

WINTER 2018

ST. OLAF

M A G A Z I N E



ON THE COVER

Artist Glenn Hernandez '02 enjoyed working in a mixture of traditional and digital media to design the look and feel of the virtual reality game Luna.

ST. OLAF MAGAZINE

Winter 2018 · Volume 65 · No. 1

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Class Notes Submission Deadlines: Spring issue: Feb. 1; Fall issue: June 1; Winter issue: Oct. 1. Contact the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, 507-786-3028 or 888-865-6537; email: alum-office@stolaf.edu; update online at stolaf.edu/alumni/share-your-news

St. Olaf Magazine is published three times annually (Winter, Spring, Fall) by St. Olaf College, with editorial offices at the Office of Marketing and Communications, magazine@stolaf.edu



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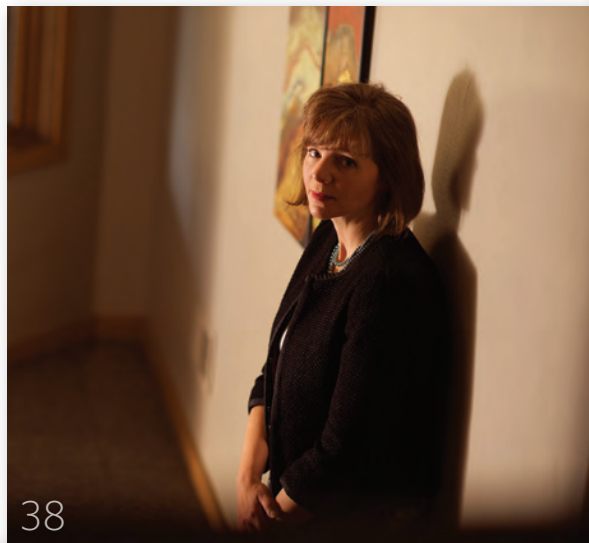
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ST. OLAF

M A G A Z I N E

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FROM THE DESK OF
PRESIDENT DAVID R. ANDERSON '74



Happy New Year, Oles!

Welcome to the winter issue of the *St. Olaf Magazine*. I hope you enjoy it.

I invite your attention in particular to the important article on St. Olaf and immigration that opens this issue. It documents the college's engagement, from its founding through to the present day, with the lives, the aspirations, the struggles, and the successes of immigrants.

St. Olaf has always been a home to immigrants, a support for them, and an engine of their flourishing. The college has also been an important supplier of advocates for immigrants — pastors, teachers, lawyers, counselors. Whatever your position in the debates surrounding immigration policy in America today, I hope that the personal stories told in this article make you proud of your college's purposeful engagement with the lives of immigrants throughout its history and of the positive contributions St. Olaf continues to make to the flourishing of immigrants today.

The stories of animation artist Glenn Hernandez '02, of human rights lawyer Jane Prine Rydholm '95, and of environmental steward Katarina Veem '86, reflect themes that run through many of the stories that appear over the course of a year in this magazine: the importance of discerning and then following your vocation and the critical role that your time at the college plays in that process.

In these three stories, such a process took place through some combination of the openness to new ideas that comes from a liberal arts education and the openness to new experiences provided by the college's global engagement. Add to that the determination to make a difference that characterizes Oles, and you get a meaningful result.

Oles Can. Oles Will.

David R. Anderson



UM! YAH! YAH!

Robert Tobroxen first started playing basketball when he was four years old, but he slept with a ball in his arms when he was even younger. His basketball career has blossomed since, including playing at Apple Valley High School before bringing his skills, both athletic and academic, to St. Olaf College four years ago. Last spring, he started every game and was named MIAC Men's Basketball Third Team All-Conference. The six-foot-six forward is currently captaining the Oles in his senior season.

"I chose St. Olaf to play basketball because of the camaraderie I felt with the team, how great the coaching staff was, as well as the opportunity to receive a high-level education at the same time," Tobroxen says.

The opportunities have been numerous for this star player, including the chance to travel with several other members of the team and Coach Dan Kosmoski to Greece last summer, where the team was able to visit countless historical sites and play two games.

"There is not a grade point average given out in basketball, but if there were, he would indeed qualify for valedictorian," Kosmoski says. Tobroxen's actual grade point average is pretty good too — the economics major was awarded Academic All-MIAC in 2016.

For Tobroxen, it's always been all about the team. "The best thing has just been adding members to the family. As my four years have gone on, I have added 25 brothers to my family," he says. "And since our season is one of the longest sports seasons, there is so much time to spend with them and make memories that I will remember and cherish for a lifetime." 🐾

— REBECCA CARCATERRA '18



Oles Can. Oles Will.



As part of the Piper Center's New York City Connections Program, Oles spent fall break exploring careers in fine arts, business, finance, journalism, and publishing. The program connects students with St. Olaf's vast network of alumni and other professionals nationwide, specifically in large metropolitan areas. It brings students into alumni workplaces, where they can explore a variety of career fields — from technology, energy, engineering, and biomedicine to consulting, law, health care, and community development — broadening their perspective on what they can do with their liberal arts education.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MICHAEL SOFRONSKI
stolaf.edu/pipercenter

BUILDING CAREER CONNECTIONS *in* NEW YORK CITY



When the Edvard Grieg Society of Minnesota held its first-ever string competition to encourage young musicians in a five-state area to explore the music of Norwegian composer and pianist Edvard Grieg, Hannie McGarity, a violin performance major, saw the Grieg competition as a “fun motivation for learning new repertoire.” She prepared herself well for the challenge, noting that before the competition, “I had only worked on two, maybe three movements of music at a time. Playing a whole Grieg Sonata, Sinding’s suite in A minor, and a Grieg miniature was the most music I’d ever had to learn for one performance.” McGarity, who entered the competition with no expectation of winning, took home the Grand Prize: an all-expenses-paid trip to Bergen, Norway, where she performed two recitals of Norwegian repertoire in connection with a seminar on the chamber music of Edvard Grieg.

“I am so happy I applied for the competition last year,” she says. “The recitals and learning opportunities I had in Norway prepared me for the other performances I’ve had recently, including my Junior recital at St. Olaf and a recital in my hometown over winter break.”

As a young student in Bellingham, Washington, McGarity and her family attended a St. Olaf Band concert in Seattle. When looking at colleges, she chose St. Olaf for its impressive music program and variety of subjects to study. It was a good fit right from the start. McGarity, who plays first violin in the St. Olaf Orchestra, says, “Playing in the orchestra has been amazing.” In addition to strengthening her performance skills, McGarity also enjoys a special camaraderie with her fellow musicians.

She’s equally interested in exploring the greater world off the Hill. “The most valuable thing about my liberal arts education has been the opportunity to study abroad,” she says. In addition to her travels to Bergen, she’s toured with the St. Olaf Orchestra in Argentina and Uruguay, and studied French in Morocco. This spring, McGarity will pursue her study of music in Vienna, Austria.

“After graduating from St. Olaf, I plan on continuing performance studies at a graduate school. My goal is to someday play in a professional orchestra, teach privately, and play as much as I can. I just want to keep doing what I love every day.” 🎻

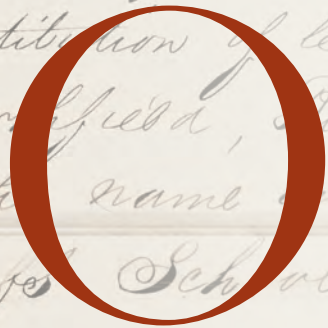


ONE NATION

**ST. OLAF COLLEGE HONORS ITS IMMIGRANT HISTORY
AND WELCOMES A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE BY LIFTING UP
THE EXPERIENCES OF ALUMNI AND STUDENTS WHOSE
LIVES AND WORK HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY IMMIGRATION.**

BY MARLA HILL HOLT '88

This certifies that we the undersigned have associated ourselves together for the purpose of establishing an institution of learning in the village of Northfield, Minnesota, under the name of "Saint Olaf School."



IN THE WARM FALL AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 6, 1874, a pastor, a businessman, and three farmers met in downtown Northfield. Led by the devout and pioneering Reverend Bernt Julius Muus, a 42-year-old Norwegian immigrant, they signed the Articles of Incorporation for St. Olaf's School, a new endeavor in higher education for the children ("the youth of both sexes") of Norwegian immigrants in America. At the meeting, the men — who constituted St. Olaf's first Board of Trustees — prayed that the school would be "a blessing to us and to the coming generations."

At St. Olaf's dedication ceremony in January 1875, Muus spoke the following: "This school is established to the end that the students, endowed with the knowledge and power of God's Word, will honor God and further the temporal and eternal welfare of their fellow men."

The thread of welcoming people from other lands has been woven throughout St. Olaf College's 144-year history. In its earliest days, St. Olaf educated immigrants and their children in the "worldly knowledge"



ST. OLAF'S SCHOOL, 1875



needed for them to develop useful lives, and provided religious training — according to Lutheran tradition — so that they might contribute faithfully and effectively to their adopted country.

Throughout the 20th century, St. Olaf faculty members and students were involved in important refugee resettlement work through the Lutheran World Federation, welcoming newcomers to St. Olaf and Northfield (for instance, a handful of new professors on campus in the late 1940s who had been displaced in Europe after World War II). Gertrude Sovik '31, a professor of German and physical education, spent close to a decade in Austria after World War II helping in the emigration of refugees under the U.S. Displaced Persons Act. She later was a tireless advocate, together with other St. Olaf professors, for refugees from Southeast Asia in the 1970s. Another World War II-era faculty member, Kierkegaard scholar and Professor of Philosophy Howard Hong '34, worked in Europe and the United States for much of the 1940s in service to refugees and war prisoners, eventually assisting in the relocation of hundreds.

Sovik and Hong are but two examples of the many men and women with ties to St. Olaf who have been heavily invested in the humanitarian work of refugee resettlement following worldwide conflicts and crises.

Today, St. Olaf's spirit of welcome is reflected in the many alumni who have dedicated their careers to working on behalf of refugees and immigrants around the world, including in current war-torn regions such as Syria and Somalia. The college also is committed to being an inclusive community of people who bring diverse backgrounds, experiences, and ideas to campus.

"Recognizing where we came from and what our roots are — that the people who founded St. Olaf, which flourishes today, were at one time strangers here who desired a better life for their children — gives us perspective on the immigrant experience in America," says President David R. Anderson '74. "As a college of the Lutheran church, it is our duty to welcome all. If we are to produce globally engaged citizens, we can't shut our doors to those from other countries. It is imperative that we continue to welcome students and scholars with wide-ranging experiences to cultivate and create an environment that's representative of the broader world."

We asked alumni and students to share their stories of immigration in the hope that Oles will continue to engage in meaningful dialogue, working alongside neighbors, friends, and strangers to welcome all voices and experiences to the table.

"Recognizing that the people who founded St. Olaf were at one time strangers here, who desired a better life for their children, gives us perspective on the immigrant experience in America."

— PRESIDENT DAVID R. ANDERSON '74



As a Lutheran World Federation (LWF) officer in post-World War II Europe, Gertrude Sovik (top, second from right) supervised the resettlement of nearly 3,000 refugees in Austria to the United States and other countries. During World War II, Howard Hong (right) worked with prisoners of war in the U.S. and with refugees in Germany, where he was director of the LWF Service to Refugees and the senior field officer of the Refugee Division of the World Council of Churches. He helped resettle hundreds of refugees, including children from Latvia (above).



Breanne Thornton Grace '04 COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

KIM TRUETT/UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The United Nations seeks durable solutions for refugees currently living in refugee camps around the world. In her sociological research, Breanne Thornton Grace examines how these UN solutions — resettlement, local integration, or voluntary repatriation — become durable through social citizenship, which refers to having access to things like health care, education, food, and legal representation.

A professor in the University of South Carolina's College of Social Work, Grace primarily conducts her ethnographic field work at the first intra-African resettlement in Tanzania. She also conducts research among refugees in the United States, looking at how access to resources affects their integration into society and how financial stress affects the structure of their families.

I'm intrigued by questions like 'What are countries beholden to for their citizens? What are the rights that are enumerated?' I've found that the ability to access good-quality housing, education, and health care is affected by how much money you have," Grace says. "Scholars call it market citizenship, as rights are purchased rather than given."

Grace first discovered an interest in studying refugee resettlement on a study abroad program at Tanzania's University of Dar es Salaam during her junior year at St. Olaf. She struck up a friendship with a Fulbright Scholar on campus who was conducting research in a refugee camp, tagging along on his interviews. She also learned Swahili and, after graduation, worked as an interpreter for refugees in San Diego. Eventually she returned to Tanzania, working in refugee camps and developing research questions as a Fulbright Scholar herself. She earned a Ph.D. in sociology from Michigan State University in 2013. At home in South Carolina, Grace volunteers as an interpreter at a clinic for survivors of torture and serves on the state's Refugee Resettlement Board.

The lessons Grace learned at St. Olaf — the value of a global perspective and of rethinking your place in the world — are ones she tries to impart to her students at the University of South Carolina.

"I majored in political science and American studies at St. Olaf, and it might seem a little weird to have my scholarship so focused abroad," says Grace, who noted that the late Jim Farrell, professor of history and American studies, had a great influence on her. "He taught me that you only learn about your own culture by looking at yourself through another culture's lens," she says.

*Mai Neng Moua was born in Laos sometime in the early 1970s (like many Hmong, she is unsure of her actual birthdate). After her father's death, she and her mother and brothers spent two years in a Thai refugee camp before resettling in Pittsburgh in 1981. She earned a degree in sociology/anthropology at St. Olaf and has worked with public policy organizations on issues important to refugees and immigrants. She is the author of *The Bride Price: A Hmong Wedding Story*, a family memoir about balancing two cultures, centered on her refusal to follow the traditional Hmong custom of the groom's family paying a "bride price" to the parents of the bride.*

We came to the United States in the winter. I remember seeing snow from the plane. They gave us huge coats because we were skinny little refugee kids. I felt like a penguin.

"I didn't know any English. We went right into school, without any understanding of the language. They'd only taught us a few words, like how to ask for the bathroom, in the refugee camps. I remember flash cards and a circular toy with a lever that I pulled to tell me the alphabet.

"We moved to Minnesota when I was in high school, and I was excited to be among a larger community of Hmong people. I walked up to people in the street or the grocery store, saying, 'Hi! Are you Hmong too?'"

"It was challenging to be an American at school and Hmong at home. Our church, the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, was a supportive environment for me. The Sunday school teachers told the girls, 'You can be anything you want to be.' They showed us their college photo albums of happy, smiling people in beautiful places. I wanted to be there.

"My mom wanted me to go to college. She always said that

education was our way out of being poor. She hoped we'd get a desk job, so we wouldn't have to do manual labor. [After I came to St. Olaf,] I took her for a campus visit so she wouldn't worry about where I was going to live and sleep, and what I was going to eat.

"The Hmong culture is patriarchal, and the community is very gendered. Girls are expected to care for home and family, to cook and clean. The girls marry out and we become someone else's family.

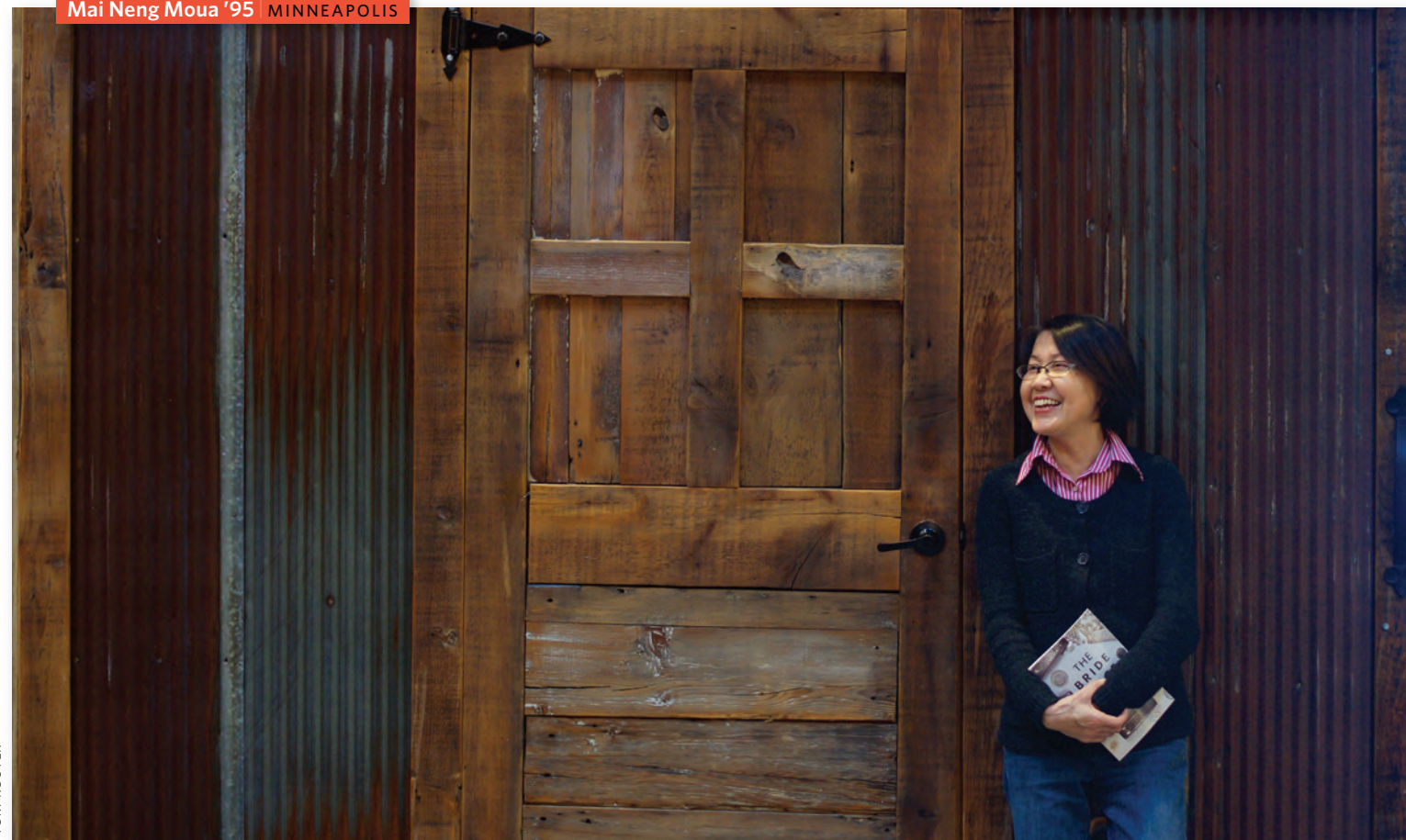
"I grew up hearing my mom's stories of how her bride price was used against her, and I didn't want that for myself. When my husband and I got married without following the custom, my mom was so angry that we didn't talk for a year. I had end-stage renal disease and I'd had a kidney transplant, so my mom thought I was damaged goods and that if my in-laws paid my bride price, it meant they really wanted me in their family. She was trying to ensure that I was loved and taken care of.

"My book started out as a series of letters to my mom. I wanted to figure out why she was so hard on me. I never intended to write about myself. It took persistence and my having kids to repair our relationship. The first time she stepped foot in my house was when my daughter was born. My kids were able to get through to my mom in a way that I couldn't.

"The book was revealed to me in three parts that follow a shaman's journey: trauma, the rituals to find a lost spirit or soul in the trauma, and being made whole. I've been a Christian for a long time and believed that you had to choose between the ancestor's spirits and God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost, so it was surprising to realize my book was following the shaman's journey.

"I hope my book stimulates conversation in the Hmong community about the bride price, and that we come to some sort of cultural understanding about valuing women without putting a monetary amount on their value."

Mai Neng Moua '95 MINNEAPOLIS



TOM ROSTER



Buäy "J.B." Tut '14 SAN FRANCISCO

Buäy "J.B." Tut was born in 1991 in Malakal, Sudan (now South Sudan). In 1994, his family fled the country on foot amidst civil war, making their way to Ethiopia and eventually resettling in the United States in 2000. Tut's family of nine, which includes brother Isaac Tut '11 and sister Nyajima Tut '20, moved throughout Iowa and Minnesota as Tut's parents pursued meaningful work. Tut earned a political science degree from St. Olaf, where he competed in football and track and field. He holds dual citizenship in the United States and South Sudan. He has served with AmeriCorps, worked in admissions at St. Olaf, and currently is an admissions officer at Stanford University.

My father is a Presbyterian minister and my parents were also farmers in South Sudan, so my early life was pretty peaceful until the civil war reached us in 1994. We — my parents and four siblings at the time — walked toward Ethiopia until a United Nations envoy picked us up. The envoy came under attack, often having to leave people behind as it attempted to get to neighboring countries where safety was.

"We spent five years in the Pinyudo refugee camp, applying for resettlement and undergoing daily medical screening, constant interviews, and background checks. Resettlement isn't a small feat for a family of seven. Often families are given only one or two applications. It took a community effort for us to stay together, with friends and family giving up their own applications.

"We were resettled in Dallas, but within a month we had moved to Minnesota, constantly affected by the push and pull of my parents looking for manual labor jobs. Without proficient English skills, all they could find were factory jobs, mostly in meat-packing plants.

"We lived in Northfield for the middle school part of my life, and I got involved in athletics and started to connect with my peers as I was learning English. We moved to Storm Lake, Iowa, where I attended high school, but Northfield was the first town that I can remember not wanting to leave.

"[As a student at St. Olaf,] I studied abroad for a semester in South Africa and Namibia, in a program focusing on nation building, globalization, and decolonization — basically, how do governments meet the needs of people, and is a democracy always the best form of government? Always, in the back of my mind, was the question of how can I apply this someday to South Sudan, to be useful back home?"

"I believe gratitude should lead to some form of service or giving back. I had a small taste of reconnecting with my culture and community when I returned to South Sudan briefly during Interim of my junior year. I met with the United Nations consul in Juba to look at opportunities to work in the government or education sectors, but unfortunately a new civil war broke out soon after within South Sudan, and that is still ongoing, so my plan to return is on hold."

FREDERIC NEEMA/POLARIS

Katie McCoy first learned of the challenges of immigration law while interning with Justice for Our Neighbors, a nonprofit immigrant advocacy organization in Iowa, during the summer between her second and third years at St. Olaf.

"I learned how complex the laws are, and the innumerable ways they fail people who so desperately need relief or need access to staying in the United States," she says. "Once I saw how underserved immigrant populations are and how great the need was, I couldn't walk away."

Additional experiences at St. Olaf — volunteering on behalf of immigrants and refugees while studying abroad in Argentina, completing a political science senior capstone project on citizenship and immigration — helped turn McCoy's eye toward immigration policy as a way to affect change. But after a year with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in Washington, D.C., as an advocacy fellow working within federal agencies, she was disillusioned. "A general fear of refugees was the overwhelming climate, and I couldn't see the impact of any of the work I was doing," she says.

McCoy shifted her focus once again to immigration law, and

today is a paralegal with the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR), a nonprofit that provides legal services to immigrants and asylum seekers detained by the U.S. government. She assists attorneys who work for ProBAR's Children's Project, which serves unaccompanied children who are detained in the Rio Grande Valley region of Texas.

"These children travel from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico, often fleeing violence or domestic abuse," McCoy says. "They come without a parent or guardian, or they've been separated during the journey."

McCoy and her coworkers shepherd the children through the legal system, helping them understand and access their rights and representing them in court cases determining whether or not they can stay in the United States.

"Each of these cases takes a very long time, and being able to accompany children through the process — letting them know that someone is listening to their needs and fighting for them to get what they want in life — has been really impactful for me," McCoy says. "I can see the work that needs to be done, one person at a time."

Katie McCoy '15 HARLINGEN, TEXAS



BOB DAEMIRICH/POLARIS



Patrick '75 and Luisa Cabello Hansel MINNEAPOLIS

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is located in the Phillips neighborhood of South Minneapolis, just two blocks north of East Lake Street, a throughway that was known for porn theaters, pawn shops, and massage parlors as little as 15 years ago. But the area has been transformed recently by an influx of new restaurants and markets, thanks in great part to the immigrants who have embraced the neighborhood and made it their home.

"Immigrants have brought an energy and vitality that has sparked renewal in the neighborhood and community," says Patrick Hansel, who co-pastors St. Paul's with his Chilean-born wife, Luisa Cabello Hansel. "These people have left their countries with a mindset of trying to achieve and grow, to work hard and sacrifice so that their children can have a better life."

St. Paul's has also transformed itself to meet the needs of its neighbors, many of whom come from Latin America — predominantly from Mexico but also from Chile, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic. The church has a weekly worship service in Spanish and focuses much of its programming on engaging the community. It offers summer leadership and exploration camps and employment programs for young people and provides training in how to grow and maintain a community garden.

St. Paul's founded, and is home to, the nonprofit Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts, which beautifies the Phillips neighborhood by creating public art in the form of mosaics and murals. In collaboration with In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater, St. Paul's celebrates the Christmas tradition of *Las Posadas*, a reenactment of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem that has been a ritual in Mexico for more than 400 years.

"We were called here 12 years ago with the intention of being a cornerstone for the community," says Hansel, who previously served inner-city parishes in Philadelphia and the Bronx. "We believe that reconciliation in Christ includes the whole neighborhood." To that end, St. Paul's opens its doors as a meeting place for many groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, a diabetes support group, and organizations focused on issues related to immigration.

Hansel says his role as pastor is to help his congregants see their personal story mirrored in the Bible. "So much of the Biblical story is about migrating, from Abraham and Sarah to people escaping slavery in Egypt to Jesus being born in Bethlehem because of powers beyond his control," he says. "Those stories contain themes my parishioners can relate to, and through them, we can build relationships that are nonjudgmental and welcoming to all."

TOM ROSTER

Jasmin Aramburu is a first-generation U.S. citizen, and she and her older siblings are the first members of her family to attend college. As a way to give back to the community she came from, Aramburu serves on the executive board of Advocates for Immigrants and Refugees (AIR), a student organization that raises campus awareness about immigrant and refugee issues.

"As the daughter of immigrants and as a social work major, it's important to me to serve marginalized populations, particularly given today's political climate," says Jasmin Aramburu, who plans to work with immigrant populations after graduation before earning a master's degree in social work.

At its weekly meetings, AIR — which has 12 regular members — discusses current events related to immigration and topics of particular interest to the St. Olaf community, such as how different types of visas affect students currently attending the college. Another primary objective of AIR's, says Aramburu, is building relationships between students and immigrant communities in Rice County, where St. Olaf College is based.

"One of the goals of St. Olaf should be to make sure students are involved with the community in which the college exists," she says. "AIR helps us connect with those who live outside our student bubble."

To this end, AIR members are currently helping Northfield's Human Rights Commission in its effort to get a municipal ID program approved for local residents. The group also holds fundraising events, donating all proceeds to local and statewide organizations that help immigrant and refugee families. In addition, past members have mentored Northfield Middle School students from immigrant families.

To extend its reach beyond Northfield's borders, AIR is currently planning its first Spring Break service trip. Members will be going to San Antonio, Texas, to volunteer with RAICES, a nonprofit agency that promotes justice by providing free and low-cost legal services to underserved immigrant children, families, and refugees in Central and South Texas. Some AIR members also volunteer with Paper Airplanes, a nonprofit that matches students via Skype with international refugees to provide one-on-one language and skills instruction.

Jasmin Aramburu '18 CHICAGO



TOM ROSTER

Alexis Valeriano and his sister came to the United States from Mexico when they were six and five years old, respectively. They were brought across the border by others and reunited in California with their mother, who had left Mexico several years earlier. They moved to Northfield shortly thereafter to be closer to other relatives. Valeriano became a lawful permanent resident of the United States in 2015. He is studying political science and is active in Presente and SOMOS, student organizations that promote understanding and awareness of Latino culture.

“My mother came over first, to provide for us. I remember the day that she left; it was very sad. I remember the bright yellow taxi vividly.

“My sister and I stayed with my grandparents, and they took care of us. We lived in a rural town in Mexico, so I have memories of the farm and of drinking water out of the surface irrigation system. Also, eating cucumbers and walking barefoot and killing salamanders with my slingshot.

“We came to California in the middle of the school year when I was in first grade. Then I was held back a year because of my low understanding of English. We moved from place to place, and it was a struggle financially. My aunt was living in Northfield and she said the rent wasn’t as high and you could find jobs, so we moved here.

“It was hard adapting because at the time, my sister and I were two of the very few Latinos at school. I started to learn English better — as any kid, I picked it up fast. But it was still hard to make friends. Not only was there a language barrier, but there were racial and socioeconomic differences too.

“My mom applied for permanent residency through a visa program. It’s a slow process. We started the process when I was in sixth or seventh grade, and permanent residency was given to us when I was a senior in high school, just in time to apply for college.

“St. Olaf has really helped me financially. Also, it’s a great school. I can be near my family and help them out when I need to. I have more Latino friends, who I can be at home with and relate to. I’m grateful for the people who have led me to where I am and have pushed me to attend college. Being first generation, I really don’t have that push coming from my family, considering that they



Alexis Valeriano '19 NORTHFIELD

TOM ROSTER

themselves haven’t gone through it. I’m very proud of my sister too, who’s attending Rochester Community and Technical College.

“Going through difficult times at home — both financially and emotionally — and through instances of discrimination has taught me to keep moving forward, because it always gets better. Lately I’ve been looking at activism and social justice work. I feel like that’s what I’m passionate about. I want to help people who have gone through the same experiences as I have. I want to use my degree to help vulnerable populations.”

Elizabeth Speich Bier got her first taste of how international policies and narratives impact entire groups of people — often beyond an individual person’s control — while studying abroad on Term in the Middle East during her junior year at St. Olaf.

“One of the pieces we looked at on that program was how Muslims are portrayed in the media and how racism plays into that,” Bier says. “I learned quite a bit about how the narrative at the top levels of government — or in the media — is disconnected from what we experience through interpersonal relationships.”

She returned to campus with a desire to engage more deeply with vulnerable populations impacted by U.S. policies, particularly those surrounding immigration. After graduation, Bier was called to serve with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) as a case manager in the refugee resettlement program of the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC) in Minneapolis. Her duties included ensuring that support systems for refugee families were in place, including housing, schooling, cultural orientation, health care, job training, and food assistance.

“I am committed to being a globally engaged citizen, and the

idea of inviting people to new lives of hope has always resonated with me,” Bier says of her work with refugees. She continued to work for the MCC after her volunteer service was complete, leaving to attend Luther Seminary, from which she graduated in 2010.

Based in St. Paul, Bier now works for the LVC as recruitment and outreach manager. She also serves as affiliated pastor at Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill, a multi-ethnic congregation with a commitment to inclusiveness, showcased through its advocacy work on behalf of vulnerable populations, such as those living in poverty. The church is a founding partner of Daily Work, a non-profit that assists people struggling with financial instability by connecting them to community resources for job training, English classes, or basic needs.

“The Christian faith — and our connection as people — doesn’t have boundaries and borders,” Bier says. “I’m continually reminded, when meeting someone new, of how complex each person’s story is. It’s much more than the assumptions I carry about a particular group they belong to. To be truly welcoming, we have to enter into places of trust together.”

Elizabeth Speich Bier '02 ST. PAUL



TOM ROSTER

In the course of her work as senior financial aid counselor at Augsburg University, Catherine Maun works with dozens of undocumented students. Many of these students are able to attend college due to the Minnesota Dream Act, which was signed into law in 2013. This legislation enables the students to gain access to and receive financial aid from the state for higher education.

To meet the act's criteria, undocumented students — or Dreamers, as they're called — must have graduated from a Minnesota high school after attending for at least three years, registered with the Selective Service, and provided documentation showing they've applied for lawful immigration status if a federal process exists to do so (it currently does not). The students are then eligible to apply for a Minnesota Dream Grant, participate in work study programs, and receive privately funded financial aid from Minnesota higher education institutions.

For undocumented students, the Dream Grant is welcome relief, given the high cost of attending college, particularly at private colleges and universities with comprehensive fees in the tens of thousands of dollars, Maun says.

"Undocumented students, who often come from lower socio-economic backgrounds, cannot apply for federal financial aid," says Maun, who spends much of her day assisting Augsburg's students in navigating the complex financial aid process. "The Dream Grant

provides much-needed funding for them, mirroring what in-state residents can receive in the form of a Minnesota State Grant."

Augsburg has 60 students who receive the Minnesota Dream Grant, Maun says, making it the top school in Minnesota for Dreamers. "The university currently awards \$25,500 in gift aid to each undocumented student, and the Dream Grant generally awards an average of an additional \$5,000, which helps to make a college education more accessible for these students," says Maun, who works with Dreamers to identify additional funding options as well.

Maun was first attracted to the position at Augsburg because of the word *counselor* in her title. "I liked the emphasis on mentoring, on working closely with students, and helping to make a difference in their lives during what can often be a very difficult time," she says. She came to Augsburg after a year with College Possible, a nonprofit that coaches and supports low-income students through the college admissions process, and seven years with ACES, a tutoring and mentoring program for inner-city students.

"One school I worked with at ACES had a lot of undocumented students, and I've now had several of those students come to Augsburg," Maun says. "These are incredibly motivated and smart, passionate students. They want to do well, and they are undocumented through no fault of their own. To help them navigate complex systems and to see them thriving is extremely rewarding."

Catherine Maun '06 MINNEAPOLIS



TOM ROSTER



TOM ROSTER

Andrea Borquez '21 NORTHFIELD

Andrea Borquez (not her real name) came to the United States from Mexico with her family when she was a year old, first settling in Minneapolis and later moving to Northfield when she was in second grade. As an undocumented immigrant, she is enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program until 2019, making her part of a group of undocumented students known as Dreamers. She and her mother recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate with the Assembly of Civil Rights for permanent policies in support of DACA students. Although the future of DACA — and therefore her own future — is uncertain, Borquez is hopeful. She has yet to choose a major but is interested in mathematics and computer science.

I really love the city of Minneapolis and how diverse it is. I lived there for eight years, and I never felt like I stood out. We lived in an apartment building that had other immigrant families, and a lot of the kids had parents who didn't speak English, like mine. It was a wonderful part of my childhood.

"I didn't know that we weren't a typical American family until we moved to Northfield, which has a much smaller Hispanic community. That's when I was introduced to being a minority. I was suddenly made aware of my identity, of how different I was. There were labels. I started to ask questions, like 'Why doesn't my family have a car like everyone else? Why is our grocery cart not as full?' I hadn't noticed those things in Minneapolis.

"In high school, I participated in the TORCH program, which stands for Tackling Obstacles Raising College Hopes. We met with admissions counselors from different schools. Everyone from St. Olaf was so helpful and kind. As a DACA student, I'm ineligible for federal financial aid, but the college has been very generous with scholarships based on my merit. It's a great school, so coming here wasn't such a hard decision.

"I am very close to my family, to my parents and my brothers. It's because I realize that my parents sacrificed so much to come here for me, so that I could have a better life.

"I have anxiety about my future job security. Thankfully I have such support at St. Olaf that I'm not afraid of finishing my degree, but every day I worry about building up my résumé — through internships or other connections with businesses — before my DACA status ends, just so that possible [future employers] will respond to me one day. It's something my peers don't have to worry about.

"I'm hopeful that Congress will come up with something that's more secure than DACA. I consider myself an American because it's all I know. I want to live a life with dignity and the ability to thrive, where my family and all hardworking Dreamer families in America have basic human rights." 🙌

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



The View from
Sweden

KATARINA VEEM '86, AN EXPERT IN WATER POLICY IN STOCKHOLM, CONFRONTS TODAY'S MOST PRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES. BY GREG BREINING

As director of Swedish Water House and International Policy at the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) in Stockholm, Katarina Veem is laser-focused on the universal issue of water. It's long been her vocation, having previously served as the CEO of Baltic Sea 2020 and program director at World Wildlife Fund Sweden.

Her worldview was shaped early in life. She was born to Estonian parents in Sweden, where her father — a pastor and archbishop in the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church — worked with Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Through his vocation and her family's immigration story, Veem gained an awareness of vulnerable populations and the interconnectedness of the peoples of the world. This perspective made her a good fit for St. Olaf, which she learned about from her father. He'd known of the college through his relationships with St. Olaf Philosophy Professor Howard Hong '34, a former director of the LWF Service to Refugees, and German Professor Gertrude Sovik '31, a tireless advocate for Asian immigrant resettlement.

In 1982, as a first-year international student from Sweden, Veem found the diverse interests of students on the Hill thrilling. "I loved being surrounded by young people who were truly interested in the various topics that you have in a liberal arts college. The discipline and the excitement of all the intellectual pursuits — I loved it."

Though she spoke English as a first-year student, Veem struggled to take notes during lectures, jotting down a mishmash of English, Swedish, and Estonian. The advantage of studying abroad is "to really understand how small and insignificant you and your

life are in the great scheme of things," Veem says. "It's a really humbling experience, while at the same time it is so exciting. But bottom line, it makes you understand that your perspective is only one perspective."

Gradually, her written language ability improved. But her salvation came in St. Olaf's Paracollege, the forerunner to the current Center for Integrative Learning, which allowed students to develop individualized majors. "That one-on-one learning was absolutely instrumental for me," she says. "It was a really rigorous but enormously educating and inspiring way of learning."

Pursuing her interests in history, theology and art history ("I studied things that were entirely non-Swedish. Swedes tend to study practical stuff, such as economics or engineering."), Veem returned to Sweden knowing that her liberal arts education at St. Olaf had not only instilled in her a love of learning and critical thinking, but it also had prepared her for any number of careers.

She took an entry-level job at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in scientific exchange programs and found herself working on preparations for the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, during which the concept of sustainable development emerged. "Sweden was really a driver in that process," she says. For her own part, Veem helped to arrange conferences and seminars for the academicians at the summit, an experience that sparked a newfound interest in environmental policy. After taking time off to attend Harvard Divinity School for a master's degree in intellectual history, but now with an environmental twist, Veem again returned to Sweden. This time she took a position with the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, where she worked for the Swedish government, first on marine and fisheries issues and then on freshwater policy. It was just the beginning of what has become her life's work and passion.

"The advantage of studying abroad is to really understand how small and insignificant you and your life are in the great scheme of things."

Stockholm is built across 14 major islands at the site where Lake Mälaren — Sweden's third-largest lake — flows into the Baltic. "Stockholm is a city on water," says Veem. "The water quality is excellent. You can dip a cup in the water and drink it. You can fish for salmon and trout in the middle of the city."

The Stockholm International Water Institute was the brainchild of "a very creative mayor" to promote and recognize freshwater conservation through research, project management, collaboration, and other work around freshwater policy. SIWI partners with both governments and businesses around the world and offers a variety of services, from scientific research and policy advice to capacity building, training, and advocacy support. At the core of the institute's mission is to work extensively in developing countries, where it helps to ensure that water is accessible to everyone while also seeking to alleviate poverty and address the needs of the poor and the most vulnerable. SIWI also awards the annual Stockholm Water Prize to honor "women, men, and organizations whose work contributes to the conservation and protection of water resources, and to the well-being of the planet and its inhabitants," according to the organization's website. As Veem explains, the award is "like the Nobel Prize for the water community."

SIWI places an emphasis on proper and just governance, a viewpoint rooted in Sweden's strong societal link to nature and its reliance on government to protect the environment. "When it comes to the environment, Sweden has a completely different way of addressing the challenges, because we believe that government has a right and a role in preventing negative environmental impacts, or investing in remediation of negative effects," says Veem. In crafting solutions to environmental problems, Veem notes that Swedes look reflexively to government. Americans, on the other hand, break down in debates over "big government" and "over-regulation." The result is that American legislation defers to business interests, or it never gets passed.



Katarina Veem '86, P'17 shares SIWI's vision of a water-wise world, where the value of water is recognized, shared, and allocated sustainably, equitably, and efficiently, to meet everyone's basic needs. ROB SCHOENBAUM/POLARIS

In Sweden, there's little debate about government regulation to protect the environment, "and that's how you can get a strong national, regional, as well as local enforcement which will address environmental challenges. There's this fundamental trust that the government is going to help us and work for us," says Veem. "The method of how that is most effectively done — that is something that we dispute between the left- and the right-wing blocs. But the actual implementation is really only marginally different from left to right."

Swedish Water House, which Veem directs, is a department within SIWI that has a slightly different mandate than the rest of the organization. According to its website, it "connects Swedish water stakeholders from different sectors with each other and with international processes and discussions." To accomplish that goal, it hosts seminars and workshops in the field of water and development, facilitates Swedish participation in international meetings, and engages a broad spectrum of stakeholders in focused two- to three-year dialogues regarding global challenges.

One major concern, says Veem, is the effect that climate change has on water abundance and availability. "Climate change is first known to people through too much, too dirty, or too little water," she says. On one end of the spectrum are the populations threatened by sea level rise. Veem cites the small Pacific nation of Kiribati, whose inhabitants have been forced to evacuate due to rising sea levels, and the Marshall Islands and the Maldives, which are in danger of sinking. On the other end of the spectrum, she says, are places like California and Ethiopia, which have suffered extended droughts. "In both cases — too much or too little [water] — the quality of the drinking water is frequently affected negatively."

After working closely on these vital issues for more than 20 years, Veem is aghast at American science skeptics and climate change deniers, who also distrust government and expert authority of all kinds. "Science is foundational to policy and decision-making on all levels — whether it's local, regional, or national. In the Scandinavian countries, there is no climate skeptic debate whatsoever. In Europe, there is nothing else but a focus on science in relation to environmental concerns. And there's no other way to develop [environmental] policy. So that's why it leaves me gaping. How else do countries make any decisions?"

It's a challenge she hopes will soon be resolved, thereby enabling new opportunities for international collaboration to emerge that will address the most pressing environmental issues affecting populations worldwide. 🌿

GREG BREINING is a Minnesota author, essayist, and freelance writer.



Stockholm stretches across 14 major islands where Lake Mälaren flows into the Baltic Sea. OLA ERICSON/MEDIA BANK.VISITSTOCKHOLM.COM



GLENN HERNANDEZ '02 IS COMMITTED TO STRETCHING HIS ARTISTIC TALENTS AS FAR AS THEY WILL GO. THEY'VE TAKEN HIM ON OTHERWORLDLY ADVENTURES AND DEEP INTO HIS OWN LIFE.

GREAT EXPLORATIONS

BY ERIN PETERSON

PHOTOGRAPHED BY FRÉDÉRIC NEEMA/POLARIS

In a way, every single pixel in the virtual reality game *Luna* belongs to Glenn Hernandez. As the game's art director, he was responsible for crafting the overarching look for the fantastical game in which a character named Bird enters and navigates a mysterious world.

At a glance, *Luna* is pure children's book whimsy, filled with rich colors and geometric designs. It is complex, beautiful, and utterly irresistible. But there is also a hint of darkness and melancholy in its otherwise spectacular landscapes.

Hernandez spent countless hours crafting the feel of the world. He spent years developing thousands of sketches and paintings, he built prototypes with the 3D software, and he helped direct others on the game's team to create the larger reality from his vision. Reviewers have called the game "gorgeous," and "[a] standout."

In creating Bird, a character who travels to an alternate dimension, solves a series of celestial puzzles, and ultimately returns to its previous world, it's not hard to see the parallels between Hernandez and the Bird he brought to life. Hernandez is someone who has made an unexpected journey in to an unfamiliar world, who has challenged himself to learn and grow, and who has found a way to bring everything he's learned from his explorations to visual stories that hit very close to home.

Hernandez had admittedly modest beginnings. He was born to immigrant parents who made their way to California from Guatemala before he was born. Neither had more than a sixth-grade education. Once, his father was deported on an immigration roundup on his way to work, when Hernandez's sister was just a toddler. After significant complications, Hernandez's father was ultimately able to return to the United States. Today, both of Hernandez's parents are U.S. citizens.

The couple worked tirelessly to build a better life for their children — but it was rarely easy. "After the bills were paid and the food and clothes were bought, they were often left with just \$10 between them," Hernandez recalls of his family's limited means. "But they never once relied on government assistance. And they always encouraged me to pursue what I loved — not what society deemed most practical."

Hernandez had always been drawn to both music and fine art. He'd been drawing as long as he could remember, creating sketches of King Kong after visiting Universal Studios as a child, for example. And at his high school in Nevada City, an old gold-mining town near Lake Tahoe, he was a standout choral singer.

While there were plenty of great colleges that he could have attended closer to home, the choral director at Hernandez's school talked up St. Olaf's music programs. When it came time for Hernandez to look at schools, St. Olaf climbed to the top of the list.

After arriving as a student on the Hill, the pull of the visual arts became even stronger for Hernandez. Janis Hardy, associate professor emerita of music, voice, says that Hernandez brought discipline and curiosity to all of his work. "He was a serious person, always questioning, always striving to learn and improve," she recalls. "He had an exceptional voice, [but] it became clear that art was his true calling."

Hernandez decided to major in studio art, trying everything the major offered and pulling in the ideas from other courses as he developed his artistic voice. "What St. Olaf taught me was to be interested in a lot of different subjects: religion, psychology, performance music, art — it was such a well-rounded experience," he says.



In *Luna*, the virtual reality game created and illustrated by Hernandez, Owl persuades Bird to swallow a piece of the moon, which knocks Bird into an alternate world. Only through exploring the new world, and solving a series of puzzles and riddles, can Bird go home.



Like many young alumni, Hernandez was ready to make his mark on the world the second he tossed his cap at graduation. But the world had other plans. “My parents and I, we all had this idea that when you get out of college, you’re going to be super successful because you have that degree,” he says. “But the reality is that while [people in college] can point you in the right direction, a lot of that success is up to you.”

He landed a retail job at Wet Paint, an art supply store in St. Paul, Minnesota. If it was not the job he dreamed of while he was at St. Olaf, he realized it was an important training ground nonetheless. “I learned a lot about

materials, and I became the resident pen and ink expert,” he says. But he knew he wouldn’t be there forever.

He returned to California, determined to find a new path for his artistic side. It was a challenging time, especially as the economy started to tailspin. He worked at another art supply store, spent some time living back at home with his parents, and struggled to figure out his next steps.

Eventually, he saw opportunity in the burgeoning animation field. He landed a job as a lab technician at San Francisco’s Academy of Art University, taking illustration courses and working on his own projects as his schedule allowed. At the same time, he furthered his technical skills in stop-motion animation by helping other students with their projects. Art directing a

couple of graduate stop-motion projects set him on the path towards concept art for animation and games.

One longtime collaborator, stop-motion artist Jim Capobianco, says Hernandez’s uncompromising, singular vision makes him invaluable on a team. “Glenn is focused on quality and originality,” he says. “He does tons of research and then has wonderful ideas that come out of

that research. He isn’t trying to copy what others are doing but instead finds his own voice.” Adds Chris Sasaki, an art director at Pixar and former instructor of Hernandez’s, “Glenn applies a timeless sensibility to fresh concepts. He has a natural ability to bring history and personal experiences to his whimsical graphic compositions and characters. He has a craftsman’s eye for detail and subtlety.”

Many of Hernandez’s personal drawings and paintings, including *The Two Trees of Valinor* (below) and *The Fall of Smaug* (right), depict scenes from J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of The Rings* books.



Each animation project helped Hernandez see his path more clearly. He built a toolbox of skills, knowledge, and processes. And eventually, he realized what was missing was not another technical capability or course: it was the narrative. He needed to knit together the beautiful visuals he created with something that made them meaningful. "I realized that what I liked was the idea of visual storytelling," he says. "It had always been a part of who I was — it had just revealed itself to me slowly."

But finding the place where he could use those skills wasn't easy. Hernandez interviewed at Pixar and other top companies, but nothing panned out. So he decided to pursue a one-in-a-million strategy. He had long been impressed with the indie video game *Journey* for PlayStation 3. The game, in which players travel to a distant mountain, had earned numerous Game of the Year honors. He decided to send a cold email to *Journey*'s producer, Robin Hunicke, to see if she might be interested in working together.

To his delight, she wrote back almost immediately. "She told me the idea of *Luna*," Hernandez recalls. "I did a couple of very rudimentary concept paintings, and from that point on, we've been working together." He joined her company, Funomena (pronounced "phenomena"), as a concept artist in 2013.

Hernandez's new job demanded intense research, and he closely studied the works of many artists as he developed the aesthetics for the virtual reality game that would become *Luna*. Among his inspirations were Mary Blair, a Disney animator who did concept art for *Peter Pan* and *Alice in Wonderland*, and Lee Bontecou, an artist best known for her abstract sculptures and drawings.

Hernandez also spent months developing the backstories of the game's characters. Then, with those ideas in his head, he set to work creating a magical interactive fable: Owl persuades Bird to swallow up a piece of the moon, which knocks Bird into an alternate world. Only

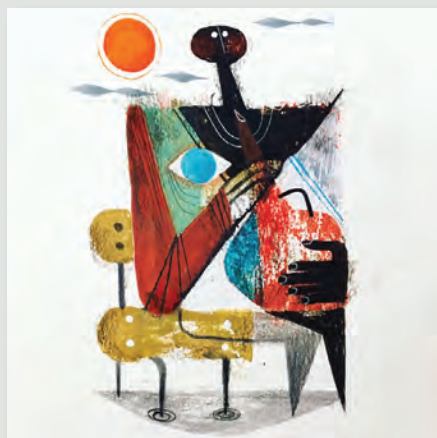
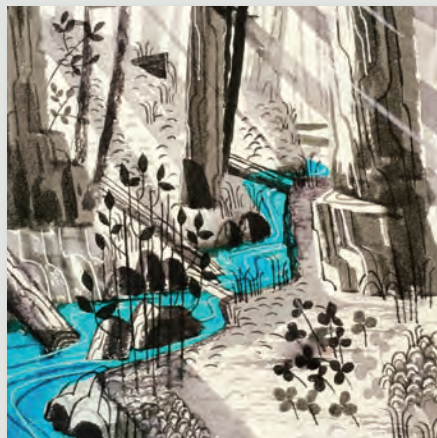


Hernandez painted this quetzal, the national bird of Guatemala, as part of a personal project exploring his cultural heritage.

"I've taken to recording every story my parents tell me about their childhood in Guatemala. Their immigrant experience greatly influences the stories I tell."

Art on Instagram

Glenn Hernandez admits he came late to the social media scene. He credits his wife, Vanessa, “a source of unyielding support during the more uncertain points in the last seven years,” for keeping him grounded and focused on what’s important. “I didn’t grow up with the social media stuff,” he says. “It was my wife who told me to try it.” He did, and quickly found fans. More than 1,400 posts have attracted 10,000 followers to his page, which you can find at [instagram.com/glenndergarten](https://www.instagram.com/glenndergarten).



through exploring the new world, and solving a series of puzzles and riddles, can Bird make its way home.

It was one thing to develop the concept for *Luna*. Turning that concept and related sketches into a virtual reality game required a Herculean four-year effort, which culminated in its October release. Virtual reality is just beginning to get traction in the gaming world, and *Luna* is a seductively beautiful introduction to it.

Hernandez enjoys working in the world of virtual reality, but he says he’s fascinated by any art form that allows for storytelling, whether through advanced technology or simpler tools, like clay or pencil. “To me, they are all just tools,” he says. “A concept for a game might just as easily be communicated in a poem, a short story, or a song.”

Indeed, his spectacularly popular Instagram account helps showcase his multimedia fascination. It’s attracted some 10,000 followers, who gobble up his pen-and-ink sketches, watercolor paintings, and even clever pumpkin carvings.

The account is also home to fragments of his most recent fascinations and stories. Even as he worked on *Luna*, he kept busy with his own projects. “I started to come up with spec work for myself,” he says. “I might say, ‘Here’s a book idea that I have. I want to start to write it out and illustrate it,’ and then go through the process of making a book on my own, and do the work.”

He dreamed that he might one day land a publisher for his ideas, but visits to editors at industry conferences fizzled. “If someone you’re trying to work with is not excited about what you have to bring forth, it’s not worth trying to convince them,” he says. “It’s better to keep doing your own work until someone sees it and wants to work with you — someone who sees that you have something new to bring.”

That someone turned out to be an editor from Penguin Random House named Anna Membrino. In September



Hernandez finds creative inspiration in the Tilden Regional Park Botanic Garden, near Berkeley, California
FRÉDÉRIC NEEMA/POLARIS

2016, she sent Hernandez an email asking if he was interested in children’s books. He couldn’t say yes fast enough.

“I was completely arrested by his style,” says Membrino, who adds that it’s easy to fall in love with Hernandez’s work. “He has a fabulous sense of color, movement, and humor, and his shapes and lines are at once unique and perfectly suited to the world of children’s books.” Penguin Random House signed him to a two-book deal, with his books coming out in the spring and summer of 2019.

As Hernandez mined his memories and experiences to come up with stories that he could tell in clear and irresistible ways to kids, he kept circling back not just to his own stories but to his family’s

history. The tales of their immigration felt freighted with importance and meaning in ways he may not have fully recognized before. “I have been thinking a lot about how people build walls around themselves: they isolate themselves from other people and other ideas,” he says.

Out of those musings grew a story about a bricklayer who gets exasperated when a neighboring tortoise comes to play in his garden. Hoping to keep out the pesky visitor, the bricklayer builds a wall, isolating himself in more ways than he can imagine.

In an era infused with the rhetoric of building walls, Hernandez knows that people will see the story as something more than just a tale of a bricklayer and

a visitor, or even a more general allegory about the importance of openness to others. “These days, I’ve taken to recording every story my parents tell me about their childhood in Guatemala,” he says. “Their immigrant experience greatly influences the stories I tell, and I hope to add their voices.”

There’s something both unlikely and essential in Hernandez’s journey. The gift his parents gave him — the blessing to choose his own path, wherever it might take him — ultimately led him back to his family. He uses every tool he’s picked up along the way to tell their stories, and ultimately his own story, in the most compelling and beautiful ways. 🦋

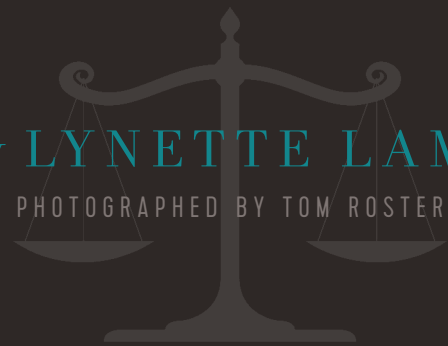
ERIN PETERSON is a Minneapolis freelance writer and a regular contributor to *St. Olaf Magazine*.

A New Kind of LAWYER

FOCUSED ON FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND BUILDING
A JUVENILE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM, JANE PRINE RYDHOLM '95
IS NOT YOUR GARDEN VARIETY ATTORNEY.

By **LYNETTE LAMB**

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER



Jane Prine Rydholm '95 was in her mid-twenties, happily working in health care communications, when her world turned upside down. A close friend, a South Minneapolis teacher, was murdered during a home robbery attempt gone wrong.

Suddenly, writing about health care deductibles and wellness initiatives didn't seem very important any more. Rydholm was also struck by the impact her friend's death had on the school community where he'd worked. "I saw what a contribution he had made to society as a teacher. My job was fun, but I wanted to do more for the greater good. His death sent me in a new direction."

Determined to become a prosecutor, Rydholm attended William Mitchell College of Law by night while continuing her communications job by day. Handling that kind of busy schedule was second nature to her, she says, having juggled three jobs on the Hill — at the St. Olaf Wellness Center, as a waitress at the Rueb 'N' Stein, and as an ad salesperson for the college radio station — while double majoring in French and economics. "I learned a lot about time management in college," she says, in a small miracle of understatement.

While at William Mitchell, Rydholm also worked as a student attorney in the criminal appeals division of the Minnesota Attorney General's Office. After graduation, she served as an assistant attorney general, a criminal justice instructor for the University of Phoenix, and an associate at a midsize law firm.

As her perspectives on the justice system evolved, so did her career choices. So, with the blessing of her law firm boss, in 2005 she hung out her own shingle, specializing in helping individuals with immigration problems, aiding nonprofits, and assisting with public defender appellate cases. She also took on a new challenge: acting as attorney and program manager for the nonprofit Civil Society, where, among other responsibilities, she was charged with running their anti-human trafficking program.

Rydholm's concern with that topic — which includes sex trafficking, forced labor, and domestic servitude — was first sparked during a visit to Bangkok, Thailand, during her extensive world travels (she says by now she's at "over 40 countries and counting"). That city, long an international center of sex tourism, "showed me the plight of sex trafficking victims," says Rydholm.



Her commitment to combatting human trafficking has continued in full force with her current job at the International Academy of Trial Lawyers (IATL), an invitation-only association limited to 500 members. She is director of programs for the academy, which has as one of its chief initiatives the Coalition Against Human Trafficking, and serves as executive director of the academy's foundation.

Rydholm and IATL staff helped to launch the anti-trafficking initiative at the academy's annual meetings by training the organization's lawyers about the breathtaking extent of the problem. Millions of people worldwide, many of them female, become victims of human trafficking every year. When it comes to sex trafficking, many victims are effectively hidden in plain sight in hotel rooms around the world.

Once educated as to the scope and nature of the problem, the academy and its attorneys began fighting trafficking from a variety of angles. Some have litigated against *Backpage* and other publications that advertise women for sale; others have worked to educate schools and the hotel industry about the issue. For example, at the IATL's recent conference in Montreal, members met with housekeeping, reception, and food and beverage staff at the hotel hosting the conference, teaching them how to spot trafficking victims. "Sometimes it's blatant, and sometimes a situation provides more of a question mark," says Rydholm.

Next up? Partnering with the National Judicial College to develop an online course to train judges about human trafficking. "It's exciting to see how our program is getting out there," says Rydholm.

The next big issue IATL is tackling is juvenile restorative justice, which has shown great promise in Canada and other countries. It allows young people to make amends for their crimes and requires them to take part in peer-to-peer counseling and other programming, while also pairing them with mentors to support them with school and home issues.

"In the U.S., the juvenile justice system sends kids down a path that often doesn't lead to success in later life," says Rydholm. "They have a higher chance of success if they can stay out of our justice system. Our youth deserve better."

In the Twin Cities, IATL will launch a pilot program informed by the model of Peacebuilders in Canada, whose young offenders have what Rydholm describes as "a really small rate of recidivism." Once that pilot program is up and running, IATL fellows can share the Minnesota model in other cities, she says, adding that the fledgling program is already enjoying great support among academy members, who know better than most the failings of this country's justice system. "They have a collective interest in advancing just legal systems," says Rydholm.

In general, she says, trial lawyers don't deserve their sometimes bad reputation. "Collectively, I have found this group to be some of the most generous, well-rounded, engaging people I've ever met," says Rydholm. "They have great integrity and are exceptional advocates. It's an impressive group of people."

Despite Rydholm's inarguably busy schedule, she is not all about work. She and her husband, Joe, a magazine editor, have two daughters: Jia, 12, and Willa, 9, adopted from China and Taiwan, respectively. Adopting children internationally had been part of Rydholm's plan since childhood, she says. "When my sister from South Korea joined our family, I decided I wanted to build my family that way too."

Last year, the Rydholms visited the girls' birth homes, which "changed our relationships with both those countries," says Rydholm. "And the girls learned so much more about themselves."

Her interest in internationalism has other sources as well. Rydholm's father served in Vietnam and later worked for a Norwegian company, which had her parents traveling frequently. "We even had culture nights at home where we learned about other countries." St. Olaf's longtime focus on globalism is part of what drew her to the college in the early 1990s. Rydholm's volunteer work through the years — with Families with Children from Asia, Children's Culture Connection, and China AIDS Orphan Fund — has also been international in scope.

Her own interest in globalism dovetails nicely with that of IATL's, including the organization's numerous international programs. IATL has trained attorneys in Mongolia, a country that has only recently instituted jury trials, and will soon be partnering with the African Center for Legal Excellence in Uganda. Its members have also spent many years training Chinese and Irish lawyers about the U.S. justice system and its rule of law.

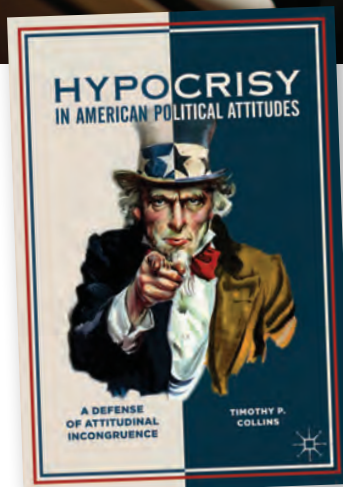
Rydholm still marvels at the ways in which her current job manages to embrace so many of her passions. "I wasn't looking for a full-time job when I happened across this job posting," she says. "But it was as if all my experience and values came together in one position."

"I never thought my life would unfold in the way it has," she continues. "But I was always open to exploring unanticipated paths. And although I was scared to take each unconventional leap, I've always been glad I did." 🍀

LYNETTE LAMB is a Minneapolis writer and editor.

"I never thought my life would unfold in the way it has. But I was always open to exploring unanticipated paths. And although I was scared to take each unconventional leap, I've always been glad I did."





A conversation with Tim Collins '10

By Rebecca Carcaterra '18

BURR: *The Constitution's a mess*
HAMILTON: *So it needs amendments!*
BURR: *It's full of contradictions*
HAMILTON: *So is independence!*
 — "Non-Stop" by Lin-Manuel Miranda (2015)

This excerpt of lyrics from the musical *Hamilton* is not a typical epigraph for a political science book, but then again *Hypocrisy in American Political Attitudes: A Defense of Attitudinal Incongruence* is not a typical political science book. The author, Tim Collins, is a visiting assistant professor in political science at St. Olaf College. He recently sat down to discuss his study of the contradictory attitudes embedded on both sides of the political aisle.

Your book deals with the overwhelming prevalence of hypocrisy in American politics. What inspired you to examine this topic?

Going way back, I grew up in a family that watched the news every night, so I've always had an interest in politics and civics. Then, we lived out in Grant, Minnesota, where Michele Bachmann — who later on got some national attention when she ran for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012 — was our state senator in the Minnesota legislature. I interviewed her for my high school paper in 2005, as she was running for U.S. Congress, and talked to her about her issue stances. Throughout the interview, she repeatedly brought up how she wanted to make the government smaller. But, without noting the contradiction, her platform was also that she ostensibly wanted government to (a) actively promote her understanding of evangelical Christian values, (b) *prohibit* alternative perspectives, and (c) dramatically expand the military. That didn't really make sense to me.

"The proportion of Americans who have purely logical and non-hypocritical attitudes is almost zero."

And as I thought about it and looked at the data, I realized that she shared these ideas with almost every Republican in office, and most Republicans and conservatives in the electorate. Then it became clear that the inverse ideas were reflected in Republicans' counterparts: for Democrats and liberals, broadly speaking, government shouldn't expand the military or promote a specific version of Christianity, but it also shouldn't necessarily be "small."

You argue that it is essentially a requirement of political engagement to have hypocritical attitudes, but we usually frame accusations of hypocrisy as an attack. Should we stop?

I argue that it shouldn't be an attack (a) because it's borderline *ad hominem*, which is pretty much always unhelpful for discourse, especially when we're already so polarized and (b) because the attack is almost certainly applicable to everyone who has political attitudes, including the hypothetical attacker — in fact, in one chapter [of my book], I show that the proportion of Americans who have purely logical and non-hypocritical attitudes is almost zero; if people have more than a handful of stances on issues, there's a very, very high probability that they'll have stances that logically contradict other ones.

What separates *Hypocrisy in American Political Attitudes* from most political science books?

It's the ironies on top of more ironies that helped keep my interest in the topic of attitudinal hypocrisy. I think readers of the book will find that interesting too. Hypocrisy in general is an attention-grabbing topic, and irony is inherently intriguing and amusing. I've been told the book is a good representation of my teaching style, which makes sense: it has a lot of weird references and draws on a cross-section of academic disciplines throughout. I believe it's the only political science book to reference the Ninja Turtles, the Venture Brothers, quantum mechanics, and the films of the Coen brothers. 🍷

REBECCA CARCATERRA '18 is an English major at St. Olaf.

Alumni Achievement Awards

Each year, St. Olaf College recognizes alumni whose service and leadership exemplify the ideals and mission of the college. In honoring these graduates for their exceptional achievements and professional contributions, they become an integral part of college history and a testament to St. Olaf's tradition of excellence. In October, the college recognized its 2017 recipients with the following awards:

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Siri Hustvedt '77

Siri Hustvedt is an internationally recognized author, feminist, and scholar. She has published a book of poetry, six novels, four collections of essays, and a work of nonfiction. Hustvedt has a Ph.D. in English literature from Columbia University, and in 2014, was appointed a lecturer in psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City, where she gives a seminar to psychiatric residents. Along with her other creative endeavors, Hustvedt has been writing art criticism for many years and has lectured on visual art around the world.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Ruth Christenson Sorenson '81 and Arne Sorenson P '10, '11, '14

Ruth Christenson Sorenson and her husband, Arne Sorenson, have long demonstrated exceptional service to their communities and to St. Olaf College. Together they have supported many charitable organizations, and have been council members and co-chairs of several campaigns. They have also consistently contributed to the St. Olaf Fund since 1985 and have financially supported the Posse Program. They created the Paul '55 and Lois Wold Christenson '55 and Dorothy Sorenson '50 Endowed Scholarship in honor of their parents.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mary Reid Kelley '01

Visual artist Mary Reid Kelley has earned worldwide acclaim for her work exploring the condition of women throughout history. Her videos and installations have been screened, exhibited, and performed at numerous national and international venues. When she isn't making art, Reid Kelley is a senior critic at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design and a critic in painting at Yale University School of Art.

The 2017 Alumni Award recipients were recognized by President David R. Anderson '74 at a banquet during Homecoming and Family Weekend. Pictured, clockwise from top left: Siri Hustvedt, René Clausen, Monthian Buntan, Arne Sorenson and Ruth Christenson Sorenson. Mary Reid Kelly was unable to attend. Read more about the recipients at stolaf.edu/alumni/alumni-awards. PHOTOS BY KEVIN HEALY

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

René Clausen '74

"I was a student during the first years of Robert Scholz and Kenneth Jennings, and it is from these two primary mentors that I learned the art of conducting and rehearsal technique, as well as what it means to be a complete and successful choral musician," says René Clausen, conductor of the Concordia Choir of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. His vast compositional repertoire of choral and orchestral works is frequently performed by collegiate, amateur, and professional ensembles worldwide.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Monthian Buntan '90

Graduating from Chiang Mai University in Thailand in 1988, Monthian Buntan received its Faculty of Humanities Scholarship to attend St. Olaf for a B.M. degree. After earning a master's degree in music theory and composition at the University of Minnesota, he returned to Thailand, becoming a leading advocate for the rights of disabled persons in his home country. "Without my St. Olaf education, I would not have stepped onto the international stage to work on behalf of disabled persons."



Impact and Inspiration

The St. Olaf Alumni Board welcomed five new members, each of whom is looking forward to making connections with the larger alumni community.

By Renata Erickson '19 | PHOTOS BY KEVIN HEALY



Eirik Davey-Gislason '97

Jackson Heights, New York
Real Estate Agent with Halstead Real Estate

Impact and Inspiration: My father always said of my economics and theater majors, "If he doesn't get the part, he can sell the tickets!" Well, after a 10-year career as a stage, commercial, and voiceover actor in Minneapolis and New York City, I decided to go into apartment sales rather than ticket sales. As an entrepreneur and independent contractor, I feel very fortunate to have been able to put both of my majors to work since leaving St. Olaf College two decades ago.

Alumni Board Ambitions: As a member of the St. Olaf Alumni Board, I intend to collaborate with the Chapter Committee to increase physical and financial involvement among alumni throughout the country. I will work closely with the New York alumni chapter to engage alumni in the area, introduce new ideas to benefit our alumni community, facilitate networking and career opportunities, and welcome St. Olaf alumni who are new to the New York area.



Mariah DuBose '16

Chicago | Consulting Analyst at Accenture

Impact and Inspiration: While on campus, I had the opportunity to study abroad during Interim and for a semester on Global. I believe studying abroad opens your mind to all of the endless possibilities life has to offer, and it awakens all of your senses. It challenges you to step outside of your comfort zone and take in the many attributes of the world that make it so great. I think

every student should have the opportunity to study abroad because I believe it is the most enriching type of hands-on learning.

Alumni Board Ambitions: I would like to make a difference on the board by actively engaging alumni through alumni events and sharing work-shadowing opportunities for current students. I also hope to make a difference by reaching out to those who feel far removed from St. Olaf in order to find ways to connect them with the St. Olaf community and help them see the value of staying engaged.



Henry Latimer P'20

Evanston, Illinois | Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch Private Banking and Investment Group

Impact and Inspiration: I joined [the alumni board] to help St. Olaf from a current consumer's — parent's — perspective.

Alumni Board Ambitions: I hope to help with St. Olaf's efforts to increase diversity.



Your 2018 Alumni Board Back Row (L-R): Mark Williamson '88, P'20, Henry Latimer P'20, Brad Hoff '89, Lee Sather '66, P'92, '94, '95, Curt Nelson '91; (middle row): Eirik Davey-Gislason '94, Lisa Warren '86, Sonja Clark '03, Mario Paez '01; (front row) Mariah DuBose '16, Janine Braman P'17, '20, Jody Miesel '01, Kim Brody '78, P'14, Becky Odland '74, P'07, Abraham Payton '08 (Not pictured: Cheryl Philip '10 and Autumn Hilden '99)



Lee Sather '66

Stillwater, Minnesota | Consultant/Coach

Impact and Inspiration: I really love the new theme "Oles Can. Oles Will." As we heard at our board meeting, employers are looking for "agility" in college graduates. We can be proud of the many ways St. Olaf students are being prepared by a strong liberal arts foundation and an entrepreneurial spirit.

Alumni Board Ambitions: One of my commitments as an alumni board member is to network with alumni and students to help provide internships and "on the job" experiences. The Piper Center for Vocation and Career certainly has developed a good program, and I hope to contribute by finding alumni who can provide mentoring and coaching opportunities.



Janine Braman P'17, P'20

St. Paul, Minnesota | Independent Educational Consultant

Impact and Inspiration: As the parent of two Oles — one graduate and one sophomore — I believe that college is more than an education; it is an experience! Along with a top-notch liberal arts education at St. Olaf, I value not only the strong sense of global and community engagement my children

developed but also the unique, diverse, and inclusive relationships they cultivated as students. St. Olaf has certainly made a lasting mark on the lives of my children, and I hope that in some small way, my children have helped make St. Olaf a little bit better too!

Alumni Board Ambitions: As a member of the alumni board, I hope to help connect parents to opportunities to get involved and feel a part of the St. Olaf community. There are so many benefits to expanding the St. Olaf community to include active and engaged parents. I look forward to being part of the alumni board as it forges a stronger relationship with parents.

RENATA ERICKSON '19 is an English major at St. Olaf.

Submit Your Class Notes Online! stolaf.edu/alumni/share-your-news

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

1950s

The long-awaited 24-foot "Between Earth and Sky" stainless steel sculpture by artist and St. Olaf Professor Emeritus of Art **Mac Gimse '58** was installed just before Thanksgiving in Dundas, Minn., at the city's Mill Towns Trail trailhead. **1** "I can hardly believe it," Mac told the *Northfield News*, noting the time and effort it had taken to bring the project to fruition. Noted Mac at the dedication, "For two years, people would drive into our yard and ask if they could look at the sculpture. They said when they saw the top spinning in the wind, it made them smile. This is not a portrait of John Archibald who named Dundas and made its flour production famous, but it represents a breath of energy and exuberance that had to be present when he and his brother and their families decided to settle in this territory to establish a milling dynasty. You need to wiggle your body and feel alive when you look at 'Between Earth and Sky.' That is why I designed it, and I hope it will make you smile."

NEW BOOKS BY 1950s OLES

Skipper, from the Prairies to the Mountains (Outskirts Press, 2014), by **Gilmore Tostengard '51**

Sketches of the Spirit in Places and Spaces (self-published, 2016), by **John Peterson '51**

Finding Reality: Four Ways of Knowing (Archway Publishing, 2014), by **Edwin E. Olson '59**

1960s

A special shout-out of deep appreciation to **Paul Eastman '65** from his classmates: For more than half a century, Paul Eastman has tirelessly solicited class news for the annual 1965 class newsletter. **2** "This is no small feat, but Paul has been committed since graduation," says **Kathy Megyeri '65**. "He maintains his commitment to the school, continues his affection for his classmates, honors alumni who exemplify the fulfillment of the college's mission, inspires others to volunteer as he does, publicizes the success of the college's programs as reflected by alumni and those who support the college through alumni achievement, and has certainly added value to other graduates' lives." Adds **Lynn Ellis Brooks '65**, "Simply — no Paul, no class newsletter. God bless Paul Eastman for his continuous unstinting service on behalf of us all, the whole Ole Class of '65!" So why does he do it? "I do the newsletter because it is fun to converse with the class," says Paul, who is retired and dividing his time between Phoenix and Hawaii.

NEW BOOKS BY 1960s OLES

Two Puzzling Baptisms. First Corinthians 10:1-5 and 15:29. Studies in Their Judaic Background (Studies in Judaism) (Hamilton Books, 2017), by **Roger David Aus '62**

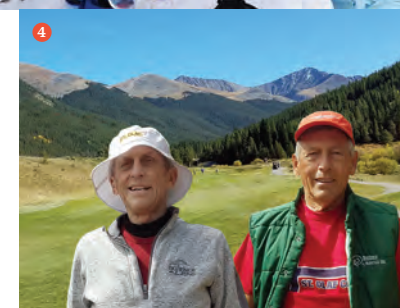
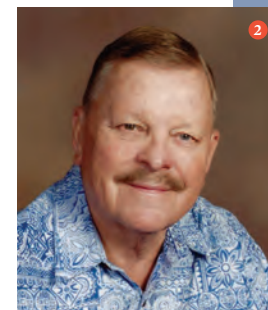
There's a Rabbit on the Roof! An E-i-E-i-Olio of Limerick, Poetry and Song (Second Edition) (CreateSpace, 2017), ***The Golden Bough, a Fairytale Ballet for Children*** (Russian Edition) (CreateSpace, 2017), by **Wilor Bluege '65**

Perinatal and Pediatric Bereavement in Nursing and Other Health Professions (Springer, 2016), by **Rana Limbo '68**

"I am content with just knowing that I am of service to the greatest class that ever graced Manitowish Heights." **Julie Haugen Norby '66** writes, "The ladies from fourth floor north in Agnes Mellby Hall gathered in beautiful Coor County, Wisconsin, in September to share memories, laughs, good food, and good wine." **3** 1966 Oles (L-R) are **Marieta Jacobsen, Connie Boddling Floa, Julie Haugen Norby, Shari Deinert Scott, and Suzi Dahlgren Nelson**. **4** **Don Sather '67** writes, "Douglas Carlson '67 and I made the six-hour hike from Copper Mountain to Breckenridge [Colo.] the end of September. [Friends] may know that Douglas had a liver transplant in June of 1999. I knew that he still played hockey, but I was most surprised at how well he did on this high-elevation hike. **4** We crossed the Tenmile Range at 12,300 feet. My walking calculator said we took just over 25,000 steps. Next year we're planning to do the Copper to Frisco hike over the same ridge, but a bit longer." **5** **James Larson '69** can be found at SUNY Korea in Incheon (Songdo), where he's chair of the Department of Technology and Society and vice president for academic affairs.

1970s

Stephen Mueller '70, a private practice psychiatrist in Colorado Springs, recently completed two more climbing/highpointing lists: Colorado's 200 highest peaks and all 51 national park high points outside Alaska and Mt. Cleveland in Glacier National Park. In addition, he has done the 50 state high points, including Denali in Alaska. **6** After 44 years in education, **Brent Mutsch '73** has retired. **6** Brent spent 21 years in public education, first in Iowa and Colorado, and then at the International Schools Group (Saudi Arabia), Saudi Aramco Schools (Saudi Arabia), Singapore American School (Singapore,) and the American School of Dubai (United Arab Emirates). **7** **Patricia Halvorson Thompson '73** has retired from the full-time practice of law after 40 years. She is now enjoying friends, church, and family, and providing part-time mediation and arbitration services with JAMS Dispute Resolution Services. **8** **Jay Trygstad '74** writes, "Five college roommates from the Class of 1974 have met for a long Labor Day weekend every other year for about 35 years. **6** We call it the Big Chilean Weekend (remember the movie?) in honor of **Bill Chilian** (far right). Other members include (L-R) **Lee Edmiston, David Bonde, Bob Snortum, and Jay Trygstad**." **9** **Bob Olson '75** shares this news about a recent Twin Cities Horn Club event: French horn clubs from around the



world met in the Twin Cities in early September to celebrate ensembles and hornists, and to premiere new music. **7** A partnership with the American Composers Forum, three new works by composers from Australia, Portugal, and Los Angeles, and Ole musicians made it a memorable event. "There were so many Ole connections," writes Bob, who is president of the Twin Cities Horn Club, "including St. Olaf music faculty Herbert Winslow, who is the Twin Cities Horn Club artistic director and associate principal horn for the Minnesota Orchestra, and **Timothy Bradley '04**, whose work received an honorable mention. A featured soloist

NEW BOOKS BY 1970s OLES

The Creative Hornist (Wildwind Editions, September 2017), by **Jeffrey Agrell '70**

The Soul of a Liberal Village: The Diversity of Religious Experience in Oak Park, Illinois (Chauncy Press, 2017), by **Tom Holmes '70**

North Woods, Great Lakes: An Introduction to the Natural History of Minnesota's Coniferous Forests, Chapter 7: Lake Superior: A Truly Great Lake (University of Minnesota Extension, May 2017), by **Joan Gilmore '79**

in the London Horn Sound's arrangement of *Titanic Fantasy* was **Ken Lovely '91**. The Ole connection is a real tribute to St. Olaf and the college's commitment to creating communities through music."

■ **Kristy Meyers McTaggart '76** is editor-in-chief of the *Yearbook for the Collie Club of America*, an annual of 500+ pages documenting the history and current activities of one of America's oldest dog breed clubs. ■ **Lani Longshore '78** writes, "A trip to Sausalito reminded me of all the places I have yet to see in California, even after living here for more than 30 years. Suggestions for playing tourist in my own home state are welcome!" ■ **John Goodnow '79**, writes, "Six buddies from the Class of 1979 who lived together as seniors in Lee House reunite every other year in different locales. This year we rode in RAGBRAI, the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, a non-competitive bicycle ride organized by the *Des Moines Register*." 1 First held in 1973, RAGBRAI is the oldest, largest, and longest week-long bicycle touring event in the world. (RAGBRAI riders, L-R) **Dan Raether, Jack Goodnow, Bill Pickering, Steve Bergeland, Andrew Streitz '80, and Jim Caspar.**

1980s

Greg Suskovic '80 writes, "About a year ago I accepted a job as senior veterinarian in charge of emergency planning with the State of Minnesota Board of Animal Health, responsible for developing plans and leading any response to an animal disease emergency that would affect Minnesota livestock and poultry." ■ **Sarah Ponto Suskovic '80** has retired from full-time employment as a laboratory coordinator for the Department of

Biology at Minnesota State University, Mankato, but will continue teaching anatomy and physiology classes and labs on a part-time basis. She says this will give her more time to work on her gardening, hobbies, and "especially being a grandmother to our new granddaughter!" ■ **Tonia Teasley '80** was promoted to vice president and general manager at Capella University's College of Business, Technology, Education and Public Service Leadership. 2 ■

Kristi Johnson Carpenter '82 has earned her doctorate of nursing practice from the University of Akron while employed full time as an adult/geriatric nurse practitioner for the the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in the Connected Care Department.

■ **Julie Wrase '82, Mark Danielson '82, Matt Hafar '82, and Don Hammerstrom '82** reprised their freshman trombone quartet, known as the Sackbut Society, during Reunion Weekend 2017. They had last performed together at their 20th reunion, and all four continue to play 35 years after graduation. 3 The quartet played for an audience of friends and family and then recorded a piece at the KSTO studio as part of the 2017 reunion Memory Café. ■ **Daniel Paulson '84** was named Family Doctor of the Year by the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians. ■ **Jennifer Arndt Jones '87** is serving as a national council member for the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. ■ This past summer, **Margo Losey Mikkelsen '87** wrote, produced, and performed a one-woman cabaret in Kansas City, and performed it again in November in Madison, Wis., as a benefit for her hometown library. An autobiographical labor of love, Margo's show was filled with humor, stories, and song. She credits St. Olaf for giving her an excellent foundation in all aspects of music and musical theater. ■ Iowa State University's College of Human Sciences bestowed its alumnus **David A. Walker '87** with the Virgil S. Lagomarcino Award at its October homecoming honors and awards ceremony. David is associate dean for academic affairs and a professor of research, technology, and assessment at Northern Illinois University. ■ **Mark Gitch '88** has joined the conducting staff of the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS). 4 He will be directing the Concert Orchestra, one of eight orchestras in the GTCYS organization.

NEW BOOKS BY 1980s OLES

Almost Saved, But Lost: The January 1873 Blizzard in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota (CreateSpace, July 2017), by **Carolyn Sowinski Mankell '80**

1990s

Aana Marie Vigen '90, associate professor of Christian social ethics at Loyola University Chicago has published "A Lutheran's Love Letter to Pope Francis" in *America Magazine*. ■ **Wendy Helgemo '91** is the inaugural director of the AT&T Center for Indigenous Politics and



Policy, a George Washington University-based research and advocacy center. 5 ■ **Jennifer Kunze '92** is director of Ramp-Up to Readiness at the University of Minnesota. 6 Ramp-Up is a college and career readiness program aimed at increasing the number and diversity of students who graduate from college. ■ **Kaomi Goetz '93** is now working as a greater Minnesota reporter and producer for *Almanac*, the long-running weekly public affairs program on TPT, the St. Paul-based PBS station. "It's an exciting new opportunity for me after nearly two decades in public radio. In 2016-17 I was a U.S. Senior Scholar in Korea on a journalism project," writes Kaomi. ■ **Joel Dixon '94**, a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force and associate athletic director for sports medicine at the U.S. Air Force Academy, oversees the academy's Athletic Training, Strength and Conditioning, and Human Performance Laboratory Departments. Joel also helped create and start the U.S. Air Force Tactical Sports and Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy Fellowship, and currently serves as its assistant program director. 7 This program is one of only three nationally accredited fellowships housed in a Division I athletic department, he says, and one of only 21 orthopedic manual PT fellowships in the nation. "When our graduates complete the 14-month program, they are then assigned to an Air Force Special Operations Unit, where they will be the sole musculoskeletal health care provider. In the future we hope to expand our student population to include Army, Navy and civilian physical therapists." ■ **Stephen Berger '95** was one of 58 people killed in the Las Vegas mass shooting on October 1, 2017. 8 Steve was celebrating his 44th birthday at the Las Vegas Harvest Music Festival. "Steve was a member of my first



Ole basketball team, which makes it extra special," said St. Olaf Head Basketball Coach Dan Kosmoski in a personal tribute to his former student. "When a new coach steps in, the transition can take time as you adjust to a different leader with new expectations. Steve was a leader that made it easy for me, and I am forever grateful. His smile was infectious, and he was someone his teammates respected and loved because of the passion he had for every single thing he did at St. Olaf. Steve, our hearts ache and you will be sorrowfully missed." Steve leaves behind three young children. ■ **Amy Crockett '95** is one of two new trustees for the Sheltering Arms Foundation, based in Minneapolis. Amy is a cello teacher, past president of the board of directors of the Honors Choirs of Southeast Minnesota, and advisory board member for the Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestra. The foundation funds nonprofit organizations and supports policies that benefit Minnesota children and their families who have the least access to resources. ■ **DeWayne Townsend '95** is now a tenured associate professor in the Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology at the University of Minnesota. ■ **Erik Julsrud '95**, manager of medical physics at Essentia Health in Duluth, Minn., recently demonstrated CyberKnife technology, a noninvasive treatment for cancerous and noncancerous tumors, to U.S. Navy Rear Admiral **Mark Bipes '80**, deputy commander of Navy Medicine West. 1 ■ **Ben Houge '96**, an associate professor in the Electronic Production and Design Department at Berklee College of Music in Boston, taught a class he designed called *Music + Food*, which looks at the aesthetic, psychological, and technological aspects of pairing music with a meal. Ben writes, "This class is based on my experiences collaborating with chefs to

NEW BOOKS BY 1990s OLES

Beyond Testing: Seven Assessments of Students and Schools More Effective Than Standardized Tests (Teachers College Press, 2017), by **Matthew Knoester '96**

An Artisan Intellectual: James Carter and the Rise of Modern Britain, 1792-1853 (Louisiana State University Press, December 2016), by **Christopher Ferguson '99**

O Gladsome Light (Stone Records, October 20, 2017), by **Lawrence Wiliford '99**



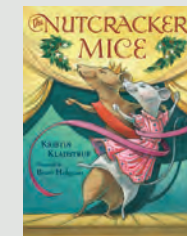
deliver multisensory dining experiences since 2010. Most recently I collaborated with chef Jozef Youssef of Kitchen Theory on an event in London last week, and earlier in the summer I collaborated with London's Borough Market on a presentation at the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery." ■ **Kyle Wedberg '96**, president and CEO of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, Louisiana's arts conservatory for high school students, received the 2017 Jeffrey Lawrence Award from the Arts Schools Network, the nation's largest professional membership organization of specialized arts schools. 2

2000s

The Esoterics, a Seattle-based choir, has commissioned professional composers, and married alumni, **Jocelyn Hagen '03** and **Timothy C. Takach '00** to create a new work on marriage. 3 The couple have also founded a collaborative vocal band, Nation, which recently put finishing touches on their EP, *My Life Around You*, featuring their own unique cappella duet arrangements of popular songs. ■ **Mari Esabel Valverde '10** won the 10th Annual Boston Choral Ensemble (BCE) Commission Competition. Mari writes, "For the prize, BCE [has] commissioned me to create an original work for their concerts in honor of our LGBTQ+ population, which will premiere in the spring of 2018 in Boston." ■ **Cody Venzke '10** and his wife, **Holly Samuelson '10**, have moved to Philadelphia, where Cody has begun a year-long clerkship with a federal district court judge, which will be followed by a clerkship with a federal appellate judge nearby in N.J. Holly is working as a surgical nurse in the cardiothoracic operating room at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. ■ **Emily Wiklund '11** was awarded the Saul Zaentz Early Education Initiative Fellowship at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. ■ The Association of LGBTQ Journalists (NLGJA) recently announced the recipients of its Excellence in Journalism Awards, recognizing exemplary work produced in 2016. **Kate Barnes '13** received the NLGJA Journalist of the Year Award, one of the organization's highest individual honors. "Especially of note is how young Katie is," said National Public Radio (NPR) Editor **Jason DeRose '97**. "This award usually goes to people with decades of journalism experience." NLGJA is an organization of journalists, news executives, media professionals, educators, and students working from within the news industry to foster fair and accurate coverage of LGBTQ issues. NLGJA opposes all forms of workplace bias and provides professional development to its members. Also of note is that Jason DeRose, (along with NPR colleagues Tom Gjelten, Marisa Peñaloza, Anna King, Andrea Smardon, and Stina Sieg) received an NLGJA Excellence in Religion Coverage Award for "God vs. Gay: Bridging the Divide."

On the Shelf

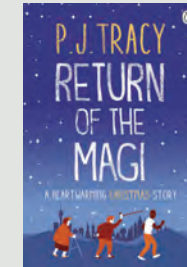
BOOKS BY ST. OLAF ALUMNI & FACULTY



Lincoln's Ethics (Cambridge University Press, 2015), by **Thomas Carson '72**

The Nutcracker Mice (Candlewick Press, October 2017), by **Kristin Kladstrup '83**

Return of the Magi (Penguin Group, November 2017), by **PJ Tracy (Traci Lambrecht '89)**



The Stuff of Family Life (Rowman & Littlefield, May 2017) by **Michelle Janning '94**

The Rending and the Nest (Bloomsbury Publishing PLS, February 2018), by **Kaethe Schwehn**, St. Olaf visiting professor of English

After Aquarius Drowned: How the Revolutions of the Sixties Became the Popular Culture of the Seventies (UNC Press, 2017), by **Judy Kutulas**, St. Olaf professor of history



Reconstruction in Alabama: From Civil War to Redemption in the Cotton South (LSU Press, 2017), by **Michael W. Fitzgerald**, St. Olaf professor of history

WEB EXTRA

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ST. OLAF CHOIR

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Visions of Cuba: Exploring a Nation through Civil Society | June 8-20, 2018

Led by Jeane DeLaney, Associate Professor of History, and Gwen Barnes-Karol, Professor of Spanish

Wilderness Adventure in the Boundary Waters | June 10-16, 2018 | Led by Greg

Kneser, Vice President of Student Life, and Judy Tegtmeier, Director of Recreation

Switzerland: The Bernese Oberland | July 25-August 2, 2018

Exploring Chile, Easter Island, and Argentina's Wine Country | August 5-19, 2018 | Led by Kris Cropsey, Instructor of Spanish

Aloha, Hawaii | January 5-15, 2019

Led by Elizabeth Leer, Associate Professor of Education

Imperial Cities of Thailand and Laos | February 6-22, 2019 | Led by Mary Griep,

Professor Emerita of Art and Art History, and Randolph Jennings, communications consultant

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NEW BOOKS BY 2000s OLES

Beyond the Offering Plate: A Holistic Approach to Stewardship (Westminster John Knox Press, 2017), by Adam Copeland '05

Genres of Doubt: Science Fiction, Fantasy, and the Victorian Crisis of Faith (McFarland, May 2017), by Eliza Sanders '08

■ **Christina Espey-Sundt '13** graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of St. Thomas School of Law and has received a Fulbright Award to pursue a master of laws degree in international refugee and migration law at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

■ **Katherine Lewiston '13**, a secondary music teacher at the Yangon International School, recently conducted a children's choir in honor of 60 years of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and Myanmar. ❶ Katherine is the interim director of the New Children's Choir, an ensemble made up of young children from orphanages, schools, and community church groups in the Yangon area. ■ **Benjamin Olsen '13**, a master of architecture candidate at Yale School of Architecture, co-designed an exhibit for the International Festival of Arts and Ideas in spring/summer 2017. ❷ The exhibit, titled *Homeless: Housed*, explores issues of homelessness and housing policy through artifacts, graphics, and audio recordings. It was installed on the New Haven (Conn.) Green.

■ **Tyler Stuckey '13** was featured in Fit Small Business's article on business email etiquette, sharing his insights as an industry leader. ■ **Megan Campbell '14** has accepted one of two positions in the predoctoral research fellowship at Columbia University, the Division of Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery and the Weinberg Family Cerebral Palsy Center. Megan has completed her third year in medical school at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. She is an M.D. candidate and is now part of the Class of 2019. ■ **Ian Hamilton '14** welcomed **Marcus Frick '16** to Peace Corps Zambia. ❸ Ian finished his service last summer. ■ **Katharina Biermann '17** was one of 18 emerging professionals to participate in the National Gallery of Art's 2017 summer internship program in Washington, D.C.



Build Connections through the Twin Cities Ole Women's Network

Hannah Fedje-Johnston '16, **Lauren McDevitt '15**, and **Amanda Knutson '09** recently enjoyed getting to know other St. Olaf alumnae at a Twin Cities Ole Women's Network event. The group welcomes new grads and alumnae to engage, connect, and inspire each another.

Twin Cities alumnae are invited to the upcoming February 13, 2018, event: "Journeys after St. Olaf: A Generational Perspective." For details, visit Twin Cities Ole Women's Network on Facebook.

London Oles

Last fall, Frank and Gretchen Cerveny, parents of **Charles Cerveny '19**, welcomed 30 Ole alumni to their home outside London. This regular fall gathering of London Oles has been hosted by the Cerveny's for the past two years. The group enjoyed great food, drink, and conversation on a cool and rainy England night. Representing the college were **Michael Kyle '85**, vice president for enrollment and college relations at St. Olaf, and **Kirsten Cahoon '98**, senior associate director for career education and coaching at St. Olaf's Piper Center for Vocation and Career.



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To learn more, contact Eric Tvedt '08 in the St. Olaf Development Office at 800-776-6523 or tvedt@stolaf.edu



FUTURE OLE
George Pratt '39

Future Oles

Brandi and Jacob Reilly '98, twin sons, Abbott and Emmett
Eva Sheie '98 and Woodroe Kiser, a daughter, Kari
Steven and Erin Bolinger Rozier '99, a daughter, Kaija Marie
Luke and Rebekah Holmes Nowak '00, a son, James
Lyndsay LeClair '03 and Scott Kosloski '01, a son, Simon
Brandon and Betsy Pedersen Pratt '03, a son, George
Cameo Haaksma Elzinga '04 and Matthew Elzinga '04, a son, Sander
Mattie and Kaitlin Boyce Erpestad '05, twin sons, Silvo and Seppo
Gretchen Winder '05 and Rafael Ayvar, a daughter, Antonia
Natalie and Travis Mattson '06, a son, Bennett
Erik Hembre '06 and Leah Gjertson, a son, Haakon
Colleen Windler '06 and Mitchell Forderer '06, a daughter, Elizabeth
Jenna Landsom Paulsen '07 and Joseph Paulsen '07, a daughter, Eloise
Katherine and Philip Rossing '07, a daughter, Hildegard
William and Jennie Hedberg Fleurant '08, a daughter, Beatrice
Siri Peterson Baker '09 and Ben Baker '09, a son, Ian
Hannah Griese Dalager '09 and Jacob Dalager '09, twin daughters, Halia and Kaya
Kayli Henry Reece '09 and Taylor Reece '09, a daughter, Eleanor
Lindsey and Ben Brown '10, a son, Isaac
Amy Oberle Wetterlin '10 and Doug Wetterlin '09, a daughter, Rosalie

Weddings

Bruce Larson '69 and Jan Olsen, June 23, 2017
Ranae Jorgenson '94 and Vaughn Gehle, Oct. 7, 2017
Tim Hildebrandt '00 and Sam Bennett, Aug. 16, 2017
Tyler Cody '05 and Meghann Pierce, Sept. 29, 2017
Alison Klawiter '05 and Garner Moffat, July 7, 2017
Leah Hakkola '05 and Christine Lee, Aug. 20, 2017
Amanda Pederson '06 and Cory Remjeske, June 17, 2017
Molly Boes '08 and Christopher Ganza '10, July 1, 2017
Antonia Kam '08 and Andy Suszek, June 24, 2017
Sarah Van den Akker '08 and Grant Kemen '08, April 1, 2017
Blake Wergeland '08 and Mari Lønne, Nov. 5, 2016
Kirsten Petersen '11 and Ian Gunsolus '11, June 10, 2017
Heidi Seltz '11 and Mark Christenson, July 22, 2017
Lauren Behr '12 and Patrick Wadzinski '09, July 22, 2017
Claire Carlson '12 and Andrew Catania '13, Aug. 5, 2017
Madeleine Grace '12 and Neale Morrice, June 2, 2017
Lindsay Kubina '12 and Zachary Lanz, Sept. 16, 2017
Allison Brandt '13 and Aron Block '13, July 15, 2016
Julia Ellis '13 and AJ Rodd '11, June 17, 2017
Alyssa Mueller '13 and Tyler Senne, Sept. 22, 2017
Isaac Behrens '14 and Hannah Rae Murphy, Sept. 16, 2016
Madeline Jensen '15 and Chad Wagner '15, July 22, 2017

Deaths

Paul Morreim '37, Northfield, Minn., Aug. 26, 2017
*Nels Glesne '38, Paia, Hawaii, Oct. 9, 2017
*Joseph Running '39, Fayetteville, N.C., April 1, 2016
*Steven Corneliusen '40, Virginia Beach, Va., July 19, 2017
*Beatrice Frederick Ferron '40, Hopkins, Minn., Aug. 9, 2017
*Donald Nelson '40, Amery, Wis., Oct. 16, 2017
Margaret Weblemoe Anderson '42, Pleasanton, Calif., Jan. 12, 2017
*Glennys Knutson '43, New Brighton, Minn., Sept. 26, 2017
*Philip Lier '44, Loveland, Colo., Dec. 6, 2016
Alice Hagen Sheets '44, Pittsford, N.Y., July 1, 2017
Sylvia Olson Anderson '45, Citrus Heights, Calif., June 19, 2017
Stuart Ensberg '45, San Dimas, Calif., Oct. 5, 2017
Marjorie Oleson Anderson '46, Naples, Fla., Jan. 1, 2017
Myrtice "Virginia" Cross Engen '46, Golden Valley, Minn., May 5, 2016
Helen Hanson Freng '46, Plymouth, Minn., July 13, 2017
Martha Breuze LaVire '46, Traverse City, Mich., Oct. 8, 2017
Margaret "Rosalie" Swenson Lier '46, Loveland, Colo., May 8, 2017

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Mona Bilden Lund '46, Northwood, N.D., Sept. 10, 2017
*Donald Arveson '47, Tucson, Ariz., July 1, 2017
Orpha "Shirley" Floyd Underdahl '47, Minneapolis, July 26, 2017
Dorothy Wonsmos '47, Albuquerque, N.M., Aug. 5, 2017
Audrey Hagen Nielsen '48, Elgin, Ill., Oct. 7, 2017
Joyce Onarheim Pavlinski '48, Lakewood, Colo., June 1, 2017
Margaret Peterson Whiting '48, Blooming Prairie, Minn., Sept. 10, 2017
*Donald Krueger '49, Alexandria, Minn., July 30, 2016
Sylvia "Ruth" Nasby Lunde '49, Fargo, N.D., June 2, 2017
Betty Larsen Thorp '49, Sioux Falls, S.D., April 2, 2017
*Lawrence Anderson '50, New Brighton, Minn., Oct. 6, 2017
Marie Trodahl Bolstad '50, Northfield, Minn., June 19, 2017
Beatrice Teigen Burmeister '50, Lanesboro, Minn., June 25, 2017
Walter Franke '50, Henderson, Nev., July 2, 2017
*Lawrence Gjenvick '50, Menomonee Falls, Wis., Aug. 19, 2017
*Sherwin Hansen '50, Northfield, Minn., Oct. 4, 2017
*Frederick Knudsen '50, Isle, Minn., Dec. 31, 2016
Doris Haseth Larson '50, Yuma, Ariz., Aug. 4, 2017
*Keith Mundahl '50, Luverne, Minn., July 15, 2017
*Roger Tunberg '50, Thief River Falls, Minn., Aug. 23, 2017
Mary Lehman Kelley '51, Roseburg, Ore., July 7, 2017
*Orin "Dick" Lee '51, Menasha, Wis., Sept. 2, 2017
*Paul Roe '51, Bloomington, Minn., Sept. 11, 2017
*Arthur White '51, Northfield, Minn., Sept. 19, 2017
Naomi Petersen Winter '51, Decorah, Iowa, June 22, 2017
Mardelle Mueller Baur '52, Bloomington, Ill., Oct. 7, 2017
*Duane Oftedahl '52, Sun City, Ariz., Sept. 13, 2017
*Douglas Pflaum '52, Remer, Minn., Aug. 15, 2017
Pauline Knutson Sponberg '52, New Richland, Minn., Oct. 16, 2017
Robert Butler '53, Mukilteo, Wash., July 27, 2017
Carolyn Lund Hanson '53, Duluth, Minn., Jan. 15, 2017
Marilyn Flom Heley '53, Overland Park, Kan., July 18, 2017
*Frederick "Fred" Larson '53, Spring, Texas, June 27, 2017
Paula Swain Lawrence '53, Northfield, Minn., July 5, 2017
Olive Jacobson Theisen '53, Frisco, Texas, Aug. 19, 2017
*Trueman Tryhus '53, Scottsdale, Ariz., Aug. 28, 2017
John Gronli '54, Alexandria, Minn., Oct. 23, 2017
*Harry "Jack" Moors '54, Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 15, 2017
Wesley Pearson '54, Northfield, Minn., Nov. 3, 2017
Shirley Carlson Plagge '54, Dickinson, N.D., Sept. 26, 2017
Robert Hanson '55, Minneapolis, July 28, 2017
Myrtle Glick Kettner '55, Brooklyn Park, Minn., May 2, 2017
Mary Knutson Olson '55, Milwaukee, Oct. 23, 2017
Bruce Hesse '56, Golden Valley, Minn., Oct. 20, 2017
Audrey Schmidt Lindley '56, Fitchburg, Wis., Oct. 14, 2017
*Robert "Bob" Magnusson '56, Williamsburg, Va., Sept. 29, 2017
Judith "Judy" Christensen '57, Edina, Minn., Oct. 3, 2017
Janet Bye Gambell '57, Chanhassen, Minn., Aug. 9, 2017
*Harold Mohagen '57, St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 29, 2017
Lois Schwartz Wilhelmson '57, Spring Grove, Minn., Sept. 18, 2017
*Curtis Everson '58, Madison, Wis., Aug. 23, 2017
James Jensen '58, Milford, Iowa, April 21, 2017
Charles Norland '58, Davis, Ill., Aug. 18, 2017
Larry Shear '58, Eden Prairie, Minn., March 11, 2017
Rhoda Thoreson Becklund '59, Minneapolis, March 14, 2017
Joyce Siqueland Shallis '59, Hamden, Conn., July 21, 2017
Carolyn Bjornson Steirer '59, Elmhurst, Ill., Oct. 4, 2017
Linda Summers Hastings '60, Redmond, Wash., Nov. 2016
Janna Peake Hjelm '60, Pine Island, Minn., April 15, 2017
Anne Larson Moe '60, Marriottsville, Md., Sept. 3, 2017
Eleanor "Elle" Uggen Peterson '60, Tracy, Minn., July 1, 2017
Pamela Benson Quist '60, Minnetonka, Minn., July 20, 2017
*Lowell Rasmussen '60, Morristown, Minn., July 24, 2017
Lois "Karen" Bolstad '61, Minneapolis, Aug. 5, 2017
Lois Hanson Breaker '61, Racine, Wis., Oct. 9, 2017
David Nasby '62, Minneapolis, Nov. 5, 2017
Gordon Petersen '62, Mequon, Wis., Nov. 24, 2015
Llona Erickson Reinger '62, Mount Prospect, Ill., Sept. 14, 2017

*Bruce Buchanan '64, San Antonio, July 12, 2017
Carole Gunness Hedblom '64, Brunswick, Maine, Sept. 1, 2017
Edsel "Ed" Mikkola '64, Minneapolis, May 12, 2017
*Robert Estrup '66, Pensacola, Fla., June 27, 2017
*Dennis Martin '66, Bradenton, Fla., May 28, 2017
Paulette Melby '66, Minneapolis, July 12, 2017
Kirsten Running Akse '67, Cascade, Colo., July 2017
Bohdan Melnychenko '68, Apple Valley, Minn., Aug. 15, 2017
Roberta Lee '69, Austin, Texas, Oct. 22, 2017
Wendy Amundson Lindlief '69, Buffalo, Minn., Aug. 27, 2017
Judith Isaacson Luna '69, West Fork, Ark., Sept. 28, 2017
Patricia Larsen Malmanger '69, Bella Vista, Ark., Sept. 21, 2017
Martin "Marty" Hansen '70, Austin, Texas, Sept. 1, 2017
Paul Englund '71, Mahtomedi, Minn., June 11, 2017
James Moffitt '72, Burnsville, Minn., Aug. 18, 2017
Girard Moline '72, Jefferson City, Mo., Aug. 9, 2017
Susan Porter Schwarten '74, Stanchfield, Minn., Sept. 9, 2017
*Rebecca "Becky" Brase Michalak '76, Erie, Pa., July 6, 2017
Bruce Underdahl '78, Minneapolis, Aug. 24, 2017
Peter Scheuer '80, Beijing, China, Sept. 20, 2017
Dianne Fiebiger '83, St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 2, 2016
Stephen "Steve" Berger '95, Excelsior, Minn., Oct. 1, 2017
Matthew Schlenker '04, Brooklyn Center, Minn., Aug. 1, 2017
Kael Price '15, Palo Alto, Calif., June 25, 2017

*VETERAN

In Remembrance

WES PEARSON '54

Professor Emeritus of Chemistry Wesley "Wes" Andrew Pearson, 85, died peacefully at his home in Northfield on Nov. 3. Pearson taught chemistry at St. Olaf from 1958 — when he accepted a one-year offer to fill a sabbatical vacancy — until his retirement in 2015. Throughout his 57-year tenure, he loved his calling in life: to think with students about God's marvelous creation and to help them discern their own vocations.



As a faculty member, Pearson was involved in the life of the college in many ways. In 1973, he began teaching organic chemistry during summer school, establishing a program that he would lead for the next 41 summers. He founded the Health Professions Committee at St. Olaf, which became a model for colleges around the country, and he was recognized with the Minnesota Health Care Career Award in 2012. He was also one of the founding members of the Midstates Consortium for Math and Science established by the Pew Charitable Trusts, serving as St. Olaf's representative to the consortium for many years. For his contributions to chemistry at St. Olaf, the Pearson Endowed Fund for Pre-Health and Chemistry was established in May 2017.

Pearson also engaged in the athletic side of campus life. From 1984 to 2008, he served as St. Olaf's faculty athletic representative to the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC), receiving the MIAC Distinguished Service Award in 2009. Three years later, he was honored with the St. Olaf Athletics Service Award in recognition of his 45 years as the official timekeeper at St. Olaf football and basketball games.

Pearson is survived by his wife of 46 years, Rae, his sons, Mark '94 (and wife Karen) and Paul '01 (and fiancée Alyssa Cheadle), his grandchildren, Anna and Joshua, and his brothers, Merle and Curtis.

Of Others Who Went Before Us

BY JEFF SAUVE

FOR MANY OF THE MEMORIAL DAYS following World War II, members of the St. Olaf community, including students, rose early and collected flowers to decorate the graves of college faculty, administrators, and staff buried at Northfield's Oaklawn Cemetery, a tradition that continues still today.

In early fall, Oles made an additional visit to the cemetery on a brisk, overcast day in honor of the 143rd anniversary of St. Olaf's founding. The bundled-up group of 12 were guided by Jon Rondestvedt '61, who led them from one headstone to the next.

Rondestvedt finds that providing tours of the graves of many of the college's former faculty and staff offers Oles a unique connection to the past. This fall was no exception. Over the course of an hour, the group encountered numerous names long associated with St. Olaf — names like Ole Rølvaag, Halvor Ytterboe, Marie Malmin Meyer, Agnes Larson, Theodore Huggenvik, Gertrude Hilleboe, and perhaps less well known, St. Olaf's first groundskeeper, John Berntsen.

Berntsen's simple flat gray granite marker belies the beauty he created for the campus during his 52 years of service to St. Olaf. Retiring in 1964 as the head of buildings and grounds, Berntsen is often remembered for saying, "I wanted to make St. Olaf so nice, no student would ever have to apologize for it."

After immigrating from Egersund, Norway, in 1912, 20-year-old Berntsen landed in Northfield and soon found employment at St. Olaf. Berntsen made it his mission to beautify the campus. Before his arrival, the hilltop landscape included elms, maples, and oaks but not a single pine tree, a tree that reminded him of Norway. He sent to Maine for evergreen seedlings, establishing an evergreen nursery for the college.

The trees Berntsen planted have left a lasting legacy. They now tower 70 feet or more, while Holland's Holsteins are but a faint memory. When cloaked in winter's splendor, the spruces paint the campus with unapologetic loveliness.

One of Berntsen's pet projects from the mid-1930s to the early 1950s was to transform the quarter-mile southern hillside below Thorson Hall, which occasionally had been used as a cow pasture. His project was not without conflict: the college treasurer, Peter O. Holland, wanted to invest in the college's prized Holstein herd instead, reasoning that the motto of Northfield was "Cows, Colleges, and Contentment."

Convinced that enhancing the Hill was necessary, Berntsen moved forward against administrative opposition. He hauled tons of soil and fertilizer to the site, and built up the unfriendly, white silica sand that held little vegetation, admitting, "Sometimes I tried to push faster than others wanted." Berntsen planted flowering crabs and lilacs and over 600 trees, including Norway spruce, silver spruce, and Black Hills spruce.



Jon Rondestvedt '61 and fellow Oles at Oaklawn Cemetery



Groundskeeper John Berntsen

Former Dean of Women Gertrude Hilleboe noted in her book, *Manitou Analecta*, that the flowers Bernstein planted on campus served to honor the graves at Oakland. "[With the] help of John Berntsen we were able to get lilacs and spirea and, if in bloom, iris and peonies from our own campus," she said. Of those cemetery visits, Hilleboe added, "The students read names and dates and became a little more familiar with personalities, some of whom they knew, others of whom were only names."

The trees Berntsen planted so long ago have also left a lasting legacy. They now tower 70 feet or more, while Holland's Holsteins are but a faint memory. When cloaked in winter's splendor, the spruces paint the campus with unapologetic loveliness. Berntsen himself, who died in 1971, recognized his own standing within the campus landscape: "Yes, I've been here for many, many, many years," he said. "I've seen the [parents] come, go, and marry; I've seen the [children] come, go, and marry. Now the grandchildren are coming around!"

Rondestvedt concluded this fall's outing to the cemetery where Bernstein and so many others lie with a remark by the Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer David McCullough: "The laws we live by, the freedoms we enjoy, the institutions that we take for granted — and we should never take for granted — are all the work of others who went before us." As the group departed, one woman knelt beside the marker of the first woman who graduated from St. Olaf, Agnes Mellby, Class of 1893 (1870-1918). The visitor smiled as she gently brushed aside a few oak leaves and acorns. 🌲

JEFF SAUVE is Senior Outreach Archivist at St. Olaf College.

10th annual Black & Gold Gala

Join us for an exciting evening at the 10th annual Black and Gold Gala, celebrating the St. Olaf community and supporting the college through gifts to the St. Olaf Fund. The event features dinner, dancing, a live auction, games, and Ole pride.

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PARTING SHOT



Holland Hall, modeled on the Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey in France, stands as one of the most majestic and iconic buildings on campus. First opened in 1925, Holland Hall recently underwent a \$13 million renovation, reviving its original design and combining its classic architecture with flexible, light-filled learning environments and modern teaching technology. Holland Hall houses the Economics, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology, and Social Work and Family Studies Departments. "Anyone entering Holland Hall today with any memory of the prior iteration will certainly acknowledge it is a transformed space," says Associate Provost and Professor of Music Dan Dressen. "It has become a beautiful gateway to the college for those who enter it from the community." PHOTO BY EVAN PAK '19