

SPRING | SUMMER 2019

ST. OLAF

M A G A Z I N E



OPENING DOORS

ON THE COVER

While on the Environmental Science in Australia and New Zealand program last spring, Ella Doud '20 photographed Sergius Hannan '20 taking a picture of a curious Kea on top of Mount Ben Lomound in New Zealand (see page 20 for the image Sergius captured).

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FROM THE DESK OF
PRESIDENT DAVID R. ANDERSON '74



Greetings, Oles, and welcome to the spring issue of *St. Olaf Magazine*.

For many of us, I suspect, when we reflect on our time at the college, our thoughts go directly to the beautiful campus on Manitou Heights, to the classrooms and labs where we learned, the residence halls where we lived, the caf where we dined, the athletic fields, the concert venues, the natural lands and, of course, to the people. Our memories are local and intimate, and that is as it should be.

This issue of the magazine reminds us that the college's presence and influence extend far beyond the Hill. The striking photographs revealed in the Gimse International and Off-Campus Photo Contest were taken by students who participated in our international and off-campus study programs this past year, and they remind us of the authentic and thoughtful presence of Oles all over the globe. We continue to send more students to study abroad than any other baccalaureate college in the nation.

The college is recognized globally for its music programs. The St. Olaf Orchestra's performance this past winter at Carnegie Hall with violinist Sarah Chang represents yet another example of our ensembles being welcomed on the stages of the world's leading concert halls. This summer, the orchestra and the St. Olaf Choir will tour Norway.

Joshua Qualls's blog about his Connections trip to Los Angeles with the Piper Center for Vocation and Career shows us how deep the college's reach is in that city. Alumni, parents, and friends of the college introduced the nine students on that trip to key players in the entertainment industry. I often remark that one of the most important things to look for when you select a college to attend is the reach and the efficacy of its alumni network. We excel in that respect.

And now we likely own a painting by a major European artist! Who knew? This has been a fascinating and fun journey, beginning with a donation of 2,000 artworks from the private collection of Richard Tetlie '43 following his death in 1999 — including one unfinished portrait of a lady with a violin that was attributed to Edvard Munch. For years, the portrait hung in the dining room at the St. Olaf president's house (I miss having dinner with Eva Mudocci, the subject of the painting), until recent investigations garnered the attention of the national press and Munch experts worldwide.

On a beautiful spring morning in Northfield, like the one today as I write these words, it's easy to think local, intimate thoughts about St. Olaf. Let's remember too, and celebrate, the college's expansive presence.

David R. Anderson



UMI YAH! YAH!



PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER

FAREWELL FRIENDS!

This year we honor seven professors who have devoted decades to teaching, research, advising, and leading within their departments and the broader college. They leave a lasting legacy and deep impression on the college community, and they have enriched the lives of countless students with their expertise in art, economics, the environment, physics, mathematics, music and libraries, and more, opening students' eyes to the arts, sciences, and humanities and the broader world. Join us in thanking them for a job well done and wishing them well on many more fulfilling years to come. | **By Suzy Frisch**

Beth Christensen PROFESSOR OF LIBRARIES AND MUSIC



Beth Christensen has been instrumental in shaping the Halvorson Music Library into a gem that more than 100,000 people visit annually. After obtaining her B.M. from Illinois State University and her M.S. from the University of Illinois, Christensen joined the St. Olaf faculty in 1977. (She later received an M.A. at the University of Minnesota.) She had planned to stay just long enough to gain a few years of experience, but soon realized how much she enjoyed working with

"Whenever Beth comes to my class to provide her famous '30,000-foot view' on the research process, I introduce her as 'the fabulous Beth Christensen.' She embodies 'fabulous' not only in the sense of prodigious, as in the seemingly limitless resources she makes accessible to students, but also in the sense of legendary, for every music librarian I've ever met has informed me how lucky I am to work with her. More important than her prowess as a music librarian, though, is the deep empathy, respect, and optimism she brings to her relationships with students, staff, and faculty alike. She is simply one of the best human beings I know, and we will miss her shining presence on the Hill." — Louis Epstein, Assistant Professor of Music

undergraduates who shared her passion for music, a love that has sustained her for more than 40 years.

"When I came to St. Olaf, the music library was only a year old. In many ways, it is my first child," says Christensen, whose education spans music, musicology, and library and information science. "I helped develop the collection and library program. It's been incredibly rewarding over the years."

Christensen has thrived in her varied job duties, from helping students conduct research, to consulting with professors on their courses, to procuring library resources. A key part of her work has involved helping create St. Olaf's information literacy program, which teaches students how to find and evaluate high-quality research materials — an ever-important skill with the proliferation of online sources.

Along with the information literacy program, Christensen's development of the library's collection is among her proudest achievements. Although she found collection-building intimidating when she first arrived on the Hill, Christensen gained confidence in foreseeing what professors

and students might want or need from the music library.

"One of my favorite things is to purchase something that no one has asked for and then have a student discover it and walk out the door to put it to use," she says. "It has been rewarding to work in partnership with the music faculty to have a library that both responds to and anticipates their needs."

Christensen is grateful that her faculty position has also given her an opportunity to engage in scholarship. She recently co-edited the book *Information Literacy in Music: An Instructor's Companion*. She has published articles about information literacy and about American composer Carl Ruggles — work she plans to continue in retirement. Christensen aims to travel and make time to read many of the books she's eyed while ordering materials for St. Olaf.

She retires with mixed emotions because she's loved her fulfilling career at St. Olaf. "I come home every night knowing something about music that I didn't know before I went to work," Christensen says. "I am thankful for my St. Olaf career, and for the wonderful St. Olaf students, faculty, and staff who have surrounded me throughout it."

Elinor Niemisto ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR OF MUSIC, HARP



Elinor Niemisto, who joined the St. Olaf music faculty in 1985, has taught all manner of harp students during her 34 years at St. Olaf, including beginners, musicians with significant experience, those who love to try new things, and harpists seeking to perfect their skills. Some years, there were just a few harp students; other years, she had enough for two ensembles. She has loved it all.

"Lin Niemisto is a wonderful and caring teacher who has always been willing to go the extra mile. Not only is she a splendid mentor to all of her students, but she also has led and cultivated one of the best harp programs in the Midwest over these past four decades. It has been fun to see her students grow and thrive due to her strong and kind mentorship. I'm sure I speak for all of my colleagues when I say that we are filled with gratitude for Lin's terrific work with her students, her humble and giving spirit, and her warm collegiality throughout all her years on the Hill."
— Steven Amundson, the Robert Scholz Endowed Chair in Music and Conductor of the St. Olaf Orchestra

Whether teaching students a new instrument or helping them prepare for a performance, Niemisto enjoys sharing her knowledge of this instrument she has loved since age eight. She particularly enjoys instructing beginners so that she can start them out with proper technique, and has appreciated being able to teach brand new music students who want to take advantage of all the offerings at a liberal arts college. She also finds great satisfaction in seeing a proud student — of any level — who has completed a successful performance or orchestra tour.

Niemisto, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the University of Michigan, often uses her Suzuki training to teach college students and Northfield area students of all ages. But she has adapted her teaching style to match each student.

"I enjoy the different personalities of the students and finding a way to approach a personality to get the best out of them. Some people are willing to try anything, and some need very specific instructions," Niemisto says. "My job is to help them find a technique that requires the least amount of energy and tension and gets them the best sound and the skills to play anything they want."

Another enjoyable part of being at St. Olaf has been getting to know other faculty members and college staff. St. Olaf hosted the American Harp Society Summer Institute in 2017 when Niemisto was serving on the society's board. She worked with many St. Olaf staff members to plan the conference, which included several concerts, courses, and competitions. "The event was quite successful, and the National Harp Society was very impressed with the facilities and streaming from the Chapel," she says. "The staff was just terrific."

Niemisto is also a senior lecturer in harp at Carleton College, a role she will continue after she leaves St. Olaf. In addition, she plays professionally as the principal harpist

of the Rochester Symphony in Minnesota and the La Crosse Symphony in Wisconsin. Niemisto often can be found playing her harp in the Northfield area as well, where she performs at special events and senior centers to serve the community. She plans to stay engaged in the local music scene while taking time to travel and visit family around the country.

David Nitz '73 PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS



Following his family's well-travelled path from Milwaukee to Northfield, David Nitz '73 thoroughly enjoyed his years as an undergraduate at St. Olaf. After he earned his master's and Ph.D. in physics at Rice University in Houston, the possibility of teaching at St. Olaf arose in 1979, and David was excited to be offered the position.

St. Olaf's liberal arts foundation, strong emphasis on teaching, and connection to the Lutheran Church drew Nitz back home the Hill. During his 40-year career, he thrived in St. Olaf's collegial environment, where he could shape classes, guide students, and contribute to its campus community.

"David Nitz has been the foundation that the Physics Department of St. Olaf has been built on for many years. Always striking a perfect balance between careful consideration and promoting innovation, he has played a critical role in every aspect of our department. As a mentor and a friend to all of us, he will be deeply missed."
— Jason Engbrecht, Associate Professor of Physics and Department Chair

"Being a college professor has been an ideal career for me. I loved being part of the St. Olaf faculty and the Physics Department and the autonomy that goes with planning and implementing courses," Nitz says. "I have had wonderful mentors and colleagues and the privilege of working with bright and curious students. I can't think of a better line of work for me than the one I've had."

Nitz has enjoyed teaching a broad spectrum of physics classes, from introductory courses and advanced labs to quantum mechanics, as well as general education offerings such as astronomy and musical acoustics. He also is engaged in atomic physics research, making sure to engage students for summer research — an opportunity he had as a St. Olaf student.

Nitz has been deeply involved in campus life. He served as Physics Department chair for 12 years, as the department's representative on the Regents Hall design team, as a member of a search committee for president, and as chair of a search committee for provost. He also spent a decade as campus advisor for St. Olaf's international programs in Great Britain and led the Environmental Science in Australia program in 2016.

"I spent a semester in England myself as an undergraduate and knew what an enriching experience that was. I was interested in helping provide that opportunity for other students as well," says Nitz, who plans to do some traveling in retirement while staying active in the Northfield community.

St. Olaf has been the perfect environment for Nitz, one that has been challenging, stimulating, and satisfying. It has provided ample opportunities for him to learn, find new ways to introduce material to students, and watch students go through a major life transformation.

"When you think about the students you meet during Week One and then fast-forward to graduation and see what they become — being able to be a part of that growth process is very rewarding."

Xun Pomponio
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS



“Since joining our faculty in 1991, Xun has been a leader in international programs and a devoted mentor of international students in the Economics Department. She is best known for her courses in international economics and her long-standing, popular Interim course in China, which has explored China’s transformation from a pure command economy to a system that embraces limited capitalism. In years when she did not take groups to China, Xun offered an introductory course on economies in transition. Her dedication to foreign students was exemplary, particularly to those from her native China. She offered them independent research advising even while on sabbatical, and gave them a home away from home. We all wish her and her husband, Carmen, a long and happy retirement.” — Anthony Becker, Professor of Economics and the Husby-Johnson Chair of Business and Economics

Matthew Rohn
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ART HISTORY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



A hallmark of Matthew Rohn’s career has been creating new courses and teaching in an interdisciplinary manner, a natural fit for someone who specializes in art history and environmental studies and enjoys sharing his love of contemporary art with his students.

“Matt Rohn was the Art Department’s first Ph.D., bona fide, modern/contemporary art historian. Up until his hire, studio artists did an admirable job teaching this very important material. But we really needed someone with serious art history chops — critical skills, theoretical understanding, and methodological know-how. Matt brought all that and more with his added interests and expertise in American studies and environmental studies and the intersection of those fields with art. In his last years, Matt put everything together in his highly successful Georgia O’Keefe in New Mexico Interim. — Irve Dell, Professor of Art and Chair of the Art and Art History Department

Rohn has been devoted to interdisciplinary teaching and research during his 24 years at the college. After receiving his B.A. at George Washington University, his master’s degree and Ph.D. at the University of Michigan and teaching at a variety of institutions, Rohn joined the St. Olaf art faculty in 1994. He was thrilled to discover St. Olaf’s experimental and integrative Paracollege and soon became a Paracollege tutor. He also helped create and served as the first director of the American Conversations and Environmental Conversations programs, and he taught in St. Olaf’s Race and Ethnic Studies and Interdisciplinary Fine Arts programs.

“I think art history by nature is interdisciplinary — looking at cultural phenomena in relation to art,” says Rohn, who has written books and exhibition catalogues about Jackson Pollock, Frank Stella, and Yoshida Hodaka, among others. “I’ve always found myself reaching into aspects of what makes people think the way they do. Even my research in art history is intellectual history and how that relates to art of that time.”

When St. Olaf launched its Environmental Studies Department, Rohn was involved in developing its curriculum and taught classes that deploy arts and the humanities in studying environmental concerns. One favorite course covered how architecture, photographs, painting, landscaping and land art inform the way people think about nature.

Rohn recalls many highlights from his years at St. Olaf, including recently leading an annual January Interim in New Mexico, a popular course in which students learned about Georgia O’Keefe, feminism, spirituality, the desert landscape, and art. Recently, Rohn, with the help of students in two courses, curated a show at the Flaten Art Museum called *Picturing Nature: Diverse Environmental Considerations*. It showcased 120 works of art considered through an ecocritical lens. Rohn also is proud to have worked on campus sustainability and on developing fresh ideas about pedagogy as one of the first participants in the Boldt Chair of Humanities seminar on teaching.

“It’s been rewarding to be at an institution that is concerned about values and works hard at figuring out how to live out those values and transmit them from generation to generation,” Rohn says. “That was one of the things I found most rewarding about teaching here and have tried to contribute the most to.”

After retirement, he plans to continue his environmental work in Northfield by focusing on community solar gardens, helping implement the city’s climate action plan, and more.

Paul Wojick
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS



“Paul Wojick has been a mainstay of our program in macroeconomics for over 30 years. Though he is most widely known for economics courses in macroeconomics, money and banking, and history of economic thought, he has also taught in the Great Conversation. Paul has served the college twice as the interim chair of the Economics Department and as a member and chair of numerous college-wide committees. His colleagues and I will miss his contributions to our department as a scholar of post-Keynesian thought, as an excellent and popular teacher, and as a most wise and collegial member of our faculty. We all wish him and his wife, Mary, the very best in retirement.” — Anthony Becker, Professor of Economics

In his 30 years at St. Olaf, Paul Wojick has been the Economics Department’s go-to professor for three important courses: *Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory*, *History of Economic Thought*, and *Money and Banking*. Whether he was teaching economics majors or non-majors, Wojick aimed to help students think critically about world events and domestic and global economies.

After receiving his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. at the University of Colorado before joining the economics faculty in 1988, Wojick’s goal was to work at a liberal arts college where teaching undergraduates was top priority. St. Olaf fit the bill. His classes, students, and research, as well as decades spent coaching the college’s alpine ski teams provided him with a meaningful career.

“St. Olaf has given me three things that are really important to me: teaching something I care about and that I think is meaningful; thinking about and working on subjects in my research that really matter to me; and being able to do a variety of things that have kept me interested and enthusiastic about the work I do,” Wojick says.

He points to an opportunity to teach in the Great Conversations, a team-taught interdisciplinary program that introduces students to the major epochs of Western tradition through direct encounters with significant works. Wojick also enjoyed creating courses like *Gateways to Economics: Capitalism*, and doing research that delved into empirical questions about macroeconomics, economic theory, and the financial system.

Outside of the classroom, Wojick began coaching the men’s and women’s alpine teams in 1990 after some of his students learned that the lifelong skier had grown up mainly in Colorado and did all of his post-secondary education there. The students encouraged him to become their coach, and he did so until 2004, when he stepped down to devote more time to research.

“[Coaching] provided a new context in which I could work with students in a completely different capacity and get to know them in a very different way,” says Wojick, whose wife, Mary, also coached. “We spent far more time than you typically get with students in the classroom, and we really got to know them. Working with them toward a goal and being successful a fair share of the time was pretty fulfilling.”

Though Wojick will miss his daily interactions with students, he plans to stay connected to the field of economics by continuing his research after retirement. The Wojicks will be moving back to Colorado to take advantage of its beautiful outdoors and devote time to many hobbies.

Paul Zorn
PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS, STATISTICS, AND COMPUTER SCIENCE



An enthusiasm for finding the best ways to teach mathematics to college students attracted Paul Zorn to St. Olaf in 1981, but it was the Math Department’s “big tent” philosophy that kept him on the Hill for 38 years. The “big tent” means many things to Zorn, including welcoming a broad range of students into the major, exploring new academic avenues, and having a broad range of professional opportunities, like writing textbooks and leading outside organizations.

“It was clear to me on my very first visit that there was something special about [St. Olaf]: the mix of interests in the department, and a striking environment of mathematical seriousness,” says Zorn, who received his A.B. degree from Washington University in St. Louis and his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Washington, Seattle. “That enthusiasm and excitement for mathematics coexists with an unusual degree of commitment to undergraduate teaching that goes beyond standard operating procedure; it is pursued with intellectual rigor and commitment and creativity.”

Zorn found the mathematical climate at St. Olaf infectious and engaging; at St. Olaf he could teach a large cohort of mathematics majors. He particularly

enjoyed teaching courses centering on mathematical analysis, of both the real and complex varieties. Zorn also appreciated the freedom to be creative with mathematics courses, to try out different approaches, and to stretch his abilities by teaching subjects well outside his mathematical wheelhouse.

Hoping to share effective strategies for teaching mathematics, Zorn teamed up with a St. Olaf mathematics colleague, the late Arnold Ostebee, to write three textbooks supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the Fund for the Improvement of Secondary Education. Discussing, agreeing, and disagreeing with Ostebee on points of mathematics and pedagogy were among the high points of Zorn’s career.

During Zorn’s tenure, he led the Mathematical Association of America as its president, in 2011 and 2012, and served as editor of the Association’s *Mathematics Magazine* from 1996 to 2000. By happy coincidence, both of these posts were held in earlier years by Zorn’s late friend and colleague Lynn Steen. He also served as chair of his department and sat on many college committees, with a special interest in balancing the humanities and sciences in the college’s curriculum.

Zorn plans to keep one foot in academics during his retirement, working on a fourth mathematics textbook and other writing projects. He acknowledges that he will miss teaching and interacting with students, and with his Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science colleagues.

“Our department has been famously functional and collegial over the years. We like each other, we work with each other, and we learn from each other,” Zorn says. “I’ve been teaching a long time, but I’m still getting good ideas about mathematics, and about how to teach it, from my colleagues. I’ll miss those advantages every day.” 🍷

SUZU FRISCH is a freelance writer and regular contributor to *St. Olaf Magazine*.

“One of the things I most appreciate about Paul Zorn is his deep appreciation for the finer details of mathematics. More times than I can recount, he would come into my office to share with me a small, but intricately beautiful, gem of mathematics. It was often the sort of thing others, those without his jeweler’s eye for our subject, would never have noticed. But he did.” — Matt Richey, Professor of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science and the Paul and Mildred Hardy Distinguished Professor of Science



THE ST. OLAF ICE ARENA celebrated its grand opening in January with both men's and women's varsity hockey playing Hamline University. The \$8 million indoor ice arena, connected to the Skoglund/Tostrud athletic complex, features an NHL-size rink and 804 individual stadium chairs. The complex has seven men's and women's varsity locker rooms, as well as media boxes and state-of-the-art video broadcasting capabilities. The new arena will engage the campus community in year-round ice-related opportunities for hockey and broomball players, curlers, skaters, and fans — all in a central location that will support competitive success by seamlessly integrating athletic and recreational activities with academic pursuits. 🏒



The results are in! Scientists are providing compelling clues to St. Olaf's Munch mystery.

A

MUNCH MYSTERY

By Kari VanDerVeen



LAST FALL, A TEAM OF EXPERTS visited St. Olaf College to collect submillimeter samples from a painting long-rumored to be an unfinished work by famed Norwegian artist Edvard Munch.

The college reached out to these experts, scientists with an in-depth knowledge of the artist's work, after newly discovered correspondence and auction records further linked the painting — a portrait of violinist Eva Mudocci — to Munch.

Now, the findings are in — and they're compelling: Elemental and molecular analysis of the portrait's pigments, binders, and fillers reveal a match with the time period in which Munch was known to have spent with Mudocci. What's more, these materials are consistent with those documented in Munch's other works.

"These findings really open the door for the next steps," says Flaten Art Museum Director Jane Becker Nelson '04, who has begun consulting with a range of Munch experts around the world.

NEW FORENSIC EVIDENCE

THE PORTRAIT OF MUDOCCHI came to St. Olaf as one of more than 2,000 artworks donated by alumnus Richard Tetlie '43 following his death in 1999. For years, the portrait hung in the dining room of the St. Olaf president's house. While it was a regular conversation piece often rumored to be a Munch, there were gaps in the painting's provenance, or chronology of ownership.

That changed when Mudocci scholar Rima Shore approached Flaten Art Museum staff nearly two years ago with a request for access to the painting and its files. Her international research revealed reliable correspondence and auction records that corroborate the existence of this unfinished painting.

With this credible provenance in hand, the college sought to gather the stylistic and scientific analysis needed to provide an attribution. They approached conservation science experts from Scientific Analysis of Fine Art (SAFA), who came to campus last October to collect imperceptible samples from the portrait for analysis in their Philadelphia and New York labs.

SAFA scientists have previously analyzed other works by Munch and his expressionist contemporaries, including his iconic painting *The Scream*, which has been internationally recognized, revered, and reproduced. As part of their work, SAFA experts also assisted Oslo's Munchmuseet in cataloging the more than 900 tubes of paint left in Munch's studio at the time of his death, which can be used for scientific comparison.

In the report on their findings, the SAFA scientists note that "all of the pigments, preparation layers, and binders inferred or identified here are found in the works by Edvard Munch."

Noting the presence of strontium yellow, the report explains that this pigment was in use in the last years of the 19th century and first years of the 20th century, which places this work within the expected timeframe for the Mudocci portrait. Absent from the palette are specific blue and green pigments used later by expressionist painters but not available in 1904, when experts believe the painting would have been produced.

The report also notes that the combination of pigments in one of the samples (vermilion, Prussian blue, cobalt blue, strontium yellow, zinc yellow, and likely viridian green) is consistent with Munch's palette.

"While SAFA's report does not definitively prove that the work was created by Munch, it reveals that the painting is fully consistent with Munch's materials and working methods," says Becker Nelson. "Furthermore, by establishing the timeframe it disproves the theory that the painting was a fake created posthumously to capitalize on Munch's soaring reputation."

SAFA President Jennifer Mass notes that the history of Edvard Munch, Eva Mudocci, and her famous Stradivarius violin is a compelling one:

The new provenance research surrounding this work made the timing right for a scientific study of the materials and techniques used to create it. Finding specific period materials such as strontium yellow in the painting's palette adds to the body of evidence required to attribute the work.... While such materials alone cannot be considered a "fingerprint" for a specific artist, they provide compelling evidence that calls for the further study of this painting. The evaluation and attribution of any painting combines connoisseurship, provenance research, materials analysis, and conservation assessment. We are excited to be working with St. Olaf as the story of this painting and its history unfolds.



SAFA President Jennifer Mass examines the canvas edge of the painting after the frame was removed, while Flaten Art Museum Collections Specialist Mona Weselmann (top, center) and Museum Director Jane Becker Nelson '04 look on. PHOTOS BY WILL CIPOS '18

Opposite: Becker Nelson holds the portrait of Eva Mudocci with SAFA's Adam Finnefrock. PHOTO BY SARAH HANSEN





Eva Mudocci (above, photographed with her famous Stradivarius violin) was the subject of Munch's 1903 lithograph *Lady with a Brooch*.

THE STORY OF MUDOCCHI AND MUNCH



THESE FINDINGS ARE OUTLINED in Rima Shore's recently released book, *Lady with a Brooch: Violinist Eva Mudocci — A Biography & a Detective Story*.

Mudocci met Munch in the spring of 1903 in Paris. That same year, Munch created his three known (lithographic) portraits of Mudocci, including *Lady with a Brooch*.

Shore provided documentary evidence showing that in January 1904, Munch was indeed painting a "woman violinist," this time in Berlin, but that he and Mudocci had a falling out that year. This detail could explain why the portrait in St. Olaf's collection is unfinished.

Shore also provided several key pieces of information regarding the painting's ownership, including a 1959 Copenhagen auction record confirming its purchase by Poul Rée (who later sold it to Tetlie, who bequeathed it to St. Olaf) from the estate of Danish illustrator Kay Nielsen — a "foster son" of Mudocci's and her partner Bella Edwards.

In addition to Shore's research, Mudocci's granddaughter reached out to the college after seeing news of the SAFA work on campus this fall. She noted that Mudocci's family has always accepted that the portrait of Eva was painted by Edvard Munch.

While all of these findings are encouraging, they cannot alone determine if the painting is authentic. The next step is to conduct additional research in coordination with Munch scholars.

"There are still many questions," says Becker Nelson. "But we are very eager to connect with the scholarly community to draw on their expertise while analyzing the work in the new light shed by documentary and forensic evidence."

The painting also presents an opportunity to further develop St. Olaf College's curriculum and opportunities for experiential learning. The process of uncovering the painting's origins highlights many of the desired skills the college seeks to develop in its students, including a passion for using science to substantiate and support historical references and an appreciation for artists and their contributions to society. St. Olaf will be working to develop these opportunities with key faculty members and the Piper Center for Vocation and Career.

To start, Becker Nelson has collaborated with the Piper Center to develop a summer internship that will enable a St. Olaf student to conduct a close study and formal analysis of the Mudocci portrait. The student will travel with Becker Nelson to Oslo this summer to conduct research and meet with a group of international Munch scholars.

"This is just one example of how Flaten Art Museum's extensive collection is enhancing the college curriculum in departments as seemingly disparate as chemistry, art history, physics, economics, studio art, and Norwegian," says Becker Nelson. "It's a thrilling project to be a part of for me personally, and so exciting to share with our students." 🍷

KARI VANDERVEEN is associate director of communications for St. Olaf College.

"This is just one example of how Flaten Art Museum's extensive collection is enhancing the college curriculum in departments as seemingly disparate as chemistry, art history, physics, economics, studio art, and Norwegian."

— Jane Becker Nelson '04

WHO IS EDVARD MUNCH?

EXPLORE MUNCH ONLINE

To dig deeper into the life and work of Edvard Munch (1863-1944), immerse yourself in The Munch Museum's comprehensive website, munchmuseet.no/en.

In addition, the National Museum in Oslo holds one of the world's most important collections of Munch paintings, including such famous and iconic works as *The Scream*. Explore the National Museum's Online Munch Collection at samling.nasjonalmuseet.no/en/folder/34.

MORE ON MUNCH

In *Edvard Munch: Behind the Scream*, author Sue Prideaux explores the events of Munch's turbulent life and offers a portrait of the artist that is both intimate and moving. Munch sought to paint what he experienced rather than what he saw, and as his life often veered out of control, his experiences were painful. Yet he painted throughout his long life, creating strange and dramatic works in which hysteria and violence lie barely concealed beneath the surface. An extraordinary genius, Munch's work continues to connect with an audience that reaches around the world and across more than a century.

MUNCH ON CAMPUS

St. Olaf College's Flaten Art Museum has two Munch landscapes in its collection: *Autumn in the Forest* and *Fra Sandviken*. These are early works, painted when Munch was just 17 and 19 years old, and both are included in Gerd Woll's authoritative volume, *Edvard Munch: Catalogue Raisonne*.



Edvard Munch, *Self-Portrait with Cigarette* (1895)
Oil on canvas, 43.5 x 33.5 in. Nasjonalmuseet, Oslo



Edvard Munch, *Autumn in the Forest* (c. 1880)
Oil on board, 4.5 x 7.25 in. Bequest of Richard N. Tetlie '43 Estate



Edvard Munch, *Fra Sandviken* (c. 1882)
Oil on cardboard, 8 x 10 in. Bequest of Richard N. Tetlie '43 Estate

MOERAKI BOULDERS

Otago, New Zealand · Sergius Hannan '20

Environmental Science in Australia and New Zealand

The Moeraki Boulders are nearly perfectly spherical rocks that were uncovered due to coastal erosion along the Koekohe Beach in Otago. According to Maori tradition, these boulders were the remains of a wreckage of a large canoe that brought the Maori ancestors to the South Island of New Zealand.



Global Engagement

THE 2019 GIMSE INTERNATIONAL AND
OFF-CAMPUS STUDIES PHOTO CONTEST

For more than a half century, St. Olaf students have taken advantage of the college's renowned international and off-campus study programs. Living and studying abroad is fundamental to understanding other cultures and perspectives, and to becoming an educated citizen in a changing world. Students document their experiences of exploration and self-discovery each year through personal reflections and the art of photography.

BURNING THE DHOW · Nungwi Beach, Zanzibar, Tanzania
Peter McCrae-Hokenson '19 · Global Semester

As the water receded during a late morning on the beaches of Zanzibar, I came across a fisherman who appeared to be burning his boat to the ground. Naturally, I was taken aback. As I approached him, he greeted me with a smile and explained that he was using the fire to harden his dhow. This process seals the pores of the wood and ensures that the boat will not leak during long expeditions.



HIROSHIMA CASTLE
Hiroshima, Japan · Rafa Al Helal '22
Asian Conversations II: Encountering Asia

We were in the midst of a walking tour in Hiroshima when I captured this picture. I found it so beautiful how the castle was framed by the leaves above and the river below and how it stood against the clouds. Before coming to Hiroshima, one of the first things that came to my mind was the iconic mushroom cloud (as a result of the atomic bomb). However, now I remember Hiroshima differently. As you can see in this image, Hiroshima is peaceful and very much alive.

OFFERING TO PACHAMAMA
Quechua Andean community of Willoq, Peru · Miranda Thacker '19
Peruvian Medical Experience

Willoq community elders prepare an offering to Pachamama (Mother Earth) that will be buried during the welcome ceremony of our visit.



BOCA PUPPY
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Ryan Zimmerman '19
Global Semester

This puppy is decked out in the colors of the local soccer team in the Boca River neighborhood of Buenos Aires. My favorite thing is the little SUBE card in his back pocket!

AORAKI/MOUNT COOK

Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, New Zealand
Sergius Hannan '20 · Environmental Science
in Australia and New Zealand

New Zealand's tallest mountain, Aoraki, illuminated by a full moon beneath the southern night sky. Staying at Aoraki National Park was by far my favorite part of New Zealand.



THE JOURNEY TO SEA

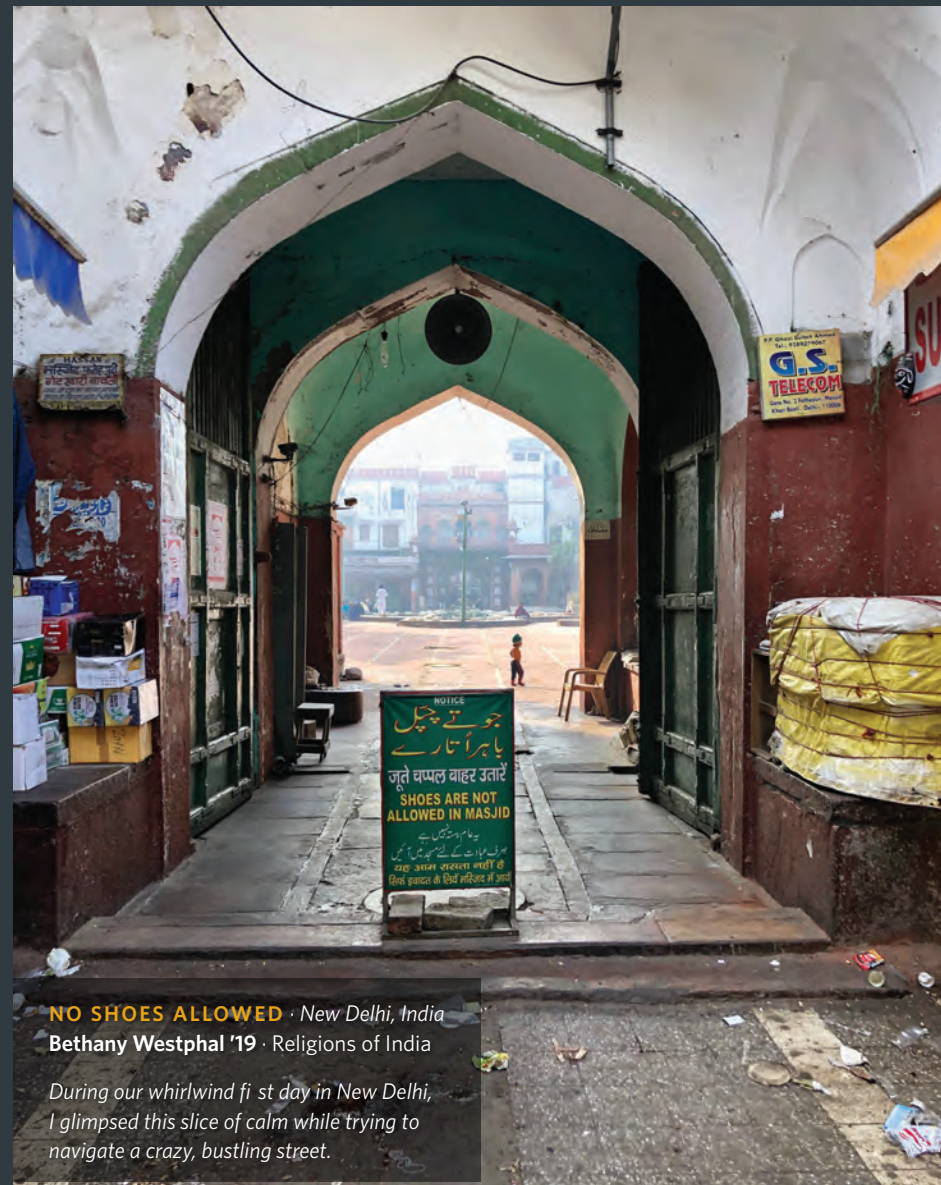
Heron Island, Australia
Sergius Hannan '20 · Environmental Science in Australia and New Zealand

This baby sea turtle was one of the lucky ones who made it out to sea one night at Heron Island in Queensland, Australia.



THE TRIFECTA OF SALAGA · The Village of Salaga, Ghana · **Morgan Marxer '21** · Slavery in West Africa

The current chief of the Salaga Village is flanked by his subordinates. Before this picture was taken, the chief greeted us with a kola nut, which is a significant cultural sign of acceptance into the village. Salaga was the most prominent slave market in precolonial Ghana, which was the hub for slaves taken from the Northern Region of Ghana.



NO SHOES ALLOWED · New Delhi, India
Bethany Westphal '19 · Religions of India

During our whirlwind first day in New Delhi, I glimpsed this slice of calm while trying to navigate a crazy, bustling street.



CLOUD FOREST

Machu Picchu, Peru · **Emily Bukowski '20** · Peruvian Medical Experience

Many people believe that Machu Picchu is the famed lost Inca city, but the true lost city has never been found. The ruins that sit on top of the breathtakingly tall Machu Picchu Mountain are the remnants of the last known Inca Empire. Due to the Spanish invasion of their empire (located in Cusco), the Incas were forced to flee to the Urubamba River Valley. Located at the highest point of the mountain, the Incas were well hidden by the numerous clouds that drifted through the sky. The term "cloud forest" is now used to describe the many clouds that cover the ruins and make it virtually impossible to see through. This natural defense protected their new empire, so the Incas were never found by the Spaniards — thus preserving Machu Picchu as we see it today.



CURIOUS KEA

Mount Ben Lomond, Queenstown, New Zealand · **Sergius Hannan '20**
Environmental Science in Australia and New Zealand

We found this kea bird sitting atop Mount Ben Lomond overlooking Queenstown. Keas are the world's only alpine parrot, and they have been hunted nearly to extinction because of their proclivity for attacking farm animals.

PALACE ALONG YAMUNA RIVER

Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India

Ryan Zimmerman '19 · Global Semester

I waited for a long time to capture just a single silhouette in this doorway, to show the sheer scale of this grand palace.





LADY IN RED

Xi'an, People's Republic of China
Peter McCrae-Hokenson '19 · Global Semester

As part of the phenomenon in the People's Republic of China known as "plaza dancing," hundreds of elders congregate in the streets during the evenings to dance in unison. Usually in groups of 20 to 80, these dancers follow the instruction of one leader, such as this woman in red. These dancers continue well into the night and assemble again in the early mornings as a form of both exercise and community development. This lively Chinese tradition reminded me of the universal human love for movement.



OLD MAN OF STORR

Isle of Skye, Scotland · **Joshua Kline '20** · University of Aberdeen

Overlooking a small trout pond is the Old Man of Storr, an ancient rock formation that rises out of the mountains on the Isle of Skye. It is truly one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen.



EILEAN DONAN CASTLE

Highlands, Scotland · **Xinyi Zhang '19**
University of Aberdeen

Leaving the east coast to explore ancient castles in the western Highlands of Scotland during the golden time of fall, I imagined every battle the Scots had fought with the Vikings and admired the great kingdom before us.



BLUE DIMENSIONS

Chefchaouen, Morocco
Emily Baer '20 · CIEE
Liberal Arts Program
in Seville, Spain

Chefchaouen, also known as the Blue City, stays true to its name — just around every corner, there is a different shade of blue decorating every building.



THE LOUVRE AT DUSK

Paris · **Emma Borkowski '21** · Theater in London

A rainy day at the Louvre on the first of February is highlighted by the ominous 5:30 p.m. light.



TOWER BRIDGE

London · **Emma Borkowski '21** · Theater in London



MONASTERY CAT

Meteora, Greece
Meghaen Mleczek '20 · Classical Studies in Greece

JUBILEE

Holden Village, Washington

Solveig Gordon '21 · Living Faith: Holden Village

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, new people and supplies were brought up to the village in school buses, each having their own name. During a walk with my classmates, we came upon Jubilee, snuggled in under a blanket of snow for a winter's nap.

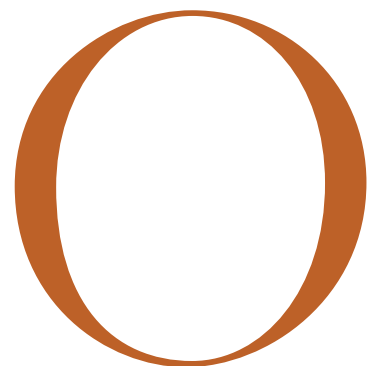


WORLD CLASS MUSIC



The St. Olaf Orchestra makes its Carnegie Hall debut.

By John Smith '19 | Photographed by Natan Dvir / Polaris



ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS of artistic prowess resound within the high stone walls of New York City's Carnegie Hall. With the subtle elegance and immaculate acoustics that have amazed audiences for more than a century, it's been the home of world-class performances from renowned artists like Yo Yo Ma and Duke Ellington.

And in early February, the St. Olaf Orchestra took the center of that very stage for the first time in Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium.

"Walking into Carnegie Hall was absolutely surreal," says Allison Moore '19, who plays bass in the ensemble. "I was completely awestruck and had to stop talking for a couple of seconds while I took it all in."

For violinist Christine Lee Fatt '20, the experience was, in a word, "magical." "It was amazing stepping in, and almost a little unbelievable," she says. "I would never have thought to perform there in my life."

Violist Zach Granowski '20 says performing in Carnegie Hall was the opportunity of a lifetime. "The first thing you notice is the size. Then you start picking up on the grandeur of the hall. Then you think about how many people played there before yourself. The entire time during the performance, I made sure to keep myself fully present in that moment," he says. "The experience was amazing."

The experience was further enriched by the auditorium's audience, which expressed its enthusiasm from the moment the musicians walked onstage, says violinist Grace Kenny '19.

"The most memorable part of the experience for me was hearing the resounding applause from the audience before we even started playing. I had tears in my eyes," Kenny says.

The Carnegie Hall concert, part of the ensemble's 2019 domestic tour, represented the culmination of years of hard work from St. Olaf students and faculty alike, says St. Olaf Orchestra Conductor Steven Amundson.

"This orchestra has grown into one of the finest ensembles of its kind, and this year's orchestra membership is very deep in talent. So it was good timing for this opportunity," he says. "The orchestra performed incredibly well, and there was a kind of electricity in the hall."

Adding to the Carnegie Hall excitement was the fact that the ensemble played alongside world renowned violinist Sarah Chang as they performed Jean Sibelius's Violin Concerto in D Minor.

"During that concerto, I was very focused on her playing — she's a real Romantic performer, and she definitely played with a lot of 'push/pull,' which made the experience rather intense," Amundson says. "When we arrived at the very end of the piece, I could see Sarah's delight in this fantastic performance. She gave me a hug and was all smiles. The crowd pretty much jumped to their feet. It was a special memory!"



Renowned violinist Sarah Chang performs with the St. Olaf Orchestra at Carnegie Hall.



Principal cellist Sophia Spiegel '19 spots a familiar face in the crowd.



A sea of audience members filled the seats at Carnegie Hall in New York City for the St. Olaf Orchestra's performance.

It was also an inspiration for members of the St. Olaf Orchestra.

“Playing with — and just being in the presence of — Sarah Chang was a dream come true!” says Moore. “Her musician-ship is staggering, and her high expectations gave us the push we needed to play our best.”

The other pieces the orchestra performed during the Carnegie Hall debut included Samuel Barber’s *Overture to the School for Scandal*, Missy Mazzoli’s *These Worlds in Us*, and Tchaikovsky’s *Symphony No. 5*.

“I had a clear view of the principal cellist, Sophia Spiegel, and when we would make eye contact during Tchaikovsky’s second movement, we’d both smile and play our hearts out,” says Lee Fatt. “It’ll be a night I’ll never forget.”

It will also be a night that many St. Olaf parents, alumni, and others in the audience will long remember — as will Amundson, who has led the St. Olaf Orchestra for 38 years.

“Carnegie has long been considered one of the world’s most historic and acoustically perfect concert halls. As cliché as it might sound, it really was a dream come true to walk out on stage, see the beaming faces of my students, and to look upon such a huge, enthusiastic audience,” Amundson says. “The St. Olaf Orchestra musicians really gave it their all, and it was truly a spectacular, unforgettable experience. I often talk to my students about playing with ‘passion plus.’ They exceeded my expectations!” 🌟

JOHN SMITH '19 was an economics major at St. Olaf College and currently is working as a digital strategy specialist at Knock, Inc.



Learn what it was like for St. Olaf Orchestra musicians to perform at Carnegie Hall by listening to a special podcast at go.stolaf.edu/carnegie.



Steven Amundson
and concertmaster
Hannie McGarity '19



From the Hill to Hollywood: My L.A. Connections Program Experience

Blog by Joshua Qualls '19
PHOTOGRAPHED BY NANCY PASTOR / POLARTS



The L.A. Connections students on Hollywood Boulevard: (L-R, front) Liberty Czarnik '21, Sal Alvarez '19, Benny Goetting '20; (back) Alexa Johannmeier '21, Isaac Egwim '20, Simon Stouffer '21, Joshua Qualls '19, Cookie Imperial '19, and Kierra Lopac '19.

FROM AN EARLY AGE, I LOVED TELLING STORIES. From writing short stories to making YouTube videos, I always imagined my ideas for the big screen. That's why I'm studying English with a concentration in media studies — to hone my storytelling skills. Needless to say, when I learned about the St. Olaf Los Angeles Connections Program, with its focus on film and the various aspects of the entertainment industry, I applied immediately.

The Piper Center for Vocation and Career's Connections Program brings students into alumni workplaces in various cities across the U.S. to explore careers and broaden their perspective on what they can do with a liberal arts education. From Denver to Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., each program aims to connect students with St. Olaf's vast network of alumni and give them a firsthand look at how Oles are succeeding in all sorts of endeavors.

The L.A. Connections Program took nine students to southern California during the weeklong break right before the second semester began. What was the experience like? Take a peek into my trip diary:

FRIDAY

I flew out to Los Angeles a day early to meet with Aldra Allison '77, the newest member of the St. Olaf College Alumni Board and a retired affordable housing program manager.

As a student writer for the St. Olaf Marketing and Communications Office, I had interviewed Aldra a few months earlier for a story about the commemorative art she brought to campus for CUBE's 50th anniversary celebration. During that interview, we realized we had a lot in common with our St. Olaf experience. I told her I'd be in L.A. in February, and she invited me to fly to her home city a day early to meet with her.

After greeting me at the airport and treating me to lunch at Porto's Bakery & Cafe, Aldra took me on a tour of L.A., Hollywood, Pasadena, and the Santa Monica beach. I had never seen the Pacific Ocean before. The glow of the sunset shimmered across the water at Santa Monica, tinting everything orange. Of course, I had to take a picture.

Having lived in L.A. for over 30 years, Aldra shared the history of each location she took me to. From the demographics of the city to Denzel Washington's old house, she knew it all. It was an incredible way to start my trip, all thanks to a fellow Ole.

SATURDAY

On Saturday, St. Olaf Piper Center Director Leslie Moore '77 and Bryan Shealer, Piper Center associate director for career development and coaching, arrived with the other students on the Connections Program. They were met at the airport by some incredibly kind, generous parents of St. Olaf students. Their children weren't even on the trip, and yet these parents still spent the entire day picking up students from the airport and driving us to various sites around Los Angeles.

I was part of a group that met with Heather Kjolsing '09, an operations manager at Riot Games, the company that created the popular esports game *League of Legends*.

Being a gamer myself, I sat next to Heather and we chatted about the new *Kingdom Hearts* game. Heather has been a lifelong gamer who always wanted to work in the gaming industry. She shared her journey to Riot Games and her amazing experiences with the company.

Heather then took two other students and me to a national *League of Legends* gaming competition as her personal guests. All the professional North American teams were there: Team Liquid, 100 Thieves, and Cloud9. I even witnessed the legendary player Doublelift destroy the other teams there. I had never attended an esports competition before — needless to say, I was geeking out.

For dinner that night, the entire Connections Program group met with freelance writer and editor Autumn Hilden '00 who has worked at Disney and The Jim Henson



We loved getting the chance to explore L.A. in addition to meeting professionals in the entertainment industry! Here I am at the Jim Henson studios with (L-R) Benny Goetting, Kierra Lopac, and Liberty Czarnik.

Company, and Justin Hilden '01, an animator, illustrator, designer, and creative director at Makefully studio. Autumn had asked many of her friends, including some who weren't even Oles, to meet with us.

Dinner guests included Mike Roe '03, the arts and entertainment editor at Southern California Public Radio, and his wife, Kristinana Roe, a copy editor and website publisher for Warner Bros.; and Paul Anderson '06, a production manager at Nickelodeon Animation.

I was anxious about going to dinner. We were meeting people who work with some of the biggest entertainment industries in the world. I'm a people person, but I've never been to an outing where the sole purpose is to make professional connections. I didn't know what to say. *Hello, can I please have a job?*

I sat between Paul Anderson and Mike Roe, and after a few minutes my nervousness vanished. The Ole connection took hold, and we spoke as if we were old friends. Mike shared the story of how he met his wife and how their connections helped both of them land their jobs, and Paul shared his experience working with Nickelodeon.

SUNDAY

We began our Sunday morning with a Warner Bros. Studio Tour. We saw where they filmed all the Central Park scenes from the hit sitcom *Friends* and the alleyway where they filmed the famous upside-down Spiderman kiss. We also got an up-close look at the props used in the *Harry Potter* movies and the Batmobiles used in all of the Batman films dating back to 1966.

Our next stop was a meet-and-greet hosted by Micah Gardner, a TV editor who's worked on *Portlandia*, *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, and *Documentary Now*. Micah isn't even a St. Olaf grad, but he's friends with Autumn Hilden — and he was nice enough to open his home to all of us and his friends in the entertainment industry from all over L.A. There we met with Wendy Wang, an actor, musician, and television composer (*Big Little Lies*, *Foo Fighters*, and *The Bird and the Bee*); Stephen



We got to witness more Hollywood history at the famous Hollywood Museum near the Walk of Fame. Pictured here are group members (L-R) Alexa Johannmeier, Simon Stouffer, Isaac Egwim, Cookie Imperial, Sal Alvarez, Kierra Lopac, Benny Goetting, myself, and Liberty Czarnik.

Marinaccio, a line producer who's worked on *America's Next Top Model*, *Marco Polo*, *13 Hours*, and *The Darkest Hour*; Jessica Grasl, a television producer and writer for *Designated Survivor*, *White Collar*, *Hawaii Five-0*, and *Leverage*; Jason Grasl, an actor and writer who has worked on *Hot in Cleveland*, *White Collar*, and *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*; Maryanne Pittman, a creative director, project manager, and graphic designer; Patrick Southern, lead editor and producer at LumaForge; Alee Caldwell, a freelance editor; and Nicole Schoepf, who works in international television distribution for Warner Bros.

Each shared the experience of finding work in Los Angeles, and offered us advice. Many of their stories started out the same: they came to L.A. without knowing anyone, worked a low-paying job in a field they weren't interested in, and, eventually, made a connection that launched their career in the entertainment industry.

The advice that resonated with me the most came from Autumn: "Make relationships for friendships, not for career advancement. People know when they're being used. Actually care for them, and they'll care about you."

After lunch, we headed to downtown Hollywood, where we met Marcelino Pena '03, a senior logistics engineer, and Richard Aviles '13. After touring the Hollywood Museum, Richard took us on the light-rail and shared his experience as a community engagement specialist for the Los Angeles Department of Transportation.

MONDAY

Monday morning, Dave Basta, an Ole parent, led us on a tour of Fotokem, a post-production company that edits trailers and movies like *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, *Tag*, *Aquaman*, and *Vice*. We viewed two trailers that hadn't yet been released.

Our next stop was Fox Studios in Century City to watch a recording of an episode of *Modern Family*, one of the highlights of the trip. We were met by Andrew Brooks, a production assistant on the show. Andrew was extremely welcoming and gave us a tour of the set. We saw the actors film several scenes.

Thanks to Andrew, we were able to speak with the assistant director of the show, along with co-creator Steven Levitan, who spoke with us for 45 minutes. We were genuinely thankful for the experience and for the time he took out of his day to speak with students from a small college in Minnesota.

The advice that resonated with me the most came from Autumn Hilden '00 — "Make relationships for friendships, not for career advancement. People know when they're being used. Actually care for them, and they'll care about you."

Our next stop was in Hollywood, where Branden Grimmett '03, Piper Center inaugural director and current associate provost at Loyola Marymount University, hosted a dinner at his apartment. It was great to see Aldra Allison again and meet over a dozen other alumni who are established in Los Angeles.

Everyone we had met earlier was present, in addition to a number of new people: Jason DeRose '97, the Western Bureau Chief at National Public Radio; Jay Kinn '85, senior vice president in technology legal at Warner Bros.; Elizabeth Hauser '94, design manager at Hasbro; Molly Trucano '10, manager of employee engagement and internal marketing at 21st Century Fox; Lydia Bundy '13, artistic programs associate at MUSE/IQUE; and Darrell Sackl '70, a lawyer with Morrison & Foerster LLP.

At St. Olaf, these alumni had majored in disciplines ranging from mathematics to studio art. Some are working in the field of their major, but many are not, and they all spoke to the value of a liberal arts education. By being well-versed in a variety of subjects, these Oles are able to connect with and speak to people on many topics and in a wide range of fields. "It made me stand out," Mike Roe noted. "Not on paper, but as a person."



Kierra Lopac (left) and Isaac Egwim talk with Jason DeRose '97 and Elizabeth Hauser '94.



Cookie Imperial (right) talks about animation with Justin Hilden '01.



I had the opportunity to meet so many great alumni, like Mike Roe '03, the arts and entertainment editor at Southern California Public Radio.



Our group members at the Jim Henson Company: (L-R) Liberty Czarnik, Alexa Johannngmeier, Simon Stouffer Kierra Lopac, Cookie Imperial, Sal Alvarez, Benny Goetting, myself, Piper Center staff member Bryan Shealer, Isaac Egwim, and Piper Center staff member Jenele Grassle.

TUESDAY

We visited the Jim Henson Company on Tuesday. Our tour guide, Taylor, shared how the Jim Henson Company is still very much a family-owned company, with barely 50 employees. It was interesting to see a close-knit group exist in the vast sea that is Los Angeles. We spoke with toy makers, social media planners, and video game creators.

The most encouraging part of the trip was meeting so many St. Olaf alumni in L.A. who are successful and living their dreams. From political science majors to English majors like myself, the alumni had versatile majors, and they all spoke about the wonders a liberal arts education provided them. What's more, they all offered a helping hand to any of us if we ever end up in L.A. — which many of us just might do.

JOSHUA QUALLS '19 (right) studied English with a concentration in media studies. During his time at St. Olaf, he was a student writer for the Marketing and Communications Office, an intern with the Development Office, and a member of the men's rugby team. Joshua is an aspiring writer and storyteller, hoping to write for film and television.



A Conversation with Ole Author Gretchen Anthony

By Lynette Lamb

ALTHOUGH HER LOVE OF WORDS and familiarity with Lutheranism go back decades, it took getting laid off from a job in her 40s before Gretchen Anthony '93 finally wrote the book that was always in her. *Evergreen Tidings from the Baumgartners* (Park Row Books, 2018) is a gently funny tale built around a series of Christmas letters and populated by familiar Minnesota eccentrics. Led by perfectionist matriarch Violet Baumgartner, stalwart member of Faithful Redeemer Lutheran Church, the story includes a disastrous retirement party, a successful church fair, a broken engagement, a pregnant gay couple, and plenty of other twists and turns. It has received accolades from *Kirkus Reviews* ("a stunning debut"), *Publishers Weekly* ("enjoyable debut ... a complex portrait of a mother struggling to give up control over her daughter's life"), *PopSugar* (Best Books of Fall 2018 selection), and *GoodReads* ("witty, sparkling debut novel"), and Anthony has visited Denver, Portland, Chicago, and other cities on her book tour.

I met Anthony in a coffee shop in Plymouth, Minnesota, not far from the Maple Grove home she shares with her husband, Chad, and their three sons, ages 16, 13, and 12.

What was your career path before becoming a novelist? I majored in speech, attended graduate school in communications, and then worked in corporate communications for many years. My last job was as director of corporate communications for Famous Dave's.

What sparked you to leave corporate communications and begin writing fiction? I didn't have anything more to achieve in that field. Also, I was no spring chicken: it was time to meet my longtime writing goals. Now I'm only writing fiction. Right now, I am frantically writing my second book, which is due in final manuscript form in early 2019.

What's your next book about? It's a novel tentatively titled *The Kids are Going to Ask*, in which 17-year-old twins get caught up in a cultural fiasco after they launch a podcast to find their biological father. Like *Evergreen*, it's set in the Twin Cities and has quirky characters all around! It's set for publication in spring 2020.

Your deep knowledge of Lutheran church life suggests you are a longtime church member. True? I'm a PK, man! My parents [Anne Romstad '62 and the late Rev. Paul Romstad '62] met at St. Olaf, and my brother is a fourth-generation Lutheran pastor. I was lucky to grow up with a dad who had a dynamic sense of humor — there was nothing he loved more than a good story, especially one he could steal and retell. It was all about laughter in our family. My dad died 12 years ago but while I was writing this book, I could feel him just behind my shoulder saying, "Go further, push it further" — especially the baptism scene. He would have gotten a big kick out of this book.

Is your mother anything like Violet Baumgartner? Or is Violet a composite of various intense Lutheran moms you have known? Violet is definitely a composite. I told my mom straight out that she



PHOTO: M. BRIAN HARTZ

wasn't Violet. But she did recognize some other people I might have modeled Violet on.

I know that as a family you always read Christmas letters aloud with great hilarity and that you and your brother write yearly missives. Did these experiences inspire the book? Definitely. Every year we compete to see who can write the funnier letter. I'm on a personal mission to bring back the Christmas letter. But I have three rules for writing a great letter. One: the bottom-of-the-glass rule — that is, write nothing longer than your friends can read while drinking a single glass of beer. Two: The you-didn't-shoot-JR rule. Nothing about you is so grand that you will ever stand out as much as the person who shot JR [a famous storyline on the 1980s TV show *Dallas*.] So, don't brag. Also leave out the two pages about your tumor-removal surgery. No one wants to read that. Three: The get-over-yourself-and-be-real rule. Forget writing your letter in the voice of your dog or as an acrostic puzzle. And don't be sanctimonious. No one likes a letter in which everyone is perfect.

So is it safe to say you disagree that Facebook has supplanted the family Christmas letter? Even if all your friends use Facebook — and they don't — we greatly overestimate what people absorb about our lives from social media. Also, Facebook is not as intimate or as real as a letter — and you can't archive it.

Any final words? I'm just meant to be doing this. I'm glad it took me this long to start because I got to experience a lot of other things along the way. But this — writing fiction — is where I was always meant to be. 🍷

LYNETTE LAMB is a Minneapolis writer and the parent of a St. Olaf freshman.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? In their retirement, Emeritus Professor Mike Leming and his wife, Ann, have been integral to the creation of a center in Thailand that assists disabled adult artists and actors.

By Suzy Frisch

AWHIMSICAL, PIANO-SHAPED BUILDING in Thailand offers a welcoming place for children and adults with disabilities to engage in occupational therapy and performing arts lessons, teaching them life skills and expression. It also embodies the extensive efforts of retired St. Olaf faculty Michael and Ann Leming to give back to a country that has meant the world to them.



For 30 years, Mike Leming, an emeritus professor of sociology/anthropology, and Asian Studies, and Ann Leming, a retired education instructor, have been committed to sharing their talents with Thailand. Their work resulted in the Rajanagarindra Institute of Child Development (RICD) piano building in the city of Chiang Mai, home to the Interact Thailand performing arts program for people with disabilities.

The five-story building opened in 2015. It provides a variety of therapies to people from across northern Thailand, including music, dance, and speech therapy. RICD clients stage shows in its two theaters to showcase their talents while also helping to expose Thai society to people with diverse disabilities. To recognize the Lemings' eight-year effort to raise money, awareness, and drive for the building, Thai Crown Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn gave them gold medals, a high honor.

For the Lemings, achieving their goal was reward enough. "It was a dream come true. It was wonderful," says Leming of seeing the piano building become a reality. Their devotion to Thailand and their deep connection to the Thai people and culture were crystallized when the couple first came to the country as St. Olaf Term in Asia faculty supervisors. "I fell in love with Thailand in 1990," says Mike Leming. "The people are very present and caring."

The Lemings, who taught about 11,000 St. Olaf students during their 40 years at the college, also led study abroad programs to Thailand for 28 years. Their Spring Semester in Thailand program allowed students to dive deeply into Thai arts and culture while completing internships in their majors.

The couple got the idea for the arts program in Thailand after seeing a performance by the Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, a training and inclusion program in St. Paul, Minnesota, for people with disabilities. The Lemings approached Artistic Director Jeanne Calvit to ask if she would be interested in establishing Interact Thailand in Chiang Mai. She loved the idea, and within two months she and the Lemings were working with RICD leaders to create arts therapy and training programs for its clients.

The piano building was the dream of RICD Director Samai Sirithongthaworn, now deputy director general of Thailand's Department of Mental Health and Ministry of Public Health. Yet Thai leaders were reluctant to build the fanciful structure because they didn't see the benefit of a training program for people with disabilities, Leming says.

That all changed when 20 public and mental health government officials watched an Interact Thailand performance and saw firsthand the positive benefits that a training program can have on people with disabilities. People who rarely spoke or interacted with others were now collaborating, doing improvisation, and performing fearlessly. Before long, the government committed funding for the piano building.

Thailand continues to be an integral part of the Lemings' lives. They live in Thailand for three to four months each year, own a home there, and speak the Thai language. They also continue to raise funds for Interact Thailand and its clients. Mike volunteers for two weeks annually, teaching English and practical theology at the Xavier Learning Community, a free university run by the Catholic Church and the Jesuits in Chiang Saen, Thailand. Most of the

students are tribal people from the mountain areas. "It's incredible to work with the poorest of the poor," Leming says. "Together, we can do amazing things." 🍷



Mike and Ann Leming with Nakon Wongtasit (left) and Takatan Wong at RICD

St. Olaf Welcomes Two New Regents

The St. Olaf Board of Regents plays an essential role in the direction of the college, from appointing the president and awarding tenure, to adopting policies that establish the rights and obligations of faculty. Jennifer Fink Hellman '98 and Paul Grangaard P'18 joined the college's governing board in 2018. Together, they bring a unique range of skills and experiences that will help guide St. Olaf College into the future.

By Suzy Frisch

BUILDING ON A REPUTATION

Many of the good things in Jennifer Hellman's life began at St. Olaf. It's where she learned how to write effectively, which opened doors to her career in public relations. It's where she met her husband, Thad Hellman '98, and became engaged to be married. And it's where she built strong connections with fellow students and the wider Ole network, a constant advantage for her work in the business community. "Everything originates from St. Olaf," says Hellman.

For these reasons and more, Hellman committed to serving St. Olaf College as a regent. She aims to make sure other Oles have similar opportunities, including the ability to change direction as a student and build the expertise they need for their vocation.

Hellman came to the Hill as a music major but quickly realized that other career paths might be a better fit. Switching to speech communications, Hellman ultimately decided to pursue a career in public relations. She is grateful that even though the college didn't offer that particular major, it still prepared her to break into her field of interest through a mix of hands-on experience and an interdisciplinary liberal arts education.

Between writing press releases for the college and contributing to *St. Olaf Magazine*, Hellman developed enough real-world knowledge about public relations to land her first job at Goff Public, a public relations and advocacy firm in St. Paul, Minnesota. Hellman rose from writer to account manager and is now chief operating officer of Goff, where she splits her time between running the firm and working with clients.

Hellman appreciates the foundational skills she learned at St. Olaf, including effective writing, problem solving, collaboration, and other vital soft skills that help graduates adapt as industries evolve. "Today, public relations looks drastically different than it did 20 years ago," she notes. "But my ability to work

through challenges and find new solutions are skills I got from St. Olaf that have served me well through those changes."

As a St. Olaf Regent, Hellman believes she will be able to share her experience in reputation management, strategic and crisis communications, and media training for executives and leaders. She also is a veteran board member, having served on the boards of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies.

"I help companies and organizations tell their story and manage their reputation," including colleges and universities, Hellman says. "That means making sure people perceive them the way they want to be perceived and that they are being true to their audiences and mission."

Hellman and her husband, Thad, have stayed strongly connected to the college since graduation. Though 20 years has passed, she is happy to see that the essence of St. Olaf remains the same. Specifically, she values the college's continued commitment to the liberal arts and academic excellence, its abiding Lutheran roots, and the campus community's respect for people with varied opinions.

Hellman would like to help guide St. Olaf in its efforts to welcome an increasingly diverse student body. She wants to make sure that people from all backgrounds truly feel welcome, talk with each other, and learn from each other's differences, especially in light of the country's current state of polarization.



Jennifer Hellman, photographed at Goff Public by Tom Roster

Although the issues of diversity and polarization are large and complex, Hellman believes that St. Olaf could serve as a microcosm for the country and provide students with essential experiences to take into the wider world. By continuing to emphasize the St. Olaf values of respect, compassion, and open-mindedness, the campus community could make a big difference in the wider world, she says.

Hellman is thrilled to have the opportunity to give back to St. Olaf, helping the college maintain the elements that influenced and still enhance her life. "I want to make sure St. Olaf continues to be a strong institution while continuing to build its presence and reputation nationwide and globally," she says. "I will work to make sure St. Olaf honors its roots while continuing to change with the times, so it stays relevant well into the future."



Paul Grangaard, photographed at St. Olaf by Tom Roster

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

As an experienced CEO and leader, Paul Grangaard knows what it's like to guide a complex organization. It's demanding, of course, but it also can be isolating. One way he aims to contribute as a St. Olaf Regent is by sharing his experiences with the college's administrators and supporting their efforts.

"Being a leader is much more challenging than most people realize. It's true when they say that it's lonely at the top," Grangaard says. "I look forward to supporting [President] David Anderson and other leaders at St. Olaf if they think I have perspectives or beliefs that would be helpful."

"If you have an open mind about the world outside the United States, you'll be more productive, you'll be a better contributor, and you'll respect diversity more. We're a nation of immigrants, and if you come out of college understanding other cultures, you can be more confident and effective in engaging with today's world."

— ST. OLAF REGENT PAUL GRANGAARD

Grangaard has a career of experience to share with fellow regents and other St. Olaf leaders, including leadership roles at Piper Jaffray, the private equity firm Goldner Hahn Johnson & Morrison, and Allen Edmonds Shoe Corporation, where he served as CEO for nearly a decade. Today, Grangaard is CEO of Circle Rock, a men's clothing and inspiring content brand that he recently launched in the Twin Cities.

He also will bring the perspective of someone who did not attend St. Olaf yet who maintains a deep connection to the college. Grangaard always thought of St. Olaf as a family place, the college that his two siblings, his youngest son, and other family members attended, and where his father's childhood friend Sidney Rand became its longest-serving president.

When his son Blake Grangaard '18 graduated from St. Olaf last spring, Grangaard's ties with the college deepened further. He was impressed with the high-caliber education his son received in mathematics and economics, in addition to life-shaping experiences like studying abroad twice.

Grangaard appreciates that St. Olaf stays true to its core values, rooted in transcendent Lutheran virtues, including a deep respect for faith, forgiveness, diversity, and the environment, and a firm commitment to making the world a better place.

"So many St. Olaf grads I've known over the years are really good people doing good work," says Grangaard. "They take their work, their families, and their lives seriously, but they're a humble group with a good sense of humor. St. Olaf is very good at turning out people who are strong contributors to society."

Grangaard is a Stanford University graduate who studied abroad in Italy during college and spent three years in Germany working for the First National Bank of Chicago. These early experiences enabled him to become proficient in Italian and German, and he absorbed enough about European fashion to step up when Allen Edmonds needed a turnaround leader. He also saw the value of global education and cultural immersion, areas he hopes to support at St. Olaf.

"I think our education systems in America are in need of constant change to match up with the globalization that is occurring. But there are things that shouldn't change, like those transcendent virtues," Grangaard says. "I'd like to participate in a dialogue about what it means to be college educated today. How can students be best prepared for the world as it is now, and for how it will evolve over the next 60 years?"

Grangaard also aims to help St. Olaf maintain its tradition of fostering strong connections between faculty and students. Other focus areas include providing perspective as the college reshapes its general education requirements and supporting St. Olaf's renowned music, arts, and global studies programs.

Grangaard believes that Americans' creativity is our nation's great competitive advantage in the global economy, and says that excellence in the arts is crucial to developing creative people. That's why he thinks the international experiences that so many Oles gain are essential for students' personal development and society overall. "If you have an open mind about the world outside the United States, you'll be more productive, you'll be a better contributor, and you'll respect diversity more," he adds. "We're a nation of immigrants, and if you come out of college understanding other cultures, you can be more confident and effective in engaging with today's world." 🍷

SUZY FRISCH is a regular contributor to *St. Olaf Magazine*.

Oles, submit your class news online!
stolaf.edu/alumni/share-your-news
 It's easier than ever to share your latest news, photos, and updated contact information! Questions? Email alum-office@stolaf.edu or call 507-786-3028 or 888-865-6537.

1950s

Jerome Nilssen '55 writes, "At 85, I am marking my 30th year in homeless services in Los Angeles. My current employer is L.A. Family Housing, for whom I locate housing for homeless families."

1960s

Peter Hansen '61 writes, "The Winter 2019 issue of *St. Olaf Magazine* includes news of the death of Peter 'Andy' Lassen. ❶ Although listed as a member of the Class of 1963, Andy was originally a member of the Class of 1961 — as freshman we roomed together in Ytterboe Hall. Very early in our freshman year, Jerry Ramsey, who roomed next door to us, declared that Lassen didn't look like a 'Peter,' he looked like an 'Andy,' and 'Andy' it was for the rest of his life to every Ole who knew him. (Ramsey also decided that Dave Olson looked like a 'Sam' and that name also stuck.) Midway through our freshman year, we swapped roommates: Sam moved in with Andy and I moved in with Ric Nesimiuk. Following graduation, Andy entered the military, contracted meningitis (I think that was the dreadful disease), and ended up in a wheelchair. But Andy didn't let that slow him down — professionally he became an architect, and for kicks he became a competitive wheelchair racer. I last spoke to Andy in 2015, on my way to a conference at UC Berkeley. I phoned him from the Los Angeles airport and learned that he was still working — I assume he was about 76 at the time. Same old Andy, good-natured, invited me to come stay with him, not a care in the world." ■

Linn Opderbecke '65 P'97 was reelected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives for his second term. He serves on the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. ■ **Kathryn Heltné Swanson '66, P'91, '98, '01**, professor emerita of English, retired from Augsburg University after spring term 2018. ❷ During her 33 years there, she was department chair for 18, served several terms as Faculty Senate president, and served on every faculty committee except the parking committee! She and her husband also led six trips to Thailand with Augsburg students and alumni.

1970s

(Raymond) Skip Kenitzer '70 was inducted into the Willamette University Athletics Hall of Fame. ■ **Ann Williams Garwick '71, P'01**, a professor in the University of Minnesota's School of Nursing, the Cora Meidl Siehl Endowed Chair in Nursing Research, and Director for Center for Children with Special Health Care Needs, received an Outstanding Nurses Award and was featured in *Mpls St Paul* magazine as one of 17 women health professionals doing remarkable work. ❸ In the article "A Picture of Health," (mspmag.com) Ann is recognized as a caregiver, professor, researcher,

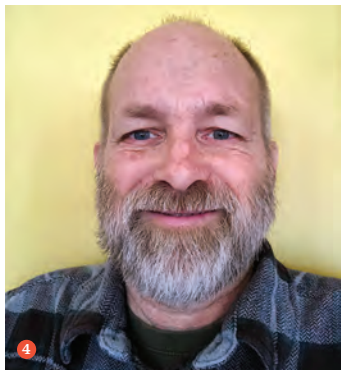
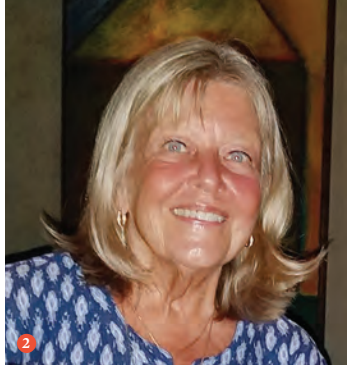
and highly regarded mentor. During her 47-year career, Ann has been a principal investigator or co-investigator on 31 research grants totaling more than \$18 million. Her work has focused on finding ways to improve children's physical and mental health and the quality of care for high-risk adolescents, children with special needs, and children with chronic illness. "It has been an enormous privilege to be able to follow Ann's progress through the years and her authorship of so many projects," writes Professor Emerita of Nursing Valborg Tollefsrud. ■ **David Luehr '71** writes, "My wife, Dana, and I have been volunteering at the Dodoma Christian Medical Center in Dodoma, Tanzania. I have been working with the hospital and clinic on Quality Improvement projects as well as mentoring new physicians on clinical



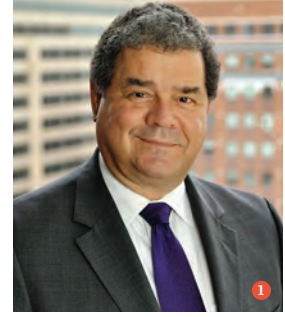
issues and surgical procedures such as C-sections, etc. [Following this] we then go on a safari in the Ruaha National Park. I continue to work very part time as a hospitalist in Cloquet, Minn., and I remain active in medical politics as a delegate to the American Medical Association representing Minnesota." ■ The great Ole running back **Ole Gunderson '72** has passed away. The late Tom Porter always spoke of the legendary football player with a certain awe, noted former St. Olaf archivist Jeff Sauve. "Porter always said that Ole had the best balance as a runner of any player he had ever coached." Ole was inducted into the St. Olaf Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998, and his jersey (No. 25) was retired in 2002. ■ **Steve Langehough '77** writes, "In November 2018, I opened Getting Back On Track Counseling, established to assist individuals, couples, and families with life and relationship challenges. ❹ I specialize in recovery from substance misuse and abuse, military pre- and post-deployment issues, parenting, and relationship improvement."

1980s

Susan Nelson Lohmann '80, P'08, '12, '14, writes, "Thirteen Oles from the Class of 1980 ❺ (corridor-mates on the 4th floor of Hyme and good friends ever since) gathered for a mid-October weekend gathering on Gull Lake." ■ **Lisa Wilkening Lozito '82** and **Kari Peterson Werdahl '82** ❻ were named Minnesota Choral Directors of the Year by the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota. Both have been music educators since graduating from St. Olaf. ■ **Daniel Stoll '82** writes, "After 10 years with Georgetown University at its campus in Doha, Qatar, as well as the main campus in Washington, D.C., I have accepted a position with St. Norbert College in DePere, Wis., as associate dean for global affairs. Barbara and I made the move back to the Midwest in August, and we continue to settle into our new life in Wisconsin." ■ **Alan Shepard '83** has been appointed president and vice-chancellor of Western University, London, Ontario, Canada, effective July 1. ■



Tracy Summers Bibelnicks '85 was promoted to tenured associate professor in the Mathematics and Statistics Department at the University of Minnesota Duluth. ■ **Saholy Razafinari o-Schoreisz '85**, a former international student, shares this news with Oles whose paths may have crossed with Mary Leean, Professor Arch Leean's wife, who passed away on March 22, 2019: "Several generations of international students and American roommates have had the pleasure and privilege of being cared for by Mrs. Leean during those years spent far away from our home country and family. She and her husband, Arch, also took students on different international programs. She was a mother to us all, and although it has been decades since I've seen her, I kept in touch with her and I'm not the only one, I'm sure. She was such an extraordinary woman, and so loved by all of us." ■ **Mark Fredrickson '87**, ❶ a partner at the Minneapolis law firm of Lind, Jensen, Sullivan & Peterson, P.A., was elected in 2018 to the board of directors of DRI, the Voice of the Defense Bar, as its north central regional director. ■ **Danel Olson '87** is teaching 19th-century American & British novels to grad students at China's Qufu Normal University (located in the hometown of Confucius) for the 2019 academic year. Danel's interest in China dates to meeting some of the first mainland Chinese students at St. Olaf in the 1980s, some of whom told him that Northfield was "an actual ghost town." Danel is pictured with a book he contributed to and edited, *Writing Madness*, ❷ which won a World Fantasy Award in November 2018 and a Lone Star Award in January 2019. ■ Texas Christian University announces the appointment of **Karen Steele '88** ❸ as the inaugural associate vice provost and dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. ■ **Jennifer Redmann '89**, who teaches at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., and **Kathryn Sederberg '07**, who teaches at Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Mich., have co-authored "The First World War in the Literacy-Focused Classroom: Teaching German through Cultural Themes," published in the peer-reviewed journal *Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German*. ❹



They received the 2017 Best Article Award from the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG), which they accepted at the AATG annual meeting in New Orleans last November.

1990s

Jolene Hjerleid '90 writes, "After taking a bit of a hiatus to raise two children, I'm dipping my toes back into the theater world. ❺ I have become a member of The Actors' Gang here in Los Angeles (Tim Robbins, artistic director). In addition to developing new work and acting onstage, I'm also a teaching artist in their education department." ■ **Chad Dorsey '95** has been president and CEO of Concord Consortium, a nonprofit educational technology R&D organization for 10 years.



The Hopefuls

Chasing a Rock 'n' Roll Dream in the Minnesota Music Scene

PAUL V. ALLEN

A new book published by McFarland & Company explores the musical journeys of several Oles. *The Hopefuls: Chasing a Rock 'n' Roll Dream in the Minnesota Music Scene* follows **Eric Fawcett '92, John Hermanson '93, Chris Cunningham '94, Darren Jackson '94**, and the formation of a musical collective comprised of alumni **John Ostby '92, Alex Oana '92, Brian Roessler '93**, and **jMatt Keil '97**. The book goes deep into the origins and impacts of the Oles' various musical endeavors, including early '90s campus favorites Chris & Johnny, Shark Sandwich, and Bobby Llama, as well as Storyhill, Spymob, Kid Dakota, and the Olympic Hopefuls.

ALUMNI & FAMILY TRAVEL



Whether you're an alum, the parent of a current or former student, or a friend of the college, you are part of the Ole community. That community stays strong when we learn, explore, and broaden our perspectives together. Please join us for Alumni & Family Travel in 2019 and 2020. Registration is open for the programs listed below and more!

Preserving Paradise: Parks & Reserves of Costa Rica | November 7-16, 2019

Borobudur and Bali | January 10-22, 2020 optional extension to Komodo National Park, January 22-25 | Led by **Karil Kucera, Professor of Art History and Asian Studies**, and **Daniel Jones, Botanist and Ecologist**

Ultimate Tanzania Safari | February 18-29, 2020 or February 28-March 10, 2020

Windmills, Tulips, & Belgian Delights | April 14-22, 2020 | A river cruise aboard the *Scenic Opal* | Led by **St. Olaf College President David R. Anderson '74** and **Priscilla Paton, Author**

3,000 Years of History and More: Greece from the Bronze Age to the Crusades | April 23-May 8, 2020 | Led by **Jim May, Professor Emeritus of Classics**, and **Donna May, Retired Teacher**

From Odin to Olaf: A Journey of Norwegian Culture, Fantasy & Fun for All Ages | July 5-16, 2020 | Led by **Kari Lie Dorer, Associate Professor of Norwegian**, and **Ben Dorer, Montessori Teacher**

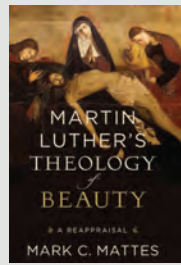
Theater in London | September 11-20, 2020 Led by **Diana Postlethwaite, Professor Emerita of English**, and **Paul Thiboutot, Vice President and Dean of Admissions, Carleton College**

The Treasures of Georgia | Sept. 23-Oct. 6, 2020 Led by **Bruce Benson, Retired St. Olaf Pastor**, and **Carol Benson, Retired Music Teacher**

Many more programs are in the works. Check stolaf.edu/travel for the latest information.

On the Shelf

BOOKS BY ST. OLAF COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FACULTY



A Personal Purpose-Driven Plan for Individuals and Families (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2018), by **Reuben T. Jessop '54, P'80, '82, '84**



A Practical Guide to Choral Conducting (Neil A. Kjos Music Company, 2019), by **Bradley Ellingboe '80**

Stars Shall Bend Their Voices: Poets' Favorite Hymns & Spiritual Songs (Orison Books, 2018), edited by **Jeffrey L. Johnson '81, P'14**

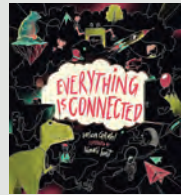
Martin Luther's Theology of Beauty: A Reappraisal (Baker Academic, 2017), by **Mark Mattes '82**

Project-Based Learning in the First Year: Beyond All Expectations (Stylus Publishing, 2019), by **Kristin Nelson Wobbe '83**



The Guilty Dead (A Monkeewrench Novel) (Crooked Lane Books, 2018), by **P.J. Tracy (Traci Lambrecht '89)**

Glimpsing Resurrection: Cancer, Trauma, and Ministry (Westminster John Knox Press, 2018), by **Deanna Thompson '89, P'21**



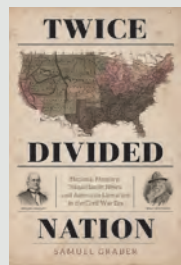
The Same Moon (Touchpoint Press, 2019), by **Sarah Coomber '91**

Everything is Connected (Bala Kids, 2019), by **Jason Gruhl '92**



Cleo and Cornelius: A Tale of Two Cities and Two Kitties (Getty Publications, 2018), by **Janine Pibal '96**

Twice-Divided Nation (University of Virginia Press, 2019), **Samuel Graber '97**



Raised on Ritalin: A Personal Story of ADHD, Medication, and Modern Psychiatry (Dementia Comics, 2016), by **Tyler Paage '99**

Good Dog (HarperCollins, 2018) and **The Rabbit Listened** (Dial Books, 2018), illustrated and written by **Cori Doerrfeld Page '01**

How Neighborhoods Make Us Sick: Restoring Health and Wellness to Our Communities (InterVarsity Press, 2019), by **Breanna Peterson Lathrop '06**



One Coin Found: How God's Love Stretches to the Margins (Fortress Press, 2019) by **Emmy Kegler '07**

Nightvisions (The Magecraft Curses: Book One) (Self-published, M.T. Brown, 2018), by **M.T. Brown (Maia Brown '17)**

Melissa Wainio Moore '96

and Ronald Moore, along with their children Meghan (18), Gabe (17) and Getty (15), are overjoyed to announce their adoption of Spencer (9), Evangeline Mae (7), and Russ (6). Melissa writes, "God rocked our world with these kids and we are forever changed in positive ways because of it. So many Minnesota children are in need of loving families; we encourage you to seriously consider the MN Foster to Adopt program for your family."



2000s

Paul Godfread '01 joined the law firm of Larkin Hoffman in Bloomington, Minn., practicing trademark and copyright law. Paul is also an adjunct faculty member at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, where he teaches intellectual property law.

Natalie Hoyle Ross '01, an elementary school librarian in Naperville, Ill., has earned a doctorate of education in literacy from Judson University.

Luke Anderson '02 was named assistant vice chancellor for budget and fiscal planning at the University of Colorado Boulder. He has also developed and teaches a recurring graduate course in higher education finance.

Christopher Paul '03 has joined the law firm of Knutson+Casely, PC, in Mankato, Minn., where he will concentrate his practice on probates and estate planning.

Kate Monson '04, a founding partner of the full-service digital advertising agency FSSG, which serves political and public affairs clients, was honored with a number of awards in 2018, including being named to the American Association of Political Consultants "40 Under 40" Class of 2018 and being named a Rising Star among young political professionals by the magazine *Campaigns & Elections*.

Kate and FSSG co-founder Isaac Wright were also recognized in 2018 with the Harry S. Truman Award for Political Leadership by the Truman National Security Project.

Brenna Bray '06 has completed her Ph.D. in biomedical sciences with a specialization in neuroscience from the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine.

Jonathan Hess '06 was recently named the principal timpanist for the Handel and Haydn Society in Boston, one of three new principals for the orchestra. A specialist in both contemporary and historical percussion, Jonathan teaches percussion and drums at the

College of Holy Cross and is a founding member of the Boston Percussion Group. He regularly performs and records with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and plays in the pit for Boston's Odyssey Opera.

Sharon Grawe Markowitz '08 has been elected partner at Stinson Leonard Street LLP. Sharon is a litigator in the firm's banking and financial services division. She was recognized as a Minnesota Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2018 and served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Louise Bjorkman of the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

Katherine Chatelaine Samsen '09 has been called to serve as pastor of mission and outreach at First Trinity and St. Matthew Lutheran Churches in Washington, D.C.

2010s

Christopher Waters '10 successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in anthropology at Syracuse University, achieving distinction. Chris and his wife, Tori, have now relocated to the Caribbean, where Chris has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship with the National Parks Authority of Antigua and Barbuda and the UNESCO World Heritage Site Antigua Naval Dockyard and Related Archaeological Sites.

Lydia Pfothner Lo '11 graduated from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs with an M.P.A. in international development and urban planning. She's now in D.C. working as an Urban Institute researcher on domestic and international urban planning and community development issues.

Noah Mitchell '12 defended his Ph.D. in physics at the University of Chicago. His thesis focused on fracture mechanics and wave phenomena in materials built from spinning components. He now becomes a postdoctoral scholar at the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics at

the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Meg Kirchoff '14 and **Sterling Melcher '14** were awarded a two-week career development residency at the Hinge Artist Residency in Fergus Falls, Minn., through Springboard for the Arts, where they continued to develop a dance-theater collaboration they began in 2018 that uses live-streaming video and projection to create a dual-city performance between Minneapolis and Philadelphia. The piece will be performed in both the Minnesota and Philadelphia 2019 Fringe Festivals.

Conor Devlin '17 writes, "I am thrilled to be using my English major in my work for iconic newsman Dan Rather, creating content for his website *newsandguts.com* and providing research for The Big Interview, which Rather conducts with top entertainers such as Joan Baez, Dickie Betts, and Dan Ackroyd. The show appears Tuesdays on AXS TV. Tune in!"



Remembering George Sivanich

Professor Emeritus of Psychology George Sivanich passed away peacefully on March 6, 2019, at the age of 91. A longtime Northfield resident, George grew up in Northeast Minneapolis and graduated from Edison High School in 1945. Sivanich was the first member of his family to attend college, graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1950. He earned a master's degree from Harvard University and obtained his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Minnesota in 1960. After living in Richmond, Virginia, and working in the Peace Corps, Sivanich and his wife, Arlene, moved to Northfield in 1965, where he began his career as a licensed psychologist and professor of psychology at St. Olaf College. Sivanich had a unique style of teaching that made his psychology classes popular with students. He retired from St. Olaf in 1994.



Sivanich was an advocate for the environment and believed strongly that natural resources need protection. He enjoyed spending time outdoors and at the family cabin on Sturgeon Lake. In later years, Sivanich became an avid marathon runner. The "grey ghost," as he was sometimes referred to, could often be seen running on Cedar Avenue many miles north of Northfield regardless of the weather. His dedication to running led him to finish 6 marathons, including international events in Sweden and Russia. Sivanich enjoyed current events and engaging in political discussions with family and friends and, in later years, with his colleagues at the Northfield retirement Community.

Throughout his life, Sivanich was fascinated by the human condition. He would often befriend strangers who might be perceived as an underdog, and he would take time to learn their personal story. Sivanich found his calling as a psychologist. He was a great listener and conversationalist who professionally and personally helped many, many individuals, family members, and friends through challenging times.

Sivanich is survived by sons Dimitri (Daina) and Andrei (Wendy); three grandchildren: Katherine (Katie), Margaret (Maggie), and Theodore (Teo); and nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Remembering George L. Kelling '56

George Lee Kelling '56, an emeritus professor in the School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University–Newark, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, and a fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, died from complications of cancer on May 15, 2019, at his home in Hanover, N.H. He was 83.



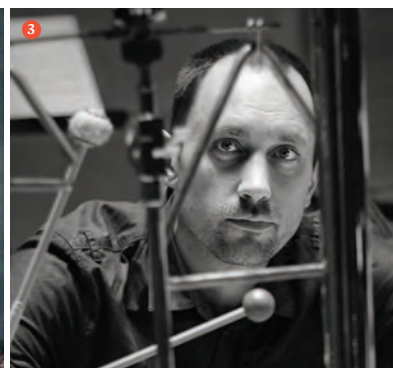
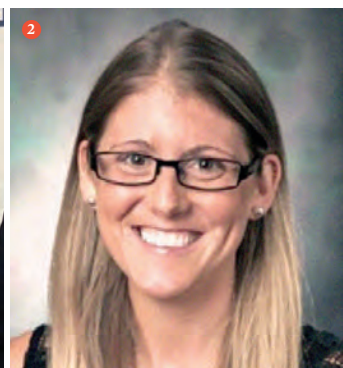
Kelling's "broken windows" theory, conceived with James Q. Wilson, revolutionized policing in America by targeting lesser infractions that stoke fear and unrest in urban neighborhoods. Drawing on earlier research and his own field studies in Newark and Kansas City, Missouri, Kelling popularized "broken windows" in a 7,000-word article he wrote in *The Atlantic* magazine in 1982 with Wilson (whom he credited with coming up with the term).

Kelling was born on Aug. 21, 1935, in Milwaukee to George and Mathilda (Benn) Kelling. His father was a firefighter, his mother a factory worker and homemaker. He attended Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary for two years, then transferred to St. Olaf College, where he received a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He went on to earn a master's in social work from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and a doctorate in social welfare from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

In addition to being a criminologist, a seminarian, a social worker, and a probation officer, Kelling taught at Rutgers University and was a fellow at the Manhattan Institute, a conservative think tank. He also taught government and public policy at Harvard and later at the University of California, Los Angeles.

In 2007, Kelling received St. Olaf's Distinguished Alumni Award and was a guest speaker at St. Olaf for the theme of Liberal Arts in Times of War. In 2015, he spoke on the topic of Community, Race, and Policing in America at the first lecture series sponsored by the college's Institute for Freedom and Community.

His first marriage, to Sally Jean Mosiman, ended in divorce. He married Catherine M. Coles, a lawyer and urban anthropologist, in 1982. She has been a research associate at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, and together they wrote *Fixing Broken Windows*, published in 1996. In addition to his wife, Kelling is survived by a son, George, and a daughter, Kristin Lee Kelling Hayden, both from his first marriage; and four grandchildren. Read Kelling's full obituary in *The New York Times*.





Future Ole Lydia Evans

Future Ole Theo Pignatore

Future Ole Theodore Carlson

Future Ole Ruth Cook

Future Oles

Melissa Wainio Moore '96 and Ronald Moore, adopted sons Spencer and Russ, and a daughter, Evangeline
 Erik Krummell '98 and Emelyn Krummell, a daughter, Cassandra
 Kari Loken '98 and Marek Kozlowski '98, a daughter, Noe
 Jill Lynch Sauber '98 and Rob Sauber, a son, Zachary
 Ria Newhouse '00 and Melody Scott, a daughter, Maura
 Marianne Aarvik Hennessy '02 and BJ Hennessy '02, a daughter, Isobel
 Michael Hill '02 and Karen Hill, a daughter, Aleta
 Amy Bonhag Pignatore '02 and Nicolas Pignatore, a son, Theo
 Jessica Plagens '04 and Jeffrey Cowan, a son, Theodore
 Jessica Overbeck Bergeron '05 and Ryan Bergeron, a son, Isaiah
 Hannah Rumsey Cook '06 and Nolan Cook '08, a daughter, Ruth
 Cate Grochala Kline '06 and Bradley Kline, a son, Franklin
 Carolyn Pearson Pierson '06 and Evan Pierson '06, a daughter, Hazel
 Brooke Smars '06 and Kale Langley, a daughter, Ravelle
 Charity Hall Coulter '07 and Nathan Coulter '07, a daughter, Eleanor
 Lauren Cassat Evans '07 and Dylan Evans '07, a daughter, Lydia
 Abby Matthews Huseuth '08 and Eric Huseuth '08, a son, Soren
 Leslie NelsonAbell '08 and Matt NelsonAbell '08, a son, Charlie
 Meredith Utt Olson '08 and Karl Olson '08, a daughter, Pippa
 Katherine Murchison Ross '08 and John Ross, a daughter, Miriam
 Dana Peterson Sandborgh '08 and Tom Sandborgh, a son, Evan
 Meggie Wade Sayre '08 and David Sayre '08, a daughter, Elizabeth
 Kerstin Magnuson Miller '09 and Tony Miller, a daughter, Blythe
 Eva Pesch '09 and Wade Hauser '09, a son, Miles
 Amelia Stonesifer Yngst '12 and Evan Yngst, a son, Leonard
 Alex Lebens Carlson '16 and Nathaniel Carlson '16, a son, Theodore

Weddings

Kristi Hembre Dooley '03 and Joshua Dooley, July 21, 2018
 Angelica Moreno '03 and Kevin Barthlow, Sept. 9, 2018
 Hannah Rumsey Cook '06 and Nolan Cook '08, Aug. 20, 2016
 Kelsey Finks Stenglein '10 and Brandon Stenglein, Sept. 29, 2018
 Erik van Mechelen '10 and Elizabeth Ludewig, Feb. 9, 2019
 Christopher Waters '10 and Victoria Ryan, June 3, 2017
 Laura Cook '11 and Jess Palmer, Nov. 3, 2018
 Rachel Wiers '12 and Zachary Burgess, Oct. 6, 2018
 Kelly Heissel Glynn '14 and Bryan Glynn '14, Aug. 4, 2018
 Amy Lohmann Hahn '14 and David Hahn '14, Jan. 5, 2019
 Karin Lubanovic Onarheim '14 and Erik Onarheim, Aug. 25, 2018
 Olivia Luther Kratzke '15 and Dylan Kratzke '15, Oct. 13, 2018
 Samantha Rude '15 and John Knapp '14, Dec. 1, 2018
 Katherine Villa '16 and Noel Perez, July 5, 2018

Deaths

Ephraim Solyst '35, St. Cloud, Minn., Dec. 23, 2018
 Ruby Skow Reinhardt '36, Sebastopol, Calif., Jan. 10, 2017
 Beatrice "Eulalie" Helsem Rothwell '37, Mount Pleasant, S.C., May 2, 2018
 Elizabeth "Lone" Bush Ellis '38, Del Mar, Calif., Feb. 21, 2018
 Doris Thompson Ausan '40, Denver, April 29, 2016
 Mildred Schmidt Brown '40, Forest Lake, Minn., Aug. 26, 2017
 *Theodore Schoewe '40, Winona, Minn., Nov. 16, 2018
 Valborg Maland Teig '40, Cannon Falls, Minn., Jan. 15, 2019
 Lorraine Haugland Larson '41, Everett, Wash., Feb. 18, 2017
 Betty Heimark Kitchell '42, Paradise Valley, Ariz., Feb. 18, 2019
 *Earl Olson '42, Columbia, S.C., Jan. 6, 2019
 Harriet Nicholson Williams '42, Grass Valley, Calif., May 21, 2018
 Elsie Hemmingson Atkinson '43, Medford, Ore., June 1, 2018
 Marion Danielson Guyton '43, Lake Forest, Ill., Nov. 11, 2018
 *Edwin Hurlbut '43, North Andover, Mass., Nov. 7, 2018
 Lulu (Lou) Clement Smith '43, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Jan. 3, 2016
 *Elizabeth Karthan Szabo '43, Mount Prospect, Ill., Dec. 3, 2018
 Thelma Halgrim Ventling '43, Davenport, Iowa, Jan. 22, 2016
 Sarah Nelson Holland '44, Denver, July 23, 2017
 Phyllis Habberstad Sieveke '44, St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 28, 2017
 Ardith Nash Wallen '44, Simi Valley, Calif., Nov. 1, 2018
 *Earl Abrahamson '45, Brentwood, Tenn., Feb. 10, 2019
 Muriel Lowe Freeman '45, Alexandria, Va., Nov. 16, 2017
 Kathryn "Kay" Charlson Galvin '45, Wilmington, Del., Aug. 28, 2016
 *Kenneth Johnson '45, McKinney, Texas, Nov. 6, 2018
 Mae Kleven '45, Westbrook, Minn., Nov. 3, 2018
 Nancy Nelson Bedore '46, Buckeye, Ariz., Sept. 7, 2018
 Ruth Steen Hauck '46, Englewood, Colo., Nov. 5, 2018
 *Clarence Johnsen '46, Westminster, Colo., Nov. 10, 2018
 Dagny Tverberg Lerseth '46, Beresford, S.D., Feb. 21, 2019
 *Allan Meisner '46, Grand Forks, N.D., Feb. 17, 2019
 Alice Stefferud Olson '46, St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 17, 2018
 Betty Ann Swasand Quist '46, San Luis Obispo, Calif., Jan. 18, 2019
 June Sathe DeWitt '47, Worthington, Minn., Feb. 2, 2019
 Ruth Nelson Grimsley '47, Story City, Iowa, Feb. 22, 2019
 Joan Overson Mason '47, St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 29, 2018
 Rose Smith Nicholson '47, Redding, Calif., Nov. 1, 2018
 *Elwood "Del" Ryland '47, Fountain Hills, Ariz., Dec. 6, 2018
 *Sewell Sunde '47, Louisville, Ky., March 29, 2017
 Dorothea Zastrow '47, Oconomowoc, Wis., Nov. 14, 2017
 Florraine Hoffman Williams '48, Northfield, Minn., N v. 17, 2018
 Angela Blom Adkins '49, Eau Claire, Wis., Jan. 30, 2019
 Mary Johnson Blondell '49, Rochester, Minn., Feb. 15, 2019
 Mary Harkness '49, Northfield, Minn., Oct. 25, 2 18

Betty Brown Holmes '49, Windsor, Wis., Nov. 29, 2018
 *Roger Rovelstad '49, Largo, Fla., Jan. 15, 2019
 Lavonne Derscheid Dugan '50, Bloomington, Minn., Feb. 5, 2017
 Beverly Carlson Ekholm '50, Inver Grove Heights, Minn., Jan. 11, 2019
 John Gurholt '50, Menasha, Wis., April 6, 2016
 *Donald Hjortland '50, Naples, Fla., Dec. 23, 2018
 *Edwin Peterson '50, Eden Prairie, Minn., Jan. 26, 2019
 Gerald "Jerry" Rost '50, Escondido, Calif., March 10, 2017
 Katherine Johnson Dostal '51, Irvine, Calif., Dec. 4, 2016
 Gladys Hjortedal Johnson '51, Spokane, Wash., Dec. 27, 2018
 *Douglas Johnson '51, Staples, Minn., Sept. 6, 2018
 Shirley Johnson Kindem '51, Burnsville, Minn., March 24, 2019
 Daisy Anderson Lewis '51, Sturgeon Bay, Wis., Feb. 15, 2019
 Norma Beckman MacDougall '51, Kent, Wash., Feb. 7, 2019
 John Nelson '51, St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 31, 2019
 Otto Wedul '51, Youngtown, Ariz., Jan. 1, 2019
 Yvonne Overby Doyle '52, Fargo, N.D., Dec. 7, 2018
 *Gordon Morse '52, Erie, Colo., Jan. 9, 2019
 Lois Rasmussen Hendricks '53, New Prague, Minn., Nov. 30, 2018
 Arthur Johnson '53, Richville, Minn., Dec. 12, 2018
 Joel Anderson '54, Prior Lake, Minn., Aug. 29, 2017
 Phyllis Halverson Bachman Johnson '54, Mankato, Minn., Nov. 25, 2018
 *Gerald Debing '54, Minneapolis, Feb. 7, 2019
 Audrey Evans Groe '54, Lake Mills, Iowa, Jan. 1, 2019
 Ruth Dybvig Johnson '54, Northfield, Minn., N v. 17, 2018
 *Franklin "Pete" Peterson '54, Menomonie, Wis., Nov. 6, 2018
 James Pettersen '54, Madison, Wis., Dec. 30, 2018
 James Wente '54, Bethel Park, Pa., Dec. 5, 2018
 Merritt Bartlett '55, Minneapolis, Nov. 26, 2018
 *William Farness '55, Highland Village, Texas, Jan. 3, 2019
 *Ronald Hagen '55, Northfield, Minn., Dec. 6, 2 18
 *Michael Hoel '55, De Forest, Wis., Dec. 18, 2018
 Shirley Voss Jovaag '55, Oviedo, Fla., Jan. 28, 2019
 *Sterling Nelson '55, Rogers, Ark., Nov. 15, 2018
 *Duane Sween '55, Minneapolis, Dec. 10, 2018
 Christin Abrahamsen Veech '55, Commack, N.Y., Jan. 30, 2018
 Marilyn Huedepohl Denniston '56, Williamsburg, Iowa, Dec. 5, 2018
 Maxine Evenson Long '56, Spooner, Wis., Nov. 25, 2018
 Cortland "Cork" Ornborg '56, Plymouth, Minn., Jan. 25, 2018
 Bruce "Jake" Tallakson '56, La Crescenta, Calif., Nov. 26, 2017
 *David Anderson '57, Hutchinson, Kan., Dec. 31, 2018
 Marion Miklethun Holtey '57, Fargo, N.D., Nov. 25, 2018
 Lee Ann Irgens Torlakson '57, Half Moon Bay, Calif., Dec. 3, 2018
 Paul Drangeid '58, Minnetonka, Minn., Dec. 22, 2018
 *Lewis Emmons '58, Mukilteo, Wash., Jan. 10, 2019
 LaVonne Johnsrud Jensen '58, Brainerd, Minn., Nov. 13, 2018
 James Schoeld '58, Seattle, Nov. 28, 2018
 *Dale Helgerson '59, Watertown, Wis., Feb. 1, 2019
 Sharon Mullen Oines '59, Falcon Heights, Minn., Aug. 25, 2017
 Richard Ramsay '59, Grand Forks, N.D., Dec. 31, 2018
 Marna Woods Clark '60, Phoenix, Dec. 15, 2018
 Harriet Methers Rosenberg '60, Boalsburg, Pa., Jan. 12, 2019
 Helen Simdon Schwartz '60, Albert Lea, Minn., Dec. 29, 2018
 Richard Stai '60, Ashland, Ky., Feb. 3, 2019
 Dean Sundberg '60, Lake Forest, Ill., Jan. 18, 2019
 Robert Breaker '61, Racine, Wis., Nov. 22, 2018
 Carol Umland Burtness '61, Solvang, Calif., Dec. 8, 2018
 Earl Johnsen '61, Pine River, Minn., Jan. 17, 2019
 David Norman '61, Redwood Falls, Minn., Dec. 15, 2018
 *Calvin Carlson '64, Bella Vista, Ark., Jan. 10, 2019
 Mark Jensen '64, Tampa, Fla., Feb. 3, 2019
 Joyce Cruickshank Rasmussen '64, Southampton, Pa., May 9, 2018

Steven Warland '64, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, Nov. 17, 2017
 *Larry Bailey '65, Duluth, Minn., Nov. 12, 2018
 Peter Eggen '66, Iron Mountain, Mich., Oct. 30, 2017
 Katherine Hedberg '67, Minneapolis, Nov. 1, 2018
 Daniel Lien '67, Amery, Wis., Oct. 29, 2018
 Claudia Morner '68, Portsmouth, N.H., Oct. 27, 2018
 David Paulson '69, Charlotte, N.C., Jan. 10, 2019
 Mihoko Matsuda Nelsen '70, Middleton, Idaho, Aug. 11, 2018
 Kathleen Krusemark Allen '71, St. Peter, Minn., Jan. 12, 2019
 Ole Gunderson '72, Morristown, Minn., March 17, 2019
 Ronald Rosenberg '72, Madison, Wis., Dec. 29, 2018
 Ted Howard '74, Stanley, Idaho, Sept. 25, 2018
 Lynette Fouser '78, Acton, Mass., Jan. 8, 2019
 Paul Gulstrand '78, Eden Prairie, Minn., Jan. 4, 2019
 Linda Thompson Schultz '81, Madison, Wis., Feb. 7, 2019
 Jacqueline "Jackie" Henry '82, Northfield, Minn., eb. 2, 2019
 Tim Fisher '87, Minneapolis, April 23, 2019
 Timothy "Tim" Bierman '90, Minneapolis, Nov. 4, 2018
 Deborah "Debbie" Muir Grebenc '90, Helena, Mont., Jan. 28, 2019
 Elizabeth Coltvat McGeeney '90, Rochester, Minn., Feb. 20, 2019
 Lisa Wicklund '92, Minneapolis, July 9, 2017
 Jacob "Jake" Landsteiner '02, Duluth, Minn., Jan. 2, 2018
 Owen Eliassen '20, Oshkosh, Wis., Feb. 8, 2019

*VETERAN

Remembering Joseph G. Iverson, Jr.

Professor Emeritus of Education Joseph "Joe" Iverson passed away on April 19, 2019, at the age of 93. Iverson graduated from high school in Montevideo, Minnesota, 1944, and his father



handed him his draft notice for WWII as he marched in his graduation ceremony. Three weeks later, this small town 18-year-old found himself in field a tillery basic training at Camp Roberts, California, before heading to Europe on a transport ship with the 71st Division Field Artillery. He arrived in France in early 1945, fighting with the 1st across France and Germany before winding up in Austria in May 1945, when the physical fighting ended. Iverson remained in Europe, working

for three different generals until his service was complete in 1946.

After earning his B.S. at Gustavus Adolphus College, his master's at the University of Minnesota, and an Ed.D at the University of North Dakota, Iverson became a teacher and counselor in LeSueur, Minnesota, and an assistant superintendent at Thief River Falls, Minnesota, before joining the St. Olaf faculty in 1960. He served as a professor of education until retiring in 1986. The countless teachers he trained have impacted, and continue to impact, the lives of thousands. In retirement, he served as a guardian ad litem for Rice County District Court, golfed, painted, and created works of stained glass.

After keeping silent about his war experiences for 66 years, Iverson was finally able to process the horrific experience of liberating the Guns kirchen concentration camp in Austria with the 71st Division. Using his teaching background, he spoke about those memories publicly to educate others and highlight Holocaust remembrance.

Iverson is survived by his wife of nearly 66 years, Jeanette; his children: Jeffrey (Lorie Lockwood), Jon (Susan Harper), James (Patricia Ramsey); seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Scenes from Yesteryear

BY JEFF SAUVE

A PAUSE DURING A TWILIGHT STROLL recently gave way to a solitary moment of contemplation. As I stood by the east entrance of Thorson Hall, near a grove of immense Norway spruce and Black Hills spruce, it was not hard for me to imagine a similar, enchanting spring evening in the same location nearly 65 years earlier.

In mid-May 1955, the St. Olaf Dramatics Department staged Theater Professor Ralph Haugen's first outdoor production featuring Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. The responsive audience, numbering in the hundreds, sat on folding metal chairs under a waning full moon.

The rich tradition of rendering Shakespeare plays on campus in the open air first occurred in 1924 with Elizabeth Walsingham Kelsey's staging of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The fledgling Dramatics Department, established in 1921, utilized a deep ravine in Norway Valley that features a gently sloping tree-covered hillside as a natural amphitheater.

Over the next 17 years, Norway Valley hosted 12 additional productions, and all but one were Shakespeare-based. The outdoor plays in this location ceased in 1941. John Berntsen, college carpenter and scenery maker at that time, said pointedly, "It wasn't lack of culture that caused the death of Norway Valley plays; it was the mosquitoes."

Since there was no designated theatrical stage on campus, many plays continued to be held outdoors. Haugen's *Merchant* presentation stands out because it was the first open-air play to use a campus building as an integral prop. Hired in 1949, Haugen recalled spending his first few weeks "sorting bent nails and screws and various things" in addition to teaching. Yet, as he nostalgically mused decades later about the campus' lackluster supply of theater materials, he readily appreciated the students' spirit: "[like] the dictum of Lope de Vega (1562–1635) who says all you need with theater are two boards and a passion. We had a couple of boards ... [and] students who were very excited about theater, and so you made it go."

Thorson Hall, a men's dormitory at the time, had just the boards Haugen needed. Its imposing staircase and porch, plus the edifice

of limestone and Norman Gothic architecture, would be a perfect set piece for an outdoor production. Coupled with the production's sumptuous Elizabethan costumes, the building lent itself beautifully to an imagined 16th-century setting. The atmosphere exuded "carefree gaiety," remarked a critic.

Yet behind the scenes an apropos line from the play, "All that glitters is not gold," best manifested itself in the hours leading up to the May 12 opening night. In the late afternoon that day, Haugen and the technical crew had arrived for the final rehearsal. To their utter surprise, the entire small set of flats — boards painted with scenery to be used for the rest of the play's set — had simply vanished.

After looking around the interior and exterior of Thorson Hall, someone pointed up in astonishment. There, on top of the 72-foot-high rickety wooden ski jump erected on the brow of "Pop Hill" and adjacent to the dormitory were the missing stage materials. The pranksters were never revealed.



After scrambling to reassemble the set in time for the show, another trying situation presented itself. A rumor had spread that the residents of Thorson Hall planned to flush every toilet in unison the moment the character played by Wendell "Wendy" Miller '55 walked on stage. To put a stop to this, Ken Wilkens, a colleague of Haugen's in the Speech Department, had all of the bathrooms locked during the performance.

The performance itself had a moment of unintended levity, courtesy of the very nearsighted C. Paul Christianson '55, performing without his eyeglasses as Launcelot Gobbo. The comical result of his poor vision was an accidental pratfall as Christianson fled down the staircase into the darkness, almost careering into the building itself, and finally landing on his face.

These scenes of yesteryear, woven into St. Olaf's rich theatrical tradition, have faded into memory. Yet before I headed home, I could hear *Merchant's* character Lorenzo faintly whisper, "in such a night as this, when the sweet wind did gently kiss the tree." And one can only picture the slender, dark-haired Haugen, standing at the far end of the dormitory, shouting "I can't hear you — ENUNCIATE!" 🦉

JEFF SAUVE is a local historian and regular contributor to *St. Olaf Magazine*.

 ST. OLAF COLLEGE

Nicole Nothongkham '18 at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PARTING SHOT



BUFFLEHEAD | Lake Chelan, Washington · **Agustin Forero '21** · Living Faith: Holden Village | A male bufflehead duck flies over the waters of Lake Chelan.