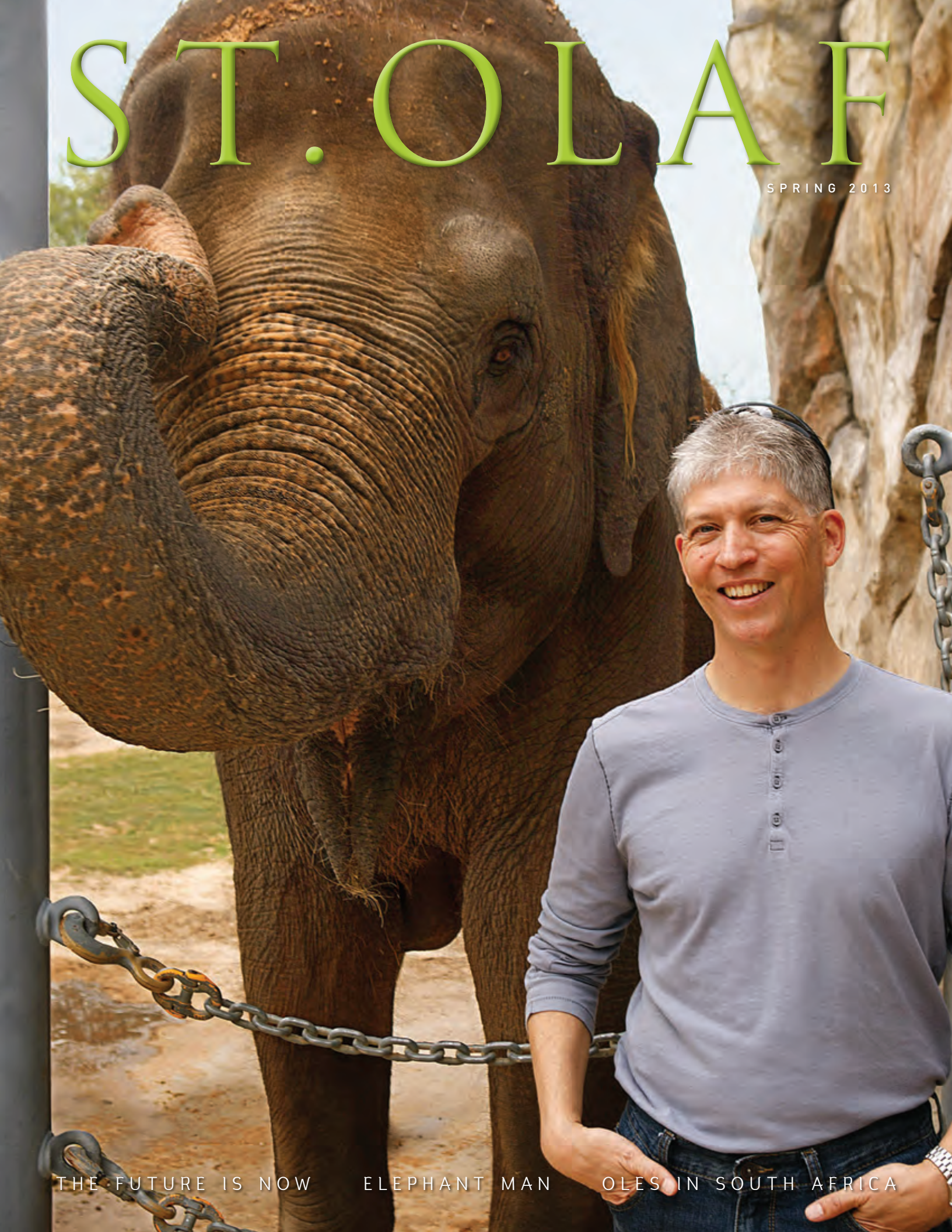


ST.OLA.F

SPRING 2013



THE FUTURE IS NOW

ELEPHANT MAN

OLES IN SOUTH AFRICA

ON THE COVER:
Microbiologist and
virologist Paul Ling '84,
with Baylor the elephant,
at the Houston Zoo.
PHOTOGRAPHED BY MICHAEL
STRAVATO/POLARIS

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From designing innovative educational modules on parallel computing to empowering students to create custom applications for faculty, Professor Dick Brown is placing St. Olaf at the forefront of computer science education.

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BY ERIN PETERSON

To help millions of passengers get to their destinations safely, Delta Air Lines relies on a vast technological infrastructure — and the brains of Chief Information Officer Theresa Wise '89.

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BY DAVID GONNERMAN '90

Twenty-four St. Olaf students went to South Africa with interests in social welfare, race relations, human rights, and the empowerment of women and children. South Africa is beautiful — the land, the water, the people. Yet everywhere the students went, the question persisted: “Whose land is it?”

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A passion for finding out why certain viruses cause cancer has led Paul Ling '84 to transition from human to zoological research, with groundbreaking results.

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Our focus on vocation and on practical experience is entirely compatible with our identity as a liberal arts college.

Dear Oles

“Alumni,” says Branden F. Grimmett ’03, director of The Harry C. Piper Center for Vocation and Career, “validate the dream for students.” This issue of *St. Olaf Magazine* demonstrates the many forms that validation takes.

The most common way alumni validate the dream for students is by being very good at what they do. The College has always prized excellence: the desire to employ our gifts and talents to their fullest in order to make an impact in our work is in the DNA of Oles. While on campus, students strive every day to excel in the classroom, in the lab, in the performance hall, on the athletic field, and in their student organizations because they have bold aspirations and high expectations of themselves.

As our alumni have shown again and again, those aspirations don’t end when Oles leave the Hill. The work that Paul Ling ’84 is doing to find a cure for elephant endotheliotropic herpes virus (EEHV), as described in this issue’s article “Elephant Man,” or the accomplishment of Theresa Wise ’89 in leading two thousand IT professionals to create one cohesive whole out of two technology systems when Northwest Airlines merged with Delta Air Lines, as described in “Top Flight,” provides students with a standard of achievement and of impact at which they can aim.

The same thing happens when students go to Houston or New York or Washington, D.C., on the Ole Connections program described in “Into the Field” to meet with Oles who have traveled the career path those students envision for themselves, who have been very successful in their work, and who combine high levels of accomplishment with the generous impulse to help undergraduates chart their own paths forward.

A striking feature of this issue of the magazine is its emphasis on the power of experiential learning — the importance of “specific, relevant experiences.” “The Future is Now” describes how Computer Science Professor Dick Brown’s programming students solve real problems for real clients and shows how that work advanced their learning. Similarly, Professor Mary Carlsen’s Interim class in South Africa provided students with new sights, sounds, ideas, and perspectives that couldn’t have been gained as powerfully on campus. One of her students expressed it beautifully: “I just finished unpacking my bags, but I’m still unpacking my thoughts.” The Ole Connections program also provides “specific, relevant experiences” that enable students realistically to envision their post-college trajectory.

This focus on vocation and on practical experience is entirely compatible with our identity as a liberal arts college. As the alumni quoted in this issue explain, it was precisely their St. Olaf education that prepared them for success by teaching critical thinking, problem solving, effective communication, collaboration — skills that are transferable to new situations and that help solve new problems.

A solid grounding in the liberal arts. A passion for excellence. Specific, relevant experience. What a great preparation our students experience for rich and meaningful lives.

David R. Anderson

Davis Projects for Peace

Love Odetola '14 and Duy Ha '14 have each received a grant from the Davis Projects for Peace initiative to establish grassroots projects abroad.

The grants are awarded to students who use creativity and innovation in the development of a project that promotes peace and addresses the root cause of conflict among parties. Over the past five years, seven St. Olaf students have received the prestigious award.

Odetola's project, "Peace through Public Health and Women Empowerment," will take her to Lambaneme, Senegal, this summer, just hours from where she grew up in Dakar. Ha will spend his summer in his hometown of Hanoi, Vietnam, implementing an interactive learning experience for students about environmental issues in the Vietnamese rain forest. His project is titled "Rung Oil!" ("Hi, Forest!").

A LOVE OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Odetola credits the development of her project to conversations she had both inside and outside the classroom at St. Olaf. She developed her own major — Health and Wellness Disparities in the Developing World — through the St. Olaf Center for Integrative Studies, combining diverse methodologies and subject matter across the curriculum related to public health.

"I started thinking about the disparities I see at home and what I could possibly do to change the problems I was seeing," she says. "Senegal was a good place to start because it's familiar, I speak the languages, and I understand the people."

Through connections with her father's mission work in the region, Odetola came in contact with Mission Inter Senegal (MIS), an evangelical nonprofit that focuses on community development in the rural interior villages of Senegal. MIS put her in contact with the village spokesperson of Lambaneme and, together, he and Odetola developed the three goals she will work on over the summer: the implementation of a water pipe to bring fresh water to the village from the nearest source (currently more than four miles away); the development of multiple public health workshops in conjunction with the women of the village, in order to focus on their individual wants and needs; and the establishment of micro loans for women to develop small business ventures in the field of agriculture and livestock.

Love Odetola '14 (right) will use her Davis Projects for Peace grant to develop a public health initiative in Senegal, while Duy Ha '14 will use his grant to create an interactive educational experience about environmental issues in Vietnam.

EDUCATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

While on a canopy tour in Costa Rica last winter, Ha noticed a group of elementary school students going into the rain forest to do experiential learning activities.

"I quickly came to admire the allocation of public and private resources for the development of environmental education programs in Costa Rica," he says. "I thought, 'Vietnam, a beautiful country with extensive biodiversity, is facing serious problems of deforestation. Why shouldn't we have a similar program back home?'"

Ha was inspired to apply for a Davis grant to develop an interactive learning experience about the rain forest in his native Hanoi. Over the course of the summer, he plans to directly reach at least one thousand Vietnamese youth and expose them to the rain forest; provide training for fifty exceptional young leaders with interest in the cause; publicize materials through Vietnamese mass media and online networks; and establish a network of youth interested in Vietnamese rain forest protection and environmental preservation.

"The rights to be educated about living sustainably and harmoniously are crucial to keeping the world a peaceful place," he says. "I hope to balance that social injustice by providing in-depth and experiential learning opportunities about one of the under-addressed major issues facing Vietnam today."

As an economics major with a concentration in management studies, Ha hopes to one day develop a sustainable business in Vietnam.

A 'UNITED' FRONT

The Davis Projects for Peace grants are open to all students (both international and domestic) at the ninety-four Davis United World College partner schools. St. Olaf has been a member college in the UWC program since the fall of 2008, and forty-six of the college's current international students are Davis UWC Scholars.

— JESSICA MOES '14



Mellem '14 named Goldwater Scholar

From a field of 1,107 applicants nationwide, Stefan Mellem '14 was chosen to receive one of the 271 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships for the 2013-14 academic year. Mellem, who is majoring in physics, mathematics, and computer science, has been involved in various research projects during his time at St. Olaf.

He worked with Professor of Physics Amy Kolan to redesign a course on simulation-based approaches to chaotic and other complex systems, from wobbling Frisbees to fractals. The two concluded the project with a seminar presentation at the University of Chicago.



Mellem spent the summer after his sophomore year working at the Molecular Physics Laboratory at the Stanford Research Institute in California, where he helped develop an instrument called the Compact Echelle Spectrograph for Aeronomical Research, which is used to study airglow effects like the auroras.

He is currently working on a robotic collaboration with Associate Professor of Physics Jason Engbrecht and Associate Professor of Computer Science Olaf Hall-Holt as part of St. Olaf's Center for Interdisciplinary Research. The team has been designing and testing a vision feedback system to improve the accuracy of a relatively inexpensive robotic arm.

This summer, Mellem will participate in a research program at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, which houses the world's largest telescope. After graduation, he plans to pursue a Ph.D. in physics and then go into research that would enable him to tap into his programming and computer science background.

"There's no way I'd be where I am now — or even anywhere near it — without a huge amount of help from fellow students, researchers, and professors alike," says Mellem. "Particularly, my research advisors have been an absolutely incredible asset to draw from for knowledge and advice."

The Goldwater Scholarships are awarded each year to students who have shown significant achievement and potential in the fields of mathematics, science, and engineering. Since 1995, thirty-two St. Olaf students have received the prestigious award.

— AMY LOHMANN '14

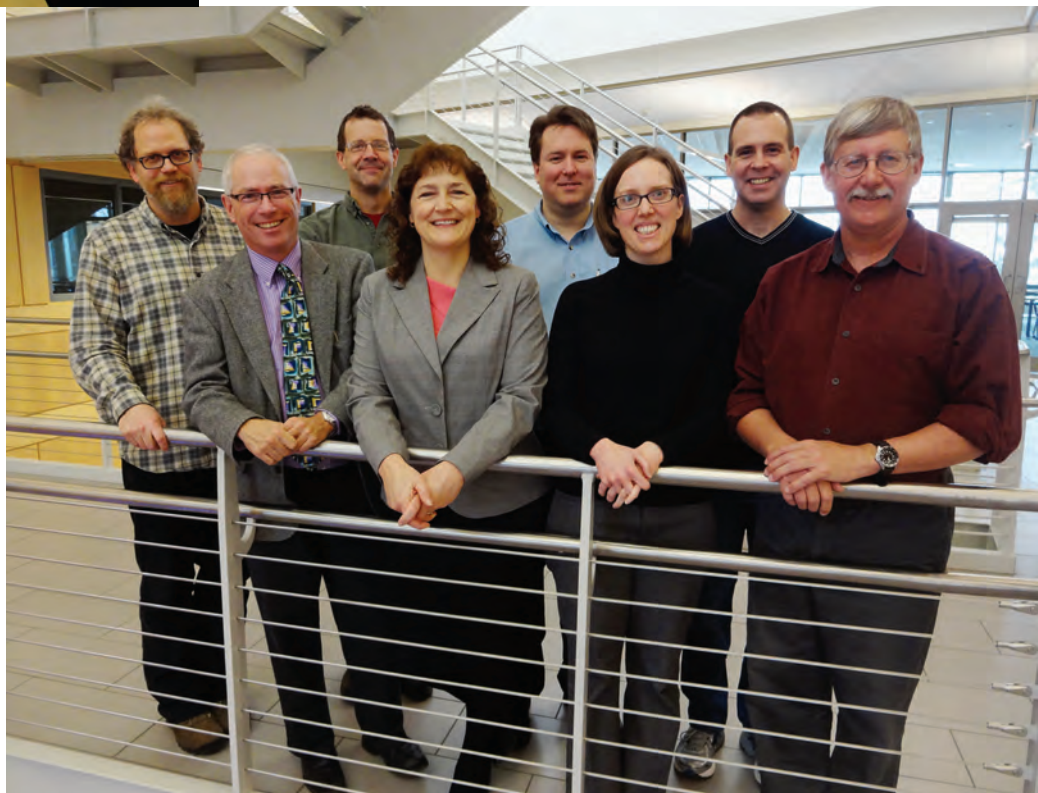
St. Olaf awarded Beckman Scholars Program grant

The Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation awarded St. Olaf College a three-year grant to support undergraduate research in biology and chemistry. St. Olaf was one of ten institutions across the nation to win a Beckman Scholars Program grant this year. More than 150 colleges and universities were invited to apply.

"This grant is a recognition of the strength of our student-faculty research," says St. Olaf Associate Dean for Natural Sciences and Mathematics Matt Richey.

The \$77,200 Beckman Foundation grant will support a multi-year, faculty-mentored research project for four students. St. Olaf will provide additional funding for two more students to conduct research under the Beckman Scholars model, with the goal of attracting students traditionally underrepresented in the sciences.

Established in 1997, the Beckman Scholars Program provides scholarships that contribute significantly in advancing the education, research training, and personal development of select students in chemistry, biochemistry, and the biological and medical sciences.



Seven St. Olaf faculty members will serve as mentors to the Beckman Scholars, including (from left) Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies John Schade, Associate Dean for Natural Sciences and Mathematics Matt Richey, Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies Charles Umbanhowar Jr., Professor of Chemistry and CURI Director Mary Walczak, Associate Professor of Chemistry Doug Beussman '92, Assistant Professor of Biology and Chemistry Laura Listenberger, Associate Professor of Chemistry Jeff Schweinfus, Professor of Biology Eric Cole, and Associate Professor of Biology Steve Freedberg (not pictured).

Ole Athletic Highlights

MEN'S BASKETBALL

St. Olaf finished 9-16 and 8-12 in MIAC play. Sophomore guard Sterling Nielsen and junior forward Connor Gunderson were All-MIAC honorable mention selections. Nielsen collected 12.5 points/game and 4.0 rebounds/game. Gunderson led St. Olaf in scoring (12.9 points/game), was sixth in the league in field goals made, and 11th in the MIAC in field goal percentage (.537).

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

St. Olaf was 12-13 overall and 10-12 in league play. Mackenzie Wolter '13 was named All-MIAC for the third straight season, while Kim Cerjan '16 was selected the MIAC's sixth Player of the Year and named to the All-First-Year team. Wolter became the first St. Olaf women's basketball player in at least 30 years to earn three straight All-MIAC honors.

MEN'S HOCKEY

St. Olaf forward Jeff Harris '14 was named to the American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA) CCM All-America second team and was the MIAC's Most Valuable Player, after leading St. Olaf to a 9-7-0 record in league play to reach the league playoffs for the ninth time in the last 10 seasons. Harris led the league in goals and added eight assists. His brother, Kevin Harris '14, was an All-MIAC selection as well. Three All-MIAC honorable mention selections were Ross Trousdale '13, Dan Cecka '14, and Henrik Wood '14.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

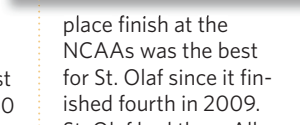
The St. Olaf women's hockey team narrowly missed the MIAC playoffs, as the team finished 11-12-2 overall and 7-10-1 in conference play. The Oles' Nicole Stumpf '13, Margot Fleming '14 and Shea Noerenberg '15 earned All-MIAC honors. Alison Umland '13 was an All-MIAC honorable mention selection after she collected a team-best 15 assists.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

The Ole women's team was third at the MIACs in February and 16th at the NCAAs in March. Meghan Weiss '13 set a school record in the 200 Freestyle at the NCAAs, while the team's 400 Medley relay (Carolyn Bernhardt '14, Megan Gaylord '16, Lydia Feldman '13, and Weiss) and 400 Freestyle relays (Bernhardt, Maddy Lee '16, Feldman, Weiss) also notched school records in the championships.

MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

The men's swimming and diving team captured its 29th MIAC title in February, winning 15 events at the league championships before finishing 11th at the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships in March. The 11th



place finish at the NCAAs was the best for St. Olaf since it finished fourth in 2009. St. Olaf had three All-America swimmers: Colby Kubat '14 was runner up in the 100 Breaststroke, Michael Gratz '15 was fourth in the 200 IM, and the Oles' 400 Medley relay team (Gratz, Kubat, Billy Brebrick '16, and Tanner Roe '15) placed fifth.

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

The men's indoor track and field team completed its best MIAC Championship since 2005 with a second place finish at St. Olaf's Tostrud Center. Grant Wintheiser '15 won the 3,000 meter, one of four victories by St. Olaf in the event; John Christian '14 finished sixth, Tim Lillehaugen '13 seventh, and Phillip Meyer '15 eighth. The Ole men had a third place showing in the 4x400 relay.

WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

The Ole women's track and field team was second at the MIAC Indoor Track and Field Championships for the program's best finish since 1997. St. Olaf, which was sixth heading into the third and final day of the championships, solidified the second place team finish by holding on to third place in the event finale, the 4x400 relay. The relay team of Emily Stets '15, Shaina Rud '14, Moriah Novacinski '14, and Dani Larson '15 finished the race in 4:02.32.

ALPINE SKIING

The St. Olaf women's alpine ski team was third and the men's alpine ski team 10th at the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association Championships (USCSA) in Sun Valley, Idaho. The St. Olaf women won the USCSA President's Cup (combined Nordic and alpine), while the men placed second. The St. Olaf women — whose third place finish at the USCSAs is believed to be the best in school history — were paced by Katie Ulvestad '14, who was fourth overall. Madison McLachlin '14 was 16th and McKenna McNabb '15 17th.

USCSA All-Americans included Katie Ulvestad (First Team Slalom, Second Team GS and Overall), McKenna McNabb (Second Team GS and Overall), Madison McLachlan (Second Team Overall), Haakon Schonheyder '15 (First Team GS), and Paal Proeitz '13 (Second Team GS).

NORDIC SKIING

The St. Olaf men's and women's Nordic ski teams each finished seventh of eight at the NCAA Central Region Championships in February in Houghton, Mich. The Oles accompanied the St. Olaf alpine ski teams to the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association Championships in March, where the Ole Nordic women won the combined team title. Paige Schember '14 won two individual events, the 15k freestyle and the 1.5k sprint, and Emma Lee '13 won the 8.5 classic.

The St. Olaf men were led by Joel Bransky '14, who won the 15k freestyle as one of three Oles finishing in the top six. Teammates Cole Hendrickson '14 was fourth and Nels Thompson '15 sixth. As a team, St. Olaf men were first in the 15k and third in the 1.5k and 8.5k.

WRESTLING

The team finished fifth at the NCAA West Region Championships in March, led by NCAA qualifier James Roach '14. At the championships, Roach finished second at 174 as one of five Oles who finished in the top five. Wesley Azariah '15 rallied to win three straight matches to reach the third place bout, where he lost a 4-1 decision. Carl Elmer '15 finished fifth at 149 by virtue of his three victories, while Jacob Bohler '13 and heavyweight Zack Gibson '16 each finished fourth.

Moving On Three St. Olaf faculty members are retiring this year, having served for a combined total of ninety-three years. Each embodies the St. Olaf mission to encourage a global perspective in the liberal arts, having incorporated their experiences in Ecuador, Japan, and Antarctica into the courses they teach. While their specialties span the range of Asian studies, economics, and physics, they each name a similar aspect of St. Olaf for which they are most grateful: their students. As this admiration runs both ways, their presence will be deeply missed both in the classroom and beyond. | BY LÄRA PALMQUIST '13

ROBERT JACOBEL | Professor of Physics

While Robert Jacobel is ending his career at St. Olaf College, his latest research in Antarctica is only just beginning.

For the past two years, Jacobel has studied a lake that lies beneath nearly 800 meters of ice in Antarctica, serving as a principal investigator on the Whillans Ice Stream Subglacial Access Research Drilling (WISSARD) project. The WISSARD project examines ice sheet dynamics and the biology of subglacial lakes, thereby revealing the extensive impact of global climate change on the world's ice masses. The project has received wide international coverage and, together with follow-up work, will likely continue for several more years.

While WISSARD is Jacobel's most recent undertaking in Antarctica, he first began conducting research in the region in the late 1980s. Since then, his work has contributed to numerous projects, ranging from alpine glaciers and deep ice-core drilling to the dynamics and evolution of fast ice streams.

It is unlikely work for a scientist who began his career in California, where Jacobel earned his B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1968. In fact, it wasn't until after receiving a Ph.D. in experimental particle physics from Iowa State University in 1973 and joining the faculty at St. Olaf in 1976 that Jacobel began to focus specifically on geophysics, ice, and climate change.

"I wanted to do physics outdoors," Jacobel says about the evolution of his interests. "After conducting glacial research at a field station in the Washington Cascades, I knew that was the type of work for me."

Over the course of his time at St. Olaf, Jacobel has studied glaciers not only in Antarctica but also New Zealand, Sweden, and Greenland, where he worked with geochemists using isotopes from ice cores to build a record of climatic variations across time. In 2003, his work was rewarded by the United States Geological Survey, which named an Antarctic glacier the "Jacobel Glacier."

"I was honored to be part of a group of colleagues who were all being recognized for their contributions to Antarctic research," Jacobel says. "For the first time, women were among this group, and it felt really good to be part of such a landmark moment."

Yet, as enjoyable as he finds his fieldwork,

Jacobel says his favorite aspect is ultimately incorporating it into his courses and sharing it with the students in his research group at St. Olaf.

"Seeing the excitement in the eyes of someone learning about this research for the first time is incredibly rewarding," Jacobel says. "I am routinely inspired by the enthusiasm, curiosity, and intelligence of my students."

It was while teaching in the St. Olaf Paracollege that Jacobel developed courses in the earth sciences and global climate change, eventually leading him and several other faculty to create the Environmental Studies Department in 1989. He served as the director of that department until 2003, when he was named Grace A. Whitter Professor of Physics and transitioned to chair of the Physics Department.

It was during this time that Jacobel also developed the St. Olaf Center for Geophysical Studies of Ice and Climate (CEGSIC), a research group currently connected to the WISSARD project that is composed of both faculty and students dedicated to studying the influence of climate change on the world's ice masses.

"It's difficult to name a favorite stage of the research process," Jacobel says of the group's various undertakings. "The combination is all enjoyable, from the high-tech electronics on the ground and sophisticated satellite technology to the publishing of socially relevant results."

Jacobel will continue to stay closely involved with both the WISSARD project and CEGSIC in his retirement and additionally hopes to lead future St. Olaf Study Travel groups to Antarctica. He led his first trip to the continent this past January, during which he particularly enjoyed exploring the region's mountains, glaciers, and marine ecosystem — aspects not found in the flat, white interior where he usually conducts his research.

"Bringing people to a beautiful and exciting place and sharing knowledge about it has to be the ultimate experience for a scientist-educator," he says.

DAVID SCHODT | Professor of Economics

Like any true world traveler, David Schodt has no single hometown. Though born in Washington, D.C., Schodt spent his childhood abroad — first in Oslo, Norway, and later in Canberra, Australia. He returned to the United States in 1965, but even then his stay proved brief.

After earning a degree in electrical engineering from Cornell University, Schodt accepted a position with the Peace Corps in Ecuador. He spent the following three years facilitating community development in the Amazon Basin, working with families to colonize Ecuador's eastern frontier.

Schodt returned to the U.S. in 1972, this time to pursue an



M.A. in both public policy and economics, as well as a Ph.D. in economics, all at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Yet throughout the course of his studies, Schodt maintained his interest in international affairs.

"My study of public policy kindled my interest in economics," says Schodt when describing the trajectory of his education. "I was intrigued by the relationship between the two fields and saw a close link between economics and international development."

It was as a graduate student that Schodt also discovered a new area of interest: teaching. "I didn't plan on teaching at that point in my life," recalls Schodt. "But my academic advisor's genuine dedication to teaching inspired me to consider the career."

After joining the faculty at St. Olaf in 1977, Schodt taught courses in microeconomics, economic development, and Latin America. In addition, he developed a research program on economic policy and political change in Ecuador.

His work resulted in a Fulbright Research Fellowship to the country in 1984, the publication of two books on the topic, and consulting work with the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development. For many years, he also served as a contributing editor for the *Handbook on Latin American Studies*, published by the Library of Congress.

In 1991, Schodt received a Pew Faculty Fellowship in International Affairs from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. The award allowed him to explore case-based teaching, a form of active learning, about which he has published articles and led workshops.

"I enjoy case-based teaching because it engages students in an analysis of complex, economic policy problems," Schodt says. "Because there is no singular answer to the kinds of problems posed by teaching cases, my students are always inviting me to consider something new."

Schodt's interest in learning and teaching advancements led to his chairing the task force for St. Olaf's Center for Innovation in the Liberal Arts. He served as the center's first director from 2000 until 2011, during which time he received the Stuart Bellman Award for Exemplary Leadership of College Teaching and Learning. While director, he launched the first national conference on "Innovations in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at the Liberal Arts Colleges," in collaboration with Carleton College.

Most recently, Schodt accepted a position as senior program officer with the Associated Colleges of the Midwest, a consortium of fourteen liberal arts colleges that offers grant-funded opportunities for faculty development and off-campus study programs for students. He looks forward to continuing this role after his retirement from St. Olaf, as well as to completing a new research project on the economics of liberal arts colleges.

Of course, international travel also figures into his future plans. "There are a lot of places yet to see," he says.

PHYLLIS HYLAND LARSON '69 | Professor of Japanese Language and Literature and Asian studies; Assistant Provost; Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary and General Studies

As the daughter of missionaries, Phyllis Hyland Larson spent the majority of her childhood in Shizuoka, Japan, a city surrounded by mountains on three sides and the Pacific Ocean to the south.

"I have a special nostalgia for that world of my childhood," Larson says. "The old name for the area, *Suruga*, is derived from Sanskrit and means 'Paradise,' which describes exactly what it was for me."

Living in Japan proved highly influential for Larson, ultimately shaping her love of both foreign languages and literature.

"My mother inspired my academic interests at an early age," explains Larson. "She was always reading to us at home and would recite poetry by the hour."

After spending two years enrolled in college in Japan, Larson transferred to St. Olaf in 1967, graduating two years later with a degree in English. From there, she went on to pursue a master's degree in teaching at the University of St. Thomas and a master's degree in English literature at the University of Minnesota. In 1985, Larson additionally completed a Ph.D. in Japanese literature, also from the University of Minnesota.

Early in her teaching career, Larson established Japanese language programs at Apple Valley and Washburn High Schools in the Twin Cities; later, as a Macalester College faculty member, she directed the Japanese language program.

Joining the faculty at St. Olaf in 1993 allowed Larson to further focus her interests in Asian studies. While at St. Olaf, she offered courses in Japanese language, literature, and film while also teaching first-year writing. In addition, she worked with faculty in the St. Olaf Asian Studies Department to establish the Asian Conversations program.

"The collaboration behind the Asian Conversations program really speaks to one of the best things about St. Olaf," says Larson. "Everybody had a share in its construction."

One of Larson's favorite aspects of working closely with her colleagues was the deep knowledge they shared as a department developing curriculum for the program. "I began the project as a specialist on Japan," says Larson. "Yet I also had the chance to learn from others with expertise on China, Southeast Asia, and India."

She learned from her students, as well, whether by teaching in the classroom or leading the Asian Conversations study abroad option in China and Japan, which she did on a number of occasions. Larson admires her students — for their quick development of linguistic skills, sensitive interactions with second cultures, and accomplishments beyond college.

"My students have made me proud," she says.

In 1999, Larson was awarded a Fulbright Research Fellowship that allowed her to spend a semester in Japan. She centered her study around Japanese authors writing about China in the early 20th century, focusing specifically on Nogami Yaeko, Tamura Toshiko, and Uchiyama Kanzo. The experience was made especially meaningful because Larson's daughter, Ann-Marie Dunbar '99, received a Fulbright Scholarship to Japan that same year.

"Although we were in different parts of the country, we were able to travel together and share a number of memorable experiences," Larson says.

Following several years as chair of the Asian Studies Department, Larson took on the role of associate dean for Interdisciplinary and General Studies; in 2011, she added to that the position of assistant provost. She found this administrative work highly rewarding, especially the new opportunities it afforded to work closely with the Provost, colleagues, and students at St. Olaf.

It is these interactions that Larson cherishes the most about her time on the Hill.

"This place is the people," she says.

LÄRA PALMQUIST '13 is majoring in biology and environmental studies at St. Olaf.



THE

FUTURE

FROM DESIGNING INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL MODULES ON PARALLEL COMPUTING TO EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO CREATE CUSTOM APPLICATIONS FOR FACULTY, PROFESSOR DICK BROWN IS PLACING ST. OLAF AT THE FOREFRONT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION.

BY ERIN PETERSON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM ROSTER

E

IS NOW



Jay Peterson '13, Maggie Wanek '15, and Nick Blackhawk '13 use 3D glasses to view test patterns used in research to create visually authentic images for an interactive computer model of Regents Hall designed by Blackhawk.

For students who want to be at the center of their field — be it medicine or politics, environmental science, the humanities, or the arts — Dick Brown has two words for them: *computer science*.

Brown, a computer science professor at St. Olaf, knows that the field of computer science has been bolstered by the enormous success and celebrity status of Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and Google's Sergey Brin, but he also notes that they, and their remarkable companies, are just the tip of the iceberg.

Outside of internet-related companies, there are thousands of other organizations and individuals whose computer science and programming expertise allows them to be at the white-hot center of some of the most interesting projects today. In national politics, these companies are developing sophisticated programs to connect to voters, boost turnout, and win elections. In medical research, they're sifting through vast troves of data to ferret out clues that may help us cure some of the most vexing diseases. And in meteorology, they're finding new ways to accurately forecast the impact of major storms so people can plan ahead and stay safe.

Dustin Hoffman in *The Graduate* may have been told that the future was in plastics, but today we know it's in bits and bytes, in mobile apps and cloud computing, and in countless other innovations. "I see computer science as the hub of a wagon wheel," says Brown. "It can reach out to absolutely every endeavor."

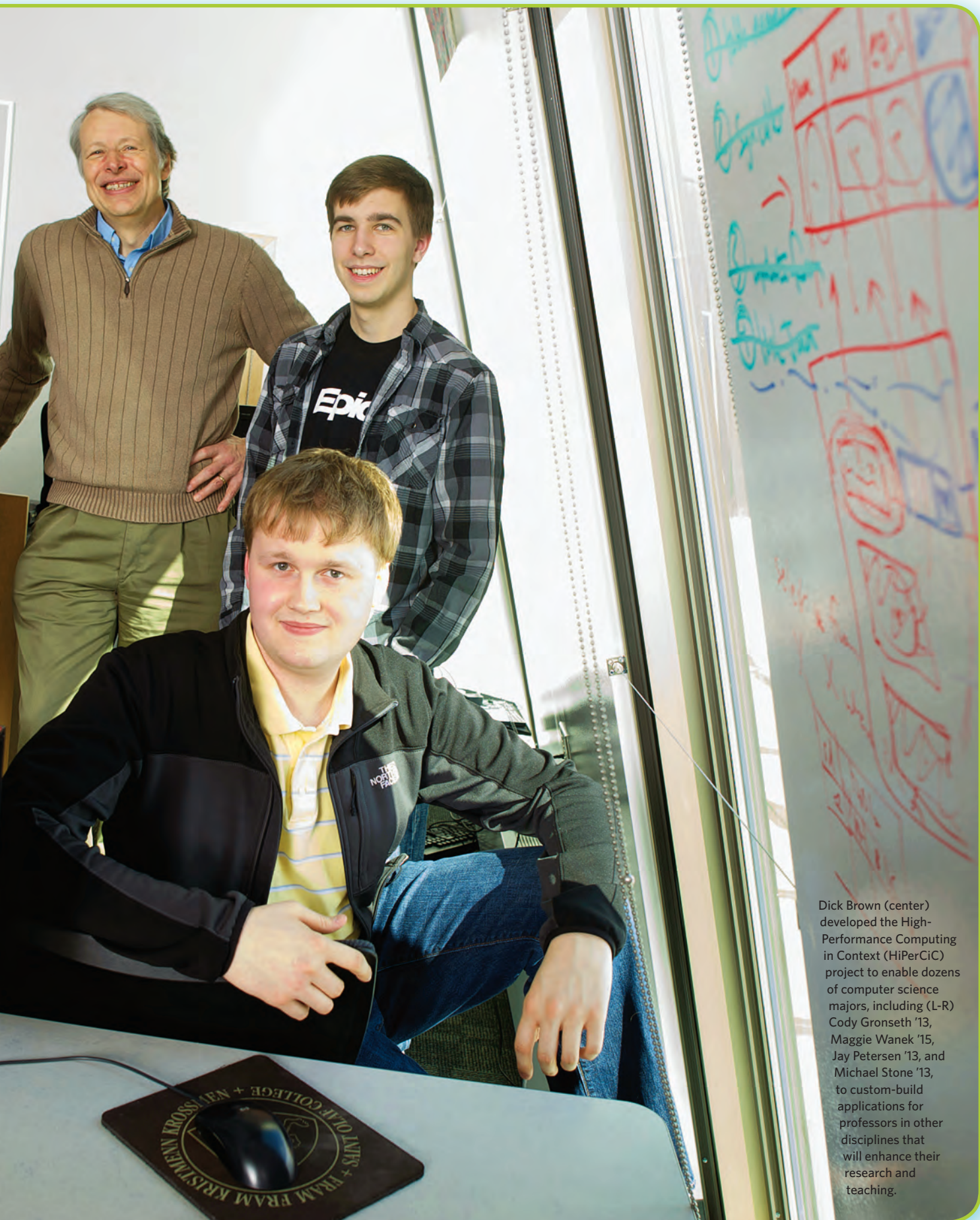
As the technology sector continues to grow in importance and the world's computing needs skyrocket, St. Olaf's computer science students are poised to benefit. Several key projects that Brown has developed, combined with the bedrock principles that every St. Olaf instructor within the discipline offers, will help ensure that students receive the education and preparation required to reap the greatest rewards in this flourishing field.

BUILDING A BETTER CURRICULUM

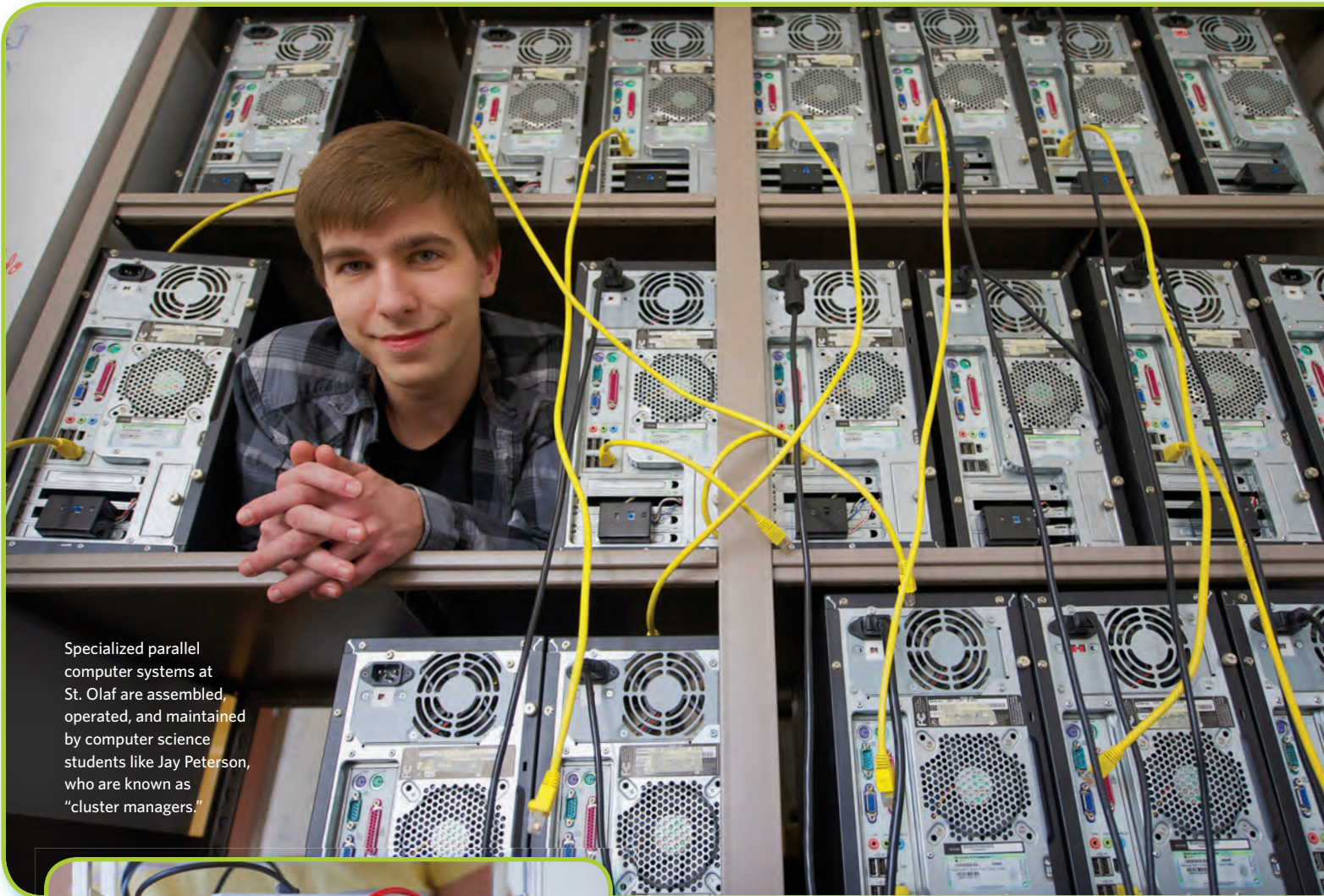
Remarkably, for the past five decades, raw computer processing power has doubled every eighteen months on average — an observation known as Moore's Law. But in recent years, creating bigger and speedier computer processing units has become impractical. Along with hardware design issues, the heat generated from powering increasingly speedy computer chips would ultimately melt a computer.

To sidestep this problem, computer designers have shifted toward the long-known principles of parallel computing. Instead of using a single processing unit, known as a core, to perform work, they've developed machines that use multiple cores working at the same time, in parallel. The difference





Dick Brown (center) developed the High-Performance Computing in Context (HiPerCiC) project to enable dozens of computer science majors, including (L-R) Cody Gronseth '13, Maggie Wanek '15, Jay Petersen '13, and Michael Stone '13, to custom-build applications for professors in other disciplines that will enhance their research and teaching.



Specialized parallel computer systems at St. Olaf are assembled, operated, and maintained by computer science students like Jay Peterson, who are known as “cluster managers.”



between running a program on a single-core computer and running one on a multi-core computer is a bit like the difference between eating a pizza by yourself and eating a pizza with the help of three friends — the more help you’ve got, the faster you can complete a task. But parallel computing requires a different approach to programming — otherwise, there are problems comparable to one person eating a pizza while everyone else watches, or multiple people pulling at the same piece at the same time.

During the past few years, parallel computing has become ubiquitous, says Brown. “Students are entering into a world where you can’t buy single-core computers anymore,” he says. “And it’s not just desktops and laptops. It’s even getting hard

to find single-core cell phones.”

While the concepts of parallel computing have been around for decades, with plentiful real-world applications, the academic world has often dragged its feet in adding coursework in this growing area of computer science. St. Olaf, on the other hand, became a leader in parallel-computing education when it began offering an upper-level course on parallel computing in 2009.

Yet Brown wasn’t satisfied with one course, especially for a concept that is critical to the future careers of students. He believes that parallel computing ideas need to be as pervasive in the classroom as they are in the real world. To that end, he teamed up with Libby Shoop, an associate professor of computer science at Macalester College in St. Paul.

The two decided to develop simple “modules” lasting one to three days that could easily fit into introductory, intermediate, and advanced courses. The modules would consist of teaching materials, readings, and homework to give students much-needed knowledge and hands-on experience with multi-core computer architectures and cloud computing. Better yet, the modules wouldn’t burden students with another course requirement for the computer science major, which stands at eleven courses at St. Olaf.

To further pursue their work, the pair received a

\$200,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant in 2009. Brown and Shoop went on to field-test a dozen modules in their own classrooms, posting all of their work online. From there, the two began sharing their successes at conferences.

“Students benefit if they’re seeing these [parallel-computing] concepts early and often,” Brown says. “If every course has a day or two in parallel computing, they can get a much broader sense of the topic.”

In one module designed for an introductory course, for example, students learn about map-reduce computing – a type of computing that can use large computer clusters to swiftly process quadrillions of bytes of information. Students get exposure to a concept that’s been brilliantly applied by Google, and which is used by many web-based services. “We produced a simplified interface that makes it possible for introductory students to do the kind of computing that the big companies, like Facebook, do,” says Brown.

The modules quickly found a niche, says Brown. “There are a half-dozen liberal arts colleges that are already using the modules, and [we’ve received] many more inquiries from other campuses,” he says. “There’s a great demand and great interest in this, because people don’t want their students to have insufficient technical skills when they graduate.”

Indeed, the work of Brown and Shoop is so important that they and Calvin College Professor of Computer Science Joel Adams received a second NSF grant in 2012 to bring their

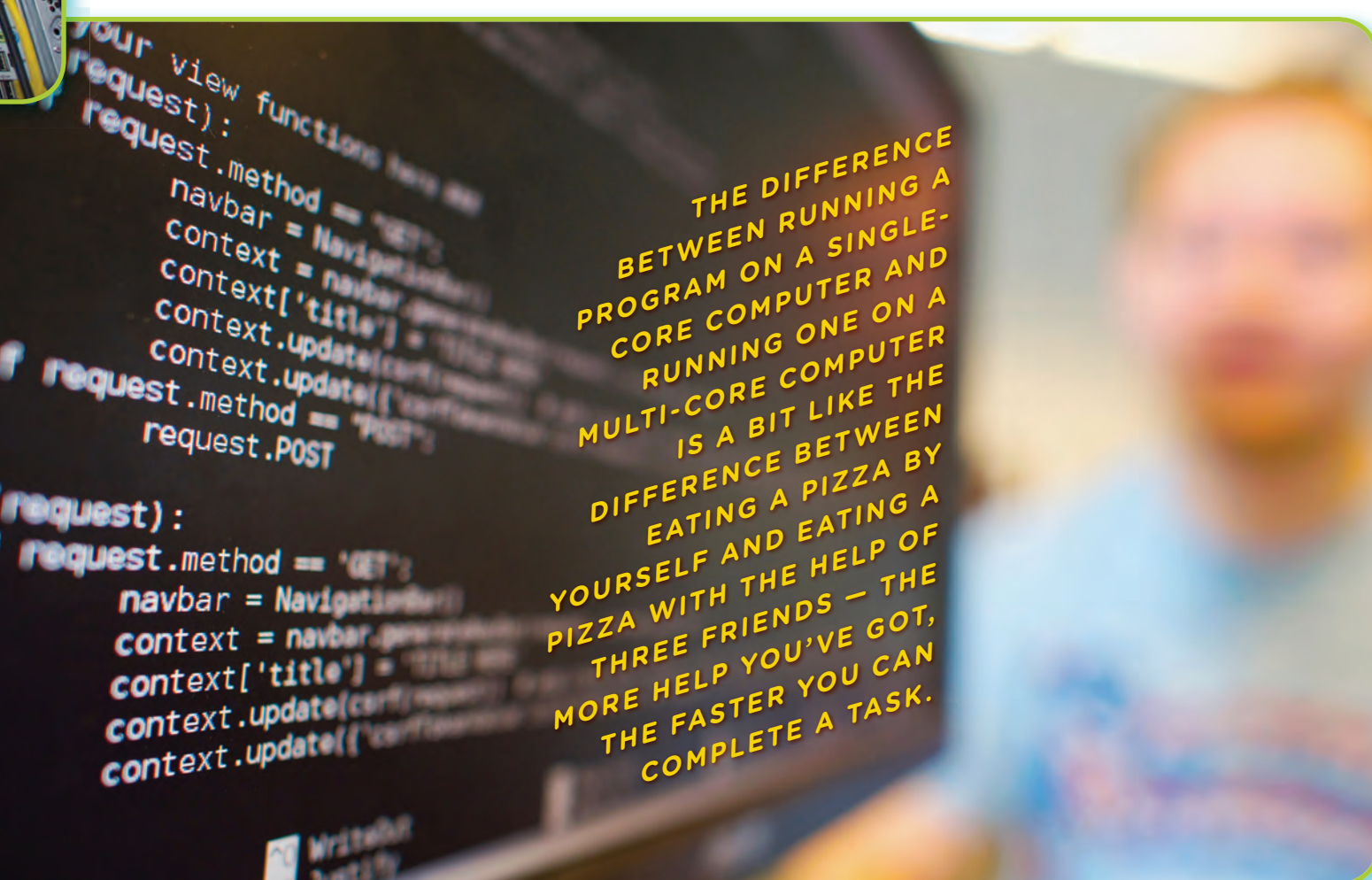
work to an even wider audience. In addition to funding several more modules, the \$600,000 grant will allow the trio to host workshops for computer science professors during the next two summers at St. Olaf and other sites, and to teach similar workshops at conferences across the nation.

This “teach the teachers” approach is a testament to how crucial it is to incorporate parallel-computing ideas more broadly into college coursework. That Brown is one of the project’s leaders indicates that on this increasingly critical topic, St. Olaf is well ahead of the curve, as are its students.

BRINGING THE ABSTRACT TO EARTH

Brown knows that computer science professors teach their students important concepts, but they often illustrate them in abstract and inward-looking ways. “We tend to use examples from our own field,” he says. “For example, we might tell students about a specific technique by [doing something abstract like] sorting some numbers. Even if the technique is something that has actual applications, we don’t present it that way.”

In reality, Brown knew that there were plenty of real-world problems students could tackle for professors. And that’s why he developed the High-Performance Computing in Context (HiPerCiC) project. Funded in part by an NSF grant through the expanded Center for Interdisciplinary Research at St. Olaf (eCIR), the project enables students to custom-build applications for



professors in other disciplines that will enhance their research and teaching. The students do their work during summer undergraduate research, as academic-year student work, or in an innovative HiPerCiC course.

Last summer computer science major Cody Gronseth '13 worked with Assistant Professor of Political Science Doug Casson, who was interested in finding intersections between the extensive writings of philosopher John Locke and the Bible. To compare the million or so words that Locke wrote with the 800,000 or so in the Bible would be a nearly impossible task to do by hand, but by modifying some already-existing anti-plagiarism software, Gronseth knew he could make the task more manageable for Casson. Over the summer, he was able to partially complete the custom application, and now, as part of the HiPerCiC class, he expects to have the finished version up and running by the end of the academic year.

While one of the big benefits for Gronseth was burnishing his skills as a programmer, he says the experience went far beyond a typical class project. "When working with a 'client,' I had higher expectations of my work than normal, even though there was more freedom in the choices I could make," he says. "Things felt more like a partnership, rather than an assignment," he says.

Indeed, says Brown, students are often surprised by how much they can contribute to professors' work. "In computer science, we're good at imagining computation — we can envision the potential options and choose from among them. It's something that our students learn from the beginning," he says. "But it's often not until we show professors the demo version of a project that they, too, truly understand the deep potential that such applications have."

A professor may initially plan to analyze the work of ten books by hand, but if a computer can assist with the process, that same professor might be able to do an analysis of ten thousand books in the same amount of time, creating a much richer and deeper project.

The kinds of projects students work on vary widely. Recently, Maggie Wanek '15 and Michael Stone '13 teamed up under the guidance of Brown to help Professor of History Mike Fitzgerald with research on the history of Alabama after the Civil War.



This interdisciplinary team of students, (from left) Kelsey Klein '13, Maggie Wanek '15, and Eileen King '13, are working on their HiPerCiC project in Linguistics. The project focuses on ways the word "hopefully" has changed in English over time, by examining its usage in the thousands of "Project Gutenberg" digitized books.

Fitzgerald was convinced that there was powerful information buried in historical county voting returns, but uncovering trends from page after page of raw numbers proved challenging. Wanek and Stone provided clarity by developing a program that showed each county's vote tallies on a color-coded map. The tool helped Fitzgerald visually compare returns from year to year and allowed him to overlay specific historical moments — including the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and certain high-profile murders — to see if there was a correlation between these events and voting patterns.

In a matter of days last summer, Wanek and Stone had created the first of more than two dozen brightly colored maps that could be compared to each other with nothing more complicated than a mouse click.

Fitzgerald was thrilled. "I knew I could have looked at a list of voting returns to get an idea of what was going on, but when I saw it on a map, it really jumped out at me," he says. And in many cases, the numbers surprised him. "You might think that racist violence might depress voter turnout among black people — but you can see very clearly on the map that it's not deterring turnout at all," he says. "That's given me a lot to think about."

Brown hopes that student-designed applications for projects like those of Fitzgerald and Casson's are only the beginning. Computer science majors have also completed several other applications for research projects in fields ranging from environmental science to management studies — and Brown expects work to expand much further in the coming years. This semester's HiPerCiC course is starting new projects in everything from linguistics, music, and the economics of health care to theater, investment-asset management, and geographic information systems.

Part of the reason Brown is interested in building on these projects is that a single project can often spiral outward in

interesting and unexpected ways. Gronseth, for one, doesn't think his project will end with Locke and the Bible. "The applications for using this comparison software in other disciplines are numerous," he says, adding that his program could compare the works Shakespeare and Faulkner, or Gandhi and Martin Luther King. "I hope that other departments will be able to use it to compare large sets of textual data," says Gronseth.

SUCCESS BEYOND SCHOOL

Though the job market is still tight for recent grads across the country, a 2012 National Association of Colleges and Employers survey found that students with computer science majors are among the most likely to have a job offer in hand upon graduation, behind only accounting and engineering majors. They also command one of the highest starting salaries of more than \$60,000 a year.

Even so, doing well in classes and on campus does not guarantee that a student will be able to transform those skills into a successful career. Brown's innovative work at St. Olaf gives computer science majors an extra edge with potential employers.

For Jay Petersen '13, making the transition from St. Olaf to a future career has been nearly seamless. His parallel computing class under Brown proved invaluable during his internship last summer with Epic, a burgeoning health care software company located in Verona, Wisconsin, near Madison. And the teamwork most of his computer science classes required prepared him for the kind of work he did at the company each day. After he graduates from St. Olaf this spring, he'll take a full-time job with the company.

Wanek, meanwhile, used her experience to snare an internship at Google this summer. She credits this prestigious opportunity not simply to specific classes or experiences, but to the very structure of St. Olaf itself. "In a small department at a small college, there are many opportunities available if you pursue them," she says. "And there's plenty of guidance around to really [get] experience."

Students like Wanek and Petersen have benefited from learning to program with industry-standard tools such as Hadoop, the open-source map-reduce software framework that is integral to companies from Netflix to the *New York Times*. But in a field that changes faster than you can say "Friendster" and "Facebook," technologies that are critical today may be irrelevant tomorrow. That's why the foundational principles taught by all St. Olaf computer science professors remain the most critical piece of a computer science education.

Students receive deep training in concepts that don't change over time, such as the principles of locality (the idea that computational processes can perform better by using nearby resources)


and abstraction (a strategy that allows programmers to limit details and focus on just a few aspects of a computation). As a result, students internalize the ideas that will help them shift easily from one platform or program to another, no matter how fast the technology changes.

The college's approach of combining up-to-date, hands-on learning experiences with big-picture thinking will benefit students both now and in the long run.

"The things that remain stable in computer science aren't hardware and software," Brown says. "It's the concepts and the principles. So the extent to which we can give students these enduring principles, the more they'll be able to take any new technologies, understand them within that structure, and go from there." 🦁

ERIN PETERSON is a Twin Cities writer and editor.

Web Extra: Find out more about the parallel computing models that Brown and others are developing for colleges across the nation: csinparallel.org



The Beowulf Clusters have been a student-directed and managed project under Dick Brown's supervision since 2006. Managing these complex systems allow students like Michael Stone (left) and Jay Peterson to dig deeper into computing technology and its applications.

TOP FLIGHT

TO HELP MILLIONS OF PASSENGERS GET TO THEIR DESTINATIONS SAFELY, DELTA AIR LINES RELIES ON A VAST TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE — AND THE BRAINS OF CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER THERESA WISE '89.

BY ERIN PETERSON | PHOTOS COURTESY OF DELTA AIR LINES

When Northwest and Delta Air Lines announced their impending merger in 2008, you might have understood if Northwest Airlines's Chief Information Officer Theresa Wise felt as though she had double vision. After all, there were two of everything — reservations systems, customer databases, frequent flyer programs — and Wise had been charged with knitting the pair of vast technology systems into a single, cohesive whole. “We had twelve hundred major applications that we had to pare down to just over six hundred,” she says. “It was,” she adds, hesitating just a moment to find the right words, “an amazing journey.”

Because Wise had been CIO of Northwest since 2001, she'd had the opportunity to watch similar mergers, and that armchair analysis helped her and her team bypass some of the turbulence that other companies had experienced in their own mergers. With the help of two thousand IT professionals, Wise successfully piloted the process through thirty-four hundred milestones.

Five years later, Wise, now CIO of Delta, appreciates the momentum that the challenge created. She believes that it continues to drive her, and her company, to take on even greater challenges.



PUSHING TECHNOLOGY FORWARD

Wise has seen and influenced remarkable airline technology changes since she first arrived as an intern at the airline in 1990. Cell phones, for example, were enormous, clunky, and rare. But today, Wise and her colleagues are building increasingly advanced platforms that allow millions of smartphone users to buy tickets, check-in, and board a flight with just a few clicks.

She's proud of the work they've done to develop a feature that lets smartphone users track their bags, from the moment they check-in at the ticket counter to the second their luggage drops safely onto the baggage carousel. "With the camera on your phone, you can scan the barcode of your luggage and track your bags at all points of your destination," says Wise. "More than six thousand people do that each day."

She's also headed up efforts that have tapped into the wonder of flight, even if that's not the first word you might use as you settle into your seat. Got an iPad? Once you've reached 10,000 feet, you can use the Fly Delta app to get a live-map view of the world beneath you with the "Glass Bottom Jet" feature. It's one *The Economist* called "nifty" and *USA Today* called "stunning." These and many other passenger-centered improvements are a huge focus for the company: over the past several years, Delta has invested \$140 million to improve much of the technology that customers see and use.

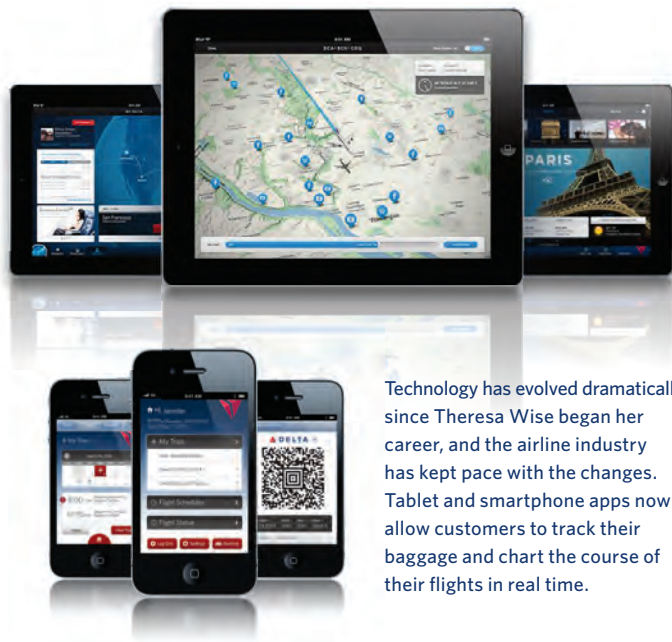
"ALMOST EVERY PIECE OF A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION COMES INTO PLAY IN MY JOB TODAY."

While this gee-whiz technology may turn heads, Wise knows that the most important work is getting the 160 million passengers Delta sees each year to its 320 global destinations safely and efficiently. Through technology, Wise and her colleagues help manage the workflow of the company's 80,000 employees, from scheduling pilots to providing customized software for human resources employees to making sure fuel is appropriately loaded on the flights.

PULLING THE PIECES TOGETHER

Wise landed at Northwest Airlines not long after graduating from St. Olaf, before she'd received her Ph.D. in applied mathematics from Cornell University. She traces much of what led her to the airline to her experience at St. Olaf, where she majored in math and chemistry.

One of her early and important revelations came during her work as a summer intern in St. Olaf's chemistry department, where she did a range of organic chemistry experiments. "I loved the up-front analysis of trying to figure out what should happen," she says. "But I didn't love the hands-on, physical, pouring the chemicals together."



Technology has evolved dramatically since Theresa Wise began her career, and the airline industry has kept pace with the changes. Tablet and smartphone apps now allow customers to track their baggage and chart the course of their flights in real time.

Reality was messier than the crisp analysis she could do outside the lab, and the following summer, she chose an internship in computational chemistry, an approach that uses the principles of computer science to solve chemical problems. The experience later proved to be critically important to her early work in the airline industry.

During her internship at the airline — a job she landed as a result of a connection she made during a January Interim project with Cray Research — she was asked to take a look at crew scheduling. For airlines, crew scheduling can be a particularly thorny problem, since the solution must take into account an incredible number of variables, from work shifts and skill sets to labor laws and locations. Wise drew on the approach she used during her summer computational chemistry research by using the same mathematical family to develop models for crew schedules. The airline was so impressed with the optimized crew scheduling logic she'd developed that they quickly adopted it company-wide.

While the technical skills she developed at St. Olaf were exceptional, Wise also credits the liberal arts education for helping her climb the career ladder. "The broader liberal arts experience is about problem-solving, writing, public speaking, negotiation, persuasion, and political awareness," she says. "Almost every piece of a liberal arts education comes into play in my job today."

As Wise looks ahead, she hopes to help nudge Delta to ever-more sophisticated approaches to flights and customer service. That might mean using Delta's own state-of-the-art meteorology technology to track big storms and help reroute customers to avoid the bad weather entirely. Or it might mean making it easier to use Delta not just to book a flight, but to rent a car, buy a hotel room, and even find out about events and activities at your final destination. "We want to find ways to optimize not only behind the scenes, but to get better information to customers when they're traveling," she says. "We're always looking at that next step." 🦉

ERIN PETERSON is a Twin Cities writer and editor.

THE SOCIAL REALITIES OF

SOUTH



AFRICA

TWENTY-FOUR ST. OLAF STUDENTS WENT TO SOUTH AFRICA WITH INTERESTS IN SOCIAL WELFARE, RACE RELATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THEY RETURNED TO THE HILL WITH A DEEPER KNOWLEDGE ABOUT, AND COMMITMENT TO, ALL THESE ISSUES – BOTH IN SOUTH AFRICA AND IN THE UNITED STATES.

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY DAVID GONNERMAN '90

WITH ADDITIONAL PHOTOS BY CLAIRE DEWIND '15

Unexpected *Inspiring* Confusing Surreal

These are just some of the adjectives students used when Professor of Social Work Mary Carlsen '79 asked them to come up with words that might best summarize their experiences as part of her social work class *Social Realities in South Africa*, a January Interim designed to explore the historical and contemporary realities of race, social class, health, welfare, and human rights in the post-apartheid era.

It was a balmy January day — summer in South Africa — and Carlsen and her students had gathered for a final class in an outdoor meeting area in Pilanesberg Game Park north of Johannesburg. The students had traveled some 1,600 miles since flying into Cape Town three and a half weeks earlier.

“What else?” Carlsen asked, prodding her students for more. ▶





THE FIRST COUPLE OF DAYS IN SOUTH AFRICA HAVE BEEN A WHIRLWIND OF SOUTH AFRICA'S NATURAL BEAUTY, FROM SEEING CAPE OF GOOD HOPE TO THE SPECTACULAR BEACHES AND VIEWS OF CAPE TOWN FROM SIGNAL HILL. IN THE BUSTLE OF THESE "TOURIST ACTIVITIES" IT IS EASY TO FORGET THE ONGOING STRUGGLES THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS FACING IN THE WAKE OF APARTHEID. SOUTH AFRICA'S PAST, HOWEVER, IS DEEPLY WOVEN INTO ALL ASPECTS OF DAILY LIFE.

- KATIE KUEFLER '15, TENZIN KUNSAI '13, AND HOLLY MITCHELL '14

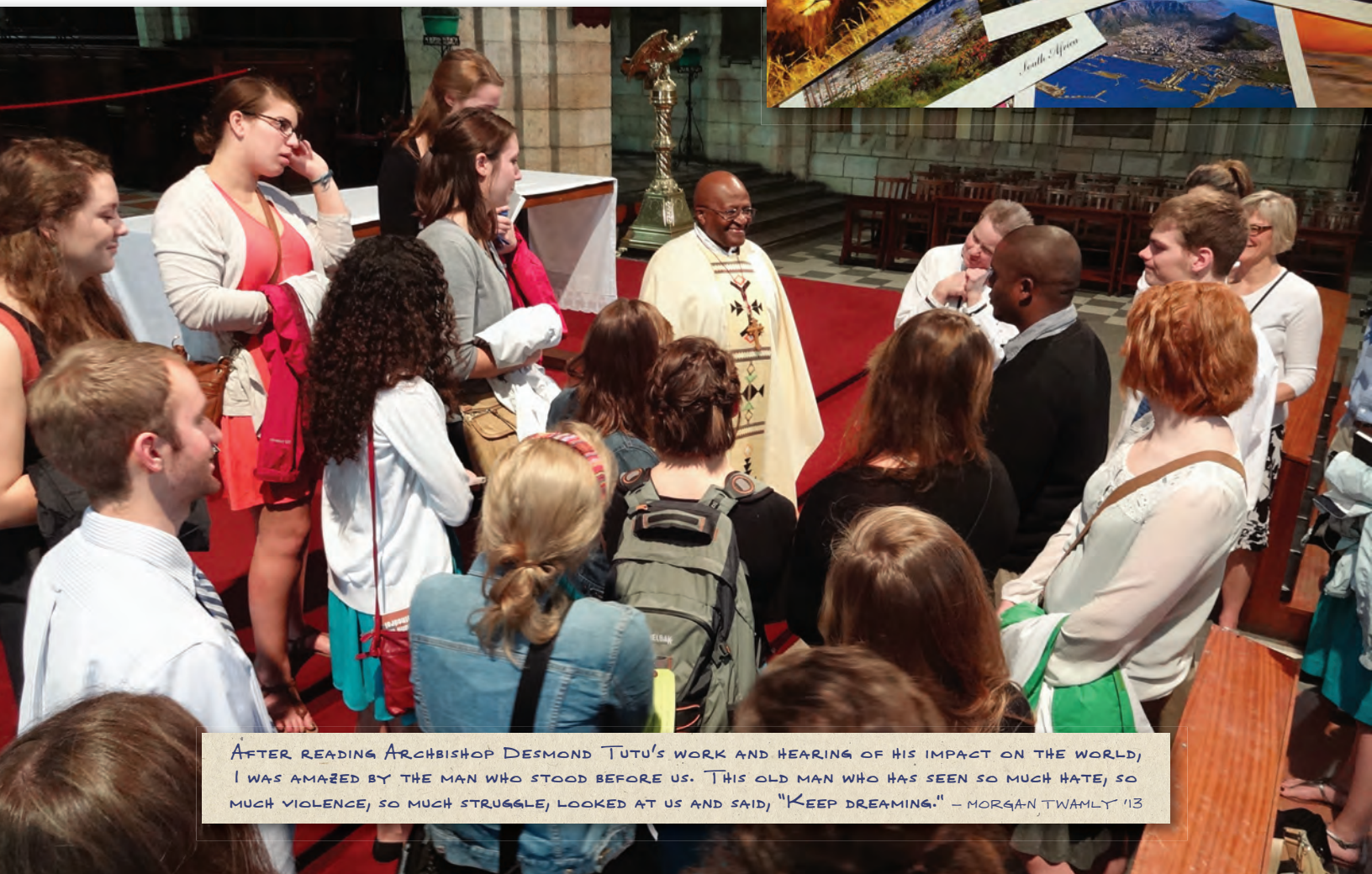


Complex Hopeful Humbling *Dynamic*

Throughout the month, moving from Cape Town through the Eastern Cape to Johannesburg, students met with representatives of secular and religious community-based organizations, where they participated in unique opportunities to study the challenges and successes of a society's struggle for inclusion, respect, and reconciliation.

They saw both the beauty and wealth of Cape Town, and the poverty of the townships in the Cape Flats. They met with former Archbishop Desmond Tutu and looked upon Nelson Mandela's prison cell. They learned about the legacy of apartheid from black South Africans, coloured South Africans (a South African term for people of mixed race), and white South Africans who had experienced it firsthand. They also participated in outdoor theater productions intended to help residents in Johannesburg townships think about HIV/AIDS and xenophobia — issues that are part of daily life for many.

"In South Africa, we were consistently reminded that memory and remembering is crucial to the future," says Carlsen. "The country was deeply wounded by the apartheid system, and people of all races and classes are working to heal those wounds. To move forward with restitution and reconciliation work, people need time to tell their stories, to grieve and be angry, and to create new relationships." ▶



AFTER READING ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU'S WORK AND HEARING OF HIS IMPACT ON THE WORLD, I WAS AMAZED BY THE MAN WHO STOOD BEFORE US. THIS OLD MAN WHO HAS SEEN SO MUCH HATE, SO MUCH VIOLENCE, SO MUCH STRUGGLE, LOOKED AT US AND SAID, "KEEP DREAMING." — MORGAN TWAMLY '13



OUR STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA HAVE BEEN DEEPLY CHALLENGED. WE SAT WITH FORMERLY HOMELESS WOMEN WHO BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES, YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DREAMS AND IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE OF THEIR COUNTRY, AND PEOPLE WHO CARE FOR AND WORK WITH THE PEOPLE WHO ARE THE MOST DISADVANTAGED DUE TO POVERTY, ABANDONMENT, AND DISABILITY. POWERFUL VESTIGES OF THE APARTHEID ERA REMAIN AND DEEP TRAUMA STILL AFFECTS MANY.

— PROFESSOR MARY CARLSEN '79



WE TRIED TO IMAGINE THE TRIP TO ROBBERN ISLAND FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE MANY PRISONERS WHO WERE BROUGHT THERE BEFORE US. ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS PRISONERS, NELSON MANDELA, WAS IMPRISONED ON ROBBERN ISLAND FOR 18 OF HIS 27-YEAR SENTENCE FOR HIS MILITANT INVOLVEMENT IN THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS AND FOR HIS ABILITY TO INFLUENCE THE RESISTANCE. — MADELINE HOFFMEISTER '13, CASSIDY JAVNER '13, AND LYN MEYERHOFF '13

Transformative Heavy *Stimulating* Eye-opening

The students experienced a wide range of memorable moments during their Interim. They climbed up – and down – Cape Town’s iconic Table Mountain. They witnessed the segregation that still afflicts every town across the country. Their vehicles were surrounded by elephants in Addo Elephant Park. They saw an unfinished major monument to anti-apartheid martyrs that was already in disrepair, just days after walking through a beautiful city park dedicated to the anti-apartheid struggle. They were harassed by baboons.

South Africa is beautiful – the land, the water, the people. “Yet everywhere we went, the question persisted: Whose land is it?” observes Carlsen.

“People struggle to live peaceably and without fear in a country among the most unequal in the world,” she adds. “The younger generation, the ‘born frees’ as they are called, have creative, exciting energy to build the new South Africa. But their ideas are different from the old ways of their parents and grandparents, and they need opportunities and space to form these ideas and put them into practice.” ▶





THE RED LOCATION MUSEUM IS LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE NEW BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP OUTSIDE PORT ELIZABETH. USING RECYCLED MATERIALS FROM THE SHACKS PREVIOUSLY ON SITE, THE MUSEUM HAS A DISTINCT RED APPEARANCE. INSIDE, WHERE EVEN THE SOFTEST WHISPER REVERBERATED UP THE CEMENT WALLS, WE FOLLOWED IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE VERY FIRST APARTHEID RESISTANCE. THE PRISTINE MEMORIAL SEEMED LIKE AN ISLAND AMID A COMMUNITY LACKING SOMETHING AS BASIC AS RUNNING WATER. WATER BECAME AN UNDERCURRENT IN OUR JOURNEY AS WE ATTEMPTED TO RECONCILE OUR OWN WATER PRIVILEGES WITH OTHER LUXURIES (LIKE WI-FI) — BOTH IN SOUTH AFRICA AND AT HOME.

AS WE RETURN TO ST. OLAF, SOUTH AFRICA WILL INEVITABLY ACCOMPANY US, MAKING RIPPLES IN THE POOLS OF OUR LIVES.

— PAIGE BEENEN '13, EMILY STETS '15, AND BECCA STROMMEN '14

Enriching Challenging Stellar

The highlight of the program for most students happened in Cata, a remote village in the Amatole Mountains in rural Eastern Cape where residents had won their land restitution case. After a long, slow drive on a primitive road — including a nighttime breakdown and delays caused by cattle on the road — we arrived in the village community center for a late meal prepared (and kept warm for hours) by the patient local residents. The students were paired with host families for two-night home stays. Some students were nervous; they knew little about their hosts, and the village conditions were primitive. But on our final morning in Cata, most students declared that two nights had not been enough.

Then back to big, busy, gritty “Jo’burg,” as the locals call their largest city. We spent full days traveling around the area to visit Walter Sisulu (or Freedom) Square, the Hector Pieterse and Apartheid museums, Constitution Hill, and Mandela’s home. And in Soweto, two of our students participated in outdoor plays, in the style of theater of the oppressed, performed by Khulumani Forum Theatre for the benefit of township residents. Later, we took the theatrics inside when we experienced *Mies Julie*, a play that graphically depicts the legacy of apartheid in modern South Africa.

After students completed the word exercise during that final class in Pilanesberg Game Park, they used the list in short, improvisational skits to practice filling the inevitably brief window that follows the typical “How was South Africa?” query. Summarizing what many in the group would feel upon returning home after their often intense experiences, Paige Breenen ’13 came up with the line, “I just finished unpacking my bags, but I’m still unpacking my thoughts.” You can bet more than one student used it. 🦁

Web Extra: Read the class blog at: pages.stolaf.edu/SouthAfricaOles2013

DAVID GONNERMAN '90 is associate director of marketing and communications for digital media at St. Olaf. He accompanied the Social Work 280 class as program assistant.





THROUGHOUT OUR TRAVELS, A THEME THAT HAS EMERGED IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MEMORIALIZATION. CATA REPRESENTS A UNIQUE BLEND OF A COMMUNITY ABLE TO REMEMBER THEIR LIVES UNDER APARTHEID WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY ENGAGING THAT REMEMBRANCE TO PROMOTE A BETTER FUTURE. USING THE MUSEUM, HERITAGE TRAIL, CLASSROOMS, COMMUNITY CENTER, AND ECONOMIC STRATEGIES, CATA HAS CREATED A TANGIBLE LOCATION FOR THEIR OWN MEMORIES, PAST AND FUTURE.

—CLAIRE YANCEY '14, KRISTELL CABALLERO-SAUCEDO '13, AND CLAIRE DEWIND '15

INTO

the Field





**ST. OLAF'S CONNECTIONS PROGRAM
BRINGS STUDENTS INTO ALUMNI WORKPLACES
TO EXPLORE CAREERS AND BROADEN THEIR
PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT THEY CAN DO
WITH A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION.**

By Marla Hill Holt '88

D.C. PHOTOS BY EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/POLARIS · NEW YORK PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SOFRONSKI
HOUSTON PHOTOS BY MICHAEL STRAVATO/POLARIS

Hollywood celebrities don't impress Theo Knaeble '13. But introduce him to an astronaut and he can barely utter a coherent sentence. "I stuttered and had trouble answering a simple question like 'Where are you from?' It was both hilarious and embarrassing," says Knaeble of his recent nerve-wracking encounter with Mike Massimino at NASA's Johnson Space Center. Massimino, selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in 1996, is a veteran of two space flights — the space shuttle Columbia in 2002 and the shuttle Atlantis in 2009 — and has logged a total of 571 hours and 47 minutes in space, including 30 hours and 4 minutes of spacewalking in four spacewalks to upgrade the Hubble Space Telescope.

"Astronauts are celebrities to me, so shaking Massimino's hand was definitely cool. I probably should have asked for his autograph," Knaeble says.

Knaeble, a physics major from Stillwater, Minnesota, has always wanted to visit the Space Center, and getting the chance to hobnob with his heroes was almost too exciting to believe. The opportunity came about after he applied to take part in St. Olaf's Connections Program, which enables students to conduct extensive career exploration by networking with alumni in cities such as New York, Washington, D.C., and Houston. The program's trips include workplace visits, panel discussions, networking receptions, and the opportunity to get a close-up look at the cities' most appealing destinations.

Happily for Knaeble, NASA's Space Center was one of those destinations.

He and the nine other students who traveled to Houston over Interim break were given a five-hour tour of the Johnson Space Center, courtesy of Doug Blanchard '67, retired division chief of planetary science for NASA.

Highlights of the tour included seeing a fully assembled Saturn V rocket and watching astronauts test space-suits in a nine-million-gallon pool of water.

The Houston Connections Program enabled students to meet with alumni and other professionals working in a wide range of careers. Touring NASA's Johnson Space Center, courtesy of Doug Blanchard '67, was a highlight for many students.

Taking students to see sites like NASA is only a small part of the Connections Program's mission. The real reason for its growing popularity among students is its ability to connect them with St. Olaf's vast network of alumni nationwide, giving them a firsthand look at how Oles are succeeding in all sorts of endeavors.

"The program stems from recognizing that we have hundreds of Oles across the country doing interesting things, both in terms of what they do immediately after college and what their careers have evolved into over time," says Branden Grimmert '03, director of The Harry C. Piper Center for Vocation and Career, which oversees the Connections Program. "We wanted to capitalize on that opportunity and to make sure we're exposing students to a range of career possibilities through direct collaboration and communication with alumni."

"THERE IS A LIMIT TO HOW MANY EMPLOYERS WE CAN BRING TO CAMPUS, BUT THE WILLINGNESS OF ALUMNI TO ADVISE STUDENTS ON THEIR CAREER PATHS IS LIMITLESS. ALUMNI VALIDATE THE DREAM FOR STUDENTS." — BRANDEN GRIMMETT '03

The Connections Program began in January 2011, with the first trip bringing twelve students to Washington, D.C., during Interim break. The initial model for the trips was to offer one-on-one job shadowing, matching each student for one or two days with alumni or parents of Oles working in a field of the student's interest. After a second trip a year later to Washington, D.C., however, the staff at the Piper Center realized the model of one-on-one matches wasn't sustainable.

"It was like a giant jigsaw puzzle to make all the individual matches," says Kris Estenson, the Piper Center's associate





Economist Dean Maki '87 discussed career paths with business-minded Oles in New York City.

director for employer and alumni engagement. “We’ve grown the program so that more students can participate and get a wider range of exposure to the career possibilities available to them,” says Estenson, who has organized and led all of the Connections trips.

“We now ask alumni to host an event at their worksite for a small group of students and, if they can, bring in colleagues to further enrich the experience for students. We also invite four to six additional alumni to join us for a panel discussion,” Estenson says. It’s an opportunity for alumni to share stories of their career and vocational paths, as well as provide advice about job opportunities and trends within their industries.

The Connections Program trips are driven entirely by students’ interests. “One thing I’ve learned in higher education is that you can plan a really great program, but if students don’t go for it, it will fail,” Grimmer says. “So as students’ interests change, depending on the market or other factors, we need to pay attention to what it is they’re looking for in terms of careers, and then match them as best we can with alumni in those fields.”

For ease in planning, the trips have tended to focus on industries — such as finance and the arts in New York City and energy and technology in Houston — that are prevalent in particular cities with a critical mass of alumni. Planning is already underway for the 2013–14 academic year, including trips to Chicago, New York City, and Denver. “We’re mostly focused on larger cities that we know students naturally want to explore,” Grimmer says.

On a recent Connections Program trip to New York City during fall break in October 2012, twenty-five student participants got a taste of life in the city through various alumni-hosted activities. The students toured the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) with Maren Lankford '09, assistant to MoMA’s deputy director for education, and visited the World Trade Center Memorial and Tribute Museum with retired FDNY firefighter Brenda Berkman '73, who was the city’s first female firefighter. They worshipped at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church with Senior Pastor Scott Black Johnston '86 and enjoyed a jazz performance at Swing 46 by pianist Ben Baker '09 and vocalist Vanessa Gernes Trouble '91.

The students were also able to get specialized career advice by dividing into smaller groups based on their interests. Those interested in communications met with Cat McKenzie '92, senior producer for *Good Morning America*, and Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* investigative reporter, columnist, and business and financial editor Gretchen Morgenson '76.

The business and finance group met with three alumni working for Barclay’s Capital: Dean Maki '87, chief U.S. economist; Mark Hanson '89, managing director of investments; and Robert Thrash '94, director of trading. They also met with Cuitlahuac Turrent '97, a vice president at Goldman Sachs, and Merle Yoder, senior director of Standard and Poor’s Capital IQ Division and father of Erik Yoder '12.

Dean Maki enjoyed discussing his career path with business-minded students last fall. “The students were curious and eager

to learn about what I did, the path I'd followed, and how St. Olaf prepared me," he says. Maki benefited from an alumni connection in getting his first job in investment banking, and he sees his participation in the Connections Program as a way to give others the same opportunities he was given.

"St. Olaf is not as well-known in the New York area as it is in the Midwest," he says. "Those who do know about St. Olaf consider it a top-rated institution, but many just aren't aware of it. It's also difficult for students in Northfield, Minnesota, to get a good handle on what exactly Wall Street firms do and what we're looking for in the people we hire. So I think it's important, as much as possible, for alumni to open doors to opportunities in other parts of the country that might not be available to students otherwise."

"THESE TRIPS ARE IDEAL FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE SOME INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION THEY'D LIKE TO GO IN BUT ARE UNSURE OF THE STEPS OR PROCESS TO GET THERE. OTHER STUDENTS MIGHT BE UNSURE ABOUT MAKING A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO DIFFERENT PATHS." — KRIS ESTENSON

Several students interested in the arts met cartoonist Ward Sutton '89 and visited an independent art school. Others observed a rehearsal of the American Ballet Theater with principal conductor Charles Barker '75 and heard from a panel of performing artists that included actor David Rysdahl '09.

"The Connections Program stemmed from students' hunger to have more opportunities for practical career advice," Grimmett says. "There is a limit to how many employers we can bring to campus, but the willingness of alumni to advise students on their career paths is limitless. Alumni validate the dream for students. If you've always wanted to go to New York to be a performing artist, how much more likely are you to take that gamble if you meet someone who is succeeding at it versus just thinking about it?"

Even better if that person is a fellow Ole, says Katie Lauer '13, a studio arts major and budding photographer from Mankato,



ABOVE: Members of the D.C. connections group stand in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, after the second day of oral arguments for and against same sex marriage.



LEFT: In D.C., a panel discussion focused on international organizations. Students interacted with James Anderson (left), a Forests Communications Officer for the People and Ecosystems Program at the World Resources Institute, and with Ishanna Rambachan '08, an engagement manager at McKinsey & Company.

Minnesota, who attended the fall 2012 trip to New York City. "Meeting alumni reinforces St. Olaf's strong sense of community," she says. "I knew that we had a huge alumni base, but this program is so much better than exchanging emails or phone calls. It showed me that our alumni are approachable and really want to help us. They've been in our shoes, and it's very cool to see our education come full circle in them."

For Lauer, the trip resulted in a particularly apt connection. She met Sarah Butler '06, an account manager for *Art in America* magazine, who helped arrange a month-long internship for Lauer in the magazine's sales and advertising department. Funding from the Piper Center helped Lauer afford the cost of rent for an apartment, and the whole experience opened her eyes to life on her own in the big city.

"I always thought it would be cool, and to be given the opportunity to find out for sure was incredible," Lauer says. "I'd now consider living in New York after graduation."



Twenty-five students traveled to New York City with Branden Grimmert '03 (far right) to meet with alumni working at a variety of organizations. They paused for a photo at the High Line Park, a one-mile greenway at the site of a former elevated railway.



Oles Amy Sherber '82, Ben Baker '09, and Brenda Berkman '73 were among the NYC alumni who provided advice and shared their stories with students.

Juniors and seniors are eligible to participate in the Connections Program, and they contribute \$200 toward the cost of a trip. St. Olaf subsidizes — through gifts in support of the Piper Center — the majority of the cost, including transportation, lodging, and meals. To be considered, students must submit a video application, stating their vocational goals and what they hope to get out of the experience. Prior to the trip, the Piper Center staff helps the students polish their résumés and their LinkedIn profiles. The students also hone their elevator pitch and practice networking strategies. Once they return to campus, they are encouraged to continue networking with alumni and further refine their career goals.

“These trips are ideal for students who have some indication of the direction they’d like to go in but are unsure of the steps or process to get there,” Estenson says. “Other students might be unsure about making a choice between two different paths.”

While the trips reinforce the value of a liberal arts education for students by introducing them to various career paths and options, the Connections Program also engages alumni in the life of the college. ▶

Washington, D.C., has proven another popular destination for the Connections Program. During spring break 2013, thirty-four students attended the program's third trip to the U.S. capital, meeting with alumni during an action-packed four days focused on careers in educational and governmental agencies, nonprofits, and international organizations. Washington, D.C., has a very large contingent of St. Olaf alumni, says David Prestwood '01, senior counsel to U.S. Senator Patty Murray, due in part to the "service-oriented nature of the college."

Overall, more than thirty alumni from the Washington, D.C., area shared advice and perspective with the trip participants. Highlights included dinner at the home of U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Robin Braun and her husband, Michael Braun, parents of Rachel Braun '13; a panel discussion with alumni working in careers in service of others; and receptions at the



ABOVE: Students got an up-close look at a number of artifacts and architectural details thanks to Mark Dimunation '74, chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division at the Library of Congress.

LEFT: Zoey Slater '14 placed her hand on the small Bible that President Barack Obama used at his public inauguration in January, more than 150 years after Abraham Lincoln put his hand on the same Bible and swore to uphold the Constitution.

OPPOSITE: Paul Ling '84 (far right) led the group on a visit to the Baylor College of Medicine, where he works as a microbiologist, and to the Houston Zoo, where he conducts research in partnership with Baylor.

was used at the 2013 swearing in of President Barack Obama), Jefferson's first draft of the Declaration of Independence, and books containing notes between Henry David Thoreau and Walt Whitman.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and at the home of Philip Moeller '63, senior institutional and social specialist at the World Bank.

Mark Dimunation '74, chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress, delighted the students by showing them historical documents they otherwise wouldn't have access to, such as Abraham Lincoln's Bible (which

"It's really fun to see where Oles end up and to know we share a common background," says Kate Bjorklund '13, a political science major from Eden Prairie, Minnesota. "The stories Mr. Dimunation shared with us were incredible."

As with most Connections trips, the students in Washington, D.C., separated into smaller groups that focused on their particular interests. Those curious about careers in



government spent a morning at the U.S. Department of Defense with Vice Admiral Braun, who is chief of Navy Reserve, and Anthony Aldwell '72, chief operating officer at the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. Their day concluded with a stop to meet alumni at the Partnership for Public Service, a nonprofit that works to inspire a new generation of civil servants.

Meanwhile, another group of students explored careers in education and the nonprofit sector with alumni such as Kate Tecku '10, healthy food initiative coordinator at the Capital Area Food Bank, and Meredith Berninger '12 and Bryan Beaudoin '10, both of whom work at the Advisory Board Company, a global research, technology, and consulting firm that helps hospitals better serve patients and helps universities better serve students.

Prestwood was part of an alumni group that welcomed

St. Olaf students to the U.S. Capitol to discuss career options and pathways for working in the legislative body of the U.S. government. He found the students to be insightful and

inquisitive, and thinks the Connections trips are of enormous benefit to Oles. "These opportunities are incredibly valuable to students who have an idea of what they might want to do right after college but no idea of how long it takes to develop a career," he says.

Prestwood says that visiting cities firsthand — particularly the nation's capital — is the best way for students to gain a sense of what it's like to live and work in a particular region. He and fellow alumni want to be a resource for students, he says. "I think I can speak for alumni in saying that we're eager to talk with students. We remember how difficult it can be to launch a career and we want to be as helpful as possible."

Capitalizing on that willingness deepens the relationship between alumni and the college, Estenson says. The more St. Olaf knows about its alumni and their career paths, the more it helps all students, not just those who travel to distant cities through the Connections Program.

"We are better able to make connections between students and alumni with that knowledge," Estenson says. "It helps us identify the most appropriate alumni for a student to call, even if they're just reaching out from campus, and often internships and job offers grow out of these conversations."

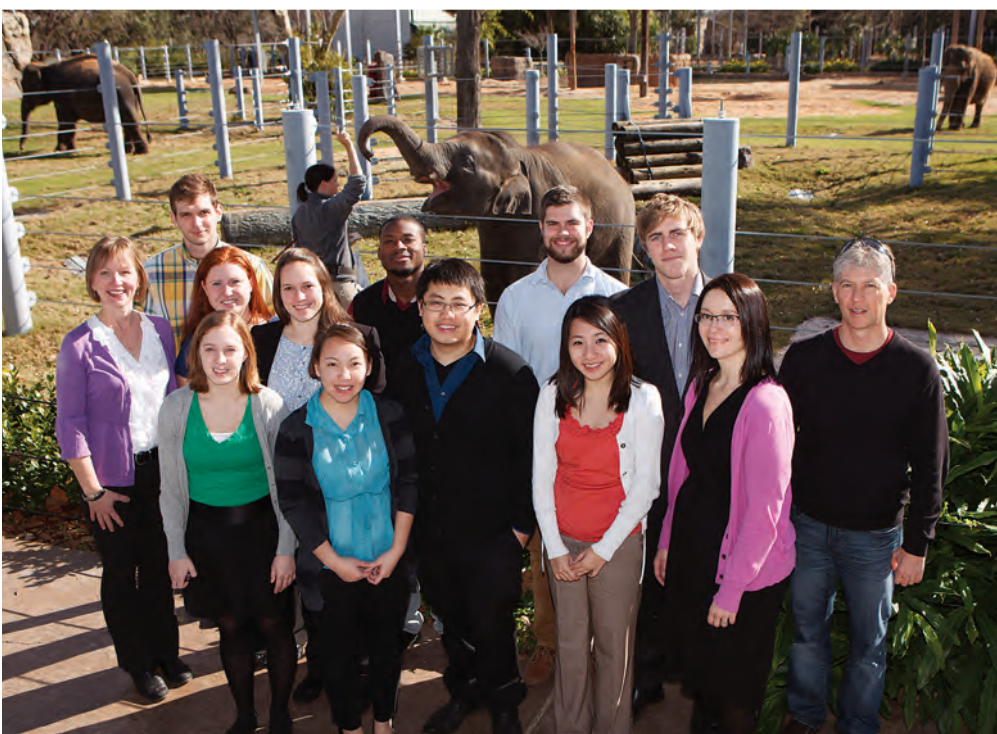
For Knaeble, the astronaut-revering student, a conversation with David Caldwell '84 during the Connections trip to Houston sent him down an unexpected path.

"I went on the trip mainly because I was looking for a job, because I'd just graduated from St. Olaf in January," Knaeble says. "I mentioned to Mr. Caldwell that I was job hunting, and he got me started on the path toward a potential job at [health care information company] Certify." Knaeble, who interviewed for a position at Certify's Silicon Valley location, was offered a job there in mid-March and moved to California

two weeks later.

Through their experiences in the Connections Program, students like Knaeble, Lauer, and Bjorklund have seen firsthand that St. Olaf's alumni are more than willing to help bridge the gap between the Hill and the real world, and they've learned that every connection counts.

"Students benefit from meeting interesting, personable alumni who are devoted to carrying out St. Olaf's mission through a variety of career choices," Grimmett says. "A St. Olaf education can take you anywhere you want to go." 🦁



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



A close-up photograph of an elephant's head and trunk, with a man smiling in the foreground. The elephant's skin is dark brown and wrinkled, with a tuft of hair on its forehead. The man has short, grey hair and is wearing a blue t-shirt. The background is a bright, clear sky.

Elephant Man

A PASSION FOR DISCOVERING WHY
CERTAIN VIRUSES CAUSE CANCER
HAS LED PAUL LING '84 TO
TRANSITION FROM HUMAN TO
ZOOLOGICAL RESEARCH, WITH
GROUNDBREAKING RESULTS.

BY J. TROUT LOWEN
PHOTOGRAPHED BY
MICHAEL STRAVATO/POLARIS

Paul Ling was having one of those “pinch yourself” moments. It was a misty morning in November 2011 and he was standing in a field in southern India watching a parade of Asian elephants emerge from the dense forest. Over the course of fifteen to twenty minutes, twenty or more elephants appeared, one after another, treading almost silently on boulder-sized feet.

“It was just like a movie scene,” Ling recalls with awe. “They came from out of nowhere — meandering towards us. Elephant after elephant just kept coming out of the woods. It was really incredible.”

It’s also increasingly rare. A century ago, more than 200,000 Asian elephants ranged across parts of India, China, and as far south as Syria. Twenty years from now, seeing even one of these endangered animals in the wild may be close to impossible. Development is the primary cause, with humans steadily crowding the elephants out of their natural range habitat, but the elephant endotheliotropic herpes virus (EEHV) is also playing a role in their decline.

Asian elephants are secretive creatures that live in densely forested areas, and when a baby dies, its remains are usually consumed by predators and never found. On that misty November morning, Ling — traveling with a small team of researchers — sampled blood and trunk secretions from the elephants, and found evidence of the herpes virus in healthy adults and in several juvenile elephant remains. How much of a role the virus is playing in the decline of the elephants isn’t yet known, but Ling is making some inroads into the answer to that question.

Five years before Ling’s encounter with wild elephants, his connection to the animals didn’t run much deeper than taking his kids to see them at the local zoo in Houston. Today, he is one of the world’s leading experts on this virulent strain of elephant herpes that is killing young Asian elephants both in the wild and in captivity, and threatening the success of captive breeding programs around the world.

Ling’s elephant expertise is all the more remarkable, considering that he has spent most of his career doing test-tube research as a microbiologist and virologist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. His work primarily focused on how some human herpes viruses are linked to several human cancers. It was the kind of research that garnered notice in scientific journals but rarely elsewhere. Since the elephants marched into his life, however, Ling has become something of a celebrity in the world of elephant and zoo culture. An inexpensive blood test Ling developed to detect the presence of EEHV is helping to save young elephants and the future of zoo breeding programs.

So how does a scientist doing research into human viruses at one of the country’s most prestigious medical schools decide to make the astonishing leap into research on elephants?

As Ling explained to a group of St. Olaf students who visited Baylor in January, he was following his passion. “How do you define what a passion is?” he asked them at a roundtable discussion with other St. Olaf alumni. “Certainly, the elephants resonated within me something primordial.”

At the same time, Ling admits, he was also being pragmatic. Government funding for scientific research is at an all-time low, he explains. Colleagues whose work had been funded by the National Institutes of Health for decades were losing their jobs. The situation was dire.

“Working with the elephants was potentially an opportunity,” says Ling. “This is a way for me to diversify my portfolio, diversify the sources of funding I can have — and there are a lot of common threads [between human and elephant herpes].”

As a child, Ling remembers looking forward to the arrival of each issue of the wildlife magazine *Ranger Rick* in the mail. He loved museums, dinosaurs, and rock collecting. As he grew up, that love faded into the background — until he became a chemistry major at St. Olaf. During his junior year, Ling took a class in microbiology taught by biology professor Ted Johnson that reignited his passion for the natural world. “I was just fascinated by it,” he remembers. “It surprised me that I enjoyed it so much.”

That class also opened the door to his first internship the following summer, at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Yale University. “They were working on immunology and how immune cells are regulated, and how those cells respond to different pathogens like bacteria and viruses,” Ling says. “That kind of sealed the deal for me.”

Ling did his predoctoral work at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, in Bethesda, Maryland. There, he turned his attention to what would become the focus of his research career: the herpes virus. While many people think of herpes as only a sexually transmitted disease, there are actually eight herpes virus strains that affect humans, Ling explains. One causes chickenpox and shingles. Another causes mononucleosis and several cancers, including Hodgkin’s disease and certain lymphomas.

“My interest is really to figure out how these viruses cause cancer in people,” Ling says. “Then maybe we can figure out ways of intervening and preventing the different mechanisms — and find a cure.”

It’s fascinating, important work and even a decade ago, Ling might never have considered making the leap from human to zoological research. But the world of scientific research is changing. In medicine, the traditional silos of basic or fundamental research and applied research are giving way to a more translational, multidisciplinary approach that speeds laboratory breakthroughs into therapeutic practice. Barriers are falling, too, between human, animal, and ecological research. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently established an office in support of the One Health Initiative,

a global movement to improve human health by expanding collaboration and communication between medical, veterinary, and environmental researchers.

Given that backdrop, it isn't that surprising that in November 2008, the Houston Zoo teamed up with Baylor's Center for Comparative Medicine after a two-year-old elephant named Mac — a charismatic calf who was a favorite of staff and patrons — died of EEHV.

The zoo's breeding program found itself at a crossroads. Mac was one of at least six young elephants born at the zoo that had died of EEHV, although not all had died at the Houston Zoo; some had been moved to other zoos. With another calf on the way, Houston Zoo officials felt an urgent need to know more about the virus and how it spread, says Daryl Hoffman, the zoo's large mammal curator.

"Right now, the future for captive elephants is pretty bleak," Hoffman explains. "The biggest scare has always been EEHV.

You don't know when it's going to show its face."

There are only about 250 Asian elephants living in captivity in North America. Up to 90 percent of those are past breeding age, Hoffman says. Sustaining the captive population requires about a dozen births per year; the current average is around 1.5. Of those that die before adulthood, half die from EEHV, usually before age six. Finding a cure for EEHV could prove to be the tipping point that stabilizes zoo populations.

Ling found that elephants shed the virus through their trunks, which they use, much like human hands, for nearly everything. What isn't clear is why some young elephants die from EEHV and others go on to live normal lives, Ling says. Finding the answer to that question has become Ling's passion, but not just to help the Houston Zoo's elephants and other elephants in captivity. He is also passionate about helping to protect the endangered and declining elephant populations in the wild.



“IS IT ANY LESS WORTHWHILE
DOING SOMETHING TO
SAVE ELEPHANTS THAN
ANYTHING ELSE?”

Ling knew about EEHV — he did his postdoctoral research at Johns Hopkins University in the lab where the EEHV virus was first identified by his former advisor in 1995 — but it wasn't Ling's area of expertise. So when officials from Baylor and the zoo approached him for help, he had to do some soul searching. Did it make sense to work on animal pathogens instead of human research, he wondered? How would it

affect his other research? His funding? His staff? What might he learn from elephants that could benefit humans?

Finally, it came down to the elephants themselves. “It’s certainly a unique and charismatic species,” Ling says, adding, “It’s an endangered species. Is it any less worthwhile doing something to save elephants than anything else?”

And then there’s the cute factor. “How can you say no to cute baby elephants?” Ling asks.

He decided to find a way to make it work. A few months after Mac’s death, Baylor and the Houston Zoo announced the formation of a highly unique collaboration to study EEHV in the hopes of developing a better way to diagnose and treat the virus and, ultimately, to find a cure.

All zoos have some research component, but the Houston Zoo’s partnership with Baylor is one of a kind, Hoffman says. “I do a lot in the elephant community worldwide. Nothing compares to the relationship we have with Baylor. The guys across the street are so invested in the elephants that we’re all one team. It’s great to hear them say *our elephants*, and that’s how they refer to them.”

Much of the credit for that attitude goes to Ling, who has become a well-known figure in the elephant philanthropic and scientific communities, bringing public attention, dollars, and research talent to the fight against EEHV. To honor his work, the zoo even named one of its baby elephants “Baylor.”

“It’s not just a project across the street at the zoo,” Hoffman says. “[Ling] cares about our elephants.” He adds that Ling also keeps abreast of developments within the larger elephant population. “He’ll call me and ask questions about elephants at other zoos ... because he wants to know what’s going on in the world of elephants,” Hoffman says.

This ground-breaking collaboration between Baylor and the Houston Zoo has been more successful than anyone had dared to hope. Within a year, Ling had developed a fast, inexpensive test that can detect the presence of EEHV in an elephant’s bloodstream before the animal develops symptoms of the virus — in some cases, more than week before. That lead time is especially important because EEHV causes hemorrhagic disease, which attacks and ruptures the blood vessels of the heart, lungs, and other organs. It kills quickly, within as little as twenty-four hours after the first symptoms appear. That’s how it was for Mac, Hoffman says. The playful little elephant woke up one morning with a swollen head and tongue. By evening, he was dead.

Using the rapid blood test Ling developed, Houston and several other zoos now have time to begin life-saving antiviral treatment before an elephant becomes visibly sick. Already, the test may have saved the lives of more than five juvenile elephants at zoos around the country. And because the test is inexpensive to administer (about twelve dollars per sample), the Houston Zoo has begun testing its young elephants for the virus weekly.

More zoos are likely to follow suit once there are enough labs able to process the blood tests. Ling is helping to set up collaborations between universities and zoos in other cities, and his lab continues to explore which drugs may be most effective

“THE ISSUES WE’RE TACKLING ARE THE SAME AS IF YOU WERE TRYING TO EXAMINE HOW TO DIAGNOSE AND TREAT WEST NILE, DENGUE FEVER, EBOLA, OR ANY OF THOSE OTHER EMERGING [HUMAN] PATHOGENS.”

in treating infected elephants. Ultimately, he and his colleagues are hoping to develop an EEHV vaccine.

This EEHV research has had a beneficial effect on Ling’s lab as well. Funding for the work has been significant, allowing the lab to add four postdoctoral and graduate research staff working full time on the project. Focusing on EEHV also offers staff an excellent training ground for future work on human viruses. And in an increasingly interconnected world, where viruses like HIV and avian bird flu have jumped species, those translational skills are becoming ever more important.

“Bench to bedside,” is a term that has come to describe this new emphasis on moving promising medical research more quickly to medical treatments. Ling has coined his own version of the term to describe their work on EEHV: “This is sort of a ‘bench to barn’ translational project,” he says. “But in terms of the things we do — everything from diagnostics to treatments to vaccines — the issues we’re tackling are the same as if you were trying to examine how to diagnose and treat West Nile, dengue fever, ebola, or any of those other emerging [human] pathogens,” says Ling.

Ling’s work continues to open up new questions with, he hopes, new answers. With help from Baylor’s genome center and other scientists whom Ling has brought to the project, Baylor has been able to sequence the entire genome of the elephant herpes virus. The results have been surprising. EEHV doesn’t look like any of the other herpes viruses — human or animal — all of which fall into three known subfamilies: alpha, beta, and gamma.

“It looks as different from any of those as those do from each other,” Lings says. “We actually want to call it a delta herpes virus.” That raises a question, Ling says: Are there other delta viruses out there that affect humans or animals? He hopes his research will someday uncover the answer.

In the not-too-distant future, Ling plans to return to Southeast Asia to sample isolated elephant populations on the islands of Borneo and Sri Lanka to see if the EEHV virus is present in those groups too. In the meantime, he will continue his work to find a vaccine.

Now that Ling’s bonded with the elephants, he is committed to finding a cure. “I’m going to work on it until we do that,” he says. “That’s my plan.” 🐘

J. TROUT LOWEN is a Twin Cities freelance writer and editor.

One Step Beyond

St. Olaf emeriti support students in and out of the classroom by endowing scholarship funds. By Suzy Frisch | PHOTOS BY TOM ROSTER

Mac Gimse '58 and his wife, Jackie, have St. Olaf to thank for more than thirty trips around the world. During Mac's thirty-one-year career as an art professor at St. Olaf — where he taught art history, including Asian and African art, sculpture, and even built a bronze foundry — the couple shared their enthusiasm for other cultures, whether they were on sabbatical, leading study abroad programs, or guiding alumni on tours around the world.

The Gimses felt so strongly about the transformative power of international study opportunities that they created a scholarship fund to help other students enjoy that experience. Called the Mac and Jackie Gimse Endowed Scholarship for International Studies, the three-year-old fund makes it possible for more St. Olaf students to participate in Global Semester or other international programs.

"We always felt that it was a blessing to be at St. Olaf, and we wanted to figure out a way to give back," says Jackie Gimse, an adolescent psychiatric nurse who accompanied her husband on the study abroad programs he led. "The important thing in endowing a scholarship was to support students to have the wonderful experiences we've had."

St. Olaf students have been an integral part of their lives for more than forty years. In addition to countless study abroad programs with the Gimses, former students remain in close touch with them long after graduation. From taking them to the untouchable communities in India and donating sheets to orphanages in Mumbai or library books to children in Thailand to opening their eyes to the visual arts of Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, Mac Gimse is gratified to know that students come back to campus with a new perspective on life. "We try to get students into parts of a culture that are not normally seen," he adds, so they, too, learn to "give back" to people in need. "It's just so life-changing for them."

Thanks to the Gimses' scholarship, Cassandra Rickertsen '14 was able to participate in the college's Term in Asia program last fall, inspiring her to add an Asian studies concentration to her chemistry major, and giving her the confidence and experience to know she'll return to Asia one day.

In addition to the Gimses' support, Rickertsen also received financial support from the Billi and Vern Faillettaz Endowed Scholarship. Vern, a professor emeritus of religion, and his wife, Billi '80, first created the scholarship in 1996, when Vern retired from the religion faculty after teaching for thirty-three years at St. Olaf. ▶

From left: Mac Gimse '58, Cassandra Rickertsen '14, Jackie Gimse, Vern Faillettaz, and Billi Faillettaz '80



Together, these two faculty-funded scholarships took some of the financial burden off Rickersten and her family, while also giving her opportunities to make connections with Oles from other generations. "It's nice to know that there are other people besides my family pulling for me and supporting me and knowing I can do this," says Rickertsen, a native of Rapid City, South Dakota. "Term in Asia was absolutely phenomenal, and I'm so glad I was able to go. Without the scholarships, I would not have been able to study abroad."

Like the Faillettazes and Gimses, many retired St. Olaf professors have endowed scholarship funds for current students long after devoting their careers to teaching, sustaining their dedication to the college and its students by providing crucial financial support. Their support is needed more than ever as college costs continue to rise: in the 2011-12 academic year, 86 percent of St. Olaf students received financial aid.

The Faillettazes created their scholarship fund to insure that students of all backgrounds and circumstances can attend the college. It's a student-focused way to support St. Olaf, which reflects Vern's approach to being a professor.

"We've always been interested in education, and there are a lot of people out there who can't afford to go to school, particularly at a good college or university. This is a chance to allow some individuals to get a good education and have a life they might not have had otherwise." — BILLI FAILLETTAZ '80

"For those of us who have been at small colleges in general and have been student-oriented in our teaching, it's a wonderful way to give," says Vern, who worked as a parish pastor in Chicago before coming to St. Olaf, where he taught a variety of courses on topics including the Bible, comparative religions, and Islam. "We fell in love with the students here. They are a good crew."

Billi Faillettaz was working as a licensed nurse when she returned to college, earning her bachelor's degree in nursing from St. Olaf and her master's in psychiatric nursing from the University of Minnesota. She went on to work as a counselor at St. Olaf for thirteen years and started its wellness program. In retirement she worked for an additional fifteen years on American Red Cross disaster relief teams, traveling throughout the United States.

The Faillettazes' connections to the college run deep, as does their commitment to St. Olaf students. They enjoy knowing that the funds they contributed have an immediate and substantial impact on students' lives. They often get to meet the beneficiaries of their generosity, and they value getting to know the students and their goals and dreams for the future.

From left: Bill and Char Carlson, Mike Erickson '13, and George and Gretchen Grosenick Hardgrove '58

"We've always been interested in education, and there are a lot of people out there who can't afford to go to school, particularly at a good college or university," says Billi Faillettaz. "This is a chance to allow some individuals to get a good education and have a life that they might not have had otherwise."

Professor Emeritus of Economics Bill Carlson and his wife, Char, received that kind of support when they were college students, and they wanted to pay that generosity forward. The Carlsons always have forged deep connections with St. Olaf students, whether it was by teaching and mentoring them, leading Global Semester twice and Term in the Middle East once, or getting close with friends of their children, who are both Oles.

After Bill wrote a textbook, *Statistics for Business and Economics* (now in its eighth



edition), they decided to use his royalties to create the Professor William and Charlotte Carlson Endowed Scholarship for Economic Studies.

"We are both the first generation in our families to go to college, and neither of us would have made it to college without outside help," says Char Carlson, who is retired from her job as vice president at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota. "Education is so fundamental to people being able to make it in the world, and we saw that with students coming through St. Olaf, not all from rich families, and in our travels around the world with students. St. Olaf was very dear to us, and it was an appropriate place to focus our giving."

Bill Carlson, who retired in 2004 after thirty-one years at the college, agrees, but true to his field of expertise, he looks at the scholarship fund in economic terms too. Endowing a scholarship at St. Olaf means that it's a gift that keeps on giving back to both students and the college, long after the donors pass on.

"A good portion of the St. Olaf budget goes to student aid," Bill Carlson explains. "If you have scholarships that cover student aid, it recognizes students' accomplishments, and it goes to the operating budget of the college. I think that's important," he says.

"The endowment goes on forever, and the proceeds go for the day-to-day operations of the college.

If you make a single contribution, that goes for just one year."



An endowment also shows the recipients that their professors care not only about what they learn in class, but also about their lives outside of class. Mike Erickson '13 of Roseville, Minnesota, received the Carlsons' scholarship this year. It was a happy surprise for someone who has worked full time each summer to help pay his way, and a huge help as he completes his degree in economics with a concentration in environmental studies.

The scholarship proved to Erickson, yet again, that St. Olaf was the best choice of college for him, with its close-knit community and devoted professors. "As an economics major, I have interacted with most of the faculty in the Economics Department, and they are all dedicated to their students," says Erickson, who hopes to find a job in banking or finance. "The scholarship has reinforced that feeling of support. It shows that even after [faculty] retire, they try to help out students in any way they can."

For Professor Emeritus of Chemistry George Hardgrove and his wife, Gretchen, the scholarship they recently endowed is a symbol of their enduring relationship with St. Olaf. It dates back to Gretchen's days as an Ole from the Class of 1958 and George's forty years as a chemistry professor at the college. After staying home with their two children — one of whom went to St. Olaf and the other to Carleton College — Gretchen worked for thirty-five years at St. Olaf, in the Rølvaag and Hong Kierkegaard Libraries. She retired in 2010 and George in 1999.

During their fifty-two years as part of the St. Olaf community, the Hardgroves have received tremendous pleasure from interacting with students, making dear friends of fellow professors and other staff, and taking advantage of all of the Hill's cultural offerings.

"Our whole lives have been wrapped up in St. Olaf," says George Hardgrove. To honor that deep and lengthy history, and to continue doing their part to contribute to the education of students, the couple recently funded the George L. and Gretchen Hardgrove Endowed Scholarship.

They look forward to meeting some of the fund's first recipients this spring. "I hope that it will encourage them to stay with their chemistry major and contribute in a small part to their being at St. Olaf," George says. Adds Gretchen, "I'm very grateful we can do this. College is expensive these days, and we're sold on liberal arts colleges. It's a rewarding, satisfying experience, and we want others to have it too."

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

Several St. Olaf faculty couples have taken advantage of the Strategic Initiative Match, which matches gifts of \$50,000 or more to the college's endowment, doubling the payout amount in perpetuity and thereby doubling the impact of their gift! **To support or establish St. Olaf student scholarship endowments, call 800-776-6523.**

class notes

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

1929

Happy birthday to **Florence Edman Rokke**, who celebrated her 105th birthday on Feb. 25! Florence has lived in Mesa, Ariz., since 1967. Her late husband, Joseph O. Rokke, was a 1917 graduate, and they have three sons: **Jarle '57** (married to **Myrna '60**), **David**, and **Joseph '70** (married to **Marsha '69**).

1940

Ted and Donna Loughrey Schoewe not only celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on Jan. 27, they also celebrated their 94th birthdays this spring! Both are in fine health, enjoying life, and thanking God for each new day they are blessed with. Friends can read more about their activities on the St. Olaf Class of 1940 home page.



1950

Phil Froiland and his wife, Marilyn, were volunteer docents at Sitka (Alaska) Lutheran Church, the oldest Lutheran church (est. 1840) on the West Coast. Phil and Marilyn explained the history of the church and shared church artifacts with cruise ship passengers who stopped in Sitka. ■ *With a Voice of Singing*, Magnum Chorum's highly anticipated recording of choral works by **Kenneth Jennings**, is now available. This collection features "Today Heaven Sings," "Creator Spirit Heavenly Dove," "The Lord is the Everlasting God," and the "Spiritual Songs." Magnum Chorum is led by artistic director **Christopher Aspaas '95**. Interested Oles can find the CD at magnumchorum.org.



1951

Mary Ann Christensen Johnson has a wonderful life in Bailey's Harbor, Wis. Shortly after moving to this Door County village, she established and ran a successful Scandinavian import shop, Hjerterhem, and also established Bailey's Harbor Historical Society. In 1992, the Door County Historical Society named her "Historian of the Year," and she played an important role in getting three Bailey's Harbor buildings added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2000. Although Mary Ann has now retired and closed her shop, she's still very much involved in the community and with the people whose stories she has preserved.



1953

Doug Lier has been named a "Living Treasure of Los Alamos," N.M. This award is given for outstanding dedication to the life, heart, and spirit of the Los Alamos community.

1954

Composer and conductor **Dale Warland**, who founded the Dale Warland Singers in 1972, was inducted into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame in October 2012. He joins choral luminary Robert Shaw as the only other choral conductor in the Hall of Fame. The music world has bestowed its highest honors on Dale, including the Weston Noble Award for Lifetime Achievement in Choral Music from the American Choral Directors Association (2010); the Cultural Leadership Citation Award from Yale University (2010); and the Robert Shaw Award in Choral Music from the American Choral Directors Association (2007).



1955

Carolyn Lyders Johnson is a chapter leader for the Weston A. Price Foundation and offers classes on eating real foods and on gardening. Friends can learn more about the foundation at WAPFToledo.org.

1961

Robert Algoe and **Darla Boesch Algoe** traveled to Antarctica last November. They write, "We spent two days in Buenos Aires and then a day in Ushuaia, the world's southern-most city, before boarding our ship with about 100 other passengers for our nine-day excursion. We soon discovered why our beds were equipped with belts to be used in rough seas. The two-day passage produced waves of 40 feet and sea sickness. All of the discomfort was more than worthwhile when we reached this pristine continent. This is the time of the year to see penguins, seals, whales, and many birds. A high-light was a zodiac [rubber craft] tour through an iceberg field with hundreds of icebergs of all shapes, colors, and sizes (some of them the size of islands). It was magical."

1963

How to have a great adventure: First gather a bunch of '63 classmates in Sioux Falls, S.D., load them all into two vans, and take off on a "safari" through the intriguing state, guided by classmate **John Hegg**. Then take them to the Corn Palace, the capitol (Pierre), the Oahe Dam, a hunting lodge on the plains for shooting and fishing, and a trek through the Badlands. Be sure to include a stay in a Scandinavian B&B, a try at the casinos in Deadwood, a challenging 10k volksmarch to the top of the Crazy Horse Monument, a close look at Mt. Rushmore, an encounter with buffalo, and a stay at the Custer State Park Game Lodge. Finally, add some great conversation, retelling of St. Olaf stories, interesting South Dakota food and wine, and a wonderful sense of community. Those on the "safari" included **Elaine Johansen Johnson**, **Dave Johnson**, **Bart de Malignon**, **Susan Andrews de Malignon**, **Mardelle Steinke Madsen**, **Mark Knutson**, **Jan Gorder Knutson**, **John Hegg**, and non-Oles Eric Madsen and Dave Karwacki.



Goodbye, Coach Porter

BY VIRGIL FOSS '62

Editor's Note: Virg Foss wrote this column for the Grand Forks, North Dakota, *Herald* on the passing of St. Olaf football coach **Tom Porter '51**. Foss was one of countless Oles who had the honor of playing for Porter. "We will miss him," says Foss. "Coming back to the Hill for a football game in the fall won't be quite the same without coaches Porter and [Charles] Lunder sitting by the alumni tent to greet us and visit a bit."

They held a funeral in Northfield, Minn., on Tuesday [January 29, 2013] and it broke my heart that icy roads prevented me from being there.

The service was for Tom Porter, 83, who was my football and hockey coach at St. Olaf College in Northfield. Porter, a St. Olaf graduate, was head football coach there for 32 years, attesting to his loyalty to his alma mater. But that's not what set Coach Porter apart to all the young men who played for him.

He cared about winning, yes, and did his share of that. He cared more about the young athletes as people and that's why so many of his players packed the church to say goodbye.

We've all had Tom Porters in our lives. Parents, coaches, teachers, pastors, friends, spouses, who have deeply influenced the direction of our lives and put the blocks in place for building our character.

Coach Porter was one of the best at coaching sports. He was among the greatest in coaching life. He was a man of faith, of understanding, a man with a drive for perfection, of unending routines. When we messed up a play in football practice, he'd simply say, "same play, same (snap) count, run it again."

When you're 18 or 19 and your world turns upside down every day as you seek your way in life, Porter's routines kept us on a steady path. I played three years of football under him and four years of hockey. I never heard him swear or belittle a player. Not once.

For us young men finding our way through youthful years, Porter was that rock of stability. He was a young coach when I was there, just 11 years older than I was, but we came to idolize him. From the biggest star to the lowest bench-warmer, he never forgot a player.

When you're 18 or 19 and your world turns upside down every day as you seek your way in life, Porter's routines kept us on a steady path.

I last visited with him at a St. Olaf football game last fall when 10 of us from his championship team 50 years earlier returned for a game and mini-reunion. I walked up to him, and he said, "Virg Foss, No. 21."

He never forgot the jersey number of any player, even as 30, 40, 50 years passed since he'd last seen

us in uniform. That he never forgot a single player made even the lowest of us on his depth charts forever feel like an All-American. I hope he knew what a special gift that was.

As our appreciation of his influence on us grew over the years, we came to understand what Tom Porter's number was. He was No. 1 in our hearts.

In the last days of his life, Coach Porter called for one last play to be run. He passed along a request that as the funeral ended, his former players line the hallway from the church to the room where lunch would be served. As others at the funeral passed through that funnel of players, Porter requested that his players sing the St. Olaf "Um! Yah! Yah!" fight song to send him off.

I'm told that with tear-filled eyes, the 200 or so players nearly knocked the shingles off the church roof with three rousing times through the fight song. Yup, Coach, same song, same tune, do it again, as you taught us.

In his words to his coaching friends and former players who saw him in the hospital in his final days, he left us all with this inspiring message. "I'll see you again," he said, "but in a different place."

Virg Foss reported on sports for the Grand Forks Herald for 36 years until his retirement. He still writes a weekly column exclusively for the Herald from October through April.



1964

Melvin Stone has retired from television news, and photography is now his major pursuit. Soon he will be opening an art gallery in Las Cruces, N.M. Friends can view his photos at melstone-photography.com and mesquiteartgallery.com.

1965

Thomas von Fischer spent the last year writing a 300-page history of the von Fischer family history, all 422 years of it. His self-published book, *Remembering Who We Are: Reflections on the Bicentennial of the Family Name Fischer von Weikersthal*, is available at amazon.com.

1966

Gary Coles was awarded the prestigious Alumni Citation of Merit by the Robert J. Trulaske, Jr. College of Business of the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. It is the highest award conferred by the college, where Gary is an adjunct faculty member teaching and mentoring students in the Marketing Analytics MBA Program. Gary retired from *Reader's Digest* in 2004 and has had careers in database marketing, marketing research, and educational research/evaluation.

1967

English teacher **Michel Thompson Loomis** first began teaching physical education at Liberty Memorial Central Middle School in Lawrence, Kan., 31 years ago. During her tenure, she initiated an annual two-mile "fun run" event and fundraiser, along with an after-school "Smart Strength" fitness and nutrition program. The state of Kansas recently recognized Michel for going above and beyond her classroom responsibilities to promote youth fitness. ■ **Ellie Watland** sold her real estate company in Costa Rica, where she has lived for 13 years, and moved back to the United States to be closer to family.

1968

Gayle Anderson is working as an educational consultant in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

1969

Susan Reece Martyn, the Stoepler Professor of Law and Values at the University of Toledo's College of Law, was given a Distinguished University Professor Award. Susan previously has received outstanding faculty awards from both the university and the College of Law, where she has been on the faculty since 1980.



1971

William Grimbol has authored 11 books for youth and adults, all available on *amazon.com*.

1972

Scott Bremer, an attorney with the Chicago office of Quarles & Brady LLP, was selected for inclusion in the 2013 *Illinois Super Lawyers* magazine. His expertise is bonds/government finance.

1973

Retired FDNY captain **Brenda Berkman** joins the likes of Carol Burnett, Judy Blume, Oprah Winfrey, and Hillary Clinton to discuss the women's movement in the recent PBS documentary *MAKERS: Women Who Make America* (*makers.com/brenda-berkman-O*). ■ In March, **Cindy Gallea** participated in her 11th Iditarod, the iconic 1,000-mile Trail Sled Dog Race across Alaska. She was the only Minnesotan in the race. Cindy, a nurse practitioner with two grown sons and a lifelong love of the outdoors, has been running sled dogs for 25 years. "I so look forward to being back on the trail, traveling with my dogs and enjoying the beauty of Alaska, the challenge of the race and the camaraderie of the Iditarod family," she noted on the 2013 Iditarod website. "Life is all about enjoying each day and every adventure." ■ **Sylvia Munsen**, a professor of music at Utah State University, was awarded Norway's prestigious Medal of St. Olav in a ceremony at the Norwegian consulate in Minneapolis in late April. The Medal of St. Olav was instituted by King Haakon VII of Norway in 1939 and is awarded in recognition of "outstanding services rendered in connection with the spreading of information about Norway abroad and for strengthening the bonds between expatriate Norwegians and their home country."



1974

Concordia College choir director **René Clausen** is a Grammy Award winner, receiving the 2013 Grammy for Best Choral Performance for his CD *Life and Breath — Choral Works by René Clausen*, performed by the Kansas City Chorale, with Charles Bruffy as conductor. It swept the three Grammy Award categories for which it was nominated. "It is just very heartwarming and exciting, and I'm just grateful and humbled that this has all happened," René said in an interview with the online journal *InForum* of Fargo-Moorhead. "It was nothing that I expected. Just all of this has come out of the blue." René is in his 27th year at Concordia.

1976

Brad Hagen and his wife, Linda, sold the medical office and movie theater they owned in Brewster, Wash., and moved to Ashland, Ore., where Brad works as a nurse practitioner for Providence Occupational Health and Linda is a physician. ■ **Kathy McDow** is pursuing her MDiv at Fuller Theological Seminary.

1977

Vicki Bailey, chief legal officer and negotiator of investment contracts for Advantus Capital Management, was named by *Finance & Commerce*, a Minneapolis financial daily publication, to its annual list of Top Women in Finance in the Twin Cities.

1978

Linda Atwood Goldetsky continues to work in health care settings as a psychologist and looks forward to catching up with friends at the Class of 1978's 35th reunion later this month!

1979

Mark Groettum played Horton the Elephant for *Seussical, the Musical*, the latest production by Northland Broadway Youth Theater. Portraying a pachyderm was never on Mark's to-do list, but when he heard about the chance to be in a stage production with his 13-year-old daughter, Maggie, he was all ears. "I like acting with my daughter," says Mark, an occasional thespian and a lawyer by profession. "To me, that's the whole point in being part of this. I get to be a part of it with her, and not just watch her." His daughter's favorite part is singing a duet with her father. "It's a fun role," he added. "Horton is the nicest elephant in the world. He basically gives up his life to save an egg and lookout for the Whos. He's totally misunderstood — like lawyers are."



1980

John Betcher, a retired attorney turned author, received three honors in the Readers Favorite 2012 Book Award Contest for his James Becker series of books. Judges for the contest named *The Covert Element* winner of their Silver Award in the realistic fiction category; *The Missing Element* was a finalist in the general fiction category; and *The Exiled Element* was recognized with an honorable mention in the fiction/suspense category. John's books have all been self-published, and friends can learn more at *john-betcher.com*. ■ **Mark Peifer** has been awarded the J. Carlyle Sitterson Freshman Teaching Award by the University of North Carolina, where he is the Hooker Distinguished Professor of Biology.

1981

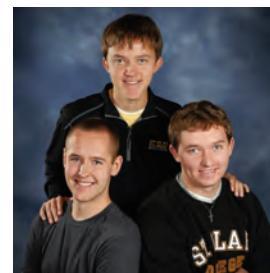
After spending the first half of 2012 at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, where she worked as a park ranger for visitor services, **Bonnie Campbell** writes, "What a transformative opportunity. Think millions of seabirds, Hawaiian monk seal, Hawaiian green sea turtle, short-tailed albatross, one of the most complete coral reef ecosystems in the world, and a rich history: Battle of Midway National Memorial, UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the sole public window into the greater Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Tightening budgets have led to a recent decision to close the island to all visitors, volunteers, educators, and researchers, the very individuals who bring awareness to this incredible place where we clearly see the impacts of marine debris and global climate changes, including sea level rise." Friends can learn more about this remarkable place by visiting *nwreflections.net.midway.php*.



A Laysan albatross sky-mooing with its chick. Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge hosts the largest breeding colony of Laysan albatross in the world. Photo by Bonnie L. Campbell, Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, monument permit #PMNM-2012-017

1982

Mark Anderson is a vice president for Eldermark Software, a start-up technology company that serves assisted-living providers with technology solutions. ■ **Beth Jorgenson Abdella** and **Blake Abdella** have three sons at St. Olaf: twins **Ryan '13** and **Michael '13**, and **Scott '14**. Beth is a chemistry professor at St. Olaf, and Blake is an administrator in Northfield's private sector.



1983

Susan Hagstrom writes, "I am enjoying my work as director of undergraduate advising in UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design. Outside of work, I am a dog volunteer at the local animal shelter and am training to ride my bike from San Francisco to Los Angeles to raise money for the SF AIDS Foundation. Would love to reconnect with my classmates. You can find me on Facebook and LinkedIn." ■ **Peter Hatlie** has been appointed to the newly created position of vice president, dean, and

director of the University of Dallas's Rome (Italy) Program. For more than a decade, Peter, a history professor, has served in various capacities with the nationally recognized study abroad program, most recently as dean and director of the Rome campus. ■ **John Norquist** is on a one-year assignment with the NATO Training Mission/Combined Security Transition Command in Kabul, Afghanistan. He is serving as a senior legal advisor in the Afghan Ministry of Defense. "It is one of the most difficult, challenging, and rewarding things I have ever done, helping to build Afghan institutional capacity in preparation for the transition [of U.S. military withdrawal] in 2014." ■ **Durk Peterson** is serving as senior pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Bloomington, Minn.

1984

California State University at Channel Islands Chemistry Professor **Phil Hampton** earned a prestigious regional award from the National Engineers Week Foundation. The Edwin Allen Kindberg Distinguished Engineering Service Award is presented annually to "an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to advance or recognize the engineering profession in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties." Phil was honored for his efforts to spread enthusiasm for science to students of all ages through a variety of outreach programs and partnerships.

Honoring the Legacy of Music Professor Alice Larsen '51

A group of St. Olaf alumnae are working with St. Olaf Choir Conductor **Anton Armstrong '78**, Manitou Singers Conductor Sigrid Johnson, and the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota (ACDA-MN) to create a scholarship that will honor St. Olaf Music Professor **Alice T. Larsen '51** (1929-2004), who taught voice at St. Olaf from 1955 to 1989 and conducted the Manitou Singers from 1956 to 1983. The scholarship will be established through the F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund of the ACDA. Women who sang for Alice Larsen can learn more about the scholarship at fmcendowment.org.

Olds **Katie Moran Bart '78**, **Marie Spar Dymit '83**, **Kristi Peterson Gerry '84**, **Teri Larson Krubsack '84**, **Lisa Wilkening Lozito '82**, **Kari Peterson Werdahl '82**, and **Rebecca Hagestuen**



Wyffels '84 — ACDA-MN members who comprise the scholarship committee — are also working on a Manitou Singers CD that honors Larsen's tenure as conductor of that ensemble. The CD will be released in conjunction with the ACDA-MN fall conference (Nov. 2013) and will be available in the St. Olaf Bookstore.

The 2013 ACDA-MN fall conference will be held in Minneapolis and, to further honor Larsen's legacy, will celebrate women's choirs. A showcase concert on November 23 will feature St. Olaf's Manitou Singers under the direction of Sigrid Johnson, the ACDA-MN High School Women's Honor Choir, and select high school women's choirs. More information about the conference can be found at acda-mn.org.

Committee members are looking for any Manitou Singers memorabilia, photographs, programs, or recordings from the years that Larsen directed the ensemble, to be used in a "wall of remembrance" that Katie Bart is assembling. Items can be sent to the St. Olaf Office of Music Organizations. For more information, singers can find Katie Bart on Facebook.



Taking Flight

Chelen Johnson '84 was one of 26 educators from classrooms and science centers across the United States chosen to go on two 10-hour flights aboard NASA's Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA). SOFIA — a heavily modified Boeing 747 jet equipped with a 19-ton infrared telescope that pokes out of a special door in the fuselage — is the world's largest airborne astronomical observatory. Johnson, who is in her 28th year of teaching at Breck School, a private K-12 school in Golden Valley, Minnesota, was selected as part of NASA's Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors program.

Flying 49,000 feet above Earth, Johnson studied the stars, planets, gases, comets, and black holes that populate the universe through SOFIA's German-built telescope. "I am still pinching myself when I realize that I had this amazing opportunity," she said.

Educators take what they learn during their SOFIA training and flights back to their classrooms and their communities to improve curricula and generate interest in courses and careers related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Johnson has made empowering girls in the areas of physics and astronomy a top priority. She started an astronomy club for junior and senior girls at Breck five years ago, and every Saturday morning they examine data collected from satellites with infrared telescopes. The Saturday astronomy research group works in collaboration with three other schools, two from Hawaii and one from Texas.

Johnson hopes her story will inspire her students to never give up on their dreams. She says she had wanted to participate in the SOFIA program for more than a decade, and to be able to finally do it proved to her — and to them — that anything is possible.

1987

Don and Doug Bratland recently celebrated the release of "Heavy On My Mind," a CD recorded with their roots-rock band, Matt Arthur & The

Bratlanders. Produced by **Michael Morris '97**, the album features instrumental contributions from **Green Bouzard '11** and **Hilary James '11**. Learn more at bratlanders.com or on Facebook.

1988

Kari Groth Swan writes, "After more than 20 years in the wealth management industry, I have pivoted into philanthropy, working for Minnesota Philanthropy Partners. It's good and interesting work that matters."

1990

Jennifer Nordin is enjoying the life of an expat spouse in India. She and her family moved to Chennai last August and plan to be there for three years. ■ **Patrick Swanson** was promoted to full professor at the Creighton University School of Medicine, where he continues to teach immunology to graduate and professional students. ■ **Beth Tjaden Freschi** is working as a Twin Cities life coach specializing in guided relaxation. Friends can learn more at atimeforexpression.com.

1991

Matthew Wiencke was promoted to associate editor of *Dartmouth Medicine Magazine*, the magazine of the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College.

1993

Mat Knutson, **Geoff Seper '94**, **Jeff Potter '94**, and **Eric Barsness '94** have formed the punk rock band Shazanimal. While most Shazanimal

NEW BOOKS BY ST. OLAF ALUMNI AND FACULTY



A Sense of Wonder: More Moments From an Ordinary Life (Author House, 2012), by **Craig Nagel '63** (amazon.com)

Last Stand: Ted Turner's Quest to Save a Troubled Planet (Lyons Press, 2013), by **Todd Wilkinson '84** (amazon.com and independent bookstores)

Lies Beneath (Random House/Delacorte, 2012), **Deep Betrayal** (Random House/Delacorte, 2013), and **Promise Bound** (Random House/Delacorte, spring 2014), by **Anne Greenwood Brown '90** (amazon.com)

People With Diabetes Can Eat Anything: it's all about balance (Media 117, 2013) by **Jane K. Dickinson '90** (amazon.com, smashwords.com)

Scandinavian Crime Fiction (coedited with Paula Arvas, University of Wales Press, 2011) and **The Cinema of Aki Kaurismäki: Contrarian Stories** (Wallflower Press, May 2013), by **Andrew Nestingen '94** (amazon.com)

The Still Point of the Turning World (Penguin Group, March 2013), by **Emily Rapp '96** (amazon.com, Barnes & Noble bookstores, bn.com)

The Evil Necessity: British Naval Impressment in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World (Charlottesville, University of Virginia Press, March 2013), by **Denver Brunzman '97** (upress.virginia.edu, amazon.com)

Social Organizations and the Authoritarian State in China (Cambridge University Press, 2013), by **Timothy Hildebrandt '00** (amazon.com)

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

sightings have been in the Twin Cities area, they also were recently spotted in the music mecca of Austin, Texas. Find out more about Shazanimal on its Facebook page. ■ **Stephen Tight** has rejoined Fredrikson & Byron as an officer in the Minneapolis firm's Corporate, Mergers & Acquisitions, Private Equity and Venture Capital, and Life Sciences groups.

1994

Andrew Nestingen is teaching courses in Scandinavian studies, cinema, popular culture, and cultural theory at the University of Washington. Friends can connect with Andy on Facebook.

1995

Joel Haney received tenure and promotion to associate professor of music at California State University, Bakersfield. He also serves as vice president of the Pacific Southwest Chapter of the American Musicological Society.

1996

Stephan Cameron has completed a biotechnology internship at DuPont Industrial Biosciences (Genencor) in Palo Alto, Calif., and is now completing her Ph.D. as a National Institutes of Health Biotechnology Training Fellow at the University of Minnesota.

1997

Denver Brunzman's new book, *The Evil Necessity: British Naval Impressment in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World*, received the Walker Cowen Memorial Prize for an outstanding work of scholarship in 18th-century studies and was featured in C-SPAN's Book TV episode on authors from Alexandria, Va.



1998

Michael Lau received tenure at Université Laval (Québec City, Canada), where he's a professor in the math department. ■ **Andrew Peters** continues as pastoral musician at Second Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, Mo. He performed several organ recitals in 2012, including appearances in the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, S.C., St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, and the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, Ga.

1999

Lars Leafblad has left KeyStone to become head of leadership programs for the Bush Foundation in St. Paul, Minn.

2000

Erin Carlson is enjoying her position as an assistant professor of chemistry at Indiana University, where she was named a Pew Biomedical Scholar and received a number of awards, including the NIH Director's New Innovator Award and the NSF CAREER Award. ■ **Timothy Hildebrandt**, whose current position is that of lecturer in Chinese Politics at King's College, London, will begin a new position in the Department of Social Policy at the London School of Economics in September. Previously, he taught at the School of International Relations at the University of Southern California. ■ **John Kukkonen** is an account executive for Body Training Systems.

2001

Before **Carla Essenberg** started graduate school, where she's researching plant-pollinator interactions and the foraging behavior of bees, she spent some time in AmeriCorps, first working in an elementary school and then doing community organizing with a nonprofit serving senior citizens. ■ **Chad Grell** has joined the litigation department of the Denver law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. ■

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Virginia Otto Mack is an advanced practice nurse at Colorado State University, where she conducts comprehensive mental health assessments and provides pharmacological treatment and brief therapy for students referred for psychiatric services. She writes, "It is an exceptionally rewarding clinical placement." ■ **Jayce Ogren** has been appointed New York City Opera's new music director, giving patrons multiple opportunities to witness his artistry. Jayce will conduct at least two productions per season, as well as concerts, galas, and other projects. ■ **Emily Rollie** has been working on her dissertation at the University of Missouri and will receive her Ph.D. this spring. ■ **Marta Wenker** completed her coursework to obtain her International M.B.A. from the University of San Diego.

2002

Jacob Burkman is serving as interim pastor at Hope Lutheran Church in Riverside, Calif. ■ **Brent Comeau** is the band director at Woodbury High School in Woodbury, Minn., and was recently honored by the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce as Educator of the Year. ■ **Andrew Klein** is a technical librarian for 3M at its St. Paul, Minn., headquarters. He's delighted to be living in the Twin Cities again after eight years away.

2003

John Chapman was elected to the city council in Alexandria, Va. ■ **Hans Grinager**



completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Minnesota and is practicing at Park Nicollet Eye Clinic in St. Louis Park, Minn. ■ **Alex Morf** is playing the lead role in the Broadway National Tour of the Tony Award-winning drama *War Horse*. Minnesota friends can attend performances of *War Horse* at the



Orpheum Theatre in Minneapolis, running June 10-23, 2013. ■ **Britton Rice** is attending the Creative Circus in Atlanta, Ga., and is in the copywriting program. ■ **Patrick Thomas** edits and acquires books for the nonfiction list at Milkweed Editions in Minneapolis. In addition to his editorial responsibilities, he also manages a range of organizational operations, including the financials, inventory, and distribution. ■ **Ross Vanderwert** earned a Ph.D. in developmental science, psychology, and neuroscience.

2004

Andrea Cuff Hewitt completed her master's degree in English literature at St. Louis University and has moved with her husband and son to St. Andrews in the United Kingdom.

2005

Jaimee Glasgow completed her Ph.D. in cell biology, neurobiology, and anatomy at Loyola University, Chicago, and is working as an associate medical writer at a Chicago medical communications agency. ■ **Lisa Nguyen** joined the finance department at Greater Twin Cities



United Way as a donor choice associate. ■ **Erin Secord** (left) recently joined Fredrikson & Byron as an associate in the Minneapolis firm's litigation group. ■

Aaron Williamson is vice president of the Minnesota Association for Court Management and chair of its legislative and outreach committee.

2006

Bethany Jacobson Kok has moved to Leipzig, Germany, to work as a postdoctoral student at the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognition and Brain Sciences. She writes: "I'm loving Germany. If any Oles are planning a trip to Europe, my husband Michael and I would welcome you to visit. Our guest room is open!" Friends can find Bethany on Facebook. ■ **Amy Wicks** has left Bratislava, Slovakia, where she spent five years as an English teacher at the Evanjelicke Lyceum, and is now a graduate student in Boston, studying marketing and teaching in the undergraduate program.

2007

Emily Lindo writes, "I am working full time for the University of Bristol [UK] students' union and enjoying every minute, in particular, trips to London to protest tuition increases and a 'Death of Education' rally, complete with tolling bell and coffin. Guess who got to ring the bell? Thank you, St. Olaf Handbell Choir!"

2008

Christine Coleman has decided to get her broker's license in real estate and join the family business as a fourth generation member of Coleman Land Company in St. Charles, Ill. ■ **Heather Dahlquist** graduated from the Creighton University School of Medicine and currently is in the Pediatric Residency Program at UCLA. ■ **Anna Fedorowicz** is an adult immunization outreach specialist in the Immunization, TB and International Health Section of the Minnesota Department of Health. She currently is focused on increasing adult immunization rates in the state.

2009

Not only is **Benjamin Baker** working as an adjunct at NYU where he directs music classes and coaches vocalists, he's also a freelance musician, performing jazz and pop ensembles across the city and working as a music director and studio musician. Friends can learn more at benbakermusic.net. ■ **Anna Messerly** received her Ph.D. in physical therapy from the University of Minnesota and is working as an outpatient orthopedic PT at a privately-owned clinic in Monticello and Buffalo, Minn. "I love the variety. Lots of athletes, post-op patients, the occasional pediatric patient, and everything in between!" ■ Community organizer **Paul Peterson** is in southern Tennessee working on local food systems and immigrant rights. ■ **Johanna Rupprecht**, a policy organizer with the Land Stewardship Project, is helping rural southeastern Minnesota communities protect themselves from corporate-driven mining and processing development.

2010

John Haberman will finish his M.A. in education from Ole Miss as part of the Mississippi Teacher Corps, a program that puts teachers into the poorest and worst schools in Mississippi. John is also currently the head soccer coach at Jim Hill High School.

2011

Anna Lehn has relocated to Seattle where she has begun working as the Seattle Opera's annual fund assistant.

2012

Sara Schaezner is a first year student at the Creighton University School of Medicine.

2013

Kjell Erik Dybdahl completed his degree in economics in January and has been accepted into the Hazelden Graduate School of Addiction Studies, where he will work toward his master's degree in addiction counseling.



future oles

Rebecca and David Leege '86, a son, Julian
Erika Schreiber '95, a daughter, Josie
Maren Melhus Leafblad '99 and Lars Leafblad '99, a daughter, Greta
Emily Nelson Hayes '99 and Andrew Hayes '96, a daughter, Madeline
Rachel Scepanski '99 and Adam Davis '00, a son, Gabriel
Steve and Jennifer Winberg Skavnak '99, a son, Desmond
Kristen and John Kukkonen '00, a son, Colten
Maia Sheie Marshall '00 and Andrew Marshall '01, a daughter, Whitney
Dan and Janine Warner Johnson '00, a son, Micah
Brenna Yard '00 and Marc Johnson, a daughter, Marian
Elizabeth Douglass Espinoza '01 and Michael Espinoza '01, a son, Andrew
Jeremy and Kelly Mattison Butler '01, a daughter, Kaia
Lisa Pierce Niven '01, a daughter, Eloise
Jackie Roverud McMurray '01 and John McMurray '99, a son, Micah
Katie Van Demark Reilly '02 and Brian Reilly '02, a son, Benjamin
Jeff and Astrid Beckwith Merrifield '03, a son, Levi
Michael and Erica Clausen Maker '04, a son, Jack
Jay and Andrea Cuff Hewitt '04, a son, Henrik
Carli and Eric Palmer '04, a daughter, Evelyn
Kathryn Weber Douglass '04 and Andrew Douglass '04, a daughter, Norah
Bethany and Evan Meyer '05, a daughter, Helen
Lauren Haugen '06 and Jacob Anderson '07, a daughter, Marit
Sam and Brittney Meyer Watts '07, a son, Luther
Elizabeth Stafford Cook '08 and Conor Cook '09, a son, Joseph
Emily Qian Vigne '09 and Kenneth Qian Vigne '08, a son, James

weddings

John Mayer '68 and Lampang Suriya, June 28, 2012
Phyllis Weisert '68 and Dale Timm, Dec. 28, 2012
Maria Kelly '85 and Peter Largen, April 28, 2012
John Watne '90 and Sara Erickson, April 14, 2012
Matthew Wiencke '91 and Chris Jones, Oct. 7, 2012
Katie Holm '93 and Cole Zachman, Aug. 10, 2012
Karin Holt '99 and Martin Bertilsson, July 9, 2011
Lisa Kuhl '02 and Devin Bush, Oct. 6, 2012
Sarah Onnen '02 and Christopher Ash, March 11, 2012
Jennie Bonnette '03 and Colin Creegan, Sept. 1, 2012
Hans Grinager '03 and Erica Walsh, Aug. 16, 2012
Caitie Moore '03 and Tim Flaherty, Nov. 16, 2012
Britton Rice '03 and Megan Thill, June 24, 2011
Mara Sedlins '03 and Ricardo Contreras, Nov. 21, 2012
Megan Techam '03 and Kelly Swanson, Nov. 24, 2012
Carolyn Albert '05 and Ryan Donovan, Jan. 5, 2013
Meghan Cook '05 and Daniel McCabe, Oct. 20, 2012
Krissy Dockery '05 and Zach Smith, Nov. 17, 2012
Kristen Highum '05 and Aamir Alavi, Oct. 2011
Lisa Nguyen '05 and David Gaulke, Sept. 15, 2012
Sarah Podenski '05 and Jake Sinderbrand, Aug. 4, 2012
Krista Springer '05 and Daniel Appel, Sept. 8, 2012
Lauren Haugen '06 and Jacob Anderson '07, March 26, 2011
Brooke Smars '06 and Kale Langley, Sept. 29, 2012
Kate Jadin '07 and Bennie Thierry, Oct. 20, 2012
Tova Patterson '07 and Greg Bohrer '07, July 7, 2012
Lauren Fischer '08 and Jamison Beek, Sept. 15, 2012
Siri Peterson '09 and Ben Baker '09, June 23, 2012
Sarah Schmidt '09 and Glen Johnson, Aug. 11, 2012
Rose Blackhawk '10 and Tony Pistilli, Sept. 30, 2012
Cia Guglielmina '10 and David Osterhouse '08, Sept. 16, 2012
Emma Johanson '10 and Scott Robish, Sept. 14, 2012
Laura McDaniels '11 and Daniel Haywood '11, July 27, 2012

deaths

Georgia Spande Larson '34, Mabel, Minn., Dec. 4, 2012
Lois Oden Obrestad '35, St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 28, 2012
Evelyn Tande Urevig '37, Madelia, Minn., Dec. 7, 2012
John Erickson '38, Stillwater, Minn., Dec. 8, 2012
Julia Hillestad Johnson '38, Davenport, Iowa, Nov. 14, 2012
Walter Lostrom '38, Boise, Idaho, Sept. 24, 2012
*Burton Olson '38, Minot, N.D., Dec. 30, 2012
Theodore Armstrong '39, Feb. 27, 2010
Esther Den Beste Wiese '39, Manson, Iowa, April 5, 2011
Arthur Ellertson '39, Madelia, Minn., Sept. 15, 2012
Marion Knutson Moeser '39, Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 16, 2012
Marcus Nystuen '39, Maplewood, Minn., Oct. 30, 2012
Marcella Skindlov Dethman '40, San Diego, July 12, 2012
Marguerite Soma Colegrove '41, Armstrong, Iowa, Oct. 16, 2012
*Blake Anderson '42, Muncie, Ind., Nov. 16, 2012
Edith Hetle Buttenhoff '42, Grand Rapids, Minn., Dec. 30, 2012
*Gerhard Huggenvik '42, Sun City, Ariz., Dec. 15, 2012
Virginia Finsand Sielaff '43, San Jose, Calif., Sept. 28, 2012
Florence Frayseth Sarlette '44, Morris, Minn., Dec. 17, 2012
Sybil Johnson Hamren '44, Roanoke, Va., Jan. 13, 2013
Marguerite Michel Benedett '44, St. Charles, Minn., Dec. 24, 2012
*Paul Running '44, Kalamazoo, Mich., Jan. 20, 2013
Alice Lind Christian '45, Bloomington, Ill., Sept. 24, 2012
*Luther Mason '45, Minneapolis, Sept. 3, 2012
Dorothy Rovelstad Nesse '45, Oak Park Heights, Minn., Nov. 29, 2012
Arno Windsor '45, Green Valley, Ariz., Dec. 4, 2012
June Halleland Brekken '46, Fountain Hills, Ariz., May 8, 2010
*Lloyd Jacobson '46, Kenyon, Minn., Dec. 25, 2012
Marguerite Berg Monson '48, Golden Valley, Minn., Oct. 30, 2012
Ruth Hjelmeland Monson '48, La Crosse, Wis., Feb. 20, 2013
Bruce Heimark '48, Fox Lake, Ill., Nov. 5, 2012
Anna Roe Hofstad '48, Wimberley, Texas, March 23, 2012
Hanna Wahl Michelson '48, West St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 7, 2013
Solveig Albertson Dahl '49, San Luis Obispo, Calif., Dec. 20, 2012
*John Donhowe '49, Aiken, S.C., Dec. 1, 2012
*Stefan Guttormsson '49, La Crosse, Wis., Nov. 24, 2012
Elsie Jorstad Willig '49, Forest City, Iowa, Nov. 5, 2012
Elsie Opsahl Hawes '49, Westminster, Colo., Nov. 30, 2012
*James Swanson '49, Litchfield, Minn., Jan. 19, 2013
*Dale Torgerson '50, Owatonna, Minn., Jan. 15, 2013
*Harold Fardal '51, Mercer Island, Wash., Jan. 6, 2013
*Joseph Fevold '51, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Oct. 10, 2012
Dagmar Kamprud '51, New Hope, Minn., Sept. 27, 2012
*Leif Lie '51, Juneau, Alaska, March 8, 2012
*Stuart Lindstrom '51, San Diego, March 20, 2011
Irene MacCornack Lamprecht '51, Sun City West, Ariz., July 18, 2012
*Tom Porter '51, Northfield, Minn., Jan. 24, 2013
*John Trodahl '51, Cape Canaveral, Fla., Oct. 27, 2012
Ralph Arnold '52, Oak Lawn, Ill., July 10, 2012
*Thomas Finstad '52, Anoka, Minn., Oct. 29, 2012
*William Gulbrandsen '52, Willmar, Minn., Nov. 7, 2012
*Joseph Hamre '52, Spring Valley, Minn., Dec. 22, 2012
*William Kopperud '52, Naperville, Ill., March 25, 2012
Vera Jensenius Ovrevik '53, Tustna, Norway, Nov. 27, 2012
Marlene Olson Daehlin '53, Monticello, Minn., Sept. 27, 2011
*Leland Pederson '54, Alexandria, Minn., Sept. 29, 2012
*George Beito, Jr. '55, Thief River Falls, Minn., Oct. 19, 2012
Lenise Christopher '55, Las Vegas, March 10, 2012
*Milo Gronseth '55, Inver Grove Heights, Minn., Jan. 16, 2013
Lars Kindem '55, Northfield, Minn., Jan. 26, 2013

*Vernon Severson '55, Black River Falls, Wis., Oct. 15, 2012
 Beverly Grady Finholt '56, Northfield, Minn., Nov. 17, 2012
 Eldon Preston '56, Minneapolis, Jan. 8, 2013
 Janice Stockvig Carlson '56, New London, Minn., Sept. 20, 2012
 Philip Golberg '58, Arvada, Colo., Nov. 26, 2012
 *Ole Loing '59, Princeton, Minn., Dec. 24, 2012
 Dennis Madson '60, Port Ludlow, Wash., July 5, 2012
 *David Nelson '60, Captiva Island, Fla., Dec. 16, 2012
 Patricia Olson Madson '60, Fort Collins, Colo., July 1, 2012
 Jon Jacobson '61, Yorktown, Ind., Oct. 30, 2012
 Richard Nesimiuk '61, Surrey, British Columbia, Oct. 21, 2012
 Sandra Hendrickson Gryting '63, Phoenix, Oct. 27, 2012
 *Ronald Dahlen '64, Eden Prairie, Minn., Nov. 30, 2012
 Charles Alton '65, June 26, 2012
 Ralph Bjork '65, Platteville, Wis., Jan. 19, 2013

James Johnson '66, Grand Marais, Minn., Jan. 21, 2013
 Gerald Randall '66, Blaine, Minn., Dec. 29, 2012
 Kathryn Nelson Lindsey '70, Rochester, Minn., Jan. 3, 2013
 Susan Magill Smith '71, Dubuque, Iowa, Jan. 28, 2013
 Sharon Foster '74, Salisbury, Vt., Nov. 19, 2012
 James Aune '75, Bryan-College Station, Texas, Jan. 8, 2013
 Marcus Hess '75, Cook, Minn., Sept. 13, 2012
 John Cornelison '76, Madison, Wis., Oct. 25, 2012
 Melinda Quick Bjorkman '79, Rome, N.Y., May 31, 2012
 Nancy Hayward Windels '83, Eden Prairie, Minn., Dec. 11, 2012
 Richard Kruse '86, Chicago, Ill., July 23, 2010
 Deena Grant Reichwein '98, Andover, Minn., Nov. 14, 2012
 Tyler Wheatley '12, Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 31, 2012
 * Veteran

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

Tom Porter '51

Professor Emeritus of Physical Education Tom Porter died Jan. 24, 2013, at the age of eighty-three.

Porter received his degree in physical education and biology at St. Olaf. In 1952, he was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict and served in Germany. Following his honorable discharge, he returned to Minnesota and accepted a teaching position in Neenah, Wisconsin. In 1954 he married his college sweetheart, Gloria Emstad '54. They lived in Neenah until 1958, when Tom accepted a position with St. Olaf as assistant professor of physical education for men.



Porter, a member of the St. Olaf Athletics Hall of Fame, served as the head football coach from 1958 to 1990. During that time, he led the Oles to eight conference championships and the school's only trip to the NCAA playoffs. He also coauthored a book with friend and former colleague Bob Phelps, *The Greatest Game: Football at St. Olaf College 1893-2003*, and received the honor of having the field house adjacent to Manitou Field named Tom Porter Hall. Aside from his football duties, Porter coached baseball, track, and hockey during his tenure at St. Olaf.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Gloria; sons Mark T. Porter '78 (Jane Arvesen Porter '79) and Todd W. Porter '80 (Jill Christensen Porter '81); daughters Anne Porter Tessien '82 (Robert D. Tessien '83) and Laura Porter Engwall (Eric J. Engwall '88); eleven grandchildren: Jacob '06, Nathan, and Samuel Porter, Scott '11, Rebecca and Margaret Porter, Sarah '10, Hannah, and Emma Tessien, and Carl and Anders Engwall; and two great-grandchildren.

Kenneth Wilkens

Professor Emeritus of Speech-Theater Kenneth Wilkens died Dec. 14, 2012, at the Care Center of the Northfield Retirement Community. He was ninety-one.

Wilkens joined the St. Olaf speech faculty in 1947, focusing on public speaking and debate. By 1954, he had completed his master's and doctorate degrees at Northwestern University. He left St. Olaf in 1956 to teach at the University of Texas at Austin but returned two years later to St. Olaf, where he remained until his retirement in 1986. Teaching was Wilkens's passion. During his nearly forty years at St. Olaf, he taught the value of strong public speaking skills to thousands of students and coached hundreds of Oles in national speech competitions. He also served as chair of the Speech-Theater Department and of the Fine Arts faculty, and was the college's director of forensics.

Wilkens was involved in the creation of the Speech Association of Minnesota and was active in the Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government organization, earning awards



from both organizations for his work. He also played a part in the development of the national speech honorary society, Pi Kappa Delta.

Wilkens enjoyed many pursuits, including a lifelong passion for fishing, hunting, golf, and bridge. He was a longtime member of the Lions Club and enjoyed Tuesday morning breakfast with a group of college retirees,

solving the problems of the world. Following the death of his first wife, Rae, in 1978, Wilkens married Lois Geistfeld in 1981, who survives him, along with his three children, Jane Rae Wilkens '75, Jim Wilkens '77, and Julie Wilkens-Gaardsmoe; four stepchildren, Shari Geistfeld, Mark Geistfeld, Steve Geistfeld, and Ann Clasby; three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

James Zischke

Professor Emeritus of Biology James Zischke died Dec. 6, 2012, at the age of seventy-eight. Zischke taught at St. Olaf for thirty-three years before retiring in 1996. Zischke earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin, a master's degree from the University of South Dakota, and a doctorate from Tulane State University. He was an active researcher who was known around the state for his pioneering work in using insect diversity



to monitor stream and river health. He received numerous grants to support his work, which frequently involved St. Olaf students.

"He was ahead of his time in developing cooperative research projects with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Cannon River Watershed Partnership that included local teachers and students, as well as St. Olaf students," says Professor of Biology and Curator of the St. Olaf Natural Lands Kathy Shea.

While at St. Olaf, Zischke was awarded fellowships and visiting positions with a wide range of organizations, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, and the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois.

Chalk it up!

BY JEFF SAUVE | PHOTOS BY TOM ROSTER

For nearly 130 years, Oles have inscribed their names in every conceivable spot in Old Main Tower, including on the staircase, windowsills, bricks and beams, under walkways, and in a few unbelievable reaches near the peak, like the inscription left by Alfred Lindboe in 1910.

President David R. Anderson '74 himself had the opportunity to add his name in chalk on one of the tower's wooden beams during a small mid-winter gathering. That small gathering soon turned into a larger party when some curious students discovered an open door on the third floor of Old Main, made their way into the tower, and climbed the fifty steps to the topmost landing. Like the students, this was Anderson's first visit to the Hall of Fame, and he enjoyed the moment. Making his mark in the tower was on his bucket list.

The tradition of Oles chalking their name in Old Main Tower began shortly after the tower's construction in 1884 and ended in the 1940s. In the early 1990s, Vice President of Student Life Greg Kneser reintroduced the tradition to students and alumni. "It's an overpowering visual representation of the college's history and its emerging diverse student body," says Kneser, noting that alumni often find the name of someone they know.

Nicknames and group names can also be found in the tower, including "Dutch," "Fatty," "Ace," and "Lizzy," as well as the "Beethoven Society of 1931," "The Garden Weasels," "Melly 4th floor, 1964/65," and "Pod 312

(2009–10)." Hanging from a beam is a handcrafted plaque that resembles a whale and reads, "We are one in the spirit ... Fish House 1982–83." Derek P. Attema (Class of 2006) simply placed his black and gold nameplate, which reads "Off-campus Senator," on a high wooden ledge, making it rather more permanent than dusk chalk — and so professional looking, too.

Some students found time to write their names more than once, such as Paul J. Meberg '75, who did a wonderful job of not only chiseling his last name into a wooden beam but also chalking it a few feet away. Many couples have written "so-and-so loves..." on the beams — and at least once someone returned to the tower and amended their love note, writing "Broke Up."

For some, the Hall of Fame holds special significance. Kneser recalls a student who discovered where her grandmother wrote her name in the 1950s, and placed her own name adjacent. And after the passing of sophomore Sarah E. Ferguson in 2003, her parents, Gregg and Laura, later found some catharsis in writing their only child's name in the tower in remembrance.



Names like Johnson, Larson, Huggenvik, and Xiong are chalked, chiseled, pennaed, painted, or penciled inside the tower, affectionately known since the early 1900s as St. Olaf's "Hall of Fame."

Surprisingly, the venerable Professor Halvor T. Ytterboe was the first to scale the heights within the new tower. In a letter written to his fiancée, Elise Kittelsby, dated September 13, 1884, he noted that he "walked or crept up ladders and beams, slipped and fell

some feet, clutched and drove my claws into the wooden planks so as to save my 165 pounds of flesh in its original shape... [and] scrambled along till finally I reached the highest beam, with but a few inches on either side for a promenade."

From 1920 to the early 1940s, Dean Gertrude Hilleboe annually hosted "tower parties" in the spring for the graduating senior "girls." She would dust the benches and spread newspapers on the plank floor for the students to sit on while enjoying hot, buttered popcorn from small white bags, sipping lemonade, and singing college songs like "High on Manitou Heights," after which they would add their names to the Hall of Fame. The student newspaper, *The Manitou Messenger*, pointed out in 1920 that "future generations of St. Olafites might gaze with awe upon the remnants of by-gone ages."

Those prophetic words written ninety-three years ago carry forth as 21st century Oles continue to search for the perfect place to make their mark. 🦋

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



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“THE WINTER IS
PAST, THE RAIN IS
OVER AND GONE;
THE FLOWERS
APPEAR ON THE
EARTH; THE TIME
OF THE SINGING
BIRDS IS COME.”

— SONG OF SOLOMON

The Hill is bursting with the sights and sounds of spring. After a long winter, bright patches of color dot the landscape, from daffodils and tulips to magnolia and crab apple trees. The Adirondack chairs scattered around the campus green are occupied by students studying for finals, Ugg boots have been replaced by flip flops, classes have moved outdoors. And everyone is serenaded by the sweet sounds of birds overhead.

PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER