals. “The most important thing when trying to make a difference in people’s lives is to learn about their culture, their life, their struggles, their aspirations,” she says. “Only then will you be able to work hand in hand with them to help them make a difference in their own lives.”

As comfortable and confident as Stoermer is with her Peace Corps work, it was not what she had imagined doing after college. As an undergraduate, Stoermer was always interested in the intersection between the environment and social problems, with a growing interest in how agriculture fit into both issues. She intended to go on to graduate school to pursue a master’s degree in ecology. However, as commencement grew nearer, Stoermer reconsidered her priorities. “I realized that I really wanted to do something more directly and immediately beneficial to society,” she says.

After careful deliberation with St. Olaf professors and classmates, Stoermer decided to pursue the Peace Corps’s Master’s International Program at Cornell University in the field of



international agriculture and rural development. The program gives students the opportunity to combine a master’s degree with overseas study.

“I liked how the program at Cornell provided me with the opportunity to take ‘hard science’ courses about soil science and tropical cropping systems, while at the same time taking ‘soft science’ courses such as management of agricultural and rural development programs,” says Stoermer. After taking classes at Cornell for one academic year, Stoermer headed to Senegal in August 2009 to begin her Peace Corps service.

As Stoermer worked with farmers, she also tackled problems that affect their families. Many

Senegalese girls are pulled out of school prematurely to work, thereby becoming a contributor of resources to the family instead of a user, says Stoermer. To offset the costs of education, she helped middle school girls in her community attain academic scholarships made possible by a Peace Corps program. She also started a small book-lending system in her village and planned, with her Peace Corps volunteer replacement, a library structure, complete with computers.

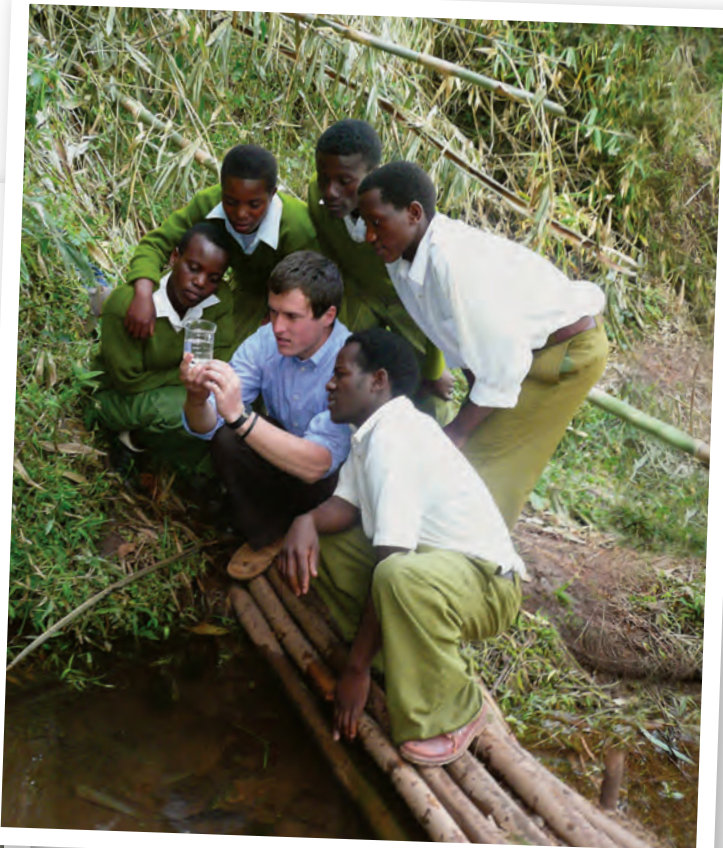
After two years in the Kaolack region, Stoermer extended her stay for a third year, and has assumed a new Peace Corps position in Dakar, the capital of Senegal. “While my time here has been incredibly challenging, it has also been incredibly rewarding,” Stoermer says. “I have been able to put into action the values and beliefs that motivated me to join in the first place.”

As part of her new role, Stoermer will lead an evaluation of the Peace Corps’ food security program in Senegal, using the information that she gathers as a basis for her master’s thesis. When she completes her service at the end of 2012, Stoermer plans to pursue employment in international agriculture.

— CLAIRE CARLSON '12

Andrew Tompsett '07

MAVALA, TANZANIA · 2007-2010



For Andrew Tompsett, spending three years as a Peace Corps volunteer in a rural village in Tanzania teaching science and HIV/AIDS prevention was, he says, a way of “fulfilling my own responsibility to make the world a more humane, livable, and friendly place.”

Tompsett says of his Peace Corps experience, “It opened my eyes to a different corner of the world. I hope that my actions and values reflect my experience and the person that I became because of it.”

Tompsett was inspired to join the Peace Corps in part due to his experience studying abroad during his junior year at St. Olaf. A biology major, Tompsett took advantage of the college’s Biology in South India Program, spending a semester in rural India. There he learned about Indian beekeeping practices and the effect of roadkill on wildlife populations, as well as the social and economic inequalities that pervaded the countryside.

Returning to campus inspired and determined to make a difference, Tompsett joined student organizations that focused on poverty eradication and social justice issues. As he weighed his post-graduate options during his senior year, he decided to look into several different domestic and international service programs, including the Peace Corps.

“I wanted to return to the international community, develop my teaching skills, and expand my knowledge of community organizing and development,” he says. “Ultimately, I felt called

to apply the knowledge I obtained at St. Olaf and abroad to serve others.”

Tompsett’s primary Peace Corps assignment in Tanzania was teaching biology at a government school in Mavala, a rural village located in the Iringa region of southern Tanzania. To help make the Mavala Secondary School a better facility for learning, Tompsett worked with the community to build a science laboratory, a small library, and a rainwater collection and delivery system. He also initiated youth leadership and community outreach programs.

Currently a graduate student at the University of Minnesota’s School of Public Health, Tompsett is pursuing a master’s degree in community health promotion with an emphasis in global health. He hopes that this degree will allow him to work for a community-based non-profit organization where he can focus on issues related to infectious diseases and healthcare for women and children.

“Ideally, I see myself working in health promotion and education, working to design programs that promote safe drinking water, malaria control, and HIV education and prevention,” says Tompsett, who is working with the Minnesota Department of Health and interning with WellShare International, which provides health education and outreach to immigrant populations.

He plans to return to Tanzania this summer, and while he hopes to see that his projects have affected positive change, he knows that the impact of the Peace Corps on his own life is change enough.

“The Peace Corps helped me to solidify my interests and develop a passion for serving and empowering others,” says Tompsett. “In a world overrun by poverty, inequality, and conflict, we need to continue to promote peace, mutual understanding, social justice, and development around the world.”

— CLAIRE CARLSON '12, photographed by Tom Roster

Craig R. Johnson '91 and Tina Swanson Johnson '91

ARUBA (NEAR KITALE), KENYA · 1994–1996

Craig and Christina (Tina) Johnson taught biology, chemistry, and math for two years as Peace Corps volunteers at St. Christopher, a rural public high school outside of Kitale, Kenya. But some of the most lasting lessons they may have imparted had less to do with science than with life.

As a couple, the Johnsons offered a unique opportunity for their Kenyan community to see what married life, American-style, looks like. Their Kenyan neighbors were often amused, amazed, and sometimes even shocked by what they saw, the Johnsons say.

“Craig, to this day still does most of our cooking, so he would do a lot of those domestic kinds of things. The Kenyans were always in awe. We would at times have crowds of people standing in our front yard watching him peel potatoes,” says Tina.

Life in Kenya was no less surprising for the Johnsons, who traded steady jobs, a house, and a two-car lifestyle in St. Paul for a new life without electricity or running water but with the chance to make a difference.

St. Christopher had been without a science teacher for several years when the Johnsons were posted to the school. In addition to science and math, Craig also taught physical education classes, and they both led the school's wildlife club. Curiosity about the new teachers proved such an attraction that membership in the club jumped from 20 the previous year to 180 the year they arrived, Craig recalls.

That curiosity extended to their fellow faculty members as well, Craig says. Although university educated, some teachers seemed as surprised as the students about life in America and the role of women in society. Craig publically credited Tina for remarks she made during a school assembly one morning, eliciting snickers from students. Afterward, another teacher explained how unusual it was for a man to acknowledge a woman.

“I think it was fun for us to be role models, to show the kids that it didn't have to be the way it was for them,” says Tina, who is now a physician assistant at Mayo Clinic Health System in Cannon Falls, Minnesota.

But Kenya had an impact on Craig and Tina, too, much like the impact that Tina's parents' Peace Corps service had on her when she was growing up — and later on Craig. Her childhood home was filled with mementos collected by her parents, Jack and Kathy Heltne Swanson '66, who served in Thailand from 1967 to 1969.



“I think they just instilled [the idea] that it was important to try to do something — not necessarily the Peace Corps — but to do some traveling and see the world,” says Tina.

Craig, who is a biology teacher at Northfield High School, enjoys sharing memories of his Peace Corps services with his students, greeting them each day in Swahili and asking them to respond in kind. It makes an impression on students, he says, when he can speak from a global perspective.

“I think the kids respect that. It gives them a more global view as well,” he adds.

Craig and Tina sometimes still speak Swahili at home — especially when they don't want their three children, ages five, eight, and ten, to

know what Mom and Dad are talking about. And before their children are grown, they plan to spend at least some time living and working outside the United States. It is an experience they want to share with their children.

“I think the experience of serving [in the Peace Corps] is still important — to both parties,” says Tina, “the nationals you're helping and certainly for the volunteer. Actually getting out and doing it is invaluable.”

— J. TROUT LOWEN, photographed by Tom Roster



David Leege '86

MAURITANIA, NORTH AFRICA · 1987-1989

For many volunteers the Peace Corps is a single chapter in a long career — a two-year immersion in another culture, often wedged between college and “the rest of life.”

But David Leege’s two-year mission in the African country of Mauritania proved to be the launching pad for a career in international development with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), which has taken him around the world. Over the past two decades, he has worked in Angola, Benin, Pakistan, Cambodia, Rwanda, and Burundi. He currently lives in Baltimore, Maryland, but regularly travels abroad in his capacity as deputy director for program quality and support at CRS, overseeing technical assistance and strategic planning.

Leege was already something of a world traveler when he entered the Peace Corps just after college. He lived with his family in Belgium for a semester in high school. And while studying for his dual major in French and political science at St. Olaf, he spent an Interim in Paris during his junior year, followed by a semester studying French in Angers, France. He then spent his senior year Interim in Costa Rica. He had also taken several classes in what was then referred to as “third world development,” which whetted his appetite for more international travel off the beaten track.

“I had this interest in travel, and this hunger to see other parts of the world that I had not been to yet,” he says. “That, combined with a sense of the importance of service and reaching out to others who are less fortunate than I was, [made] the Peace Corps seem like a good opportunity to do that kind of work.”

His posting in Mauritania offered a different kind of international experience, however. A largely Islamic country in North Africa situated between Morocco and Senegal, Mauritania is a mix of cultures. As a former French colony, the country’s official language is French, but the population is a mix of Black African, Arab, and Berber, with a diversity of languages and cultures. Leege was assigned to work as an agricultural extension agent in the Sahara to help former nomadic herders develop new crop-growing skills.

“It was an area where nomadic people had lost a lot of their herds of camels and goats to drought in the 1980s, and they were starting to settle down in oases, trying to gain a new livelihood,” Leege explains. “My job was to help them learn simple techniques for growing vegetables, because there were opportunities to sell vegetables in growing urban markets, and also to manage and conserve water, because water was obviously at a premium there.”

Just living in the desert was something of a challenge at first,



Leege recalls. “It’s not just the language, it’s the way of thinking — some of the traditions that they have, things that they consider important values and beliefs.”

Leege was fluent in French when he arrived in the country, so he was able to concentrate on learning Hassaniya, the Arabic dialect spoken by the local population. Having at least some ability to speak the local language is invaluable in any international situation, he stresses.

One of the traditions Leege says he came to deeply appreciate was the warm hospitality of the nomadic people. “They were very welcoming with the little that they had,” he remembers. “It would be something perhaps as simple as offering me a bowl of camel’s milk when I arrived at their tent. Or sometimes it was more elaborate. They might even butcher a goat and cook a stew for me.”

Leege liked living in Mauritania so well, he stayed for two years after his Peace Corps service ended, working for the U.S. embassy until the first Gulf War broke out and he was forced to leave. A few months later, he was hired by CRS. Just as he had not seen the Peace Corps as a career choice, neither did he expect to spend the next two decades working for CRS. During that time, he also earned his Ph.D. in agricultural economics.

Working internationally, whether as part of the Peace Corps or some other organization, gives people a very different and valuable perspective, he says. And, like many Peace Corps volunteers, Leege thinks he got more out of the experience than he gave.

“You just have a very different perspective on the way other people live,” he says. “It isn’t necessarily a black-and-white picture, like some people are better off and others are poorer. It’s always a complex situation. People are very creative, and they approach life in different ways from different vantage points, different cultures. You learn not only to respect that but also to learn from it.”

— J. TROUT LOWEN, *photographed by Evelyn Hockstein/Polaris*



David Sauter '78

VAVA'U, TONGA · 1979-1980

After a childhood spent in the small Minnesota town of Prior Lake, and four more years studying at St. Olaf, David Sauter was ready for a change. He had only traveled far from home once, the summer after graduating high school, when he competed for three weeks in Sweden and Finland as part of a wrestling team representing Minnesota. As a newly minted St. Olaf graduate with a degree in biology, he was itching for a little adventure. He wanted to see the world, experience something new, and be a part of something significant. So Sauter did what many Oles have done before and since, he joined the Peace Corps.

That's how, having just celebrated his 22nd birthday, Sauter found himself nearly 7,000 miles away from home living in a one room house and teaching general science, biology, and chemistry to students on the island of Vava'u, one of the largest of the 176 islands that make up the South Pacific nation of Tonga.

"Shocking" is how Sauter remembers his first days and weeks there. "It was an eye-opening experience, a transformation, but it was a wonderful experience."

Life on the island was simple. Vava'u had electricity during the daylight hours only, rudimentary plumbing, and no refrigeration. It had one radio station but no television, and the nearest telephone was a long boat ride away. Sauter was cut off from friends, family, and everything familiar. He made just one phone call home in two and a half years.

Although the experience was isolating at first, Sauter remembers much of his stay on Vava'u as a time of intense connectedness. After



the first six months, he began to feel at home and to become part of the community. Before long, he was visiting new friends, attending festivals and gatherings called *fai kavas*, and even going to the movies — most often Asian karate films shown in a banana shed.

"I *always* had company — friends, neighbors, students, other teachers," he says. "In Tonga it was considered very sad to be alone without your family, and if they cared about you they tried to fill the void as best they could."

Sauter's presence on Vava'u also filled a void for the families there. Before he arrived, the local school, which served students from Vava'u and surrounding islands, had no science teacher. Students who wanted to attend university had to first move away from home to complete their coursework at a school in the country's capital city, Nuku'alofa, on the island of Tongatapu, 150 miles away by boat. Sauter's teaching allowed them to finish their studies at home instead.

It was gratifying, Sauter says, to know that his Peace Corps service made such an immediate difference. "I had some students who scored really well on their exams and that was really rewarding. They were going to be able to go to university if they wanted to."

After he left Vava'u, Sauter entered graduate school, earning his doctor of veterinary medicine degree at the University of Minnesota. As a large animal vet, he has spent much of the past thirty years working in a busy group practice in Lynden, Washington, just north of Bellingham. Although he

hasn't found time to go back to Vava'u, his Peace Corps experience is never far from his thoughts. "Not too many days go by when I don't think of the Tonga islands and the time that I spent there and the people that I knew," he says.

But his service left him with more than memories, Sauter says. It made a lasting impact on his life. He returned to the United States more confident and better able to take on the challenges of adulthood. He says he also returned a more tolerant and open person — someone who can see events around the world and here at home with an outsider's eye, someone who reaches out to those in his own community who may be far away from home.

"It was an exciting and adventurous time for me, especially as a young adult who had not seen much of the world beyond my small town," he says. "I feel fortunate that I was able to have such experiences, and I cherish the memories." 🐾

— J. TROUT LOWEN, *photographed by Karen Mullen*

CLAIRE CARLSON '12 is majoring in English with a concentration in media studies.
J. TROUT LOWEN is a Twin Cities-based freelance writer and editor.

CAREER

connections



By Kari VanDerVeen

When Will Raun '14 decided to devote this Interim to exploring a career in law, he composed an email to four St. Olaf alumni working in the profession.

In it he explained that last year's Ole Law event — where he had met each of them — had inspired him to seriously consider the legal profession, and he was looking for opportunities to job shadow alumni working in the field. Would they, he asked, be willing to help? He attached his resume and a cover letter, and hit send.

Within hours, Lynn Anderson '75, the executive vice president and general counsel at Holiday Companies, responded. Not only did she offer Raun the opportunity to spend a day at her office, she also connected him with two Oles working at two of the largest law firms in the state: Tom Nelson '69, an attorney at Leonard, Street, and Deinard, and Kieran Cofell-Dwyer '06, an associate attorney at Dorsey & Whitney.

Nelson responded and suggested that Raun might like the opportunity to shadow his wife, the Honorable Susan Richard Nelson, a judge at the U.S. Federal District Court in St. Paul.

Cofell-Dwyer also responded and not only set up a job-shadowing opportunity for Raun at Dorsey & Whitney, but also set up appointments for the St. Olaf student to shadow Howard Helgen '74, who operates a solo-practice firm in Coon Rapids, Minnesota, and also shadow lawyers at Minnesota Legal Aid, a nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance to low-income residents.

Raun's original email also got responses from Matthew Stennes '95, an attorney with Medtronic, and Keith Radtke '92, an attorney at Faegre Baker Daniels. Stennes, along with fellow Medtronic attorney Deborah Burtness Hilke '80, invited Raun to spend a day shadowing their work as in-house attorneys at the world's largest medical technology company. Radtke offered to meet Raun for coffee and talk about his work at the state's largest law firm.

"When reflecting on the importance of my time at St. Olaf, and the incredible network of Oles who are more than willing to help students learn and grow, I cannot express how grateful I am to be a St. Olaf student," says Will Raun '14, a Spanish and music major from Minden, Nebraska. PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER

Cofell-Dwyer also suggested that Raun take a day to meet with admissions officials at the William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, and Anderson offered to connect him with a third-year law student at Duke University School of Law so he could get the perspective of someone still in law school.

HANDS-ON LEARNING

Raun took all of them up on their offers. The result was an Interim packed with a wealth of hands-on learning and networking opportunities — and a first-hand look at almost every type of law practice.

“There was no better way I could have spent my Interim,” says Raun. “I’ve had the opportunity to work with some of the best legal professionals in the area, and have come to learn much about myself in the process.” He points out that he had only a few days during the three-week term when he wasn’t job shadowing or meeting with someone in the legal field. “I don’t think anyone can appreciate how much alumni are willing to help students until you experience it.”

And all that networking has led to even more opportunities. The three days Raun spent shadowing the Honorable Susan Richard Nelson at the U.S. Federal District Court in St. Paul helped him land a coveted six-week internship with her office this summer.

Reflecting on his legal journey, Raun says the experience has influenced how he thinks about future career opportunities. “While I don’t yet know what area of law I would like to study, I have a practical, basic knowledge of the different types of law I could pursue, I have become comfortable speaking with professionals, and I now have a valuable network of contacts to access in the future.”

While he can see himself going on to law school after he graduates from St. Olaf, Raun has also learned there is truth in attending law school only when you are ready. “It is too steep of an investment in terms of time and money to do it half-heartedly,” he says, “and I am grateful to all the professionals who have given me that advice.”

Raun is encouraging students to take advantage of events like the one that launched his Interim experience. He points out that while St. Olaf alumni are eager to help out, it’s up to students to put in the effort it takes to make connections with Oles who share their passion for a particular career path.

And there’s no better place to do that than at an event like Ole Law, notes Lynn Anderson. Last spring 100 lawyers and 100 students attended, giving students ample opportunity during the 90-minute event to connect one-on-one with lawyers who were happy to share their experiences and perspectives.

“I always tell everyone who asks for my career



“All a connection does is open a door,” says Lynn Anderson ’75. “It is up to the student to walk through that door in April, connecting with nearly 150 Ole lawyers at the 2012 Ole Law event in Minneapolis. Among those sharing experiences and perspectives (clockwise from top right): Kristen Rau ’03 and Judge Joan Ericksen ’76; Kerry Jensen Olson ’97 and Kelsey Keegan ’14; Will Raun ’14 and Melissa Wright ’90; the Ole Law steering committee; J.B. (Buay) Tut ’14 and Paul Dieseth ’79; Martin Ho ’85; Tom Nelson ’69 and Lynn Anderson. PHOTOS BY DAVID SHERMAN

advice to use the power of their undergraduate institution by connecting with alumni,” says Anderson, a member of the Ole Law Steering Committee. “It is especially true for Oles. St. Olaf

is a powerful connection. Oles are happy to talk to Oles and share their experiences.”

KARI VANDERVEEN is a communications specialist at St. Olaf College.

Visit stolaf.edu/services/cel to learn more about how you can connect with St. Olaf students through Career Connections.

Outstanding Accomplishment

Before even leaving the Hill, Kateri Salk '12 earned a three-year Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation (NSF) that will support her work in aquatic environmental studies. It's a highly competitive award that this year also went to three St. Olaf alumnae.

NSF Graduate Research Fellowships are used to support the most promising graduate students in the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Fellows are expected to become experts in their field who can contribute significantly to research, teaching, and innovations in science and engineering.

"St. Olaf takes great pride in how well we prepare students for graduate school in the sciences and mathematics," says Associate Dean for Natural Sciences and Mathematics Matt Richey. "Every time one of our students gets an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, it affirms how well our programs are perceived in the national STEM research community. It's also a reminder of how talented, focused, and hard working our students are as they leave St. Olaf on their way to a highly competitive research career."

Salk will attend Michigan State University in the fall, where she will work toward a Ph.D. in zoology with a specialization in environmental science and policy. A biology and environmental studies major, Salk is interested in nutrient cycling in aquatic ecosystems and its impact on the interactions between organisms and their environment. Her main research project during the NSF fellowship will examine how nutrient inputs that come about through rain events affect the production of biomass (such as algae) in Lake Muskegon.

In addition, Salk is looking forward to the "broader impacts" portion of her NSF fellowship, which means communicating her scientific findings to a more general audience. Salk has chosen to develop an aquatic ecology curriculum for elementary school students.

"This is a hands-on way to get children interested in science and expose them to primary research in a way that is also rewarding to the teacher," she says. "I've had great learning experiences with elementary students in Northfield, so I look forward to continuing to work and learn with young students."

Three St. Olaf alumnae — Kelly Nail '07, Keeley MacNeill '08, and Elizabeth Speltz '09 — also earned NSF Graduate Research Fellowships this year.

Nail is a Ph.D. candidate in conservation biology at the University of Minnesota. She is currently researching the effects of climate change on the migration of monarch butterflies. For the educational outreach component of her fellowship, Nail will recruit volunteers to help monitor monarch larva.

MacNeill is currently a Fulbright fellow, working with a professor at the University of Oslo to study microbial respiration in lakes. She will begin graduate work this fall at Cornell University, and her research will compare how microbes in streams in the Ecuadorian Andes and the Colorado Rockies are impacted by climate change. As part of her fellowship, she will also reach out to students in Colorado and indigenous communities in the Andes to teach them how to make inferences about water quality through simple and inexpensive observations of aquatic organisms.

Speltz is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry at Yale University, where she is working to design proteins that recognize novel targets. She then wants to use these proteins in cells (like *E. coli*) to modify, change, or create pathways.

— Catherine Monson '12

Kateri Salk's goal is to become a professor at a liberal arts college, where she will have plenty of opportunities to be involved in undergraduate research.

PHOTO BY STEVEN WETT '15

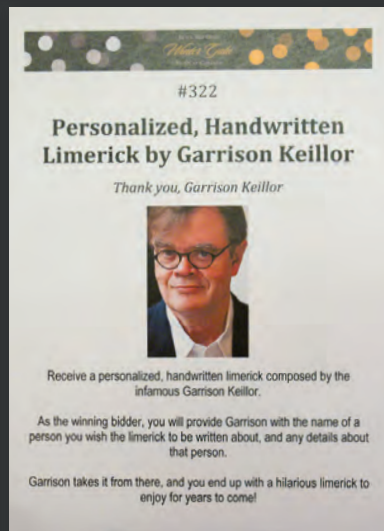
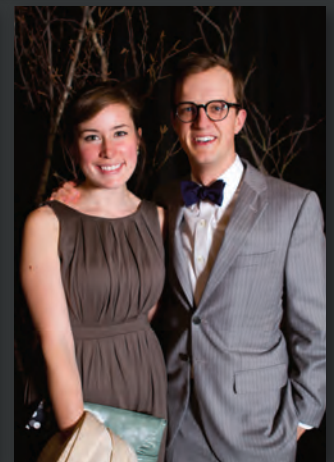


Black and Gold Success

NOW IN ITS FOURTH YEAR, the Black and Gold Gala has become the "must-attend" event of the winter season.

This year, more than 400 donors, alumni, and friends of St. Olaf contributed more than 200 items to the live and silent auction. Thanks to our donors and to nearly 500 Oles who attended the event, the Gala was a huge success. In addition to warm camaraderie, dinner, and dancing at the Hilton Hotel in Minneapolis, Oles raised \$193,000 — marking a 17 percent increase in overall dollars raised and a 28 percent increase in attendance from 2011.

All proceeds from the Gala went directly to the St. Olaf Fund, which supports a wide variety of needs on campus that range from financial aid and library resources to faculty salaries and student-faculty research.



SPECIAL GIFT, SPECIAL PLACE

Tucked away in a quiet corner on the fifth floor of the English Department is a St. Olaf jewel, designated more than seventy years ago as the Hauge Room.

BY JON RONDESTVEDT '61 · PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM ROSTER

IN THE SPRING OF 1941, with St. Olaf President Lars M. Boe presiding, the cornerstone was laid for the college's new library, which would come to be named Rølvaag Memorial Library. Fundraising for the much-needed library was already well underway — with St. Olaf alumni spearheading the efforts — when the college received a special gift of \$28,556.72 from alumni of the Red Wing [Minnesota] Seminary, who had become members of the St. Olaf Alumni Association in 1917. It was the seminary's entire alumni fund.

"In appreciation of this fine gesture," writes Professor Emeritus of Religion Joseph Shaw '49 in the *History of St. Olaf College 1874–1974*, "the College provided the Hauge Room on the third floor of the new library, thereby acknowledging the historical relationship with the Red Wing Seminary and the Hauge Synod, as well as honoring the name and work of the great Norwegian lay preacher, Hans Nielsen Hauge."

Generations of Oles have spent countless hours in the Hauge Room, studying history, philosophy, and religion in the post-World War II years, as well as, more recently, English, writing, and great works of literature. Seven of the ten lead glass windows feature stained glass medallions, often overlooked in this large room with its soaring timber-frame ceiling and granite fireplace that boasts three bas-relief panels sculpted by the late art professor Arnold Flaten.

Decades after its dedication, the Hauge Room medallions still catch the eye, telling of the story of the Haugean movement, from its roots in Norway to its coming to the American Midwest, to the establishment of a seminary in Red Wing, Minnesota, and finally, to Manitou Heights.

Medallion 1. Norway. Hans Nielsen Hauge (1771–1824) — lay preacher, revivalist, social activist, entrepreneur — ministers to a farm family. In 1796, in a field near his farm, Hauge experiences a "spiritual baptism." Certain of his own salvation and believing he had a divine call to proclaim the word of God directly to the people, Hauge set out across Norway as a lay *prest* (priest) in an effort to breathe new life and vitality into the religious lives of everyday Norwegians at a time when the Church of Norway, the official state church, was suffering from lethargy, poor attendance, and theological rationalism.

Medallion 2. Norway. As an itinerant lay preacher, Hauge's practices were viewed by religious and civil authorities as both unsettling and dangerous. "Haugeans" embraced a conventicle type of Christianity, that is, the gathering of believers into small groups for *oppbyggelse* (mutual edification). Here we see Hauge imprisoned for illegal activity (1804–11). Under the existing law, the Conventicle

Act of 1741, only a state-sanctioned priest could conduct worship and administer the sacraments. A protracted investigation and lengthy imprisonment sapped Hauge's vigor and, ultimately, destroyed his health. The artist uses a lit candle and a highlighted crucifix, sources of comfort and also challenges to the combined forces of darkness and despair.

Medallion 3. Norway. Despite vigorous opposition and cruel repressive measures from the Church of Norway, the Haugean movement spread across Norway, which was primarily a land of farmers, with only 10 percent of its population living in cities. The Holy Spirit — here in its traditional form as a dove — comes to the rural folk in their simple homes. In its beak is a rondel containing a Greek cross. With three arms showing, both the Trinity and Divine blessing are evoked. Conspicuously absent is any church structure with its defining heaven-directed spire commanding the rural landscape.

Medallion 4. Amerika. The Haugeans, an activated laity largely from rural Norway, emigrate to *Amerika* as early as the mid-19th century, many settling in southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Once again, the artist depicts the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. This time — overhead in full flight and clearly directing and affirming the course they've chosen — the dove arrives with the emigrants as their sailing vessel enters New York harbor, with the Statue of Liberty and the city skyline before it.

Medallion 5. Amerika. Few emigrants, many of whom were influenced by the Haugean lay movement, had any desire to replicate the organizational framework of the Church of Norway on American soil. Here a lay preacher or itinerant priest visits a rural homestead. The items strapped to his back are likely hymnals, devotional books, or, quite possibly, catechisms for the "rightful instruction" of children.

Medallion 6. Amerika. With the establishment of the Hauge Norsk Lutherske Synod (formed in 1876), the Haugeans are now firmly rooted in America. While still primarily an agrarian movement (note the farm-related images), Haugeans increasingly worship not in their homes but in churches, as do their non-Haugean Norwegian brethren. The familiar white clapboard church is so characteristic of Midwest Lutheranism, its central location and large size within the medallion testify to the great importance religion and the tenets put forward by Hans Nielsen Hauge still played in the everyday lives of its largely rural congregants.

Medallion 7. In 1879, the Hauge Synod (background image) established its seminary in Red Wing, Minnesota. In 1917, the Hauge Synod joined two other Norwegian synods to form Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul. That same year, St. Olaf discontinued its Academy and sent its Academy students to Red Wing, while Red Wing sent its collegiate department and two professors to St. Olaf. Although still called Red Wing Seminary, it operated as a junior college until 1932, when the Norwegian Lutheran Church transferred its operation to St. Olaf.

Interested Oles can learn more about the Hauge Room during Reunion Weekend, June 1-3, 2012.



Paying it Forward

Blake '88 and Sheri Cutler Smith '87 support St. Olaf College's scholarship efforts.

By Suzy Frisch

When St. Olaf graduates leave the Hill, it's often the liberal arts aspect of their education that propels them into outstanding careers. That was true for Blake and Sheri Smith.

Blake majored in mathematics and Sheri in biology, and they both concentrated in statistics at St. Olaf. When the Smiths started their careers, their employers quickly discovered that they had the statistical chops to succeed, as well as the ability to communicate highly technical information to lay people.

"At St. Olaf, you learn to write, to communicate, to solve problems, and I think that allowed me to move up really fast and get a lot of opportunities and experience in a short amount of time," says Sheri.

Both thoroughly enjoyed their time on Manitou Heights. Sheri played oboe and English horn in the St. Olaf Band, served as a junior counselor, and played a variety of intramural sports. Blake was a competitive alpine skier for St. Olaf, and he also participated in intramurals.

"It's a very special place," says Blake, who lives in Mound, Minnesota, with Sheri and their two children, Hunter, 16, and Taylor, 11. "I've learned that life is a lot like college in that you have ups and downs and you have to handle it. St. Olaf also teaches you how to interact with all sorts of different people, and in a business sense, that's really important."

The Smiths have been steadfast supporters of St. Olaf, with annual donations for the past 15 years. They also made a contribution toward Regents Hall of Natural and Mathematical Sciences. They are in the process of setting up a scholarship fund at St. Olaf that

will help students finance their St. Olaf education — mirroring their own experiences as scholarship recipients.

Though both Oles are of the same vintage, the Smiths didn't meet until graduate school at Iowa State University, where they each earned master's degrees in statistics. After graduate school, Sheri began her career at Abbott Laboratories in Chicago, where she did statistical analysis for the pharmaceutical division before moving into clinical research. When she and Blake moved back to the Twin Cities in 1993, she went to work at 3M in its pharmaceutical group.



Sheri next went to MGI Pharma, eventually serving as senior director of clinical operations.

Then, in 2003, Sheri became owner of Courante Oncology, a boutique consultancy that serves pharmaceutical and medical device companies. That life change occurred when a friend who had been running the company asked Sheri to take it over a few weeks before the friend died from breast cancer. Sheri agreed. "It was probably an emotional decision, but, honestly, it's been

one of the best things ever," she says.

Blake traversed a similar path to success. He started his career at CNA, an insurance company in Chicago, where he worked in the statistical research group. When the Smiths returned to Minnesota, Blake spent fifteen years at MCG/HealthCare, which became Clark Consulting, a company that advises nonprofit health-care providers on compensation, benefits, strategic planning, and more. He started as a financial analyst and quickly progressed, culminating his career as senior vice president of operations.

Toward the end of his time at Clark, Blake worked on consolidating operations and efficiency, which ended up attracting a buyer, a large insurance company called Aegon. He worked on transitioning the public company to a privately owned one, then decided the time was right to move on. Now Blake pitches in when needed at his wife's company and volunteers heavily in the community, especially with youth sports.

Blake, too, credits St. Olaf for his career success, and that's one reason why he and Sheri have steadfastly supported the college

over the years. As undergraduates, the Smiths took advantage of an excellent education, established lifelong friendships, and enjoyed a St. Olaf experience made possible by the generosity of alumni. They believe that it's important to pay the gift forward by now establishing a scholarship fund for students who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend St. Olaf.

"What we received from St. Olaf has really carried through our whole lives and helped us get to where we are," Sheri says.

The Smiths prioritize their giving to St. Olaf and to philanthropies that support children's health care.

This year, Sheri is serving as co-chair of the gift committee for her 25th class reunion. For her, it's been a joy to reconnect with classmates while also financially supporting the college they love.

"I think graduate school got me my first job at CNA, but St. Olaf was the reason everything else happened," says Blake. "It wasn't until I walked off campus that I realized how much I really loved it there."

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

class notes



1933

Bernice Hofengen Haakenson celebrated her 100th birthday in Fargo with more than 100 friends and family, including sons Terry and David Haakenson, daughter Janet McNair, and her 98-year-old sister **Thelma Hofengen Check '35**.

1935

Ephraim (E.W.) Solyst turned 100 on May 5, 2012. His landmark birthday was celebrated with family and friends at his longtime church, Kerkhoven Lutheran, in Kerkhoven, Minn. An active layman in his church, Ephraim enjoyed a 40-year teaching career, served as a superintendent of schools, and orchestrated one of the first large consolidations of rural schools in the state of Minnesota. "I believe my father epitomizes the Servant Leader, humbly serving in whatever way he is needed and wherever he is planted," says his son, Pastor Mark Solyst. Although he lost his wife, Gladys, in 2005 after nearly 68 years of marriage, Ephraim continues to live at home and is doing remarkably well.



1944

W. Clayton Nielsen writes from Iowa, "Grand View University presented me with its 2011 Danish Heritage Presentation Award."

1949

Celia Flatberg Walther was named by Kenosha County (Wis.) the "2011 Person of the Year" and was profiled in the *Kenosha News*. From mentoring children to teaching English as a second language to visiting homebound members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, nearly every day of Celia's life is spent helping others. The article notes that Celia's "cheerful disposition, hard work and humility make her a joy to be

around. She's always thinking of someone else." Celia tried to downplay her volunteer work and said she was "embarrassed but honored" to be named Person of the Year. "I guess I am pretty busy, but everyone has a talent, and I like people. I am blessed with time and pretty good health," she said.

1951

Sig Arnesen, who has lived in Georgia since 1991 with her husband, Jean, writes, "We have six kids, 18 grandkids and love it here in the woods and mountains. The daily question: What's next? Hosting a Sept. 29, 2012, 16-day cruise/tour to 10 Mediterranean cities. Friends who are interested can email giggen@windstream.net."

■ **Carl Braaten**, a professor emeritus of systematic theology of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and former executive director of the Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology, has authored or edited 50 theological books.

1954

Marlene Hustad Engstrom writes, "For the past 15 years or so, I have been collecting information on my family heritage, including both my grandparents, who were born in Sigdal, Norway, and their descendants, publishing a book of photos, biographies, births, deaths, and marriages. We are now planning a 2012 gathering in the Grant County (Minn.) area where the family settled in the late 19th century."

Remembering Professor John Maakestad '50

Professor Emeritus of Art and Art History John Maakestad '50 died on April 10, 2012, following a brief illness while visiting the Ozarks with his wife, Bobbie. He was 83.

Maakestad, the son of a pastor who served Zumbro Lutheran Church, was born in Whitehall, Wisconsin, and raised in Rochester, Minnesota. Maakestad earned his degrees in art and English at St. Olaf, where he met Barbara (Bobbie) Shefelvland '49. They married in 1951, making their home on a farm near the Nerstrand-Big Woods State Park and raising four sons. After serving two years in the Korean War and earning an M.F.A. from Iowa State University, Maakestad returned to St. Olaf in 1956, this time as faculty in the Art Department.

During his thirty-eight years at St. Olaf, Maakestad taught the full range of studio art classes: drawing, design, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. He helped develop a major in art history, was a longtime chair of the Art Department, and, for twenty years, designed sets for the St. Olaf Christmas Festival. Maakestad was deeply involved in helping to save Valley Grove Church and establish the Valley Grove Preservation Society, seeing the two churches entered into the National Historic Registry. The Valley Grove region was the source of inspiration for his early landscapes and he found joy in planting trees on his 83 acres, hoping that one day the mile between his land and the Big Woods State Park would return to the forest that once ran all the way to Mankato. He was the first landowner to become part of the Forest Legacy Program in Minnesota.

Serving on the summer faculty of Holden Village in the state of Washington fostered a love of mountain hiking, leading him to hike the Ptarmigan Traverse and climbing Glacier Peak and Mount Rainier. These adventures inspired him to make intricate drawings from his mountain hikes. To keep in shape for summer hikes, he took up cross-country skiing. He was also an avid long distance bicyclist.

As a young artist, Maakestad was a modernist, expressionist landscape painter. His work progressed over time, changing from painting to sculpture to silk screening and printmaking — and then back to painting. Maakestad's lifelong artistic work was widely exhibited at St. Olaf and at other colleges, galleries, and churches throughout the Upper Midwest. He retired in 1994, the same year St. Olaf exhibited a retrospective of his work titled, *A Pilgrimage: I'll tell you where I'm going when I get there*. What gave him the most joy were his students, many of whom kept in touch with their mentor and friend throughout the years.

In a recent Minneapolis *Star Tribune* tribute to Maakestad, Professor Emeritus of Religion Joe Shaw '49 said that most will remember his longtime friend and colleague for two things: "He taught me to appreciate those things that are easily overlooked. He was like a walking camera who captured everything around him. And he had an instinctively quiet, natural, and unforced way of helping people."

In addition to his wife, Bobbie, Maakestad is survived by their sons, Erik, Jon (Bev), Tom (Anna), and Rolf (Nancy); five grandchildren; and a sister, Solveig Beckmen '56.



1955

With Reunion Weekend fast approaching, **C. Paul Christianson** reminds Oles everywhere that “You’re a student for four years, but you’re an alum forever. That sentiment is certainly true,” he writes, and “as many of us alums must now attest, ‘forever’ can last a long time. In light of that recognition, perhaps other older Oles might appreciate this bit of doggerel.”

In Our Old Ole Daze

*When some old Alum says, “Don’t you recall...?”
And you don’t remember that person at all,
Don’t let that be a last hoorah:
Just smile instead and say, “Um? Yah, Yah.”*

*Or if someone says, “You look just the same...”
And you have no idea of that person’s name,
Don’t let that be your coup de grace:
Just nod, repeating those “Um? Yah, Yah’s.”*

*Oh, “Um? Yah, Yah.” It’s a wonderful phrase
To get us back through our memory’s maze.
Though it used to be used for our footballers’ praise,
There’s a better use now in our old Ole daze.*

*So accept the fact: we forget to remember.
It’s a long way back to May or September.
But to each day left us, like some Mardi Gras,
Is it still worth our toasting it? Um? Yah, Yah!”*

1956

John Shier, a former assistant professor of philosophy at the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay, and hospice volunteer, went back to school to earn a degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, and embarked on a new career as a registered nurse. John joined the staffs at Unity Hospice and Bellin Hospital in Green Bay, where he works with cardiac patients. Friends can learn more at thatgynurse.com.

1958

Stan Deno retired in 2009, but his innovative approach in the classroom continues to have a lasting impact on students and teachers. Stan developed CBM (Curriculum-Based Measurement), a federally recognized set of guidelines that helps educators identify and assist students who underperform in the classroom due to mild learning disabilities. Stan says of his success, “I never imagined I would have the kind of fulfillment from my academic life that I have had. I’ve seen the work I’ve been involved in play out in public schools to a degree that is just beyond me.”

1959

Mary Jo Thorsheim’s new children’s book, *Three Little Eagles and How They Grew: Jacob’s Story*, is about a family of eagles in Decorah, Iowa, that were the first eagles followed by the Raptor Resource Project’s live camera.

1960

Jim Geiwitz’s novel, *The Town of Watered-Down Whiskey*, portrays the comedy and tragedy of living in small towns on the prairie. “The hero goes to St. Olaf, much like the author. And the great Gatsby!” ■ **Mary Ellen Heian Schmdier** is the new executive director of the Fulbright Association in Washington, D.C.

1964

Rosella Berg Kameo spent the 2011–12 fall semester at Eastern University in St. Davids, Penn., where her husband served as a visiting scholar for the Indonesian Ministry of Education. Rosella has retired from a 34-year career with the ELCA, where she served as an educational missionary to Asia and the Middle East. She has also published a book of meditations.

1965

Nedra Poe Cook completed a 10-year-long project that resulted in an anecdotal history of the St. Olaf Orchestra from 1877 to 1981. Nedra’s work included research in the St. Olaf archives and interviews of faculty and alumni.

1967

Mary Erickson Megel and **Rana Limbo ‘68**

crossed an item off their bucket lists and traveled to Costa Rica, where they experienced “a zip-line adventure.”

■ **Paula Transeth Pugh** retired from teaching violin, began facilitating women’s health classes, and now is helping people identify lifetime milestones through her first book, *Celebrating Beginnings and Endings: Book I of Mark the Moment*.



1968

Carol Lee Hamrin has just finished a five-year project to publish three volumes of the life stories of Chinese Christian reformers who pioneered the modern professions or civic associations in China’s early modern civil society. Volume III, just out, includes stories related to the October 1911 Republican Revolution. ■ **Rich McClear** writes from Sitka, Alaska, where he lives with his wife, Suzy, and has been working on media development projects: “In December 2011, I completed my three year posting in Belgrade, Serbia, as head of the Serbia Media Assistance Program, a USAID [United States Agency for International Development] program implemented by the International Research and Exchanges Board [IREX]. I’m now experiencing reverse culture shock.” Rich is self-employed but has “done contract work for IREX, the Open Society Institute, the Media Development Loan

L.A. Connections



Oles living in Los Angeles had an informal gathering earlier this spring to reconnect and renew old friendships, all arranged by **Bill Green ‘77**, director of Multicultural Affairs and Community Outreach at St. Olaf. Joining Bill in Culver City were, from left: **William Green II ‘06**, **Anita Greer-Ballard ‘76**, **Jessica Ballard ‘13**, **Robert Davis-Montjoy ‘96**, **Bill**, **Donnie Watson ‘79**, **Cindy Ridder ‘77**, and **Kori Zinsmeister ‘04**.

Fund, the BBC, the U.S. State Department, and Management Systems International.”

■ **Margaret Ann Pladsen Brolin** retired from the Louisiana Department of Education in September 2011. She writes, “During our retirement, my husband and I hope to recreate frequently at the beach in Destin, Fla.” ■ **Bruce**



Stensvad, a retired United States Air Force Lt. Colonel, was ordained in 2009. Last

December Bruce was the guest speaker at the East African Annual Conference (EAAC), hosted by the United Methodist Church in Nakuru, Kenya. He’s currently working with Bishop Daniel Wandabula and serving as the EAAC mission interpreter.

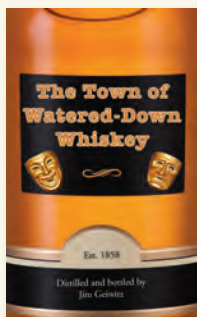
1969

Sue Bly Althof writes, “Our seacoast New Hampshire group of Oles attended the December simulcast of the 100th Christmas Festival.” The group, promoting the *Um! Yah! Yah!* spirit by wearing their St. Olaf Norwegian sweaters, included: (front row, L–R) **Nina Obrestad Opderbecke ‘64**, **Dorothy Radius Kasik ‘69**, **Sue Althof**, **Judy Krametbauer Hollister ‘62**; (back row) **Kurt Kasik ‘69**, **Linn Opderbecke ‘65**, **Linda Edwards**, **Bob Hollister ‘59**, and former St. Olaf president **Mark Edwards**.



■ **Neal Holtan** earned a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota last May, “after 12 years of effort,” in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine program. His dissertation focused on public

NEW BOOKS BY ST. OLAF ALUMNI AND FACULTY



Who is Jesus? Disputed Questions and Answers (Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2011), by **Carl Braaten '51** (amazon.com)

Notes From ThatGuyNurse: Choose Now, Live Tomorrow, by **John Shier '56** (thatguynurse.com)

Three Little Eagles and How They Grew: Jacob's Story (Park Press, 2011), by **Mary Jo Thorsheim '59** (eaglechildrensbook.com, amazon.com)

The Town of Watered-Down Whiskey (Sol Books, 2012), by **Jim Geiwitz '60** (solbooks.com, amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com)

Light for the Journey: 75 Devotional Reflections from Cross-Cultural Experiences (WinePress Publishing, 2011), by **Rosella Berg Kameo '64** (amazon.com)

Poco a Poco: An Anecdotal History (1877-1981) of the St. Olaf Orchestra, by **Nedra Poe Cook '65** ([St. Olaf Bookstore](http://St.OlafBookstore.com))

Celebrating Beginnings and Endings: Book I of Mark the Moment, by **Paula Transeth Pugh '67** (mark-the-moment.com)

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

Salt and Light: Lives of Faith That Shaped Modern China, Vol. III, by **Carol Lee Hamrin '68** (amazon.com)

Beyond the Label: A Guide to Unlocking a Child's Educational Potential (Oxford University Press, 2012), by **Karen L. Schiltz '79** (amazon.com)

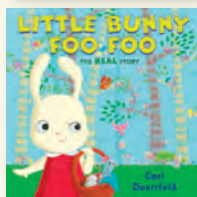
21st Century Gothic: Great Gothic Novels Since 2000 (Scarecrow Press, 2011) and **The Exorcist: Studies in the Horror Film** (Centipede Press, 2012), by **Danel Olson '87** (amazon.com)

Schreiben lernen: A Writing Guide for Learners of German (Yale University Press, 2011), cowritten by **Jennifer Redmann '89** (yalepress.yale.edu)

Pitch (W.W. Norton & Company, 2012), by **Todd Boss '91** (amazon.com)

Little Bunny Foo Foo (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2012), by **Cori Doerrfeld '01** (coridoerrfeld.com)

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



health genetics in mid-20th-century Minnesota. ■ **Judy Isaacson Luna** completed a half-hour documentary film called *Home at Last: Hmong People in the Ozarks*, as part of a graduate level journalism course at the University of Arkansas.

1971

Barbara Howie Lembo, a senior attorney with Wishart, Norris, Henninger & Pittman, P.A., was recognized by the Charlotte, N.C., Women's Bar Association at an event honoring women with 25 years or more of dedication, leadership, and outstanding service in the legal profession.

1973

Donald Brasted-Maki writes, "For those few who might remember me at St. Olaf, I can only say that that person must have been my evil twin brother who impersonates me and tries to ruin my reputation." Donald, who earned a Ph.D. in

Renaissance literature and critical theory at Temple University, teaches writing at Oregon State University and Lane Community College.

1975

Diane Rebertus Munson, a fifth grade teacher at Red Rock Elementary in Woodbury, Minn., was chosen as the 2011 Gilder Lehrman Institute's Minnesota History Teacher of the Year.

1976

Carol Peterson Glendenning, a 32-year veteran attorney and policy committee chair with Strasburger & Price, LLP, received one of two 2011 Flame of Honor Awards by the Southwest Jewish Congress. The awards are presented each year by the Southwest Jewish Congress to those whose qualities of inspiring moral courage, community commitment, and personal example have enriched their communities.

1977

Vicki Bailey, vice president of investment law and chief compliance officer at Advantus Capital Management in St. Paul, was elected president of the American College of Investment Counsel. ■ **Jane Hokanson Hawks** is chair of the Medical-Surgical Expert Nurse Panel of the American Nurses Credentialing Center. She writes, "Our panel [has developed] the new certification examination which will be used starting April 1, 2012. My role as co-editor of *Medical-Surgical Nursing: Clinical Management for Positive Outcomes* (6th-8th editions) has helped me in this role. I also continue as editor of *Urologic Nursing* and as a professor of nursing at Nebraska Methodist College in Omaha."

1978

Sonja Vegdahl is in her 18th year directing Concordia University's social work program in Portland, Oregon.

1979

Kathy Greenlee Hansen was named vice president for development at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. Kathy leads a team of development professionals responsible for growing philanthropic support through annual giving and special campaigns.

1980

Author **Erin Hart** has been posting stories and pictures from an October 2011 Ireland tour on her blog (erinhartbooks.blogspot.com), and you can see more pictures on her Facebook page.

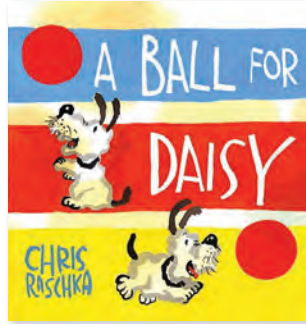
Family Life Conference



The *Preparing for Life in Families* conference in February celebrated 100 years of family study at St. Olaf. It was an opportunity to learn more about the depth and breadth of social science research at the college, says Professor of Social Work **Mary Serine Carlsen '79**, and it explored the richness and complexity of American families. Returning to the Hill to discuss career paths with students were alumni panelists (L-R) **Cahrene Thorsen Dimick '81**, a family and child life educator; **John Bailey '79**, a family therapist; **Mary Carlsen**; and **Jenna Barke '06**, a child specialist and volunteer coordinator. Not pictured, **Michael Jerpbak '91**, an associate professor at Crossroads College in Rochester, Minn.

1981

Chris Raschka has won the 2012 Randolph Caldecott Medal for best illustrated story for *A Ball for Daisy*, the saga of a dog whose favorite toy is destroyed.



Chris previously won the medal in 2006 for *The Hello, Goodbye Window* and he earned a Caldecott Honor in 1994 for *Yo! Yes?*

With more than 30 children's books under his belt and another two dozen illustration credits, Chris is known for inventive, offbeat storytelling and imaginative illustrations. *Chris was featured in the Fall 2008 issue of St. Olaf Magazine, "A Bebop Life."* (stolaf.edu/magazine).

1984

Kerrie-rue Beers Michahelles is working to finish the introduction to three 16th-century manuscripts preserved in the Archivio di Stato in Florence, Italy, which she transcribed and translated. Rue admits that she should have learned her lesson from transcribing, translating, and publishing 16th-century French manuscripts! When otherwise not tormented by her research, Rue spends her time by the ocean with family and friends.

1987

Ann Slen writes that she has "purchased the dance studio where I grew up in Fort Wayne, Ind. We have a staff of 15 teachers who all grew up together. What an adventure it has been! I have two daughters who enjoy dancing, too."

1988

Carrie Nelson Berg competed in Ironman Wisconsin at Madison last fall, completing the 140.6-mile course in 15 hours and 10 minutes. She writes, "I am an Ironman!" ■ **Kate Walker Potter** and her family made a big move last fall. Kate writes, "We now live in Shanghai, China, where my husband, Michael, works as the CFO of Canadian Solar, a solar company located in Suzhou. It has been quite an adventure, but one which I am enjoying. If any Oles are visiting Shanghai, feel free to look me up and I'll show you a bit of my new city."

1989

Louise Hardy Matson was recognized in the October 2011 issue of *Mpls. St. Paul Magazine* as a "Hometown Hero." Louise was one of eight volunteers chosen for her exceptional work with the Big Brothers and Sisters organization. ■ **Jennifer Redmann** has left her position at Kalamazoo College and is an associate professor of German at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Penn. She is also co-author of a new German textbook for teaching writing at all levels of the college German curriculum.

1990

Scott Bang has a new job at Netflix and a beautiful new daughter.



1991

Todd Barkhymer and his wife, Adrienne, accepted positions to teach at the John F. Kennedy School in Berlin, Germany. They moved back to Berlin last fall with their two young sons.

1994

Ana Hernandez recently helped launch Pearson's OpenClass, a new self-service online learning environment.

1995

Christopher Aspaas will serve as the Phyllis and Richard Duesenberg Concert Choir Chair at the 31st annual Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival from June 24 to July 22 at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Chris is an associate professor of music at St. Olaf and conducts the Viking Chorus. He also is the



artistic director of Magnum Chorum, a Twin Cities choral ensemble. ■ **Cindy Milow Harloff** writes, "The Officer Shawn Silvera run/walk is on August 25 this year." The run/walk is held annually in honor of **Jennifer Vander Poel Silvera Lindemer's** former husband, who was killed in the line of duty. Friends can learn more at shawnsilvera.org.

1996

Ben Houge writes, "After living in China for the past six years, I've relocated to the Boston

area, where I'm teaching video-game audio at the Berklee College of Music and Boston University Center for Digital Imaging Arts, a little bit of a career switch after designing audio for video games for the past 15 years. I'm also maintaining an active art practice, with a number of recent shows." Learn more at benhouge.com.

1997

Thomas Glasoe is pastor at First Lutheran Church in San Marcos, Texas. ■ **David Hedlund** writes, "In December, the degree of doctor of philosophy in sports management was conferred on me by Florida State University."

1998

Erika Lund Schendel is one of seven employees in the HealthPartners organization to receive the 2011 President's Award. Erika has worked at Hudson Hospital & Clinics for 12 years as a social worker and manager of care management. ■ **Sarah Quanrud Dundee** met her husband, Joseph, during residency training at the University of Massachusetts. They were married in Cape Cod and have now moved back to Minnesota, where they are emergency medicine physicians in Waconia and the new parents of a baby boy.

1999

Andrew Currie taught English in two Hungarian public high schools, one in Eger and the other in Budapest, and is now looking to transition into a career in higher education administration. ■



Lars Leafblad, a man for whom sleep seems to be irrelevant, was included in *Twin Cities Business* magazine's 2011 list of "200 Minnesotans You Should Know."

included in *Twin Cities Business* magazine's 2011 list of "200 Minnesotans You Should Know."

2001

Sarah Rasmussen, who will co-produce the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's (OSF) Black Swan Lab in 2012, was among the winners of the 2011 Princess Grace Awards for theater, dance, choreography, and film. Sarah will work alongside OSF's directors in the Black Swan Lab to develop new work by both major American playwrights and early-career writers.

2002

Ivana Sabanosova, a choral and English teacher at Evanjelicke Lyceum in Bratislava, released a well-received Christmas CD that she made with her male chorus.

2004

Wilhelmina Roepke Gottschalk is overseeing a twice-weekly K-7 supplementary religious-school program for approximately 180 children in Washington D.C. ■ **Heather Scheiwe, Katherine Schouten, and Benjamin Kulp '05** are announcing the incorporation of Logan Chamber Players, a professional classical-music ensemble based in Chicago. Friends are invited to visit the group's Facebook page to learn more.

2005

Caitlin Mosman Block and Wes Block, inseparable since meeting in Rand Hall in 2002, are graduate students at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Caitlin writes, "Wes works for the Wisconsin Historical Foundation and will achieve his MBA in May. I am pursuing my MS in community counseling [and] teach a culturally competent communication course for undergraduate students." ■ **Lisa Nguyen** writes, "After four years as an art gallery manager, I made a career change to become a development associate for Free Arts Minnesota, an organization that partners with facilities to provide art mentorship programs for at-risk, under-served urban youth in the Twin Cities." ■



Anna Sundberg (left), who has kept a busy acting schedule, was recognized as an Emerging Artist at the seventh annual Ivey Awards, a celebration of the Twin Cities' professional theater community. ■ **Nicholas Wilkie**, a medical student at the University of Vermont, is working on an independent project that will soon give Doctors Without Borders medical personnel vastly improved capabilities for tracking patient information around the world. With his computer programming experience, Nicholas has been consulting and teaming up with others to design a hand-held electronic health record that will vastly improve the treatment of patients in places where an effective medical record system has been lacking. ■ **Caitlin Young Wait** graduated from Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing in January with a master's degree in nurse-midwifery.

■ **Nicholas Wilkie**, a medical student at the University of Vermont, is working on an independent project that will soon give Doctors Without Borders medical personnel vastly improved capabilities for tracking patient information around the world. With his computer programming experience, Nicholas has been consulting and teaming up with others to design a hand-held electronic health record that will vastly improve the treatment of patients in places where an effective medical record system has been lacking. ■ **Caitlin Young Wait** graduated from Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing in January with a master's degree in nurse-midwifery.

2006

Krista Apland Alsop writes, "The fall of 2011, with bags packed and by the door, my English teaching job fell through at the last possible second. My husband and I switched from teaching college students in the Middle East to teaching primary school in China. Going from college kids to a sea of shouting third graders was quite the adjustment, but we're learning so much from the teaching experience."

2008

Katie Bennett graduated from William Mitchell College of Law last May, passed the Minnesota Bar Exam last July, was sworn in on October 28, 2011, and has accepted an associate position at Gaskins, Bennett, Birrell and Schupp, LLP, a law firm in downtown Minneapolis. ■ **Kathleen LaRochelle McNutt** was busy in 2011. She graduated from Yale Divinity School, married Darron McNutt last October, and is now in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where she is a campus minister at Marist College.

2009

Laura Oliver, who chaired the Taste of the Nation Minneapolis planning committee, writes, "Through our 2011 events, our committee raised over \$100,000 to support Share Our Strength's efforts to end childhood hunger in America by 2015."

2010

Caroline Heiberg (below, right) and **Chelsea Wagner '11** are two of 141 Jesuit Volunteers serving in 20 locales throughout the Northwest. Volunteers serve in a variety of urban and rural



locations and are challenged to live simply and work for social and ecological justice in a spiritually supportive environment. ■ **Nicholas Tolen** went on a six-month internship to Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea, off the coast of West Africa, as a research assistant on expedition from Drexel University. The research entailed tracking the number of eggs laid in nests on the southern beach area of an uninhabited jungle and tagging the animals with ID chips.

2011

Evy Hannah Adamson writes from Lusaka, Zambia, where she is serving in the Peace Corps, "I am focusing on promoting the adoption of sustainable agriculture technologies and agroforestry techniques, and capacity-building for teachers in schools." ■ **Steffen Docken** began a one-year service assignment with Mennonite Central Committee in Suna-Migori, Kenya, as a math and science teacher at Oruba Mixed Secondary School. 🐘

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future oles

Scott Bang '90 and Alexandra Siliezar, a daughter, Paloma
Crystal and Richard Thomason '91, adopted twins, Aubree and Andrew
Ana Hernandez '94, a son, Maxwell
Michael and Jennifer Lueck Buth '94, a daughter, Sadie
Samuel Martin IV '96 and Renee Congdon, a daughter, Baila
Richard and Sarah Muehl Madrid '96, a daughter, Annika
Sandy Ravey Soelter '96 and Tim Soelter '93, a daughter, Isabelle
William and Andrea Soelter Brock '96, a son, Charles
Miriam Moxness Griffiths '97 and John Griffiths '97, a son, Edward
Joseph and Sarah Quanrud Dundee '98, a son, Samuel
Natalie Goss '99 and Marco Ladrone de Guevara, a daughter, Lucia
Joe and Beth Chassie-Copeck '00, a daughter, Catherine
Patricia Goodrich '00 and Brent Bash, a son, Otto
Nicholas and Heather Langenfeld Mackenzie '00, a daughter, Kaleigh
Jason and Angie Lundgren Elliott '00, a son, Adam
Erin O'Donnell Dotzler '00 and Samuel Dotzler '00, a son, Samuel, Jr.
Nathan and Katherine Oien Ray '00, a son, Xavier
Julie Beilfuss Kirkham '01 and Dan Kirkham '01, a son, Rowan
Jane Bresnahan Stockman '01 and John Stockman '01, a son, Xavier
Cori Doerrfeld '01 and Tyler Page '99, a son, Leo
Ian and Lana Ipsen Western '01, a daughter, Adalyn
Reid and Michelle Manke Ronning '01, a son, Stanley
Jeremy and Kelly Mattison Butler '01, a daughter, Adelaide
Andrea Bykerk Christopherson '02 and James Christopherson '02, a son, Liam
Kathryn Lindley Olson '02 and David Olson '02, a son, Edward
Meghan Sonstegard Stadsklev '02 and Scott Stadsklev '02, a daughter, Elsa
Sarah Henneman Willson '03 and Tyler Willson '04, twins, Lillian and Elise
Joe and Rebecca Reichelt Williams '03, twins, Grace and Samuel
Andrea Johnson Piepho '04 and Chris Piepho '04, a daughter, Cora
Jeffery and Elizabeth Foght Davis '05, a daughter, Laila
Logan and Kari Maland Rogers '05, a son, Asher
Kayla Wentz Clark '05 and Christopher Clark '06, a son, Landon
Meredith Shay Samuelson '06 and Carl Samuelson '08, a son, Liam

weddings

Julie Vanden Heuvel '82 and Dale Horihan, June 2010
Timothy Scheie '85 and Craig Sellers, Dec. 9, 2011
James Larson '87 and Patti O'Reilly, Dec. 18, 2010
Andrea Soelter '96 and William Brock, June 20, 2010
Nina Heebink '98 and Jamie Schmidt, Dec. 30, 2011
Jill Bridgman '99 and Julio Cisneros, Sept. 10, 2011
Andrew Currie '99 and Kathryn Person, Aug. 2011
Sarah Hale '99 and Kristopher Keuseman '01, July 16, 2011
Heather Hunt '99 and John Goss, Aug. 13, 2011
Bria Christianson '02 and Scott Homstad, July 16, 2011
Elizabeth Daniel '02 and Pip Gengenbach '02, Oct. 8, 2011
Sarah Heintzman '02 and Tony Bown, Sept. 3, 2011
Lynn Hofstad '02 and Bryce Godfrey, July 23, 2011
Sarah Olson '02 and Patrick Lyon, Sept. 3, 2011
Anne Tonolli '02 and Chris Cook, June 25, 2011
Lauren Asheim '03 and Michael Neuharth, Dec. 21, 2010
Kristi Ramseth '03 and Josh Kohanek, Aug. 14, 2011
Wilhelmina Roepke '04 and Stefan Gottschalk, Aug. 14, 2011
Sarah Wangberg '04 and Timothy Climis, July 2, 2011
Shelly Wipf '04 and David Larson, Aug. 6, 2011
Kari Maland '05 and Logan Rogers, Aug. 14, 2010
Caitlin Mosman '05 and Wes Block '05, Aug. 13, 2011
Stephanie Walker '05 and Peter Lovegrove, June 18, 2011
Carrie Manke '06 and Ervin Fringer, Oct. 16, 2010
Kali Johnson '07 and Jay Higgins '08, June 17, 2011
Lauren Ziehr '07 and Aaron Robbins, Sept. 30, 2011
Angela Weber '07 and Luke Anderson, Aug. 19, 2011
Kathleen La Rochelle '08 and Darron McNutt, Oct. 8, 2011
Katelyn Duwell '09 and Peter Eggert '09, July 16, 2011
Laura Geczy '09 and Carl Haskins '09, Sep. 4, 2011

Hannah Griese '09 and Jacob Dalager '09, July 23, 2011
Annie Knutson '09 and Alex Kopplin, Sept. 24, 2011
Khammawan Tangtanaporn '09 and Daniel Kohler '09, Aug. 19, 2011
Sally Abell '10 and Andrew Nussbaum '10, June 18, 2011

deaths

Ruth Knudstad Stewart '30, Stoughton, Wis., Dec. 16, 2011
Sylvia Duckstad Quie '32, Farmington, Minn., Jan. 11, 2012
Veola Johnson '32, Bloomfield, Iowa, Feb. 13, 2007
Clifford Pieper '33, Aurora, Colo., March 9, 2009
Ardell Solheim Sonstelie '33, Spokane, Wash., Nov. 11, 2011
Hazel Fjelstad Hast '35, Grass Valley, Calif., May 17, 2006
Lucille Hanson Studer '36, Albert Lea, Minn., Sept. 30, 2011
Marcella Oldenburg von Goertz '36, Duluth, Minn., Dec. 4, 2011
Leola Nelson Bergmann '37, Iowa City, Iowa, Aug. 22, 2011
Genevieve Rasmussen Jones '37, Minneapolis, Aug. 22, 2011
*Herbert Sinn '37, Hot Springs Village, Ark., Dec. 15, 2011
Dorothy Stull Erickson '37, Joplin, Mo., Nov. 21, 2011
Arthur Hast '38, Grass Valley, Calif., March 23, 2001
*Donald Walhus '38, Tyler, Texas, Dec. 23, 2011
Vivian Bergstrom Lindquist '39, Ripon, Wis., Dec. 7, 2011
Lee Kittelson '39, Beresford, S.D., Sept. 20, 2011
Joyce Lee Hiller '39, Mankato, Minn., Dec. 2, 2011
Eunice Midje Cuthbert '39, St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 25, 2011
LaVerne Sathe Lines '39, Cottonwood, Minn., May 12, 2008
Lola Shepard Sorensen '39, Scotts Bluff, Neb., Oct. 5, 2011
Helen Story '39, Kenyon, Minn., Sept. 20, 2011
Gertrude Tollefsrud Petty '39, Grand Island, Neb., Sept. 2, 2007
Eugene Fevold '40, St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 29, 2011
Doris Gordon Clark '40, Mill Valley, Calif., Aug. 7, 2011
Helen Haupt '40, Elliott City, Md., Nov. 7, 2011
Gordon Hersrud '40, Lemmon, S.D., Nov. 2, 2011
Juliann Johnson Johnson '40, Owatonna, Minn., Sept. 15, 2011
Lorraine Kingstad '40, Mabel, Minn., Oct. 23, 2011
Emilie Larson '40, Northfield, Minn., Oct. 1, 2011
Valborg Rothnem Chronquist '40, Marshfield, Wis., March 31, 2011
*Stanton Sheimo '40, Hyannis, Mass., Oct. 25, 2011
Eunice Hansen Logan '41, Roseville, Minn., Dec. 29, 2011
Kenneth Conlan '42, Preston, Minn., May 16, 2011
Dorothy Frey Plowman '42, Surprise, Ariz., April 7, 2011
*Adrian Lorentson '42, Lincolnshire, Ill., Dec. 3, 2011
Joseph Turnbull II '42, Honolulu, May 25, 2011
Ellis Donaldson '43, Stevensville, Mont., Nov. 5, 2011
*Oliver Johnson '43, Sun City, Ariz., Nov. 14, 2011
Charlotte Olson Malahy '43, Cape Girardeau, Mo., Oct. 17, 2011
Mary Wolff Paper '43, Denver, Oct. 7, 2011
Jean Gabrielson Stenseng '44, Stillwater, Minn., Nov. 10, 2011
John Grinde '44, Polson, Mont., Nov. 2, 2011
Marvin Nelson '44, Boscobel, Wis., Sept. 18, 2011
Ordell Olson Witte '44, Northfield, Minn., Dec. 25, 2011
Mary Fogde Rose '46, Graettinger, Iowa, Oct. 14, 2011
*Arndt Bergh '47, Los Altos Hills, Calif., Jan. 10, 2012
Maxine Ellestad Wendle '47, Hudson, Wis., June 18, 2011
Lois Larsen Nash '47, Merville, Iowa, Oct. 20, 2011
Kristy Olsen Juergens '47, Rochester, Minn., June 12, 2011
*Jules Brown '48, Lancaster, Wis., Jan. 24, 2010
Geneva Buck Bartlett '48, Rio Rancho, N.M., Nov. 3, 2011
Harriett Christensen Eastwold '48, Sioux Falls, S.D., Oct. 22, 2011
*Loren Studer '48, Portland, Ore., Sept. 8, 2011
Doris Vinje Thompson '48, Allyn, Wash., March 19, 2011
*James Jorstad '49, Hayfield, Minn., Dec. 27, 2011
*Jay Kerr, Jr. '49, Mora, Minn., May 9, 2011
Caryl Nasby Heaverlo '49, Sun City, Ariz., Feb. 18, 2011
*John Osnes '49, Forest City, Iowa, Sept. 19, 2011
Shirley Peterson Hansen '49, Minneapolis, Dec. 12, 2011
Robert Bonde '50, Minnetonka, Minn., Dec. 29, 2011

IN REMEMBRANCE

Professor James Brisance

Associate Professor Emeritus of Education James Brisance died at his home in Oro Valley, Arizona, on Nov. 24, 2011. He was 81.

Brisance, who joined the U.S. Army in 1948 after graduating from high school, served with the 32nd Engineers in Korea. Upon completing his second tour of duty, Brisance enrolled at the University of Minnesota, later transferring



to and graduating from Hamline University. In 1953 he married St. Olaf graduate Michelle Rudie '53. He and Michelle taught for two years in Clara City, Minn., before he accepted a teaching position with the U.S. Department of Defense in Zaragoza, Spain, where he and his young family would spend six years. Upon returning to the United States in 1964, Brisance taught social studies at Central High School in Minneapolis. In 1966 he was awarded an Experienced Teachers Fellowship at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va., where he earned a master of education degree.

Two years later he began his final career at St. Olaf College as an associate professor of education and director of student teaching. He retired in 1991.

Brisance was a popular and respected teacher who heard from students long after they had graduated. Since buying a home in Arizona in 1993, he and Michelle, a retired special education teacher, divided their time between their homes in Burnsville and Oro Valley. They returned to Spain and other favorite areas in Europe several times over the years.

Brisance is survived by Michelle and their children, Paul "Pablo" Brisance '81 of Switzerland, Elisabeth Brisance (Thomas) Brookover '84 of Chicago, and Suzanne (Brian) Reiter '86 of Texas; two grandsons, Samuel and William Reiter; and two siblings. His family has established a memorial fund in his memory at St. Olaf.

Professor Frank Gery

Professor Emeritus of Economics Frank Gery succumbed to pancreatic cancer on Jan. 11, 2012, at his home in Northfield. He was 83.

Gery, who did his undergraduate work at Temple University in Philadelphia, earned an MBA and doctorate in economics from Boston University. Prior to joining the St. Olaf faculty, Gery taught at Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Mass., and at Boston University. In 1962, St. Olaf hired Gery as chair of what was then the Department of Economics and Business Administration. He retired from a greatly changed Department of Economics 35 years later.



Gery is perhaps best remembered for strengthening the economics major at St. Olaf by dropping the word "business" from the department title and enhancing the curriculum with required courses in economic theory. Gery also strove to improve the faculty so that by 1980 seven of the department's 11 faculty members held doctorates, compared to four faculty with no doctorates just two decades before.

Along with his teaching career, Gery held a number of research positions: at the University of Minnesota, the University of Arizona, Carnegie-Mellon University, and the Federal Reserve Banks of Boston and Minneapolis. He also served as a consultant to local and Twin Cities businesses and law firms. Gery directed Summer Institutes in Economics for 20 years under the auspices of the National Science Foundation at St. Olaf and the University of Colorado. His favorite research interests were monetary economics, women in the labor force, and renewable energy economics.

Gery was preceded in death by his first wife, Theona, in 1981. His second wife, Marie, survives him, along with three children from his first marriage, Daryl Gery, Sondra (Michael) Teske, and James (Mildred) Gery; two stepsons, Christopher and Patrick Stewart; three grandchildren, and two sisters.

- *James Dalton '50, Jefferson City, Mo., Oct. 25, 2011
- Gloria Ellefson Skuster '50, Charles City, Iowa, Dec. 23, 2011
- *John Maakestad '50, Nerstrand, Minn., April 10, 2012
- Mary Janke Middleton '50, Covington, Ky., Nov. 22, 2011
- *Donald Lomen '50, Clear Lake, Iowa, Sept. 29, 2011
- *Peter Lommen, Jr. '50, Austin, Minn., Dec. 25, 2011
- Jean Mohn Goedtel '50, Faribault, Minn., Oct. 17, 2011
- Donna Swain '50, Seattle, Nov. 12, 2011
- A. Henry Thompson '50, Saint Peter, Minn., Jan. 4, 2012
- Paul Day '51, Northfield, Minn., Nov. 9, 2011
- Leon Holtan '51, Rochester, Minn., Jan. 4, 2012
- Eunice Thelander Hansen '51, Norwood, Mass., Nov. 30, 2011
- Marilynn Anderson Wheeler '52, Eagan, Minn., Dec. 20, 2011
- Robert Hauge '52, Saugerties, N.Y., Oct. 21, 2011
- Judith Schanck Wilson '52, Chippewa Falls, Wis., July 19, 2011
- Donna Brings Curry '53, Apple Valley, Minn., Nov. 10, 2011
- Gloria Grabow Rehwaldt '53, Sartell, Minn., Oct. 30, 2011
- *James Hillestad '53, Northfield, Minn., Nov. 8, 2011
- *John Nasby '53, Jackson, Minn., Aug. 15, 2011
- Arden Nelson '53, Maple Grove, Minn., June 26, 2011
- Elsie Walledom Dorn '53, Inverness, Ill., Dec. 1, 2011
- Wayne Curry '54, Osseo, Wis., Oct. 16, 2011
- Joanne Holm Mickelson '54, White Bear Lake, Minn., Sept. 22, 2011
- *Dewey Johnson '54, Fresno, Calif., Sept. 26, 2011
- Ruth Kuhlman Bates '54, Waconia, Minn., Oct. 27, 2011
- John Wenaas '55, Tucson, Ariz., Nov. 8, 2011
- Barbara Anderson Grahn '56, Santa Ana, Calif., Aug. 3, 2011
- Rudolf Froiland '56, Edina, Minn., Sept. 11, 2011
- Lillian Sollie Wattier '56, Scottsdale, Ariz., Nov. 11, 2011
- Margianne Hall '57, Portland, Ore., Oct. 12, 2011
- John Budack '58, Statesboro, Ga., Sept. 12, 2011
- John Gunderson '58, Denver, Dec. 29, 2011
- Caroline Blomberg Cannon '59, Vancouver, Wash., June 23, 2011
- Marlys Conger-Meyer '59, Aitkin, Minn., Sept. 16, 2011
- Peter Anderson '60, Waco, Texas, Nov. 19, 2011
- Grant Ebersole '60, San Diego, Calif., Aug. 21, 2011
- Theodore Maakestad '60, Radcliffe, Iowa, July 7, 2011
- *Arnold Anderson '61, Madison, Wis., Nov. 6, 2011
- Sallee Anderson Larson '61, Red Wing, Minn., Nov. 28, 2011
- Nancy Cole Johnson '61, Edina, Minn., Aug. 5, 2011
- David Ronning '61, Pine Island, Minn., Nov. 12, 2011
- Stephen Madison '62, Lake Park, Fla., Aug. 3, 2011
- Paul Williams '62, Bend, Ore., Aug. 23, 2011
- John Price '63, Northfield, Minn., Sept. 2, 2011
- Daniel Wee '63, Weeki Wachee, Fla., Nov. 11, 2011
- Jane Hoyt Rich '64, Fitchburg, Wis., Dec. 29, 2011
- June Thorson '64, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Jan. 11, 2012
- Paul Sodergren '65, Arden Hills, Minn., Dec. 4, 2011
- Thomas Flygare '66, Greenland, N.H., Jan. 17, 2012
- Lois Knudtson Burgoyne '66, Northfield, Minn., Jan. 7, 2012
- Mary Sheldon Schumitsch '67, Pine River, Wis., Sept. 19, 2011
- Barbara Olson Hexum '68, Fergus Falls, Minn., Feb. 15, 2011
- Julianne Hubbard Peterson '69, Wayzata, Minn., Sept. 3, 2011
- Marguerite Schmitter '69, Cleveland, Dec. 23, 2011
- Curtis Heiserman '70, Minneapolis, Jan. 2, 2012
- Sherry Peterson '72, Brooklyn Park, Minn., May 23, 2011
- Gerald Sutton '73, Boone, Iowa, Dec., 24, 2011
- William Hansen '78, San Francisco, Sept. 19, 2011
- Janet Johnson '78, Walnut Creek, Calif., Aug. 19, 2011
- Julie Weidler Overholt '79, Sandy, Utah, Dec. 4, 2011
- Michael Andrews '85, Watson, Minn., Sept. 25, 2011
- Laura Nelson '85, Des Moines, Wash., Oct. 28, 2011
- Ann Grefe '87, Rosemount, Minn., July 4, 2011
- Jon Falkenberg '93, Stevenson, Wash., May 17, 2010
- Deanna Nelson '93, Belle Plaine, Minn., Sept. 23, 2011
- Samuel Lee '05, Seoul, South Korea, Oct. 19, 2011

*VETERAN

The Legacy of Miss Fiske

BY JEFF SAUVE

IN FRONT OF MISS ELLA FISKE STOOD A TWO-STORY, gray, weather-beaten framed schoolhouse, built in 1856, the same year the city of Northfield was founded. Located at Union and Third Streets, the newly established St. Olaf's School — a preparatory school before becoming a college in 1889 — began instructing young St. Olaf students on January 9, 1875. That day, nineteen-year-old Ella Fiske crossed the threshold and joined Principal Thorbjørn N. Mohn and Lars S. Reque as faculty to the school's thirty-six students.

Fiske, the school's first music teacher, was obligated to furnish a piano at her own expense and, as the only woman faculty member, was also charged with overseeing the conduct and personal welfare of the twelve female students. For the next five years, Fiske taught her students while establishing a lasting foundation of music at the fledgling school.

The schoolhouse was comprised of six rooms: three for teaching and recitation, two for music study, and one for the boys' dormitory. During the early years, St. Olaf's School derived its income solely from tuition. In its first fiscal year, 1875, the school received \$760.55 in tuition and had \$759.15 in expenditures, ending the year \$1.40 to the good.

Fiske's salary partly depended on student fees for music lessons, but that money didn't always arrive on time. One of her students, after spending \$2.30 to re-varnish and trim an old black straw hat, begged her mother to send money, stating, "I have not paid Miss Fiske anything."

In those difficult early years, Fiske got caught up in a dramatic historical event. On September 7, 1876, less than a year after the school opened, the infamous bank robber Jesse James rode into Northfield with the James-Younger Gang. The gang included Cole Younger and his brothers Bob and Jim, who had been robbing banks and trains with Frank and Jesse James, along with other members of the James-Younger Gang.

When the gang rode into Northfield, they headed for First National Bank wearing flowing dusters to conceal their guns. Once inside, they dropped their coats and demanded the money from the vault. Joseph Lee Heywood, the bank clerk on duty, was shot dead when he refused to open the safe. Local citizens, recognizing what was happening, armed themselves, resisted the robbers, and successfully thwarted the theft.

With the town of Northfield in near hysteria after the robbery, President Mohn closed St. Olaf's School for the afternoon. That day, some of the St. Olaf boys participated in searching for the robbers. Meanwhile, Fiske, who boarded with the slain Heywood, his wife, and their five-year-old daughter, left school and headed to their home on West Third and Plum Streets. She arrived as the body of Heywood, covered with a sheet, was being delivered by buggy. His body remained in the family parlor for three days before his funeral and subsequent burial. To her credit, Fiske remained in Northfield and continued to teach at St. Olaf's School.

The next year, a young Ingebrikt F. Grose enrolled. Years later, he recalled:

Miss Fiske taught us the rudiments of music. I still remember she drilled us to say that a musical staff consists of five lines and four spaces, that the letters in the four spaces of the staff G clef from the lowest space up spells F-A-C-E, and that we should sometimes be sharp, never be flat, and always be natural.

The following fall, the Main opened on Manitou Heights. The building's third floor housed the boys' dormitory, while the second floor held the classrooms and chapel; the first floor contained apartments for staff and some female students, as well as a small music room next to Fiske's quarters; the basement housed the dining room and the wash room.

With additional space in the new Main, Fiske requested a second piano. The school's Executive Committee discussed at length how to proceed with acquiring another instrument. Harold Thorson, one of the school's founders, held the opinion that the music teacher should furnish instruments, but Mohn argued that the piano was necessary for instruction.

After some debate, the committee agreed to secure a second instrument for Fiske.

By the end of the academic year, Fiske resigned and returned home to New Richland, Wisconsin. The old two-story schoolhouse was removed from downtown and rebuilt as Ladies' Hall on the Hill in the fall of 1879. From 1912 until the mid-1920s, Ladies' Hall served as the first music building on campus, echoing the teachings of Miss Ella Fiske. 🍷

Fiske returned to Manitou Heights in 1926 to help dedicate the new Music Hall. She told those gathered about the early days of St. Olaf College and its music beginnings. She passed away in January 1930, at the age of 74.

JEFF SAUVE is the associate archivist at the Shaw-Olson Center for College History. Oles can share their stories with him by emailing sauve@stolaf.edu.



Ella Fiske, c. 1875



Student body, St. Olaf's school, 1875



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“... PERFECT IN ITS BUD AS IN ITS BLOOM — WITH NO REASON
 TO EXPLAIN ITS PRESENCE — NO MISSION TO FULFILL ...”

— JAMES McPHEILL WHISTLER



LILAC TIME. Gardening was a hobby of Professor Ole G. Felland, who joined the fledgling faculty at St. Olaf in 1881. He was an artistic gentleman, a photographer, and a botanist, credited with planting countless trees, flowers, and shrubs on the new campus grounds — among them the first lilac bushes ever planted at St. Olaf. These early lilac hedges were the harbingers of today’s beautiful lilacs on campus, filling the spring air with their unforgettable fragrance for 130 years. PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER