

SPRING 2015

# ST. OLAF

MAGAZINE

CRITICAL  
THINKING

A LONG WALK TO  
SELMA

WORLD-CLASS  
JAZZ

A LEAGUE OF  
HER OWN



**ON THE COVER:**  
 Pumla Maswanganyi '16 and  
 Renato Barraza '16 conversing  
 at the end of the day in  
 Regents Hall of Natural and  
 Mathematical Sciences.  
 PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER



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# ST. OLAF

M A G A Z I N E

SPRING 2015 CONTENTS

## 2 Letter to Oles

FROM PRESIDENT DAVID R. ANDERSON '74

## 10 The Thought That Counts

BY ERIN PETERSON

St. Olaf promises to teach its students how to think critically. But what is critical thinking? Why is it so necessary? And how do professors teach this vitally important — and profoundly difficult — skill?

## 16 A Slaying in Selma

BY JOEL HOEKSTRA '92

The Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights marches of 1965 are remembered as key events in the American civil rights movement. Two days after a violent conflict between activists and local law enforcement, James Reeb '50 answered Martin Luther King's call for clergy to come to Selma, Alabama, to engage in the civil rights struggle. His murder in Selma 50 years ago sent shock waves across America and ultimately moved the country forward on the issue of racial equality.

## 26 All That Jazz

BY MARLA HILL HOLT '88

The St. Olaf Jazz Ensemble, with its world-class reputation, is led by the extraordinary Dave Hagedorn, whose passion for jazz inspires the students he teaches. Such excellence adds yet another layer to the outstanding musical education students receive at the college.

## 32 A League of Her Own

BY GREG BREINING

A longtime advocate for girls who want to play baseball, Justine Siegal '98 made history by becoming the first woman to throw batting practice in Major League Baseball. Today, through her organization, Baseball for All, she is creating meaningful opportunities for girls to play the game.

## 40 Alumni News

## 45 Class Notes

## 52 Almanac: Home Sweet Home

BY JEFF SAUVE

From 1947 to 1961, hundreds of St. Olaf students were housed at the foot of Old Main in a post-WWII housing complex dubbed Viking Court.



32

10



FROM THE DESK OF  
PRESIDENT DAVID R. ANDERSON '74



GREETINGS, OLES

This issue of *St. Olaf Magazine* is about freedom and self-determination.

It tells stories about ways that the College has fostered both individual and collective self-determination: the struggle for freedom by African Americans during the civil rights movement of the 1960's; the struggle by women to play professionally in a sport typically played only by men; the freedom from entrenched ideas and unconscious assumptions that is conferred by critical thinking. It's also about the importance of acting collectively for the common good.

"A Slaying in Selma" and "The Quiet Rights Campaign" tell two stories that aren't well-known enough in the St. Olaf family. The first tells the story of Rev. James Reeb '50, a martyr to the civil rights movement. Reeb, a Unitarian minister in Boston, was murdered in Selma, Alabama, 50 years ago when he answered the call of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. for clergy to come to Selma to assist with the voting rights demonstrations. The nation mourned Reeb's death, which became a catalyst for rapid passage of the Voting Rights Act. I had the honor of laying a wreath on behalf of the College at his memorial stone in Selma this winter, and of welcoming his daughter and granddaughter to campus this spring when we honored his memory. Those were two personally moving experiences.

In contrast, a "quieter" civil rights campaign involving a group of Oles didn't make the nightly news but still made an impact. In the summer of 1965, 65 students went to Alabama in partnership with Tuskegee University to tutor school children in under-served African American communities. Their role was different from Rev. Reeb's, but their goal was the same: to fight for the right of self-determination for African Americans who were being denied that right by laws, written and unwritten, that denied them their fundamental rights as Americans.

Like the Oles who went to Alabama 50 years ago, Justine Siegal '98 works to tear down barriers to individual self-determination. In her case, the battlefield has not been the segregated South but the world of professional baseball. "If you tell a girl she can't play baseball, what else will she think she can't do?" she asks. A good question. Unwilling to be told that girls can't play baseball, Siegal first showed that they could — in college and in the professional minor and major leagues — and then founded Baseball for All, a nonprofit that creates opportunities for girls to play ball. Siegal, who is on the staff of Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society, works to create the freedom for athletes to become the best players — and selves — they can be.

The poet William Blake famously railed against "mind-forged manacles," the received opinions and habitual beliefs that constrain our thinking and inhibit our creativity. The best weapon against such manacles is critical thinking, and St. Olaf's approach to teaching critical thinking is nicely described in "The Thought that Counts," an important article in this issue. The bedrock of liberty is the ability to think independently; to be free from prejudice, superstition, and blindness; to be both disciplined and untrammelled in the pursuit of truth. Learning critical thinking lies at the center of a St. Olaf education. It is the precondition to all of the other freedoms to which we are entitled and which we enjoy.

The article "All That Jazz" celebrates St. Olaf's jazz program. Does jazz make you free? I'd be willing to bet that Dave Hagedorn would argue that it does. I don't know about that: but I do know that in a well regulated society the pursuit of freedom doesn't happen at the expense of others; rather, it is built into a larger social structure that both enables individual liberty and nourishes the well-being of all. Hagedorn finds this dynamic at the center of jazz.

I invite you to find inspiration in the contents of this issue of our magazine. It's about fighting for the freedom of self-determination in areas as diverse as civil rights and academics, athletics and the arts. This is a good thing.

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



UM! YAH! YAH!





TAIKO DRUMMING CLUB



The word *taiko* means “fat drum” in Japanese. Taiko, integral to Japanese culture since the 6th century, is said to have a mythological origin in Japanese religious ceremonies and festivals, and later, warfare. Modern Taiko arrived in the United States in the late 1960s, and performers found it was as much about physical exercise as it was about the music. The student-led St. Olaf Taiko Drumming Club is one of approximately three dozen collegiate Taiko groups in the nation. First-time Taiko players, called *kohai*, learn Taiko through instruction by more experienced members of the group, called *sempai*. Developing throughout the academic year as Taiko artists, the group regularly entertains the St. Olaf community with energetic performances at the Lion’s Pause.





## Water Science

**W**ILL LUTTERMAN '15 didn't anticipate becoming an environmental advocate, but his first environmental studies course at St. Olaf provided the spark that inspired him to pursue environmental research. It also led him to apply for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Fellowship, which then gave him an opportunity to research a topic he was always interested in: water.

The EPA fellowship connected him with the Urban Waters Partnership in Denver, where he researched the presence of contaminants in Denver's South Platte River. These contaminants are known as micropollutants — chemicals found in everything from personal care products to herbicides, manufacturing products, and pharmaceuticals. According to Lutterman, they're a major concern "because they increase the presence of hormones in the water, which in turn impacts fish and other organisms. It's an issue facing every city in the United States, large and small," he says.

PHOTOGRAPHED ALONG THE CANNON RIVER BY TOM ROSTER







# Moving On

St. Olaf honors its 2015 faculty retirees.

By Andrew Wilder '15 and Sophie Breen '17 PHOTOGRAPHED BY BILL KELLEY

**ERIC  
LUND**  
*Religion*



**IRINA  
WALTER**  
*Russian*



**BRUCE  
NORDSTROM-  
LOEB**  
*Sociology and  
Anthropology*





Six St. Olaf faculty members are retiring this year after having served the college for a combined total of 224 years. Their disciplines include chemistry, religion, sociology/anthropology, art and art history, music, and Russian. These six faculty members have made important scholarly contributions to St. Olaf College, led study abroad programs, and served their departments with distinction. They have also, with their teaching and mentorship, encouraged and inspired countless students for decades.



**SIGRID  
JOHNSON**  
*Music*



**WES  
PEARSON**  
*Chemistry*



**WENDELL  
ARNESON**  
*Art and Art History*





**Wendell Arneson**  
Art and Art History

In 1978, the late Professor of Art and Art History John Maakestad took a nine-month sabbatical leave from his position teaching drawing, design, painting,

printmaking, and sculpture at St. Olaf. To fill in for him during that time, the Art Department offered the job to a young artist named Wendell Arneson.

"Coming out of graduate school, I had opportunities to teach in tenure-track positions at other, larger institutions," says Arneson, who earned his baccalaureate degree at Luther College, went on to receive his art education certification from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and taught art in Wisconsin public schools for eight years before earning his M.F.A. from Bowling Green State University. "But when I came to interview at St. Olaf, I thought to myself, 'Well, this is a no-brainer! I'd rather be at a liberal arts college than any larger university.' So I took the nine-month job. And it turns out that, as luck would have it, after about three or four months, they said 'Do you want to stay?'"

Arneson, whose answer was a resounding 'yes,' took over the department's painting, drawing, and design curriculum from Maakestad, who in turn focused on teaching art history courses while also forging a friendship with his new colleague.

"At the time, I was the young guy in the department," says Arneson. "That was an exciting time for me because I got a lot of support from the faculty who were here, but within about 10 years, all those people had retired. Since then, I've had the good fortune of basically hiring our entire faculty. So it's been an amazing opportunity to be able to shepherd through the magical folks that teach here now."

In addition to chairing the department, Arneson held the position of the Oscar and Gertrude Boe Overby Distinguished Professor from 2009 to 2013. He pursued further study at the Santa Fe Institute of Fine Arts in 1994 and 1995, and has maintained a career as a professional artist, producing paintings and drawings that have appeared in more than 50 exhibitions at sites such as the Toledo Museum of Art, Groveland Gallery in Minneapolis, the Wichita Art Center, and the Rochester Art Center.

"No other single individual has done more to make St. Olaf's Art Department the great unit it is than Wendell," says Irve Dell, professor of art and vice chair of the department. "Wendell Arneson certainly bleeds red for his beloved [Wisconsin] Badgers," he teases, "but he thinks, creates, and dreams in black and gold."

And he's done it all with grace and generosity.

"We would all agree that art is a gift," says Associate Professor of Art John Saurer. "And regarding the art of giving, no one gives like Wendell. He is an endless source of energy, enthusiasm, and optimism. He gives constantly to his colleagues, his friends, his family, and, most importantly, to his students."

— ANDREW WILDER



**Eric Lund**  
Religion

"With a name like Lund and an interest in Lutheran history and theology, people often assume I must be a lifelong Minnesotan,"

says Professor of Religion Eric Lund. "Actually, though, I grew up on the East Coast and had all my schooling there, and only passed through the Midwest once before arriving at St. Olaf. But I came, found my niche — or niches — and stayed for 36 pleasant years."

Those niches were wide ranging. Over the course of his career, Lund, who in addition to his work as a professor became the director of International and Off-Campus Studies at St. Olaf, comfortably straddled scholarly research, administration, and teaching.

After earning his B.A. at Brown University and his M.Div. and Ph.D. at Yale University, Lund joined the St. Olaf religion faculty in 1979. There he began teaching a diverse array of courses, including the history of Christianity and Lutheranism, medieval and early-modern piety and spirituality, and the historical interactions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

"It has been a privilege to teach at an institution that recognizes the importance of the study of religion," Lund says. "The Religion Department is larger than what you find at most liberal arts colleges, and it has been an enriching experience to interact with such a wide range of colleagues."

This attention to the importance of religious study has enabled Lund not only to teach a diverse range of courses but also to investigate through scholarly research the ways that we experience religion.

"Eric is attentive to the ways that religion is embodied and lived out," says Professor of Religion L. DeAne Lagerquist. "And we see that this is not simply a matter of scholarly interest for him, but it is also visible in his way of being a scholar and being a teacher. The ideals of his theology are lived out in his life. We see it in the way he conducts himself with his students: his great care and attentiveness to detail, for example, in the way he teaches courses abroad. I hope students take that as a sign of great affection and respect."

But perhaps what Lund will be remembered for most is the prominent role he played in the college's International and Off-Campus Studies program. He was named director of International and Off-Campus Studies in 2004, and though he primarily focused on the more than 800 St. Olaf students who study off-campus every year, he also alternated every Interim between teaching a course in South Africa and a course in Italy and Germany.

"The highlights of my career have definitely been teaching on study abroad programs," he says "I have gone abroad with St. Olaf students 23 times. We talk about study abroad programs as 'high-impact experiences,' and that has certainly been the case, both for my students and for me."

— A.W.



**Sigrid Johnson**  
Music

Each year for more than three decades, Sigrid Johnson has transformed a group of first-year singers into the female vocal foundation of the St. Olaf choral program.

As the conductor of the Manitou Singers, a select 100-voice choir for first-year women, Johnson has trained a generation of singers at the college, encouraging them to tell the story of each piece they sing by engaging in the text and shaping their sound to reflect its poetry.

"Every year, she starts from the ground up with a new group of singers, the majority of whom are not music majors," says St. Olaf Choir Conductor Anton Armstrong '78.

From that group, she creates a tight-knit ensemble committed to conveying the deeper meaning behind the music it performs.

"Music is not about getting everything right," says Johnson. "I'm not interested in having a piece so perfect that there's no doubt in the singer's mind what's going to happen. I want the singers to be in the moment. Every time a piece is sung, it will be a new musical experience."

Johnson has deep roots in choral performance. While a student at Concordia College in Moorhead, Johnson sang in the Concordia Choir. She went on to earn a bachelor of music degree in vocal performance from St. Cloud University and a master of music degree in voice performance from the University of Michigan.

As part of her role in leading the Manitou Singers, Johnson is one of five conductors to orchestrate the St. Olaf Christmas Festival each year. Johnson says her fellow conductors are like brothers to her. "What is special is the mutual respect we all have for each other, both as people and as musicians," she says.

Along with her work at St. Olaf, Johnson has served as associate conductor to two of the finest choral organizations in the country: the Dale Warland Singers and Philip Brunelle's VocalEssence. "Sigrid has the ability to help both of those wonderful conductors develop a core sense of what their ensembles could sound like," says Armstrong.

Throughout her career, she has also maintained an active schedule as a guest conductor and clinician at choral conferences and music festivals across the country and throughout the world.

Having conducted and lectured all around the world — including several World Symposium on Choral Music appearances — Johnson will continue to do guest conducting. But she will miss the daily contact with students, faculty, and staff within the St. Olaf community. "The students are beyond belief," she says. "They have enriched me."

However, her retirement will bring a much more relaxed lifestyle — something she's looking forward to, with time for family and personal travel.

— SOPHIE BREEN





**Bruce Nordstrom-Loeb**  
Sociology and Anthropology

Over the course of his career at St. Olaf, Bruce Nordstrom-Loeb has witnessed — and

also experienced — immense growth.

“I have most enjoyed working with so many good students over the years — over 6,000 by my estimate,” he says. “They’ve been engaged, prepared, hard-working, often idealistic, and hopeful of doing something worthwhile with their lives.”

Nordstrom-Loeb earned his B.A. at the University of Michigan, his M.A. at Harvard, and his Ph.D. at the University of California-Berkeley. After dedicating several years to social justice work, including participating in a Quaker-sponsored civil rights project and assisting residents on Native American reservations, he joined the St. Olaf faculty in 1982.

The courses Nordstrom-Loeb taught focused on race, inequality, and gender, often examining the convergence of systems of oppression, domination, or discrimination. He taught the introductory course to Race and Ethnic Studies, a program he has directed since 2013, was active in the St. Olaf Paracollege, forerunner to the current Center for Integrative Studies, and taught in the American Conversation program from 2001 to 2002.

“Over the years, my students have come from increasingly diverse backgrounds,” notes Nordstrom-Loeb. He says this has led him to grow as a professor and scholar. The rising number of students who openly identify as LGBT, for example, encouraged him to spend a sabbatical developing a course on gender and sexuality.

“Rather than taking the college away from its historic roots, I think this [diversity] has given us new ways of thinking about what it might mean to have started as a college for recent immigrants, hopeful of finding their own place in a new land. Are we in a time of old roots, but new branches?”

Though not a Lutheran, Nordstrom-Loeb has enjoyed attending daily chapel services. “Chapel has been a place where I hear other faculty and students talk about deeper places in their lives,” he says. “And I’ve had the chance to share reflections during chapel talks I’ve given myself. Being at a ‘college of the church’ has been a good choice for me.”

Nordstrom-Loeb will miss many things about teaching at St. Olaf, such as the opportunity to teach abroad. Over the years he has taught in Asia, Mexico, Lithuania, and the Middle East; most recently, he co-led a psychology Interim program in India with Professor of Psychology Dana Gross in 2014.

Finally, having carpooled to campus for more than 20 years with Gross and fellow professors Dolores Peters and Jeane DeLaney, Nordstrom-Loeb says he will miss their daily commutes.

“For those of us fortunate enough to have traveled with Bruce — whether on commutes to and from campus or on programs across the globe — the journey has always been just as important as the destination,” says Gross. “Bruce helps us to be more aware, more thoughtful, and more engaged with each other and the world.”

— A.W.



**Wes Pearson '54**  
Chemistry

After earning his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, St. Olaf College alumnus Wes Pearson returned to his alma mater for what was

supposed to be a one-year teaching commitment.

That was 57 years ago.

Somewhere between teaching organic chemistry, establishing the Health Professions Committee, and assisting the college’s athletics program, Pearson became firmly rooted in life on the Hill. He’s now the longest-serving faculty member in the college’s history.

“I’ve invested my life in St. Olaf,” says Pearson. “It has been a good place for me. Not only does it have a lot of sharp students, it also has the kind of mission I value.”

A 1954 graduate of St. Olaf, Pearson earned his doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of Minnesota. His areas of research include organic chemistry, reaction mechanisms, and stereochemistry, and he particularly enjoys finding and developing new experiments for the laboratory portion of organic chemistry courses. This includes creating more “green,” or sustainable, chemistry experiments that aim to minimize the impact of chemical processes on the environment.

In addition to his work in the classroom, Pearson founded the Health Professions Committee in 1967, which he chaired until 2002. The committee advises premedical and pre-dental students, helping them earn acceptance into medical school, dental school, and other professional programs.

The advisory committee has become a national model. One testament to its success is that 68 percent of St. Olaf juniors and seniors who applied to medical school in the past five application cycles gained admission, compared to a national acceptance rate of 46 percent.

“His involvement in advising and preparing committee recommendations for students has been vital to the success of St. Olaf students in health profession schools,” says Professor Emeritus of Biology Ted Johnson.

During Pearson’s long tenure as chair of the advisory committee, more than 1,000 future physicians went through the program. In the years that followed, he continued to help many more students get accepted into professional programs of their choice.

Pearson was also involved in St. Olaf athletics, serving as the college’s faculty athletic representative for the National Collegiate Athletic Association. In addition, he timed varsity football and basketball games on the Hill for more than 45 years.

“I’ve had so many students over the course of my time here, and each has contributed to me,” says Pearson, who hopes he taught students not only about chemistry but also about life and finding their vocations.

Though Pearson has no definite retirement plans, he does intend to take things easier by reading and spending more time with his family.

— S.B.



**Irina Walter**  
Russian

Irina Walter views education as an invitation to a journey in which she, as the teacher, is a humble guide. And after 29 years of teaching Russian language and

culture to St. Olaf students, her own journey on the Hill is coming to an end.

“St. Olaf provided me the opportunity to do what I love to do — teaching and being a mentor to my students, and working with colleagues interested in a variety of liberal arts fields,” Walter says.

A native of St. Petersburg, Walter earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Leningrad State Herzen Pedagogical University, as well as a second master’s degree from the University of Connecticut. She joined the St. Olaf faculty in 1986.

While Walter has taught hundreds of students the Russian language, she views that as merely the beginning of a Russian education. Striving to instill in her students a love for language, culture, and values, she frequently incorporates Russian art, literature, and history into her lessons.

“There is so much more to learning a language than knowing how to say the words and phrases. It’s really about understanding another culture,” she says. “I encourage my students to see new things, relate to and think about them more deeply than they otherwise might have.”

Walter is one of just two faculty members in the Russian Department, which has made for a tight-knit community of scholars and students.

“There are so many students who have been guided through their time here by Irina’s hand and loving instruction,” says Associate Professor of Russian Marc Robinson, who has taught alongside Walter for 25 years. In this same manner, she welcomed Robinson, he says, serving as a wonderful mentor who helped him find his place at St. Olaf.

“Irina’s voracious reading, film watching, and love of all things beautiful has been an inspiration throughout my years here. Her love of the students is easily evident in the very close relationships she maintains with students. She pushes, cajoles, encourages, and celebrates their accomplishments in the field of Russian and in life,” says Robinson.

“It has always been highly important to me to bring Russian culture closer to my students, to make them a bit more ‘Russian’ themselves. And I believe they are,” says Walter.

She says she will miss the interactions she has with St. Olaf students, who she describes as “inquisitive and smart.” She will also miss being able to bounce ideas off her colleagues and discuss new ideas.

“St. Olaf challenges students and faculty alike, but is also a uniquely benevolent and nurturing institution,” says Walter.

In retirement, Walter will continue the art of teaching through the time she spends with her grandchildren. She hopes to show them a wide world by introducing them to museums, operas, ballets, and more — just as she did with her St. Olaf students for nearly three decades.

— S.B.



St. Olaf promises to teach its students how to think critically. But what is critical thinking? Why is it so important? And how do professors teach this vitally important — and profoundly difficult — skill?

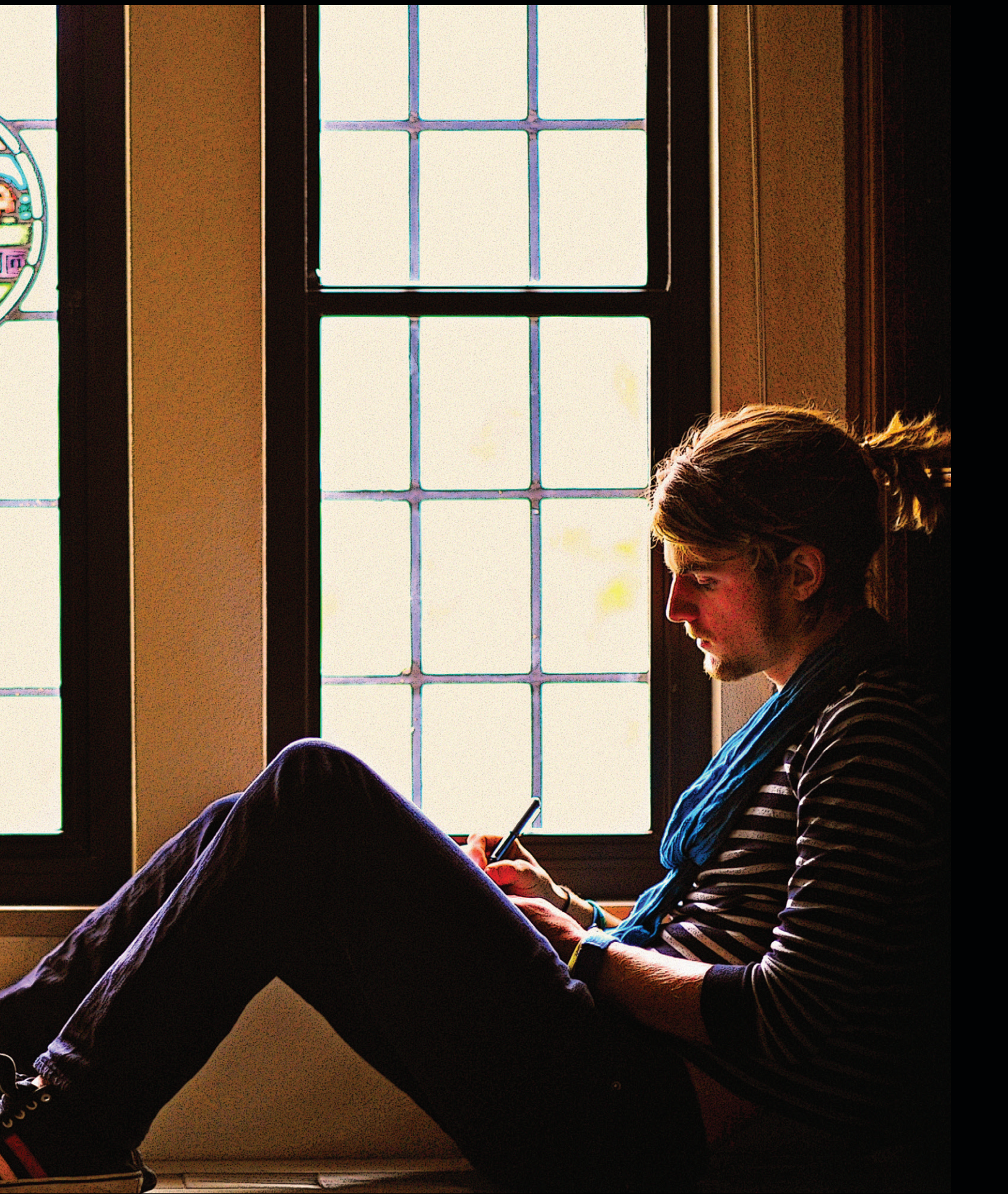
# THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS

By Erin Peterson

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM ROSTER











**A**s a high school student in Northbrook, Illinois, Julia Irons '15 loved history classes. She loved the challenge of memorizing so many dates and names and facts; she absorbed the information like a sponge.

And then she arrived at St. Olaf. She still loved history classes, but they became much more than an elaborate latticework of facts to be collected, arranged, and regurgitated for a test. In particular, she says, she remembers her world being cracked open in Associate History Professor Tim Howe's seminar on late republican Rome, where she learned how to read primary sources as literature. She and her fellow classmates learned to ask probing questions as they read, such as how the authors might have biases or other limitations. "[The process is] not a 'data mining' approach that uses historical texts as sources for facts," Irons

explains. "We worked to understand the texts holistically, as products of the authors who produced them, intended to serve a particular purpose."

Through in-class discussions, close readings, and research papers, the course challenged students' ideas about who Julius Caesar was, how he came to power, and how he related to others in his culture. The class required Irons and her classmates to reconsider their understanding of the history they learned from their high school textbooks. "It's harder than it sounds to really allow new information and new interpretations to challenge what you think you already know," she says.

The work may have been difficult, but it was also extremely rewarding: the subject Irons had loved in high school turned out to be even richer and more challenging than she could have possibly understood at the time. "I used to believe that textbooks were limited in scope and depth because they covered only the 'facts' — the information that we know for sure is true," she says. "I realize now that scholarly debates underlie every sentence of a textbook. The textbook writer is not a machine: he or she has chosen a particular version of an event to record."

Those hard-won insights, earned through hours of discussion and questioning and analysis, are among the rewards of critical thinking. Critical thinking, St. Olaf students learn, is not a formula or a "study hack." It's a way of approaching hard problems in unconventional and nuanced ways. In short, it's a way to view the world more expansively and generously. And it's a skill that all St. Olaf professors help their students develop so that they can benefit from it in the classroom and in every experience that comes after.

"Read not to contradict  
and confute; nor to  
believe and take for  
granted; nor to find talk  
and discourse; but to  
weigh and consider."

FRANCIS BACON  
OF STUDIES, 1625



## THE PATH TO CRITICAL THINKING

Teaching students to think critically is one of the hallmarks of a St. Olaf education. But many St. Olaf students have come from a high school experience that emphasized choosing from multiple choice options, filling in blanks, and ordering events into accurate timelines. “Critical thinking” can seem like an awfully murky concept. What does it actually mean to wrestle with ideas, to make reasoned arguments, and to see an issue from multiple points of view?

Associate Political Science Professor Doug Casson knows that this process is difficult. He understands that students, like all of us, find comfort in having a clear-cut understanding of their world and the important issues within it. Students are not always used to imagining a perspective that is wildly different — even in conflict — with their own. But Casson forces the issue in his courses by making students read work with diverse perspectives. Then he demands that students grapple with those differences.

That struggle is as joyful for Casson to watch as it is stressful for his students to experience. “Students sometimes come to me after we read something and say, ‘I just read this thing, and now I don’t know what to think,’” Casson says. “And that’s the best thing I could hear from a student. If students run into arguments that disorient them so much that their assumptions come into question, that’s exactly the point where they are thinking critically about different perspectives.”

Economics major Shelby Goudey ’16 says she had that exact experience in an independent study course she undertook with Economics Professor Rebecca Judge this past January. She was eager to study income inequality, and she and Judge chose several works, including Thomas Piketty’s recent bestseller, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, to investigate the topic.

Goudey says she already knew how she felt about inequality, and she was ready for the academic research to support her hunches. “Coming into the Interim, I was quite certain I would be presented with an unambiguous voice from all of our reading: inequality is unfair, unjustified, and wreaks havoc on global economies. I was ready to accept this conclusion and search for solutions,” she says.

Instead, the readings upended everything she knew. She learned that inequality has always existed, and saw how it is often framed in a way that presents our historical time period as an exception, rather than part of a fluctuating cycle. She also saw that there was no exact, measurable threshold at which inequality led to negative economic consequences. “This isn’t to say inequality isn’t an issue,” she says, “but rather that the relationship between inequality and other economic issues is more complex than often advertised.”

But even more important, she says, is that the course didn’t simply cause her to change her mind. It’s allowed her to think more broadly about a knotty and important problem in ways that will evolve as she continues her studies.

“The great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie — deliberate, contrived, and dishonest — but the myth — persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic. Too often we hold fast to the clichés of our forebears. We subject all facts to a prefabricated set of interpretations. We enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.”

JOHN F. KENNEDY  
YALE COMMENCEMENT SPEECH, 1962



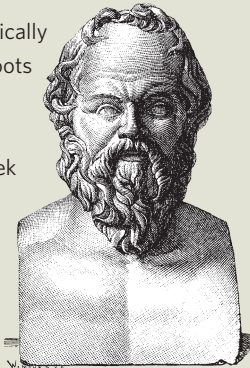


“Responsibility to yourself means refusing to let others do your thinking, talking, and naming for you; it means learning to respect and use your own brains and instincts; hence, grappling with hard work.”

ADRIENNE RICH

## A Tiny History of CRITICAL THINKING

Scholars typically trace the roots of critical thinking back to Socrates, the Greek philosopher from the 5th century B.C.E. known for his probing style of questioning.



Instead of allowing his students to accept beautiful but empty rhetoric, Socrates nudged them to seek clarity, consistency, and reasoned thought. He demanded that they examine the underlying assumptions of an argument and reverse-engineer conclusions to see if they really made sense.

Socrates's approach has been refined by hundreds of thinkers, including Plato and Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, Francis Bacon, and Descartes. The essence of these philosophers' work is both simple and profound: critical thinking skills are not about *what* to think, but *how* to think.

### TRAINING FOR EXCELLENCE

Critical thinking is not a skill that arrives in a single flash of insight. It must be developed and honed over time through discussion, writing, reading, and synthesizing.

Classics Professor Jim May says that the idea that no one is a “born” critical thinker — and that we can all improve — should feel thrilling, not daunting. We all have the capacity to get better at this skill with deliberate practice. At St. Olaf, professors are charged with helping students progress from simple to increasingly nuanced forms of thought. “When we’re pushed — when we’re helped along by people who can see things on a different level — the better we get,” May says. “It’s like exercising a muscle.”

That process can open up a subject in profound and unexpected ways. Sarah Bresnahan '17, for example, knows that economics has a reputation as an almost mechanical study of money and profits. But the more she's studied, the more the field has opened her eyes to the complex intersection of inequality, poverty, malnutrition, and environmental changes. She's begun to see how everything, from access to clean water to the effectiveness of governmental systems, can affect the economic success of the country.

Her professors, she says, have been instrumental in helping her see the full potential of the field. “Professors will interject questions or thought-provoking perspectives that challenge us to rethink our own avenue for argument,” she says. “It pushes us to open up and even pull knowledge from other disciplines.”

Critical thinking demands that students do more than simply plow ahead with an unexamined opinion, however beautifully stated. It requires them to examine their assumptions, sift through evidence, and accept that there may be no simple answer to a problem or a question. Professors help guide that process. And when students learn to think critically in one class, they begin to see how the approach can apply to every other course they're taking.

### COMING FULL CIRCLE

Jake Erickson '06 is doing his part to pass along his passion for critical thinking to the current generation of Oles. A religion instructor at St. Olaf, Erickson first arrived on the Hill as a first-year student hailing from Minot, North Dakota. As someone who loved literature and came from a family of educators, he figured he'd become a high school English teacher.

But then he took an introductory course on the Bible. The course, he recalls, was so mind-bendingly good that he didn't even mind the 8 a.m. start time. “I was religious growing up, and I was intellectually curious about everything,” he says. “And in this course, I started reading all of these incredibly brilliant, different, and imaginative ways of thinking about Biblical stories and religion,” he says. “I was hooked.”

With the nudging of professors, including current department chair and Professor of Religion L. DeAne Lagerquist, Erickson transformed his nascent curiosity into thoughtful, probing questions that, as he worked to answer them, turned into even more profound insights. “It was so much more than just learning facts,” he says of the process. “I found that there are better and more complex ways of asking questions. It takes more time, more mistakes, more patience, and even a little bit of love.”

He loved the deep intellectual history that was an underpinning of so much of theology, and he loved the ways that he and other students were able to ask Martin Luther's famous question, “What does this mean?” over and over again, in increasingly interesting and subtle ways. The questions and responses that they encountered helped change their ideas of God and of themselves. That journey, he says, requires people to be vulnerable and open to change in powerful ways.

Now Erickson has transformed from student to teacher, offering multiple courses at St. Olaf on religion and environmental studies, from *The Theology of Creation* to *The Biblical Animal*. He is working to find ways to instill in his own students the ability to ask good questions, and to understand simple but important questions in their own ways.





### A LIFETIME OF BENEFITS

**T**he work that students do in the classroom inevitably filters out to the rest of their lives, in ways that may initially seem frustrating but, ultimately, are profoundly exhilarating. For a critical thinker, the world is a vast and beautiful place to explore, with subtle and important gradations on every subject imaginable.

Grace Koch '15 says there are innumerable ways that critical thinking has changed the way she lives her life. "I can't watch the news on TV or read a newspaper without questioning where the information is coming from and why it is presented in that way," she says. "I go out of my way to seek out a fuller picture of issues from several different perspectives."

That desire to be fully informed, to deeply understand perspectives and arguments that you might not ultimately agree with, says Judge, is what will help naturally idealistic Oles make an impact on real-world problems when they graduate.

"Critical thinking can take students' idealism and make it even more powerful. When they're able to think critically, they understand that it's not simply enough to espouse great love for the environment, or great frustration with inequality. It's too simplistic to say 'bad people cause income inequality' or 'bad people pollute.' They can hold onto their ideals, but they can also understand how complicated issues are and still find real ways to say, 'Here's how we can do better.'" 🦄

ERIN PETERSON is a Twin Cities writer and editor.

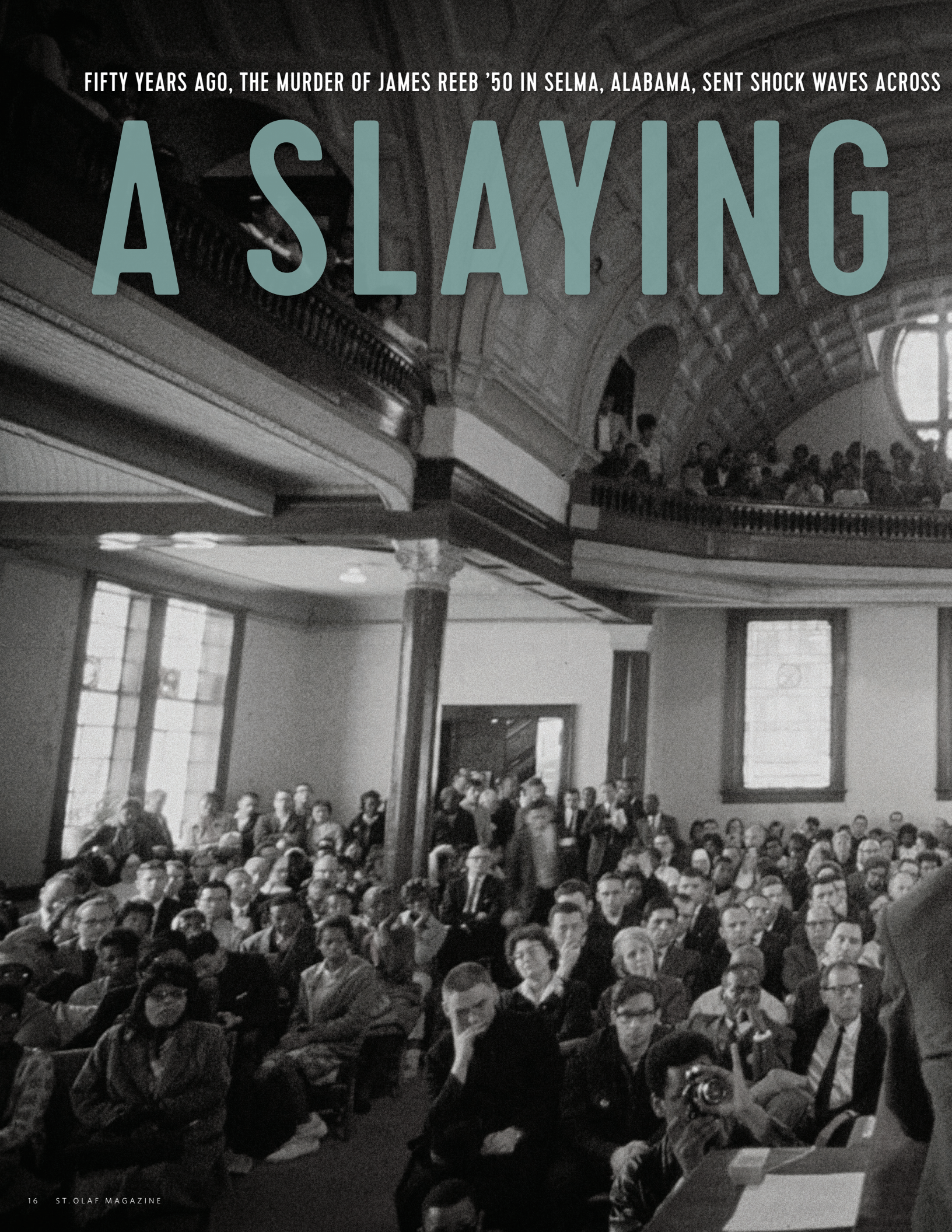
"The beginning of thought is in disagreement, not only with others but also with ourselves."

ERIC HOFFER  
*THE PASSIONATE STATE OF MIND  
AND OTHER APHORISMS*



FIFTY YEARS AGO, THE MURDER OF JAMES REEB '50 IN SELMA, ALABAMA, SENT SHOCK WAVES ACROSS

# A SLAYING

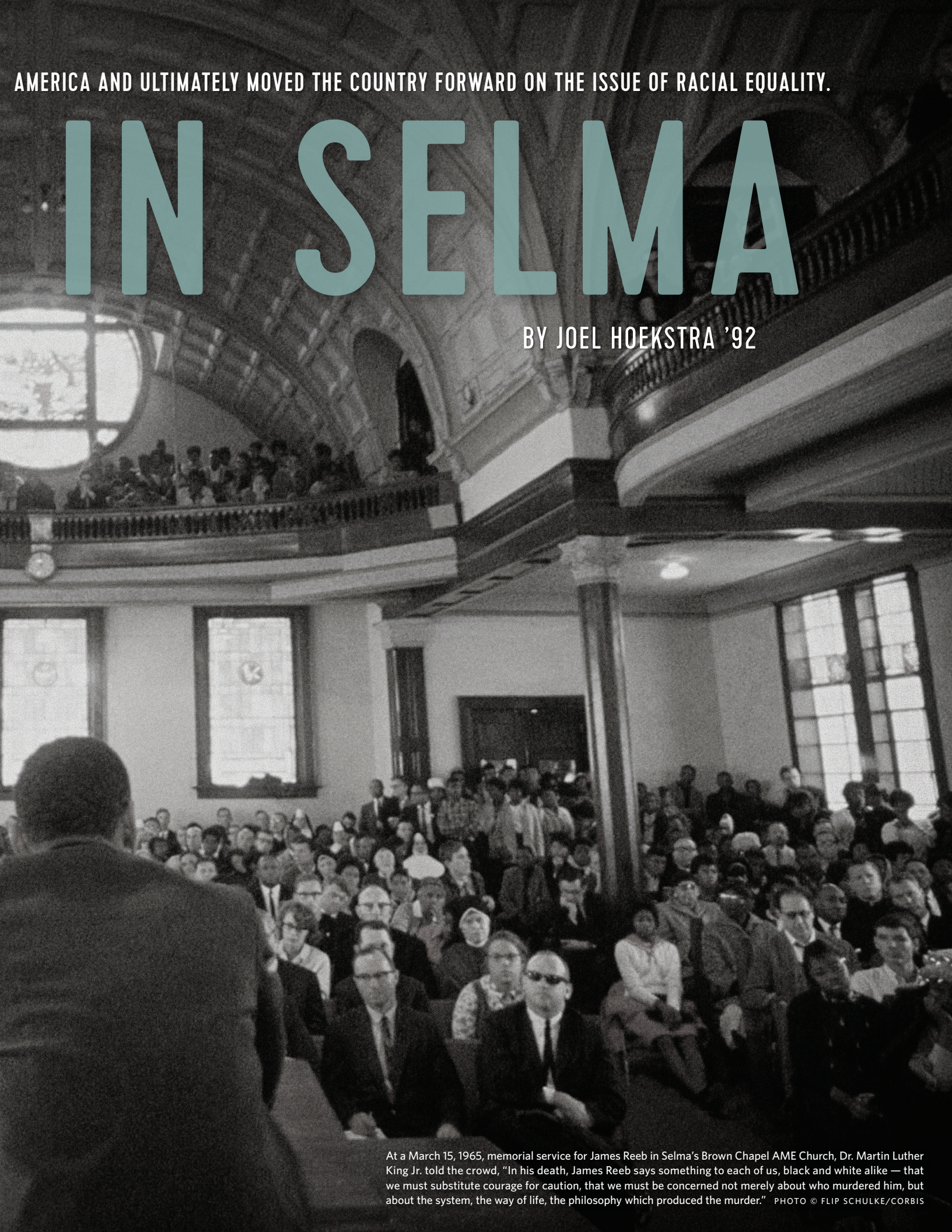




AMERICA AND ULTIMATELY MOVED THE COUNTRY FORWARD ON THE ISSUE OF RACIAL EQUALITY.

# IN SELMA

BY JOEL HOEKSTRA '92



At a March 15, 1965, memorial service for James Reeb in Selma's Brown Chapel AME Church, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. told the crowd, "In his death, James Reeb says something to each of us, black and white alike — that we must substitute courage for caution, that we must be concerned not merely about who murdered him, but about the system, the way of life, the philosophy which produced the murder." PHOTO © FLIP SCHULKE/CORBIS



“At times, history and fate meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man’s undending search for freedom. So it was at Lexington and Concord. So it was a century ago at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama. There, long suffering men and women peacefully protested the denial of their rights as Americans. Many of them were brutally assaulted. One good man — a man of God — was killed.”

PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON, MARCH 1965

**T**HE JANUARY WIND WAS BONE-CHILLING and the mood somber as a small crowd gathered under the eaves of the Old Depot Museum in Selma, Alabama. Those assembled included St. Olaf students, the college’s president, a local historian, and several alumni who lived nearby.

Nearly 50 years after Martin Luther King Jr. led a historic march to Montgomery, the state capitol, this small group had come to honor a singular Ole, a man murdered in the decades-long struggle for racial equality in America. An eight-foot-tall marble slab on the lawn memorialized the death of James Reeb in 1965.

“Our college can be proud to be the alma mater of this American hero, eulogized by Dr. King, lamented by President Johnson, and mourned by tens of thousands,” said President David R. Anderson ’74 in his remarks, prior to laying a wreath at Reeb’s memorial marker.

“More to the point,” he continued, “we should heed the call of Dr. King, who in his eulogy urged us to ‘be concerned not only about who murdered him but about the system, the way of life, the philosophy which produced the murder. His death,’ Dr. King argued, ‘says to us that we must work passionately, unrelentingly, to make the American dream a reality, so that he did not die in vain.’”

In many ways, the president’s comments and solemnity echoed the outpouring of sentiments 50 years ago, when this man’s murder in Selma caught the attention of the nation. His death added to the pressure on President Lyndon B. Johnson to present Congress with the historic Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Reverend King himself, speaking before a crowd in Selma’s Brown Chapel, praised the slain man for being “willing to lay down his life in order to redeem the soul of a nation.”

At the time of his murder, Reeb was a 38-year-old white minister from Boston with a wife and four young children. What moved him to march for civil rights in Selma, an act of conscience that ultimately cost him his life?

...

**T**HE ONLY CHILD OF A PENNSYLVANIA COUPLE transplanted to the West, James Reeb was serious-minded and softhearted. He tended to sympathize with underdogs, perhaps because he grew up poor, perhaps because he’d been a sickly child, suffering at one point from rheumatic fever. Born cross-eyed, he had also worn glasses from the age of two, a source of considerable teasing. Reeb underwent surgery to fix the condition, but he never forgot what it was like to be an outsider. According to one remembrance, “He knew both what it felt like to not belong, and then to belong.”

He also believed in service — to God and country. Graduating high school in Casper, Wyoming, he enrolled in the U.S. Army and spent two years in the military. To his disappointment, however, he was never deployed overseas. Discharged from duty in 1946, Reeb enrolled in a community college in Casper before deciding to take advantage of the G.I. bill to attain more advanced education. Intending to become a Presbyterian minister, he applied for admission to St. Olaf on the recommendation of his Wyoming pastor, who was an alumnus.

Reeb’s St. Olaf years were quiet, sober, and focused. He gave his time to academics and to social service. He studied history and served as a junior counselor in old Ytterboe Hall, where he often led Bible studies and engaged his peers in theological discussions. The late professor Agnes Larson recalled that when Reeb expressed an opinion, it was worth hearing.



Reeb graduated *cum laude* with a history major in 1950. That summer, he married Marie Deason, a girl from Casper who also studied at St. Olaf. In the fall, the couple moved to Princeton, New Jersey, and Reeb enrolled at Princeton Theological Seminary. His life and vocation appeared to be settled.

...

**T**HE SCENE THAT PLAYED OUT in news reports from Selma on the evening of Sunday, March 7, 1965, shocked most Americans. Television footage showed Alabama state troopers on horseback, cracking bullwhips, brandishing pistols, and trampling African Americans as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The unarmed marchers, many still wearing their Sunday best, intended to walk 50 miles to Montgomery to protest discriminatory voting practices by county officials. But the march quickly devolved into chaos, a day that would soon be known as “Bloody Sunday.”

King, who had been absent from the Bloody Sunday march, responded to the tragedy with a promise to lead protestors in a second attempt. He also asked clergy from across the country to join him in the march from Selma to Montgomery, and churches across America quickly responded, sending out a call for volunteers. One of those volunteers was James Reeb, who had watched in horror as the events of Bloody Sunday unfolded thousands of miles away.

By now a Unitarian Universalist minister, Reeb was living in the impoverished neighborhood of Dorchester, Boston, with his wife, Marie, and their four children, 13-year-old John, Karen, age 6, Anne, age 5, and the baby, Steve, age 3. Reeb had established a storefront ministry in Roxbury, a rough and predominantly black area of town, and also served in Dorchester as the community relations director for a housing program run by the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization. Never a confident preacher, he felt he could better demonstrate his faith through action, working directly in the field with the poor and disenfranchised.

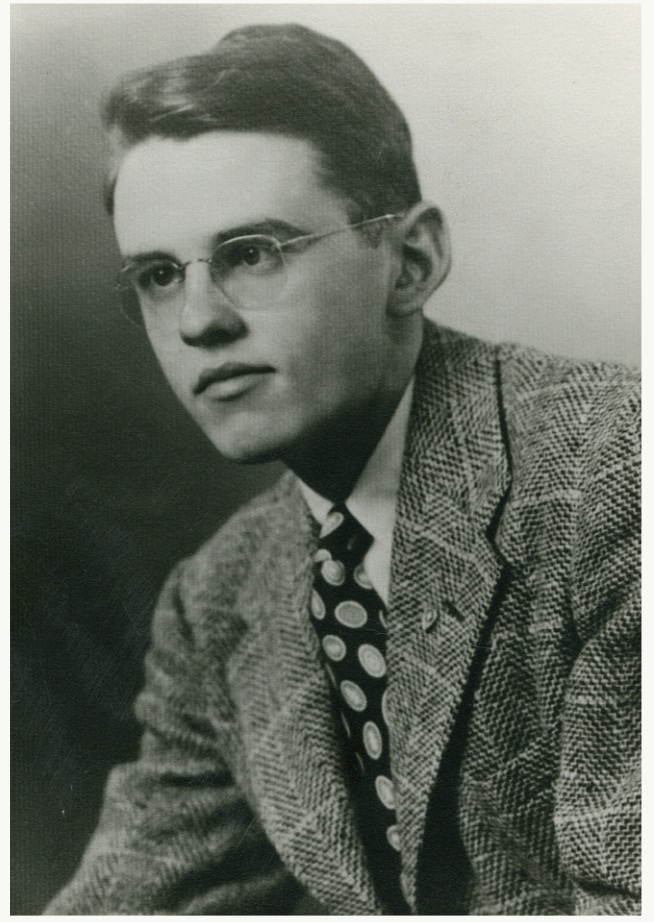
Reeb learned from the Reverend Homer Jack, a Unitarian Universalist official in Boston and a social activist who co-founded the Congress for Racial Equality, that ministers were badly needed in Selma. The presence of clergy would send a strong message, Homer told Reeb. After talking it over with Marie, Reeb admitted that, despite the risks involved, he felt compelled to go to Selma, and he planned to leave for Montgomery that very night.

“I belong there,” he told his wife. “It’s the kind of fight I believe in.”

...

**I**T WAS NEARLY 3 P.M. BEFORE THE MARCHERS took their first steps toward Montgomery. Hundreds of religious leaders from numerous denominations were among the 1,500 people who had joined King, linking arms as they climbed the steep arc of the bridge. But as they reached the span’s summit, they discovered state troopers standing armed and ready at the far side. No one could predict what might happen if a shot was fired by one of the troopers.

King stopped at the site of the Bloody Sunday attack, where he knelt and prayed — and then announced the march was over for the day. He hoped the protestors would return with him to Brown Chapel AME Church, the starting point and meeting place for the Selma-to-Montgomery marches. Many marchers were confused and disappointed,



“Dr. King described James Reeb as a martyr, as indeed he was, for Reeb was killed for his beliefs, killed because he was, in King’s words, ‘a witness to the truth that men of different races and classes might live, eat, and work together as brothers.’ He was killed not because he held those beliefs but because he acted upon them.”

— PRESIDENT DAVID R. ANDERSON '74



JAMES H. KARALES



JAMES "SPIDER" MARTIN / THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS



The Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights marchers were twice blocked by Alabama state police — on the days now known as “Bloody Sunday” and “Turnaround Tuesday” (in which Reeb participated) — before a crowd of 25,000 finally crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 21, 1965.

but King did not want to jeopardize their safety by violating a recent — and little-known — court order prohibiting the march.

Reeb had intended to return to Boston as soon as possible. But he also wished to complete the march, whenever it might be, as a gesture of solidarity. He weighed the options and made the decision to stay. Later that evening, Reeb joined a pair of friends, Unitarian Universalist ministers Clark Olsen and Orloff Miller, for dinner at Walker’s Café, a local restaurant frequented mainly by African Americans. The diner was packed that night, filled with civil rights activists and ministers, black and white.

As Reeb, Olsen, and Miller walked back to Brown Chapel after dinner, they found themselves trailed and derided by a gang of four white men, one of them brandishing a club. The three white clergymen agreed to “Just keep walking.”

Clark Olsen would later recall, “They came across the street, and one of them hollered, ‘Hey you niggers.’ Then they hit Rev. Reeb with the club and knocked Rev. Miller to the ground. One of them pummeled me ...” When the brutal kicking and punching finally ended, one attacker yelled, “Now you know what it’s like to be a real nigger!” Within seconds, the attackers fled. Orloff’s face was cut. Reeb lay on his back, his skull fractured, conscious yet unable to speak coherently.

He never recovered. Taken first to Burwell Infirmary, Selma’s medical facility for African Americans, Reeb ended up at the University of Alabama at Birmingham hospital 100 miles away. By then, several hours had lapsed, the damage to his brain was irreparable, and his life-threatening injuries were making national headlines. Two days later, with Marie transported to his side on a government plane, Reeb died from his injuries.

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[CONTINUED ON PAGE 23]









James Reeb's daughter, Anne Reeb (right) and granddaughter, Leah (left), were on campus in March to speak to the St. Olaf community and represent the Reeb family at the dedication of the James Reeb reflection room.

Anne Reeb was only five years old when her father was killed in Selma, and she has very few memories of him. But his life and his legacy have always been strong and alive in her family. Shortly after traveling to Selma with the rest of the Reeb family for the 50th anniversary of the Selma marches, Anne and her niece, Leah Reeb — whose father, John, was the eldest of the four Reeb children — came to campus for the events honoring James Reeb '50.



Anne, Karen, and John Reeb with their mother, Marie Deason Reeb, at a memorial service for James Reeb in Casper, Wyoming, in 1965.

“I can feel him here, walking the sidewalks and being in the buildings,” Anne Reeb told reporter Reg Chapman, who was covering the Long Walk Home events for the CBS Twin Cities affiliate, WCCO television. “It’s on the St. Olaf campus that James Reeb built the foundation for what would be his mission, his destiny,” she said. “One quote by one of his associates said that the most important thing to Jim was people, people in need, and that’s where he wanted to serve — where there was need.”

During Anne and Leah’s two-day campus visit, they spoke with members of the college community, sharing their family memories and experiences, and celebrating and honoring the legacy of their father and grandfather, who worked toward civil and human rights.

With respect to civil rights, Anne believes her father would be proud of, but not satisfied with, how far we’ve come as a nation. “I think my father would say the work isn’t over, the work is not done.”

## A LONG WALK HOME

The Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights marches of 1965 marked the political and emotional peak of the American civil rights movement. This spring, St. Olaf hosted a series of events marking the 50th anniversary of the marches. Lectures, gallery talks, screenings, and chapel services commemorated the role that St. Olaf alumni and others played in the civil rights movement, and paid tribute to James Reeb '50, who not only answered Martin Luther King Jr.'s call for clergy to engage in the civil rights struggle but lost his life to the cause.

The events, collectively titled *A Long Walk Home: 50 Years of Climbing the Hill to Freedom*, were presented in conjunction with the Flaten Art Museum exhibition of photographs, *Selma to Montgomery: Marching Along the Voting Rights Trail*, which documented the quest for democracy and social justice through photographs from the archives of Stephen Somerstein, a college student and editor of the *City College of New York* newspaper in 1965.

*A Long Walk Home* culminated in the dedication of the James Reeb Reflection Room, located in Rølvaag Memorial Library.



**H**UNDREDS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS had died in the struggle for civil rights. Four young girls had been murdered in a church bombing in Birmingham in 1963, and just a few weeks before the Selma march, activist teenager Jimmie Lee Jackson had been shot by police after a voting rights demonstration. But none of these deaths moved the nation in the way that Reeb's death did.

"Things really turned around when Reeb got killed," recalls Jeff Strate '66, who today is a television and video producer and an advocate for land conservation, a clean environment, and human rights. "Why? Because he was white, and he was a minister — and that made news back then. In fact, to tell the truth, it still makes news today. Sadly, if a white guy gets killed in a black neighborhood, it's news. If a black guy gets killed in a black neighborhood, that's not news. That's just how the media is."

Strate, who attended the St. Olaf service eulogizing Reeb in March 1965, was one of dozens of St. Olaf students who got involved in civil rights work that same summer. Through a program sponsored by Tuskegee University, Strate and 64 of his classmates, as well as 500 Alabama college students, spent the summer of 1965 tutoring rural African American students of all ages, elementary through high school, in the hopes that the education would help them succeed as they entered newly integrated schools. "Reeb's death reminded us that there was danger [in what we were doing]," Strate says. But these Oles, like Reeb, saw greater danger in doing nothing at all about civil rights.

...

**A**ROUND THE COUNTRY, THE REACTION to Reeb's death was swift and loud, and mourning mixed with rage. On March 15, just four days after Reeb's death, President Johnson presented federal lawmakers with the Voting Rights Act, legislation that would outlaw disenfranchisement of African American voters. Speaking before the 89th Congress, Johnson referenced Reeb as "this good man" among those who protested and were assaulted as they fought racial discrimination. "There is no Negro problem. There is no Southern problem or Northern problem. There is only an American problem," Johnson said. "And we are met as Americans to solve it." A week later, 30,000 civil rights marchers successfully completed the march from Selma to Montgomery without incident.

The same day that Johnson appeared before Congress, King eulogized Reeb at a service in Selma. "His crime was that he dared to live his faith," King preached. "He placed himself alongside the disinherited black brethren of this community."

On August 6, 1965, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, a giant step forward in the civil rights movement, propelled in part by Reeb's death. Success in bringing Reeb's killers to justice, however, was more elusive. In December 1965, three of the attackers were tried for murder, but the all-white jury acquitted them, despite testimony from Olsen and Miller. The fourth man was never prosecuted. The FBI closed the case in 2011.

Fifty years after the Selma-to-Montgomery March, the St. Olaf students who traveled to Alabama for their Interim program reflected on the current public and political attitudes toward civil rights and voting rights. And they thought about James Reeb.

It was moving, says Maren Tims Magill '15, to learn of this "incredibly brave and sacrificing Ole. Reeb serves as an important reminder that the work to ensure that all Americans have equality and dignity is far from over." 🙏

JOEL HOEKSTRA '92 is a writer based in Minneapolis.

"It was on the St. Olaf campus that James Reeb built the foundation for what would be his mission, his destiny."

ANNE REEB, SPEAKING AT ST. OLAF COLLEGE IN MARCH



In January, President David R. Anderson '74 and the students participating in the Alabama Interim placed a wreath at James Reeb's memorial marker on behalf of the college.



# THE QUIET RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

**DURING THE SUMMER OF 1965**, 65 St. Olaf students joined forces with more than 500 college students from across the country for the Tuskegee Institute Summer Education Program (TISEP). The program was sponsored by Tuskegee University and financed through the federal government on the condition that its teaching force was integrated.

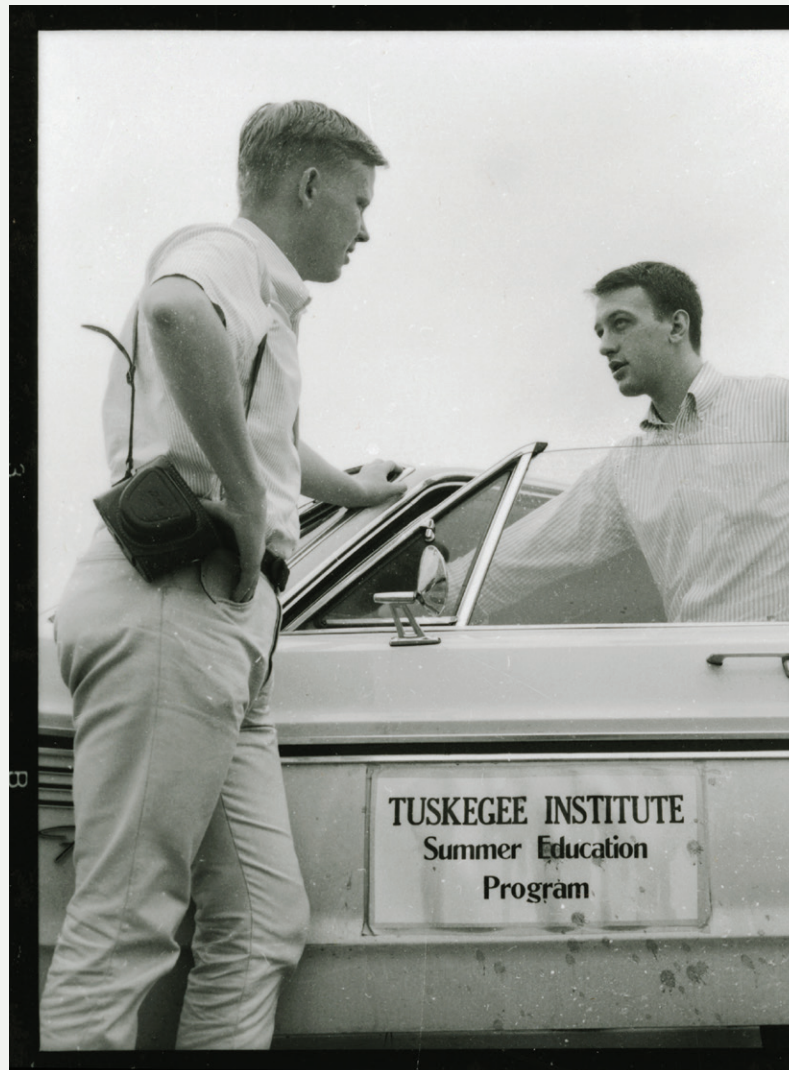
TISEP Coordinator Bertram Phillips, Tuskegee's dean of students, told *St. Olaf Magazine* at the time that although TISEP wasn't a conventional form of civil rights activism, he considered it a "second front" in the civil rights movement. "We're purely an educational program," he said. "Our tutors are forbidden to demonstrate. But our program can be considered part of the civil rights [movement] because it is concerned with human rights — the right to learn."

Opponents predicted that the program would fail. In a 1965 letter to his family, Tom Nibbe '65 wrote, "Southern whites said white and black students could not work together in harmony, that we would abandon the program. Well ... we have worked excellently together, not as whites and Negroes, but as Americans, and we discouraged the fondest hopes of the staunchest segregationists."

In all, the volunteers tutored more than 5,000 school children — living in some of the poorest areas of rural Alabama — in the basic skills of reading, writing, music, drama, foreign language, history, and physical education. They met in schools, churches, homes, beneath shade trees, and in tents.

**THE LATE DAVID KJERLAND '66** experienced firsthand the profound impact of TISEP. He signed up for the program after landmark civil rights events earlier in the year "opened my eyes to racism."

"I didn't expect any trouble in Alabama. It came after Bloody Sunday, the [Selma] March to Montgomery, and the shooting of James Reeb, so we did know what was going on," he said. He learned that there was a need for teachers in Lowndes County, in the heart of cotton country. According to Kjerland, who shared



his TISEP memories in a 1998 interview, Lowndes had the "highest concentration of blacks and the lowest per capita income in the U.S. It was known as 'bloody' Lowndes because of all the Ku Klux Klan activity." There weren't any students from Tuskegee willing to teach in Lowndes County, but there was one St. Olaf student, Galen Brooks '67, who told Kjerland they could really use some help.

"There was one little school house and church, built during Reconstruction, and there was a Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) 'safe' house, used by SNCC members who were working in the county to register people to vote," said Kjerland. "I taught 10-to-12-year-olds. My classroom was a circle of chairs under an oak tree hung with Spanish moss. Galen's was under a pine tree." Kjerland also taught an adult class three nights a week.

Like many other TISEP volunteers, Kjerland boarded with local African Americans. "I lived in a little shack with an old couple who lived about three miles away from the school," he said. "They probably risked everything they worked for to have me live there. They had given me their bedroom and were [sleeping] in a little lean-to off the kitchen."

Several tragic events from that summer remained particularly seared in Kjerland's memory: "Almost everyone, young and old, worked in the fields. They were sharecroppers, and there was





David Kjerland '66 (right) and Lee Norrgard '67 served as tutors for the Tuskegee Institute Summer Education Program in 1965.

a lot of discussion about injustices in the local stores. [One day] one of the children I taught pulled me aside and tried to tell me something, but couldn't get the words out. I finally got him to tell me that eight of the fathers of the children at the school had been lynched in the swamps. After that, I heard plenty of stories, and the ritualization is too brutal to get into. The whole thing was like a picnic or a barbeque. There was mutilation and burning alive. Being these were the fathers of the children I taught, it all became very real, and the children were very aware of it. While there had been waves of it in the past, the killings had escalated because of the civil rights movement."

Later that summer, a black seminary student, Jonathan Daniels, well known to Kjerland, joined community organizers and SNCC staff members in the boycott of a store in Fort Deposit. The store was frequented by African Americans, but there were no black employees. The protesters demanded that the store hire two black workers. They were all arrested for

disturbing the peace. After their release from jail, Daniels was shot and killed while walking up to a store owned by a white man. All the TISEP volunteers in Lowndes County and Selma were ordered back to the Tuskegee campus.

"We were forbidden to go to the memorial service, but I just had to go," said Kjerland. "Galen and I caught a ride with other students, and they gave us disguises to wear and had us sit down real low when we rode to the church. We were the only two whites at the service. We were wondering, 'Where are all the other white people? Where is the press? Where is the government?' We sat with the families we lived with that summer. There was a lot of singing of spirituals and freedom songs. [During the service] people in the community got up and spoke. One woman said, 'We've been afraid all this time. We've been afraid of going down to the court house and registering to vote. This young man came down to help us and got himself killed doing what we should have been doing ourselves. I'm not afraid anymore.'

"Then we got the news that the church was surrounded by white men with guns. No one panicked. We were just going to walk out in single file, get in our cars, and caravan home. The SNCC would cover us. We all went out and didn't see anyone. They were all back in the woods. There were hundreds of us. We drove until everyone was home. We got the children to bed and covered the windows with blankets and lit candles. I wished I could stay with Galen, but they had a full house, so they dropped me off. I went into the house [where I was living] and thought, 'Well, this is it. They are either going to kill me or not.' I went to bed and read a Dostoyevsky book I'd been reading that summer. I heard some shotgun blasts in the swamp behind the house, and I blew out the candle and laid there. It was the longest night of

my life, and I realized then what these people live with every night. They didn't know what would happen, who would come and take them away. I guess I think that every day since has been quite a gift.

"We finished the program that summer. There was still intimidation, but no one was afraid anymore. We gave degrees to all those who graduated. It was emotional. It was very painful to leave. It was very hard to say goodbye to those people who were so truly loving and forgiving, who could laugh and keep faith through so many things."

*The full accounts of these experiences can be found in the Shaw-Olson Center for College History, digital archives.*





# ALL THAT JAZZ

DAVE HAGEDORN HAS PROPELLED  
THE ST. OLAF JAZZ PROGRAM  
INTO THE SPOTLIGHT AS ONE OF  
THE NATION'S BEST.

BY MARLA HILL HOLT '88





Hagedorn performing on  
the vibraphone with the  
Phil Hey Quartet at Jazz  
Central in Minneapolis  
PHOTO BY ANDREA CANTER



“DAVE IS AN EXCELLENT,  
DEMANDING TEACHER, BUT  
HE’S ALSO VERY INVOLVED  
IN THE MUSIC SCENE. HIS  
LOVE FOR BOTH TEACHING  
AND PERFORMING IS  
IMMEDIATELY APPARENT.”

— JOHN KRONLOKKEN '16

THERE'S A WARM VIBE in the band room at a recent rehearsal of Jazz I, St. Olaf's top jazz ensemble, even though it's a cold February night. The student musicians are relaxed, chatting with each other, buzzing their mouthpieces, plinking on the piano keys. Their leader, director David Hagedorn, lets them settle in before calling their attention to the task at hand: rehearsing the big band music they'll need to perform in six days at a jazz and spoken word event celebrating Black History Month.

The students pull from their folders dance numbers from the 1930s and '40s, like “Moonlight Serenade,” “Little Brown Jug,” and “Jump, Jive, and Wail.” After a quick warm-up, they get down to business, diving in to Woody Herman's “Woodchopper's Ball.” After a few bars, Hagedorn stops them for a lesson in subtle articulation. “It's dit dah, dah dit,” he tells the trumpet players. On the next run through, they nail it.

“The caliber of musicians I get to work with is top notch,” Hagedorn says of the three jazz ensembles he directs at St. Olaf. He's appreciative of the fact that the college's world-class reputation for music education allows it to attract some of the nation's most talented students. “It's one of the pleasures of teaching here. My starting point is a deep well of talent.”

As the ensemble moves on to rehearse “Sing, Sing, Sing,” a well-known toe-tapper popularized by Benny Goodman, Hagedorn pleads with the students to pay attention to his detailed musical instructions, which are basically a road map to the piece. Hagedorn has directed this particular tune for the past 15 years and so far, he says, none of the groups has gotten it right on the first try, prompting this year's drummer to quip, “Yeah, there's 15 years worth of stress written all over this music.” During this evening's practice, the students give it their best shot, but they too don't get it quite right on the first read.

Hagedorn claps them to a stop with a lighthearted “That's one strike. Three, and you're out!” This leads to a critique of the movie *Whiplash*, currently popular with audiences and some critics, but not so much with Hagedorn and his students. They cringe at what they view as the movie's unrealistic portrayal of a militaristic band instructor and his percussionist pupil, including a scene in which the drummer angrily puts his fist through the side of a drum. “It just shows how little people know about jazz,” Hagedorn says, as several students nod in agreement.

It's during these easy, familiar exchanges between the students and Hagedorn — he also shares an observation about rock icon Keith Richards's recent appearance on television as part of Saturday Night Live's 40th Anniversary special — that one glimpses the warm rapport Hagedorn has with his musicians. He is demanding and runs a tight ship, with little time for distractions, but it's also clear that every musician in the room feels valued and is thoroughly enjoying the experience.

The camaraderie Hagedorn shares with so many of St. Olaf's top band and orchestra students likely has helped him build St. Olaf's jazz program into a nationally recognized leader in the genre. Such excellence adds one more layer to the outstanding musical education students receive at the college, which regularly earns accolades for its classically focused choirs, bands, and orchestras.

“Jazz pushes students musically in new and different ways,” Hagedorn says. “At a school like St. Olaf, with such a strong musical tradition, there's room for all sorts of musical pursuits. Jazz is just another way for students to learn and to shine.”

#### BEST ALL AROUND

In 2011, *Downbeat* magazine, the oldest jazz magazine in America, named St. Olaf's Jazz I Ensemble the best undergraduate large jazz ensemble in the country, recognizing the group's accomplished student musicians while also honoring Hagedorn's leadership, programming, and high expectations. In the intervening four years, the group has continued its pursuit of excellence under Hagedorn's tutelage.



“That award is a really, really, really big deal,” says pianist Dan Cavanagh '01, associate director of jazz studies at the University of Texas–Arlington. “It shows that Dave has taken St. Olaf’s jazz program into the modern era, and I can’t overstate how huge that is.” Cavanagh credits what he calls the “remarkable depth and quality” of St. Olaf’s three jazz groups to Hagedorn’s programming skills.

“He has a good ear for picking composers who are making a mark, and getting his students to play new tunes before they’re even on anyone else’s radar,” says Cavanagh, who recorded a CD titled *Horizon* with Hagedorn in 2010. “Dave’s got his fingers on the pulse of jazz.”

Hagedorn himself emphasizes that the big band tunes Jazz I has been rehearsing represent just a small part of the broad repertoire his jazz bands play.

“There’s so much more to jazz than big band,” he says, noting that this organically American art form defies narrow definition. “I want my students to know that jazz is rhythm; it’s innovation; it’s improvisation; it’s harmonies,” he says, applying these principles not only to jazz music but to a variety of musical genres. “We jam to swing, be-bop, fusion, funk, salsa, Afro-Cuban, Brazilian, and lots more. There’s improv in hip-hop, rock, and heavy metal. Even Bach was an improviser.”

The depth of their exposure to wide-ranging music isn’t lost on Hagedorn’s students.

“The jazz we play is a little different than what I was expecting,” says string bass player Lise Ramaley '18, who participated in thriving school jazz programs in her hometown of Seattle and chose St. Olaf in part for its extensive opportunities in the genre. “It’s been really cool and challenging to change things up a bit. We recently worked on a [heavy] metal piece, which stretches our abilities and isn’t something you normally hear played by a big band.”

Guitarist Christian Wheeler '16, a philosophy and English major from Eden Prairie, Minnesota, agrees. As an aspiring songwriter, he says that the music in Jazz I is always challenging him and giving him a lot to work on individually. “Dave has taken me pretty deep into understanding the different sounds, colors, and styles you can get out of a jazz instrument, including a better knowledge of how different chords work.”

“JAZZ PUSHES STUDENTS MUSICALLY IN NEW AND DIFFERENT WAYS. AT A SCHOOL LIKE ST. OLAF, WITH SUCH A STRONG MUSICAL TRADITION, THERE’S ROOM FOR ALL SORTS OF MUSICAL PURSUITS. JAZZ IS JUST ANOTHER WAY FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN AND TO SHINE.”

— DAVE HAGEDORN



Hagedorn directs the Jazz I ensemble during a 2014 concert in the Lion’s Pause at St. Olaf.

PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER



“JAZZ MUSIC IS  
IMMENSELY RELEVANT  
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BY EXPERIENCE.”

— DAVE HAGEDORN

Many students have benefited from combining the more traditional classical training that St. Olaf is known for with jazz training, performing with multiple concert groups on campus. This blending of musical backgrounds in college can be helpful to students' futures, says freelance pianist Ben Baker '09. It certainly has influenced his work in New York City, where he directs musical theater students at New York University and performs jazz piano at gigs and events around town.

“One of the best things to come out of my St. Olaf experience is a passion for teaching the kind of musical fluency needed to become a working musician,” says Baker, who performed under Hagedorn's leadership. “It's important to bridge the gap pedagogically between classical and jazz teaching. Dave is a great example of someone who does that by having his foot in just about every musical camp and knowing how to tie it all together.”

Baker notes that Hagedorn is a strong advocate for the value of jazz and personifies an entrepreneurial and collaborative spirit, qualities Baker appreciated as a student. “Dave modeled this life for me, opening me up to all sorts of new ideas about what makes interesting music.”

### ON STAGE

Hagedorn first picked up a pair of drumsticks for fifth-grade band, continuing to add percussion instruments throughout his years at school. He played the piano in his high school stage band, but it wasn't until he was about 16 that he found his true love: the vibraphone, which he considers his primary instrument.

“It sparked an interest in me,” he says. “I just loved playing it, and I was lucky that I had really good teachers, both in high school and college.” He earned a B.S. in music education from the University of Minnesota. There he studied with and was mentored by Marv Dahlgren, the retired principal percussionist of the Minnesota Orchestra who shared his passion for jazz with Hagedorn.

“The idea of jazz as an academic subject wasn't really happening when I was an undergrad. It was more of an underground thing, playing with friends, jamming in clubs,” Hagedorn says. “Marv was well-respected in the classical world, but he was also a great jazz player who was very open about creativity in music. He was a great influence on me.”

After a stint teaching high school band and performing in a house band during ski season in Breckenridge, Colorado, Hagedorn returned to Minnesota in 1979 to take part-time jobs teaching percussion at several colleges: St. Olaf, Carleton, the University of Minnesota–Duluth, and the University of Wisconsin–Superior. He soon tired of all the driving among schools, and also realized that students, especially those at St. Olaf, were asking questions he couldn't answer, “because my background was so thin,” he says. So he headed to graduate school, never thinking he'd eventually end up back at St. Olaf.

Hagedorn earned a master of music degree from the New England Conservatory and a doctor of musical arts degree from the Eastman School of Music, both in percussion performance. After more than a decade as the jazz and band instructor at UW–Superior, he returned to St. Olaf in 1997 to teach percussion and improvisation. He was eager to grow what was then a mostly student-run jazz band into a fully formed jazz program, particularly at a school ripe with student musicians of the highest caliber.

“At that time, St. Olaf was starting to realize that for students to be fully prepared to become music educators, especially at the high school level, they needed some background in jazz and improv,” Hagedorn says.

He found there were enough students interested in the genre to form three bands, Jazz I, Jazz II, and Jazz III. Today, the groups are auditioned ensembles with between 20 and 25 players each that rehearse for an hour two nights a week. Two of Hagedorn's colleagues in the music department, Phil Hey on drums and Sarah Burk on piano, round out jazz instruction at the college.

While Hagedorn builds on the skills many of his students hone in St. Olaf's top concert ensembles, he looks for particular qualities in those he selects for the jazz bands.

“The most important part of jazz is rhythm,” he says. “Students need to be technically proficient but, above all, have the feel for jazz, for its stylings and rhythms, for precise intonation. Those who are carefree and not afraid to take risks are going to be the most successful at manipulating material.”



Hagedorn is as much a performer as he is a teacher, with a long history of playing gigs in the Twin Cities and at jazz clubs and festivals nationwide. He'd much rather collaborate with others than perform as a soloist, which goes to the nature of jazz, he says.

"The interaction with others is what makes jazz go," Hagedorn says. "If you play your part correctly but don't feel a connection with the other musicians, then the music isn't going to be that good."

Percussionist John Kronlokken '16, a music and economics major from Eden Prairie, Minnesota, enjoys studying under a seasoned performer like Hagedorn. "Seeing Dave and Phil Hey perform together in the Twin Cities was one of my first exposures to live jazz," says Kronlokken, who recalls listening to the Phil Hey Quartet at the now-closed Artists' Quarter Jazz Club as early as middle school.

"Dave is an excellent, demanding teacher, but he's also very involved in the music scene," Kronlokken says. "His love for both teaching and performing is immediately apparent."

Hagedorn's involvement in the wider music world allows him to procure the new or not-yet-performed music his bands are known for playing. He also regularly invites a variety of professional jazz musicians to campus for guest appearances and clinics. Trumpet player and music education major Sarah Berry '15 of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, recalls the impact two visiting percussionists had on Jazz I at a recent rehearsal. "It's so helpful to be able to play with pros," she says. "They bring us to a higher level."

Hagedorn is enthusiastic about the future of jazz, noting that listening to jazz is an experience unlike any other — it's impossible to hear it and sit still.

"This is not sit-upright-in-your-seat-and-pay-attention music," he says. "A jazz concert is completely different than a classical concert. If you hear a great oboe solo in the middle of a symphony, you're not likely to clap loudly or whistle as soon as the oboe player is done. Or, if you do, you might get thrown out," he says. The interaction that St. Olaf's jazz ensembles have with their audiences in the Lion's Pause, a nightclub-like venue at the college that allows for dancing, clapping, and hollering in appreciation during concerts, is instrumental in helping the group perform better, Hagedorn says. At the same time, it helps to spread an appreciation for the vibrancy of jazz to the Hill and beyond.

"Music — especially jazz — is immensely relevant to life," he says. "It teaches us to be flexible, to pay attention, and to be moved by experience." That's a sentiment all musicians, those trained at St. Olaf and elsewhere, can appreciate. 🦄




Hagedorn on the vibes, with St. Olaf instructor in music Phil Hey on drums, at a Twin Cities gig with the Good Vibes Trio

PHOTO BY ANDREA CANTER

MARLA HILL HOLT '88 is a freelance writer living in Owatonna, Minnesota, and a regular contributor to *St. Olaf Magazine*.





**IN A**  
**League**  
**OF HER OWN**

BASEBALL PIONEER JUSTINE SIEGAL '98  
IS CREATING MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR GIRLS TO PLAY THE GAME.



BY GREG BREINING  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY NANCY PASTOR









**W**ITH SPRING COMES BASEBALL — golden sunlight, warm breezes, and the tender grass of the ball diamond. As a little girl, Justine Siegal loved the curve of the ball in her hand, the stitches running beneath her fingertips. She relished throwing hard and hearing the pop of the ball finding the catcher’s mitt. Siegal had been pitching since age eight and looked forward to every season. But when she turned 13, something got in the way.

“I had a new coach, and he told me I should quit because girls don’t play baseball,” says Siegal. “They play softball.”

Stubbornly, she kept showing up to practices and games. She was one of the better players, and she was determined to play. “I just didn’t think that being a girl was a good enough reason to quit playing baseball,” Siegal says. “I wasn’t going to go away.”

Since that spring nearly 30 years ago, Siegal has championed girls and women in baseball and pushed baseball’s gender boundaries by coaching men’s baseball in college and in the professional minor leagues. As the founder and executive director of the nonprofit Baseball For All and associate director of Sports Partnerships at the Center for the Study of Sport in Society at Northeastern University in Boston, Siegal devotes much of her time to creating opportunities for girls and women to participate in America’s favorite pastime.

“There are more than 100,000 girls who play baseball,” she says, but notes that only 1,000 of them are playing high school baseball. That means older girls are dropping out and quitting, and Siegal’s pretty sure she knows why. “I can tell you,” she says, “it’s from lack of support.”

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**N**OTWITHSTANDING SIEGAL’S EXPERIENCE AT AGE 13, Little League does allow girls to play baseball instead of softball. A landmark ruling in 1973, upheld by the superior courts, opened Little League baseball to girls in 1974, making it non-gender specific and paving the way for girls like 13-year-old Mo’ne Davis, who became a pitching sensation during the 2014 Little League World Series, and Chelsea Baker, now 17, who learned to throw a knuckleball from her neighbor, American Major League Baseball pitcher and Hall-of-Famer Joe Niekro. Baker, who pitched two perfect games in Little League, was even considered a long-shot contender for the men’s big leagues.

But Davis and Baker are the exceptions. Siegal wants to open up the game to many more girls. “You shouldn’t have to be a superstar to get to play,” she says. “We want all girls to have a chance to play this great game — to sign up and go play and learn, to have all the opportunities that boys have.”

Instead, girls are traditionally steered into softball. “Nothing about softball feels right,” she says. “The ball is too big. The field is too small.”





The change in Little League Softball and Senior League Softball came about in 1974, when Title IX forced Little League to revise its rules and allow participation by girls. “That was really the moment when girls’ baseball could have become something. But instead of putting a baseball in their hand, they made them wear shorts and play softball. That’s what they offered them” Siegal says.



Justine Siegal and her daughter, Jasmine, on the day Justine pitched to the Tampa Bay Rays

“Society has cultivated this myth that baseball is for boys and softball is for girls,” she adds. “And it can be challenging to go up against that myth.”

Siegal would know. When she was a first-year student in high school, the baseball coach told her she couldn’t try out for the team. Only after she went away to boarding school for a year and serendipitously pitched against her old high school team did that same coach let her try out and play. “Sometimes it takes a while for that idea — that girls can play baseball — to sink in,” Siegal notes wryly.

After high school, Siegal enrolled in another midwestern college because its baseball team had a “no-cut” policy. “But they decided I would be their first cut,” she recalls. “They said they didn’t have enough uniforms. It’s illegal [to discriminate against women in college sports], but I didn’t know that at the time.”

She decided to come to St. Olaf for her junior and senior years, and created her own major — “Leadership: Religion, Military, and Baseball” — through the Paracollege (a forerunner of the current Center for Integrative Studies). Siegal intended to play baseball at St. Olaf but received an invitation to try out for the Colorado Silver Bullets, an all-women professional baseball team that played against men’s amateur and semi-pro teams in the mid-1990s. Despite pitching out of a jam in a spring training game, she was cut from the team. “And just like that,” Siegal later wrote in a blog for Major League Baseball, “my pro baseball dream was over.”

She returned to St. Olaf but couldn’t participate in its baseball program because going to spring training had given her professional status. After graduation, she moved back to her hometown of Cleveland, Ohio, to pursue a master’s degree in sports studies at Kent State. She also made time to play baseball in men’s summer leagues.

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DIVORCE. IT'S  
JUST BASEBALL.  
LET'S LET THE  
GIRLS PLAY."

— JUSTINE SIEGAL

**S**IEGAL ENJOYED PLAYING ON CO-ED TEAMS, but she knew that not all women did. To create more opportunities, she started a four-team women's baseball league in Cleveland. But she realized the future of women in baseball depended on giving younger girls a chance to play. Out of this need grew Baseball For All, an organization designed to provide opportunities for girls and women to participate in the sport, including playing, coaching, and umpiring.

Another goal of the organization is to connect the girls to one another. "That's really important to us — the idea of using social media, having a camp or a clinic so the girls can meet other girls who play baseball," says Siegal. "That's very magical because they're often the only girls in their leagues, so when they get to meet other girls, they no longer feel so alone. That connection is what Baseball For All does well."

In 2002, Siegal formed the Sparks, an all-girl baseball team for girls ages 12 and under. "I was trying to create a better future," she says. "If my daughter [Jasmine] wanted to play baseball, I wanted to give her a place where she could play without discrimination, without the fight." The Sparks began playing in an annual tournament against some of the nation's best boys teams at Cooperstown Dreams Park in New York, and became the subject of an award-winning documentary, *The Girls of Summer: the WBL Sparks in Cooperstown, N.Y.* The games are now run by Baseball For All.

Two years later, Siegal experienced another important milestone for women in baseball when she sat on USA Baseball's steering committee for the inaugural Women's Team USA. The team went on to win gold at the Women's Baseball World Cup.

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**B**ACK WHEN SIEGAL WAS 16, she told a coach — someone she saw as a mentor — that someday she wanted to coach college baseball. The coach laughed and told her that no man would ever listen to a woman on a ball field. Siegal didn't believe it.

In 2007, she pushed against that boundary while working toward a Ph.D. in sport and exercise psychology at Springfield College in Massachusetts. Landing a job as an assistant coach on the college's men's baseball team, Siegal became only the second woman in the United States to coach college baseball. She spent the first year as pitching coach and the second as junior varsity coach. In the process, she felt welcomed on the ball field.

"Once the guys are used to you, once the guys know that you care about them and that you can make them a better baseball player, they accept you," she says.

By her third year, she was working on her dissertation and performing analysis for the team's pitchers. That's when she experienced a profound personal validation: "A varsity player came up to me to ask for some fielding advice," she says. "He needed help. He didn't go to the head coach or even to the other two assistants, who all had some pro experience. He came to me. He asked — and I helped, just like any coach would."

In 2008, Siegal blazed yet another trail after attending a conference of the Society for American Baseball Research. A speaker that year was Mike Veeck, a garrulous promoter and the owner of several minor league teams, including the Saint Paul Saints. In 1997, the Saints became the first professional men's baseball team to sign a woman player — pitcher Ila Borders.

After the talk, Siegal approached Veeck and said she would like to find a way to coach in minor league ball. As Veeck got to know her, he was impressed. He realized that if he were to hire a woman as coach, he had just met the right candidate, noting that Siegal had, "intellect combined with a great knowledge of the game and also a historical perspective," says Veeck. "And I knew she'd be the perfect person because she's got great humility. You can't manufacture that."

Veeck said he might have an opportunity for Siegal with the Brockton Rox, an unaffiliated minor league team in Massachusetts of which Veeck was a minority owner. He wanted to give her a chance to coach, but he knew she'd be entering into a one-woman, uphill battle.

"I said to her, 'nothing's fair about this situation,' " says Veeck. " 'You're going to go into the jaws of hell. And I'm not going to do a thing once I manage to finagle you a shot. So if you have a problem or if you get fired, I will not intercede. Because, then everything



# SHE ROX BROCKTON

A minor sensation: Siegal pro ball's first female coach



**DOING THE HUSTLE:** Justine Siegal runs to the dugout with a player's batting helmet at the end of an inning on Tuesday.



**KEEPING A KEEN EYE:** Brockton Rox first base coach Justine Siegal watches from the home dugout at Campanelli Stadium as the Rox play in the field during a game against New Hampshire last Tuesday.

**BY STEW BUCKLEY**  
**BROCKTON**—It was the top of the first inning. He'd just hit at Campanelli Stadium, two down. Ed O'Connell had for the American Defenders of New Hampshire Wayne Langford, a 6-foot-7, 230-pound right hander. O'Connell pitched a hard line-up in the middle that had the look and sound of a sure thing. But Rox shortstop Dominic Barnes—a former Red Sox minor league prospect—suddenly glided to his left and made a spectacular leaping catch, ending the inning. The hometown Rox were coming to bat.

But while the crowd cheered at Brockton's leadoff hitter Chris Valente's announcement, there was a special buzz as the Rox first-base coach settled into position. "Were we home a run?" a fan yelled from the box seats, cupping his hands to his lips. "We all wish you!"

The first base coach, looking toward the plate, didn't seem to notice. But when cheers, on boos, or even notices, the first base coach like umpires and television commentators, and a player's base coaches get attention only when something goes wrong. Otherwise, they're the blue-collar equivalent of professional baseball, hitting practice and performing myriad other tasks that go unappreciated by most fans.

But it's hard not to notice the Brockton first-base coach, the long, brownish-blond hair, the coach's box, and she's not there as part of some fanfare or league promotion. Her name is Justine Siegal, and, as near as the Rox can figure, she's the first female coach in men's professional baseball. Amazingly, nobody seems worried that Siegal, 33, who is married and has an 11-year-old daughter, is going to bring about the renaissance of women's professional baseball. There have been no reports of local business endorsering flury commitments for the ballpark project. Instead, the ballpark, a 40-year-old Brockton facility, will sit like a silent base ball hero who has been in the game since 1999, goes with the flow.

"Over the years I've had to make some changes, and some of them didn't fit my love of the game," Siegal said. "But people have to be given opportunities. No matter how small, I think it's going to mean a lot to all the young girls out there. For them, I'm behind her."

After joining the Rox last month, the former pitcher and third baseman took the attitude that she'd simply introduce herself to the players, and then let them make their own move. The first player she greeted was James. "I never had a female coach," he told Siegal. Siegal smiled anxiously to hear what James would say next. "That's cool," he said, "no matter of fact that Siegal believed she was going to fit in."

**Blending right in**  
 In answer to the obligatory questions about how Siegal manages to avoid any embarrassing locker room, she said: "As a cox, I announce myself before I come into the clubhouse. It's not a big deal."

James isn't the only member of the Rox who is cool with Siegal. Right-hander James Baker, who grew up in Brockton and was a standout at Wheaton College, said,

"What do I think of Justine? I think she has long hair and his great fangs."  
 Said outfielder Jed Thompson: "She's one of the guys. But here's the question: Is Siegal a real baseball coach? It is the publicity stunt? Eye brows are immediately raised when one considers that Siegal was hired by Mike Veck, the well-known baseball manager who owns parts of the independent minor league teams, including a franchise in the Rox, when he took over as a consultant."

Veck is the son of the late great Bill Veck, who at various times owned the Cleveland Indians, Chicago White Sox, and the old St. Louis Browns. While running the Browns Veck, in 1971, staged one of the most memorable publicity stunts in sports history: He signed a midsize named Eddie Gooden and announced to the Detroit Tigers, Cleveland drew a walk against Bob Cain and was never seen again.

In Justice Siegal a modern-day Eddie Gooden? "She is an experiment," Mike Veck said. "But somebody's gotta be first. That's all there is to it. It's an idea whose time has come." Siegal always when asked if she's a gimmick. "I never Veck's hired me because he felt he needed a specific individual to do the job," she said. "But it took an innovator to do something so unusual."

"And I certainly understand that it's unusual. But I consider it an honor to be a pioneer and be a role model to both girls and boys on the field. I don't remember that for a female. I consider myself a rookie coach." Siegal founded a group called "Baseball for All," an organization that provides instruction for both female and male players. She coached in various



**ADVANCED PLACEMENT:** Justine Siegal points Rox baserunner Chris Grossman onto second as an ample break on during a minor league game last week against the American Defenders of New Hampshire at Campanelli Stadium.

that people say — that it was just a Mike Veck promotion — will be right.'"

Siegal got the job as first base coach, the first woman ever hired as an on-the-field coach for a U.S. men's pro team. "It was amazing," she says. But Veck was right about the battle ahead. The resistance, Siegal says, came less from players than from management. As she recalled later, "There were some people who didn't think I should be there. And they made sure I knew it."

She lasted half a season before she was released. "My personal feelings are that she didn't get a fair chance," says Veck. "With the right ownership group and the right management, she'd still be there."



During the 2011 spring training season, Siegal pitched batting practice for several major league teams — including her hometown team, the Cleveland Indians. NORM HALL / GETTY IMAGES

**I**N LATE 2010, SIEGAL TRAVELED to Major League Baseball's Winter Meetings in Orlando, Florida, with a new plan. She intended to buttonhole managers and executives and convince one of them to make her the first woman to throw major league batting practice in spring training.

"Why the hell should I let you do that?" cracked one coach she met.

She had better luck with Billy Beane, the general manager of the Oakland A's, who immediately said "yes." With a commitment from the A's in hand, Siegal hoped to add more teams to her pitching roster, especially the Cleveland Indians. She emailed the Indians and explained she'd really like to make history with her hometown team.

To Siegal's delight, Cleveland also agreed. With her daughter in tow, she showed up at the team's spring training camp in Phoenix. As she walked to the mound at her first pitching session, her hands were so sweaty that the ball stuck in her right hand. Siegal shook off the jitters and then started throwing four-seam fastballs over the plate while the players took their chops.



"IF YOU TELL A GIRL SHE CAN'T  
PLAY BASEBALL, WHAT ELSE WILL  
SHE THINK SHE CAN'T DO?"



"It's indescribable when you get to wear an Indians jersey with your number on the back and pick up a baseball and throw it to your favorite team," she says. "You're living a childhood fantasy."

A couple days later, Siegal pitched for the Oakland A's. She also toured spring training camps in Florida to pitch for the Tampa Bay Rays, the St. Louis Cardinals, the New York Mets, and the Houston Astros. In the process, she earned a bit of fame.

"I got tons of media coverage for it," says Siegal. "David Letterman talked about it in his monologue .... People were sending me articles from around the world about me throwing batting practice. It was in *USA Today* and the *New York Times*; it was on *ESPN Sports*."

Siegal didn't simply bask in the glory. She used the attention to spread the word about what women in baseball could do. "So often, we have this idea that women and men in one sport can't get along," she says. "I was able to show that I can contribute to the game on the field. I can make your players better."

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**T**WO YEARS AFTER PITCHING BATTING PRACTICE, Siegal received her Ph.D. and joined the staff at Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society. There she cultivates relationships with Major League Baseball and other professional sports. She has also counseled on tough issues, including domestic violence and sexual assault. "It's really been about giving professional athletes more life skills," she says of her position at Northeastern.

A more personal objective continues to be bolstering girls' and women's participation and retention in sports. And it dovetails with her dreams for Baseball For All.

"I would like to see girls baseball leagues all over the country, and I would also like to see strong women's leagues in place so that the girls have somewhere to grow to," she says.

These days, Siegal's drive to win girls and women a place on the baseball diamond isn't just about the sport. It's a matter of justice.

"If you tell a girl she can't play baseball, what else will she think she can't do?" asks Siegal. "We can't just tell our girls they can't do something because they're girls. These girls deserve it. They deserve to be believed in." 🦁

GREG BREINING is a Minnesota author and journalist.



**A**FTER PLACING **SECOND** at the NCAA Division III Cross Country National Championships, the St. Olaf track team again finished strong at the 2015 NCAA Division III Indoor Championships. **Paul Escher '16** (center) and **Jake Campbell '16** (right) both came away with national titles in separate events. And with just three team members at nationals, St. Olaf placed fourth overall as a team. This spring, Escher took the title for the mile at the Division III Indoor National Championships, making him All-American. Campbell won the 3000-meter race with the fastest time in Division III across the nation this year and set a new school record. **Grant Wintheiser '15** (left) won the Division III Cross Country title last fall, making him the first cross country runner in school history to win an individual national title. He was named the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association National Athlete of the Year.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER







## Alumni Achievement Awards

FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS, St. Olaf College has recognized alumni who exemplify the ideals and mission of the college. In honoring these graduates for their lifelong achievements and professional contributions, they become an integral part of college history and a testament to St. Olaf's tradition of excellence. The 2014 Alumni Achievement Award recipients — Elizabeth Nabel '74, Lynn Anderson '75, and Tom Nelson '69 — were recognized on Honors Day, May 2, 2015.

BY SUZY FRISCH

**DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI AWARD  
RECIPIENT**  
**Elizabeth  
Guenther  
Nabel '74**



**C**ARDIOLOGIST ELIZABETH NABEL '74 has enjoyed an enormously varied and eminent medical career, spanning government service, academic medicine, biomedical research, entrepreneurship, wellness advocacy, and now the National Football League. In every arena, she has made a name for herself with distinguished leadership, scholarship, and innovation.

A professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and president of its affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), Nabel recently was named the National Football League's chief health and medical advisor. It's a new position for the NFL, and Nabel is tasked with helping the league improve player health and safety. She will retain her roles at Harvard and BWH.

Nabel continues to make an impact at the hospital. She is guiding its transformation to a new model of care that focuses on population health management, collaborative research among multiple life sciences, and personalized therapies and translational medicine. Nabel also is leading a \$1 billion campaign at BWH to advance innovation, patient care, and community health.

Before joining BWH in 2010, Nabel served as director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute from 2005 to 2009. With a \$3 billion research portfolio and budget under her direction, Nabel established pioneering scientific programs in genomics, stem cells, and translational research. One of her signature efforts involved the implementation of the Red Dress Heart Truth campaign, which employs inventive partnerships to raise awareness of women's heart health.

A prolific researcher, Nabel has earned 17 patents and published more than 250 scientific articles about her discoveries related to genetic therapies for cardiovascular disease. As part of her research, she developed pioneering methods for using the molecular genetics of vascular disease to prevent heart conditions. Nabel's contributions to cardiovascular gene transfer led to the development of molecular and cellular techniques as well as the discovery of the pathophysiology of atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries.

Nabel received degrees in French and psychology at St. Olaf before graduating from Cornell University Medical College. After an internal medicine residency and a clinical and research fellowship in cardiovascular medicine at BWH, Nabel joined the faculty of the University of Michigan. She spent a dozen years there, ultimately serving as director of cardiovascular research and chief of the university's cardiology division.

Nabel served on St. Olaf's Board of Regents from 2009 to 2014, and she has received many awards from varied institutions, including six honorary doctorates. The American Heart Association honored Nabel with two Distinguished Achievement Awards and the Eugene Braunwald Academic Mentorship Award. She also earned the Amgen-Scientific Achievement Award, the Lewis Katz Research Prize in Cardiovascular Research from Columbia University, the George M. Kober Medal from the Association of American Physicians, and the Willem Einthoven Award from Leiden University in the Netherlands.

In addition, Nabel has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, the American Society of Clinical Investigation, and the Association of American Physicians. A fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Nabel serves on the editorial boards for the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *Science Translational Medicine*.

Nabel and her husband, Dr. Gary Nabel, who is the Chief Scientific Officer at Sanofi, have three grown children who are pursuing careers in science and medicine.

**IN A LEGAL CAREER THAT SPANS** nearly 40 years, Tom Nelson '69 has successfully advocated for clients while also serving his community and profession. He practices in several areas, including commercial litigation and construction, business strategy, insurance, employee benefits, and employment law. This versatility has allowed Nelson to represent everyone from two Cairn terriers in a lawsuit against a neighborhood pit bull to product developers, builders, employers, and more.

In the process, Nelson has been honored for many years running as one of the lawyers named in *The Best Lawyers in America* in multiple specialties, as well as in *Super Lawyers*. He recently was elected by his peers as a Fellow of the American Bar Association, a group of attorneys, judges, and legal scholars who have demonstrated outstanding achievements and dedication to their community and profession, and is about to be inducted into the Litigation Counsel of America.

In 2011, Nelson teamed up with attorney Lynn M. Anderson '75 to



launch Ole Law. This networking event has become an annual opportunity for St. Olaf students to make connections with attorneys as they consider pursuing legal careers, now with the involvement of the Piper Center for Vocation and Career. He also serves on the Ole Law Steering Committee. Based on the continued success of the initial Ole Law events, Nelson and Anderson also co-chaired similar events for students interested in medicine and business.

Nelson recalls that he started out practicing “door law,” meaning he took on whatever work came in the door. He has plenty of anecdotes to share with young Oles interested in his profession, like the time he got an ocean-going merchant vessel “arrested” in New Haven harbor for violating maritime law, or the experience of representing the Ringling Brothers/Barnum & Bailey Circus in commercial, contract, and municipal regulatory matters.

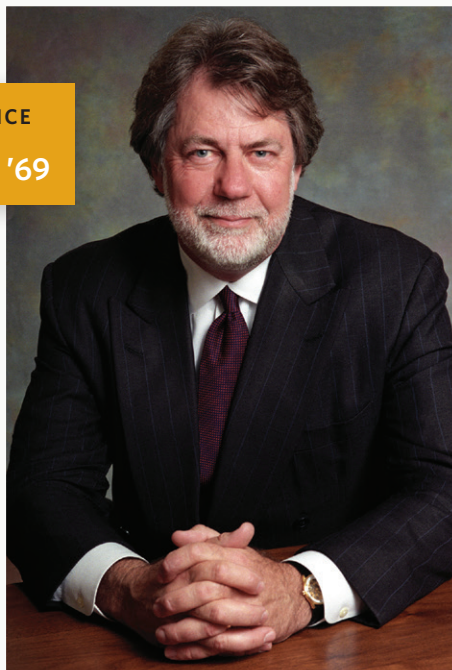
After graduating from St. Olaf, Nelson went to Yale University to earn a master of arts in religion; helped create and then taught at an innovative New Haven, Connecticut, public high school; and then went to the University of Connecticut School of Law. Nelson clerked for two terms for Judge Thomas J. Meskill of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York City. He then worked at a Connecticut law firm before returning to Minnesota in 1983.

Now a partner at Stinson Leonard Street in Minneapolis, Nelson makes time for pro bono work and legal leadership. He earned his law firm’s 2008 Pro Bono Award for Outstanding Legal Service in the Public Interest, including his work with the University of Minnesota Law School’s Guantanamo Defense Project. He also earned the Hennepin County Bar Association Attorney Professionalism Award, which goes to the member “who best exemplifies the pursuit of the practice of law as a profession, including a spirit of public service and promotion of the highest possible level of competence, integrity and ethical conduct.”

Currently, Nelson serves as president of the Hennepin County Bar Association, where he chaired its Bar Memorial Committee for nearly a decade. Nelson is actively engaged in other aspects of the community as well. He serves on the boards of the Givens Foundation for African American Literature, the American Swedish Institute (where he is chairman), and the Landmark Center in St. Paul, Minnesota.

**AFTER SPENDING 26 YEARS** as the Chief Legal Officer at Holiday Companies, Lynn M. Anderson ’75 has plenty of legal insight and experience to share with others. She also has connections with scores of lawyers, and she set about opening those doors to St. Olaf students by launching Ole Law with fellow attorney Thomas F. Nelson ’69.

The annual event gives students an opportunity to network with Oles who have a law degree, while helping them explore the many possibilities of a life in the law. Anderson and Nelson co-created and co-



**OUTSTANDING SERVICE  
AWARD RECIPIENT  
Thomas F. Nelson '69**

facilitated the event. It’s proven to be such a success with students, they teamed up to launch Ole Med and Ole Biz, and then St. Olaf used the same model and launched Oles for Public Interest. Together, these networking opportunities are known as the Ole Suite. Anderson and Nelson transitioned the events to the Piper Center for Vocation and Career in 2014, along with “How To” Manuals.

Each Ole group helps students of all years connect with alumni and parents working in these fields. Over 100 students and 100 alumni and parents gather annually for ninety minutes of networking, making connections, and discovering details about the field, including different specialties. In the past four years, the Ole Suite has connected more than 750 students with more than 1,000 alumni and parents.

Anderson received a master of arts in teaching degree from Northwestern University before earning her juris doctor from William Mitchell College of Law in 1980. She first worked at Lindquist & Vennum in Minneapolis. Then, in 1988, she joined Holiday, based in Bloomington, Minnesota, as its first Chief Legal Officer.

Over the years, Anderson added executive vice president to her responsibilities. Holiday is a private company primarily engaged in owning, operating, and franchising over 500 Holiday gasoline/convenience stores in 10 states stretching from Minnesota to Alaska.

In addition to co-creating and co-facilitating the Ole Suite, Anderson serves on the Board of Directors of Global Rights for Women, Board of Trustees of William Mitchell College of Law, Advisory Council of the Center for Law and Business at William Mitchell College of Law, Board of Directors of Oley Foundation and as advisor to the Board of Directors of the Dakota Jazz Club & Restaurant.

Throughout her career, Anderson has been passionate about guiding future Oles in their careers. While helping to start Ole Law and its sister



**OUTSTANDING SERVICE  
AWARD RECIPIENT  
Lynn M. Anderson '75**

events, she also makes time to assist individual students who reach out to her with questions about legal careers, networking, and job shadowing. She has shown numerous Oles a day in the life of a chief legal officer, while also tapping into her network to match them with attorneys who work in different venues, from law firms to the bench.

When students ask Anderson for career advice, she often tells them to tap into the power of their undergraduate institution to connect with alumni. She has made that process easier for St. Olaf students through the creation of the Ole Suite.

“St. Olaf is a powerful connection. Oles are happy to talk to Oles and share their experiences,” she notes. “All a connection does is open a door. It is up to the student to walk through it.”

SUZY FRISCH is a Twin Cities freelance writer.



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...

Designating St. Olaf College as a direct beneficiary of a retirement plan is an easy, tax-savvy way to give. And it's flexible: you can donate all or a portion of the account, and you can update at any time. Simply contact your retirement plan administrator to include St. Olaf as a beneficiary.

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Consider leaving less heavily taxed assets to your loved ones, and leaving your retirement plan assets to St. Olaf to support current students and faculty.

...

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*"When I graduated from St. Olaf, I knew the college had prepared me well for my work as a church musician. What I've learned in the 15 years since then is that it also prepared me to be a person of integrity, grace, and compassion. My hope is that our giving will help other Oles afford their education so they too can graduate and 'be St. Olaf to the world.' Our charitable giving reminds us that there are needs in the world greater than our own material desires. We wanted to generously include St. Olaf College in our estate plans. Since we have been saving for our retirement through tax-advantaged accounts, we decided to be tax-wise in designating a remainder of these funds for charitable bequests."*

— SARAH GRAN WILLIAMS '00 AND JOHN WILLIAMS, NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

*"St. Olaf has been an important part of my life for 60 years. My life has been enriched by the college, by the classes I was offered, and the lifelong friends I have made. Because I have been so blessed, I wanted to express my thankfulness by making St. Olaf a contingent beneficiary of my IRA. Now I have a way to assist others who are looking for a wonderful college experience."*

— SONJA LIEN SWANSON '59 AND WESLEY SWANSON, SURPRISE, ARIZONA



To learn more about designating St. Olaf as a beneficiary of your retirement account, call 800-776-6523 or email [plannedgiving@stolaf.edu](mailto:plannedgiving@stolaf.edu).





## A Running Tradition

**M**ichael Overdahl '82 writes, "[In November 2013], the St. Olaf men's cross country team won the NCCA Division III Championship, marking the first NCCA Championship by any St. Olaf team in the school's history. Last fall, scores of alumni from the men's cross country team came back to campus to celebrate this achievement, capped by the annual alumni 5K race. The event was organized primarily by former Ole teammate **Tim Cotts '94**, with help from the current coaches, Phil Lundin and Dave Griffith.

"The race coincided with a bona fide competition between the current cross country teams of St. Olaf and Macalester College. To no one's surprise, St. Olaf won the competition. Distance running has been a passionate St. Olaf tradition going back decades. Most alumni from the cross country team continue to run seriously — and well.

"Many of the historical 'greats' were present for the annual race, including **David Wee '61**, professor emeritus of English. When many of us were students,

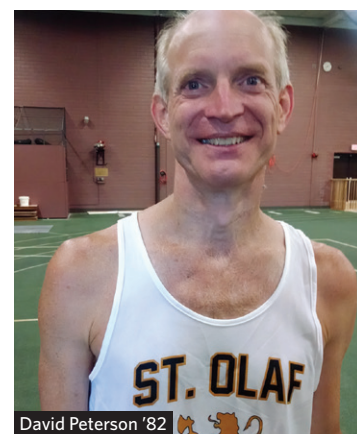


Mike Palmquist '80 and David Wee '61

**Michael Palmquist '80**, an All-American who still holds St. Olaf running records (though probably not for long), and **Dave Peterson '82**, who also still holds running records. And **Scott McPherson '80**, the only person to have run every single alumni race over the past 30 odd years. (Actually, Dave Peterson ties this record, but he was not yet an alum when the annual event began in 1980.)

he was often seen running on campus. He continues to amaze us all at age 75. Celebrated cross country coach Bill Thornton, who retired after more than 30 years of coaching. Former team captains **Mark Aggerbeck '72** and **Matt Haugen '79**, who was captain during the legendary 'glory years' and is now the head cross country coach at Macalester College. Also St. Olaf Cross Country legends

"There was much talk of the 'glory years' and the exploits of Mike Palmquist, Dave Peterson, and many other notables from the early 1980s. The focus of the weekend was to remind the current cross country team that they now hold claim to these Glory Years. In another 30 years, everyone will still be talking about them. They may have stood on the shoulders of giants, but they are now the new giants, and the overheard refrain of the day was, "Thanks for making us proud!" "



David Peterson '82

## St. Olaf Names a New Director of College Relations for Music Organizations

**JEAN STROHM PARISH '88** is the new director of college relations for St. Olaf Music Organizations, taking over for Bob Johnson, who is retiring this spring after managing the college's music organizations for 37 years.

"I am deeply honored to be offered this opportunity to serve St. Olaf College and its music organizations," she says. "I look forward to working collaboratively with faculty, staff, and students to further the mission and goals of the college, and to build on the tremendous legacy of the music organizations."

With more than 25 years of experience in performing arts administration, Parish comes to St. Olaf having served as general manager of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra since 2009. In her new role, Parish will manage and promote the creative, innovative, and entrepreneurial aspects of the college's music organizations, St. Olaf Records, and the St. Olaf Christmas Festival. She joined the college in May.





# The Music Man

Bob Johnson, manager of St. Olaf music organizations, retires this spring after 37 years of service to the college.

BY AMY BOXRUD '89

**B**OB "B.J." JOHNSON HAS BEEN DESCRIBED as a cross between the great New York impresario Sol Hurok and the famed circus master P.T. Barnum. In his nearly four decades as manager of St. Olaf's Office of Music Organizations, Johnson, who will retire in May, has enjoyed his dual roles as concert producer and event promoter.

Since 1978, Johnson has handled myriad details for St. Olaf music organizations, from creating tour budgets to booking flights, hotels, and concert venues. He often makes arrangements for concerts two or three years in advance, while simultaneously managing details for performances taking place in a week or two. Throughout his time at the college, he has encouraged conductors to think big, and his entrepreneurial sense has brought about many innovations.

His work has enabled St. Olaf Choir Conductor Anton Armstrong '78 to focus his energy on making great choral art. "With Bob's leadership, I'm able to achieve something bigger, something much more significant than I could otherwise," says Armstrong.

In 1978, the Music Department appointed Johnson, who had been on the staff of the University of Michigan's music society, to the position of music organizations manager. He logged long hours during his first years on the Hill, building a touring and promotions program not just for the St. Olaf Choir but for the St. Olaf Band, the St. Olaf Orchestra, and other ensembles. In time, he gained the help of an administrative assistant, and in 1990, he hired a full-time manager for the band and orchestra programs. "It was a godsend,



"B.J. has literally led, and transformed, how the gift of music is offered and delivered to thousands and thousands of people around the world. St. Olaf Records, international tours, streaming, broadcasting the St. Olaf Christmas Festival — these all happened under B.J.'s watch and with his entrepreneurial spirit," says Vice President and Dean of Enrollment Michael Kyle '85.

a jump in what we could do in terms of marketing and promoting our excellent ensembles," says Johnson.

Johnson's accomplishments include getting St. Olaf into the recording business by reestablishing the St. Olaf Records label, and leading the choir on tours worldwide. His knack for building relationships has ensured that the St. Olaf Christmas Festival was filmed every four years to air on public television, for a total of 11 productions, including two PBS holiday specials filmed on location in Norway's historic Nidaros Cathedral.

"It seems that each time we had a collaboration with public television, things just got better," says Johnson. "They had our trust, and we had their trust. It was just a wonderful collaboration." In 2000 and 2011, Johnson also led the charge in simulcasting the St. Olaf Christmas Festival in several hundred theaters around the nation.

A leader in forging alliances with other colleagues and supporters of choral music, Johnson served on the steering committee that brought the 2002 World Symposium on Choral Music to Minneapolis. In 1990, he was instrumental in founding the College Music Tour Managers Association.

Johnson has led the St. Olaf music organizations on tours annually throughout the United States, and on 15 international tours, from Seoul, Korea, to Snåsa, Norway. In fact, the St. Olaf Choir visited Norway six times under Johnson's management, including a 2013 Centennial Tour that included three of the college's touring ensembles. "That was a fabulous tour, when we brought the St. Olaf Band, St. Olaf Choir, and St. Olaf Orchestra to Norway all at the same time," he recalls. "That was another exciting adventure."

Johnson knows that retirement will bring a new lifestyle, and there will be trade-offs. He looks forward to what the next chapter of life will bring, but he anticipates missing daily contact with students, faculty, and staff within the St. Olaf community, and with countless St. Olaf alumni.

"It has been a real family," says Bob. "On the other hand, I understand from my retired colleagues that retirement is a great next chapter. And I'm looking forward to traveling without 75 people behind me."



Countless alumni know B.J. as a fixture on domestic and international St. Olaf Choir tours, including recent visits to Norway (top) and London (bottom).



**SUBMIT YOUR CLASS NOTES ONLINE!**

The Alumni and Parent Relations Office has made it easier for you to send us all your latest personal and professional news! This also is the place where you can update your contact information. Check out *mystolaf/alumni* today! Questions? Email *alum-office@stolaf.edu* or call 507-786-3028 or 888-865-6537.

**1957** | **Halvor Ronning** has helped develop a 20-year-old intensive Hebrew University program designed for Hebrew Bible translators to learn the language of the Bible in the land of the Bible in three months. Halvor writes, "The program has had 117 students from 35 countries, and graduates have been able to more accurately and naturally translate the Hebrew Bible into 72 languages thanks to the tremendous resources now available in Israel."

**1960** | **Paul G. Rasmussen** is now running Vinazene, Inc., which has received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for battery research. ■ **Mary Vinqvist** completed a two-week Road Scholar Educational Travel program, created by Elderhostel, that focused on art history in Belgium and the Netherlands. This was the 12th program she participated in.

**In the Heart of India**

Earlier this year Professor Emeritus of Philosophy Ed Langerak and his wife, Lois, led The Wonders and Religions of India Study Travel program, visiting nine cities in 17 days. The group traveled by bus, plane, train, boat, bicycle rickshaw, and even elephant, exploring the diversity of India and its architectural, historical, religious, and cultural sites. One highlight was the Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World.



These Oles were among the group of 31 Study Travelers: (back row, L-R): **Mark Odland '74**, **Roger Knutsen '74**, **Bill Davis '70**, **Greg Buck '77**, **Lisa Nave Buck '77**; (middle row): **Mary Ostenson Broude '68**, **Meredith Nelson Davis '70**, **Janice Homandberg Knutsen '76**, **Roberta Holbrook Sonnesyn '74**, **Becky Ringham Odland '74**, **Jane Ranzenberger Goldstein '71**; (front row): **Ed Langerak**, **Laurel Nelson Derksen '72**, **Jeanie Jacobson Morrison '76**, **Erica Kylo '97**, **Hilary Savage '03**, and **Don Johnson '71**.

**1962** | **Paul Michaelson** has established InterGenerational Services for Community Health, which offers resources in aging education as well as workshops on a variety of topics, from care for parents to advocacy for seniors. Paul also serves as visitation and outreach pastor at Hope Lutheran Church in San Mateo, Calif. He writes, "I will be hosting a golf tour to Ireland at the end of July 2015. Anyone interested, please contact me for more details."

**1963** | **Ruth Stime Erickson** was among the group of Oles who gathered at Lake Pepin in Lake City, Minn., to honor the choral music career of **Alf Houkom '57**. Although Ruth was noted in the photo that appeared in the winter issue of *St. Olaf Magazine*, her class year was inadvertently omitted! Our apologies to Ruth. ■ **John Hegg** was one of nine in the Midwest inducted into the first "Fuel Up to Play 60" Hall of Fame for his work in promoting wellness in his Sioux Falls, S.D., school district. Fuel Up is the nation's largest school-based wellness and health program. John has been involved with the program since its inception in 2009.

**1966** | **Charles Hellie** is executive director of the Retired Educators Association of Minnesota

and is serving on the Education Minnesota Retired Board of Directors.

**1967** | **Paul Benson** will direct a National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar program titled "Slavery in the American Republic: From Constitution to Civil War" July 5-18 at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. As a



student in 1965, Paul was one of 65 St. Olaf students who volunteered for the Tuskegee Institute Summer Education Program, which aimed to improve the education of African American students in a 10-county area of Alabama.

**1968** | **Richard McClear** writes, "I am living back at home in Sitka, Alaska, doing some telecommuting to an aid job in Tbilisi, Ga. and making a trip or two a year there. I guess it's called semi-retirement."

**1969** | **Judith Isaacson Luna** is pursuing a "retirement career" as a documentary filmmaker under the auspices of the University of Arkansas Journalism Department. Her film, *Home at Last: Among People in the Ozarks*, has been shown on Minnesota Public Television and on Public Television in Arkansas. A documentary about the Mesabi Iron Range in Eveleth, Minn., is in progress.

**1971** | **Keith Homstad** writes, "In retirement, I have taken up the study and painting of Orthodox Byzantine style icons. Six of my icons were selected [last fall] for inclusion in the 20th Annual Icon Display at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis."



**1972** | **Kathryn Johnson** has been named director for ELCA ecumenical, inter-religious relations effective Sept. 15. Kathryn is a professor of historical theology and the Paul Tudor Jones Professor of Church History at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

**1973** | **Brent Mutsch** is in his third year as superintendent of the American School of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and anticipates concluding 23 years in overseas education in 2016-17.

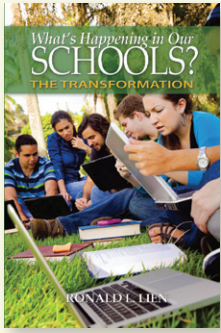
**1974** | **Karen Buchwald Wright**, president and CEO of Ariel Corporation, has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the Mount Vernon Nazarene University's Board of Trustees.

**1977** | **Carl Albing** has been appointed Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Computer Science Department at the United States Naval



# ON THE SHELF

## NEW BOOKS BY ST. OLAF ALUMNI AND FACULTY



**What's Happening in Our Schools? The Transformation** (Kirk House Publishers, 2014), by **Ronald L. Lien '53**

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

**Historic Happenings at St. Olaf College** and **Historic Happenings at Carleton College** (Northfield Historical Society Press, in partnership with the Entertainment Guide, 2015), by **Susan Hvistendahl '68**

**Salt and Light: Lives of Faith that Shaped Modern China** (*Studies in Chinese Christianity, Volumes I, II, III*) (Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2011), by **Carol Lee Hamrin '68** and **Stacey Bieler**

**John Kemble's Gibraltar Journal, The Spanish Expedition of the Cambridge Apostles, 1830-1831** (Palgrave, MacMillan, 2015), by **Eric W. Nye '74**

**Josiah's Apple Orchard** (Couchgrass Books, 2014), by **Katherine Holmes '76**

**Luminarias Light the Way! A Henry Huh Adventure** (lulu.com 2014, independent publishing platform), by **Melissa Cruze Hahn '04**

**Kissing in the Chapel, Praying in the Frat House: Wrestling with Faith and College** (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2014), edited by **Adam Copeland '05**; **Taylor Brorby '10**, contributor

**And The Wind Whispered** (Bygone Era Books, Ltd., 2015), by **Dan Jorgensen**, retired director of the St. Olaf news bureau and public relations office.

Most books by Ole authors can be found in the St. Olaf Bookstore ([stolafbookstore.com](http://stolafbookstore.com)), in your local bookstore, or by searching online.

Academy in Annapolis. ■ **Eric J. Hanson** has illustrated a biography about David Bowie, written by Simon Critchley and published by OR-Books of N.Y. He's also been working with the New York design firm Pentagram, creating illustrated maps of the Guanahani Resort in St. Barth, West Indies, plus occasional work for the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, *Die Zeit Magazine*, *Buddhadharma*, Warby Parker, and other design and publication clients. ■ **Ian Kelly** has been nominated by President Obama to a key administration post: ambassador to Georgia, Department of State. Ian, a career member of the Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, currently serves as the Department of State's Diplomat in Residence at the University of Illinois at Chicago, a position he has held since 2013. ■ **Michael Morris** and **Laura Helleloid Morris '75** write that they are concluding six adventurous years with the U.S. Foreign Service Medical Corps, having served in Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Chile, and Washington, D.C., Mike is returning to full-time family practice in Minneapolis. Laura most recently worked at George Mason University in Virginia.



David Bowie, by Eric Hanson

■ **Michael Morris** and **Laura Helleloid Morris '75** write that they are concluding six adventurous years with the U.S. Foreign Service Medical Corps, having served in Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Chile, and Washington, D.C., Mike is returning to full-time family practice in Minneapolis. Laura most recently worked at George Mason University in Virginia.

**1978** | After serving 17 years in West Africa and East Africa with ELCA Global Missions, **Andrew Hinderlie** and his family have relocated to Bonners Ferry, Idaho, where Andrew has taken a call as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church.



**1982** | **David Melbye** was recently featured on the three-CD set *Honoring the Passage: Voices from Hospice Music Therapy*. Six of David's compositions and arrangements were included on the CD.

**1984** | **Craig Hella Johnson** picked up a best choral performance Grammy award for conducting his Texas-based choir, *Conspirare*. ■ **Teri Larson Krubsack** writes, "The Cathedral Choir of The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis, will sing at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, France, in June 2015. The choir will also be singing at the beaches of Normandy." Teri has conducted the Cathedral Choir for 20 years. ■ **Keith Stelter** writes, "My wife, **Carolyn DeWald Stelter '81**, and I recently renovated a circa-1860 building and have turned it into a fair trade store called the The Fair Emporium in St. Peter, Minn. We sell items from all over the world, all created by hand and in fair trade markets."

**1985** | **Scott Christensen** continues to live and work in Bangkok as head of research product and deputy head of equity research for Asia Pacific at J.P. Morgan.

**1987** | **Steve Morics** joined the University of Redlands math faculty in 1995, and in March, the Redlands chapter of the honor society Students of the Mortar Board named him the 2014-15 Professor of the Year. ■ **Ellen Schuldt** writes, "I have embarked on the adventure of being a traveling occupational therapist! My first assignment was in Canon City, Colo. I am requesting my next assignment to be in Florida!" ■ **Laura Stivers** became Dean of the School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Dominican University of California last fall. She will have a book of environmental case studies published in 2015, *Earth Ethics: A Case Method Approach*.

**1988** | **Paul Rondstedt** is the chief of staff at Fairview Lakes Medical Center in Wyoming, Minn., and director of cardiac rehab. He also serves as the peer-elected chair of the ethics committee for the Fairview Medical Group Advisory Council.

**1989** | **Nathan Knutson** received the American Institute of Architect's Minnesota Honor Award for his architectural work at the Hennepin County Walker Library in Minneapolis. Nathan has been with the Minneapolis-based architectural firm VJAA since its founding in 1995, and has worked on academic buildings, museums, sports and recreation facilities, and residential projects across the U.S. and around the world.

**1990** | **Glen Gunderson**, president and CEO of the YMCA of the Twin Cities, writes, "The modern-day YMCA is an amazing place. We are focused on community needs far and wide ... on support for the Ebola crisis in West Africa, along with diabetes and childhood obesity prevention, youth homelessness, and the achievement gap here at home. The Y has served St. Paul since 1856 and Minneapolis since



Glen participated in storytelling at Harold Mezile North Community YMCA Youth & Teen Enrichment Center.

1866, so it is a legacy organization with parallels to St. Olaf. We are looking at ways to take this legacy brand and thrust it into the future, leveraging technology and an age-old approach to innovation that both the Y and St. Olaf have executed so well."

**1994** | **Mara Naselli**, a longtime editor and writer of nonfiction, has received a 2014 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer's Award, which is given annually to six women writers who demonstrate excellence and promise in the early stages of their careers. Mara is currently working on a collection



of essays, *Bodies in Motion*, about power and inversions of power, notably expressed in representations of the horse in art and culture.

**1995** | **Allison Stock Myhre** is serving as chief of staff for U.S. Representative Collin Peterson (DFL) of Minnesota's seventh congressional district.

**1996** | **Bradley Froslee** and the congregation he serves, Calvary Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, were awarded a National Clergy Renewal Grant through the Lilly Endowment, administered by the Christian Theological Seminary. The grant includes time in South Africa and Scandinavia in the spring and summer of 2015.



■ **Benjamin Houge** writes, "I'm super excited to have received a Knight Foundation grant to work with the St. Paul-based music ensemble Zeitgeist on a series of 'food operas,' multimedia collaborations with local chefs that explore the connections between the senses of hearing and taste."

Friends can learn more at [newmusicbox.org/articles/food-opera-merging-taste-and-sound-in-real-time](http://newmusicbox.org/articles/food-opera-merging-taste-and-sound-in-real-time).

**1997** | **Heather Beggs** began training as a foreign service officer in Washington, D.C., in January 2015. As a diplomat, she will work at U.S. Embassies abroad. She's looking forward to connecting with D.C. Oles while in training during 2015, as well as any Oles in the Foreign Service.

**1999** | **Shawn Groth** is a general thoracic surgeon and the director of esophageal surgery at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

**2001** | **Diane Downie** joined the fight against Ebola in West Africa earlier this year. She deployed to Atlanta for training as part of the CDC's (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) epidemiology team and flew to West Africa in late February for several weeks. Dee Dee wrote that she was "very excited to be given the opportunity to serve and provide assistance to those in need."



■ **Sarah Rasmussen** is the new artistic director of the Jungle Theater in Minneapolis. Sarah has directed and developed new work at the Humana Festival, the National Playwrights Conference, and many other venues nationwide.

**2002** | **Jeffrey Steuernagel** is a high school counselor at Hong Kong International School.

**2003** | **Molly Robinson Nicol** is the project manager for the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) and the responsible officer for another World Health Organization classification, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF).

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# National Public Radio's Jason DeRose '97

BY JAN HILL



Jason DeRose came to St. Olaf College with his sights set on the Great Conversation, the Religion Department, and the college's public radio station, WCAL, where he signed on as a student worker. He majored in religion and English and worked on the *Manitou Messenger* before going on to earn a master of divinity degree at the University of Chicago.

DeRose initially considered teaching religion but realized what he really loved was radio. "I had worked in radio for four years in college," he said. "So I turned that into my career." We recently asked DeRose, who is based in Los Angeles as the West Coast bureau chief for National Public Radio (NPR), to share some thoughts about his work.

**STO: What exactly does a National Public Radio bureau chief do?**

**JDR:** Bureau chiefs work with NPR reporters, freelancers, and member-station reporters in their assigned region. The NPR West reporters' pieces air nationally on the morning and afternoon drive-time news programs, *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*. We find and edit stories; we produce a website that is constantly updated throughout the day; we put the audio from our radio pieces online; and we write some original web content, with photos, graphics, and interactive stories. The national desk deals with what's going on out in the country; the Washington, D.C., desk covers politics and the White House; there's a science desk, an international desk, an arts and culture desk, a business desk. I'm on the national desk, but I dial in every morning to a meeting with the heads of all desks to make sure that if somebody says, "Oh, I saw this story happening in Salt Lake City," and [I know] *All Things Considered* wants a story about that, we can get that story out [within 24 hours].

**STO: How is radio changing?**

**JDR:** There was a time when every NPR story was 8–10 minutes long, and people would just listen to whatever was on. Now the average length is 3–4 minutes, and people have many more choices. Our big area of expansion is into mobile audio. The NPR News app allows you to listen to audio on demand, read stories, see photos. NPR One, which is basically Pandora for NPR, lets you listen to a story and "like it" or share it or even skip it; the algorithm learns your listening habits and topic interests. I produce audio stories, and it doesn't matter to me how you listen to them: on your car radio, on your laptop, iPhone, through NPR One, through the news apps, the website — it doesn't matter as long as you're listening.

**STO: You've done some mentoring. Can you talk about that?**

**JDR:** I see [young] people focusing too much on "What is my job going to be?" I'd rather see them focusing on "What kind of a person do I want to be?" — figuring out what their skills and gifts are, and then figuring out what kind of job most fulfills that. [At St. Olaf], I figured out that what I really loved was radio.



Marija Lum '10, Timothy Fuller '10, and Alison Smith '03

■ **Alison Smith** writes, "Marija Lum '10, Timothy Fuller '10, and I are first-year residents in emergency medicine at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. We all went to three different medical schools before coincidentally ending up in the same residency program in Utah through the national residency matching process. There is also a sports medicine [Ole] at the University of Utah named **Tobias Gopon '04**. St. Olaf is very well represented here; we're doing our best to make our alma mater proud, and are having a great time doing it."



**2004** | **Katie Humrickhouse Larson** received the Outstanding Young Director Award from the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) of Minnesota at the group's annual state conference last fall. Katie is in her 10th year of teaching and her 8th year as vocal music director at Mound Westonka High School.



**2005** | **Jay Arrowsmith DeCoux** was elected mayor of Grand Marais, Minn. He writes, "I am the youngest mayor in the history of the city." ■ *The Atlantic* asked researcher **Dan Grupe** about uncertainty in its March 18 article by journalist Julie Beck, "How Uncertainty Fuels Anxiety." Friends can find the article online ([theatlantic.com/health/archive](http://theatlantic.com/health/archive)).

**2006** | **Paul Anderson** is a senior production coordinator at Nickelodeon Animation Studios in Burbank, Calif., working on the hit children's series *Sanjay and Craig*. He is one of a small group of liaisons between the creative team based in Burbank and the animation team in Seoul, South Korea. ■ **Matthew Peterson** shined at the Minnesota Orchestra's Composer Institute earlier this spring. He was one of seven young composers who had their works rehearsed and performed by conductor Osmo Vanska and the



Minnesota Orchestra, and his piece, "Hyperborea," received a warm response from the audience. ■ **Maximilian Wojtanowicz**, who is a performer and writer in the Twin Cities theater community, joined the theater faculty at St. Olaf as a visiting acting professor this spring while **Dona Werner Freeman '80** was on professional sabbatical. His theater company, the Catalysts, is dedicated to inventive and reimagined musical theatre with a bend toward social justice and sustainable theatre-making.



**2007** | **Mary Sotos**, a research analyst at the World Resources Institute in Washington, D.C., attended the Renewable Energy Markets conference last December and received its Leader in Green Power Market Development Award. ■ **Trevor Sprague** is one of the cofounders of the Ryan Banks Academy in Chicago, a coeducation boarding school for students in grades 7-12. The school was named in honor of a young student who lost his life to violence in May 2012, and is targeted toward students from lower socioeconomic areas and households.

**2008** | **Elise Mulder** is working as a research editor for a small Earth-science nonprofit and as a science writer for *Earthzine.org*.

**2009** | A group of Ole alums and parents gathered last fall to climb Sugarloaf Mountain, which is about an hour north of Washington, D.C. The group included **Heidi Gusa DeBeck**, **Charles DeBeck**, **Addison Larrow '11**, **Janna Holm '11**,



and **Ilse Peterson**; Not pictured are Ole parents Roman and Hilary Hund. ■ **Alexandra Pyan** earned a master's degree in public health from Emory University and accepted a fellowship with the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists. He's currently working with the Hawaii Department of Health and the CDC in Honolulu.

**2010** | **Subhash Ghimire**, a researcher, writer, and fellow at the Global Health Delivery Project at Harvard, is also the new editor-in-chief of the *Republica National Daily* in Nepal. Following his fellowship, Sudip will attend the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. ■ **Tim Otte** was awarded a 2014-15 Loft Mentor Series fellowship to work on his manuscript, *Feathermucker*. The Loft Mentor Series in Poetry and Creative Prose offers 12 emerging Minnesota writers the opportunity to work intensively with six nationally acclaimed writers of prose and poetry.

**2011** | **Stuart McCarter** received the American Academy of Neurology G. Milton Shy Award for the medical student with the best clinical research. He is also one of six to receive the World Congress on Sleep Medicine (WCSM) Young Investigator Award and attended the international WCSM symposium in Seoul, South Korea, in late March, where he presented his abstract in the area of sleep research in neurodegeneration. The other five presenters were from the U.K., Italy, Austria, India, and Hong Kong.

■ **Egemen Kesikli**, a composer and conductor who has performed across the United States, Canada, Austria, Greece and his homeland, Turkey, is currently pursuing his master's degree in composition at the University of Texas. He was featured recently in *Top 10 of Asia.org* as part of "The New Generation Music Composers." ■ **Justin Luthey** is working as the defensive line coach for the Claremont-Mudd



Scripps football team. He spent the last three seasons at Occidental College in Los Angeles, where he served as the defensive line coach, director of football operations, and recruiting coordinator.

## 2004-05 Global Semester Reunion



**Amanda Shamp Anderson '06** and **Thomas Rusert '06** were among the Global travelers who reunited on the 10th anniversary of their study abroad experience. Tom Rusert writes, "It only takes a spark ... It began last summer as a spontaneous email update among a St. Olaf study abroad group but soon morphed into plans for a 10-year reunion. The subject of the original [email] read: 'These photos made me happy.' As so many Oles have experienced since graduation, one alum looked through old pictures and was moved to share them with old friends. For this Global Semester group (2004-05) they now have a new photo to make them happy: St. Olaf friends gathered together with spouses and children to celebrate a time of life that continues to bring them back together. Um! Yah! Yah! to that."



**2012** | **Geoffrey Delperdang** is an English teaching assistant at Education Nationale in Paris, France. ■ **Kateri Salk** traveled to Australia for her East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes fellowship and spent two months at Southern Cross University in the Centre for Coastal Biogeochemistry.



**2013** | **Karen Berglund** writes, "I am living in Thailand, teaching English at Chiang Mai University. Ole Night Out was one of my favorite events when I was a student at St. Olaf, so when I heard there would be current Oles in Chiang Mai, I jumped at

the chance to take them out. I had dinner with **Gao Yang '15** and **Jenny Ortiz '15**, who were taking part in Global Semester 2013-14, a program I participated in 2011-12. Although we were complete strangers when the night began, we never ran out of things to talk about. It was an awesome way to reconnect with my alma mater." ■ **Kayleen Seidl** was cast in her first national tour, playing Sarah Brown in the Broadway musical *Guys and Dolls*, which runs through the end of May.

**2014** | **Ashley Tanberg Yergens** is working as a project assistant with DanceMotion USA, a U.S. State Department, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs program that showcases American contemporary dance abroad while facilitating cultural exchange. Ashley is the point person for social media and other DanceMotion USA initiatives.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# Solvejg Wastvedt '14, Self-Starter

BY JAN HILL

**PUBLIC RADIO EDUCATION REPORTER**  
Solvejg Wastvedt was a fireball at St. Olaf. Coming in as a math major who knew that she also wanted to pursue journalism, she fearlessly approached Garrison Keillor in her sophomore year after hearing he was coming to campus to tape an episode of his live radio show, *A Prairie Home Companion*. Wastvedt asked Keillor to be allowed backstage to write about the show for her creative nonfiction writing class, and he gave her full behind-the-scenes access. She also began working on the *Manitou Messenger* as a contributing writer and, ultimately, as its executive editor.

At the end of her junior year, Wastvedt worked out a program of study in Chile to examine organic farming methods and food justice issues. It was part of her self-created major, environmental communications, through St. Olaf's Center for Integrative Studies. Along the way, Wastvedt approached National Public Radio's Jason DeRose '97 for an informational interview. That contact eventually led to an NPR internship under DeRose's guidance, and to her current job at WSKG Public Media in Binghamton, New York.

**STO: Can you talk a little about your internship with NPR last summer?**

**SW:** The internship was a sort of a radio-reporting boot camp. I came in with some skills, but I learned a lot very quickly by working with such talented people. I interned on the national desk, which meant I sat in on the daily news meetings and witnessed a lot of stories go from ideas to produced pieces. I shadowed a few NPR reporters out in the field, did lots of research for other people's stories, and, of course, there was the timeless intern task of transcribing interviews. Everyone at NPR West was incredibly willing to share their skills. I learned so much just from talking with reporters and sitting in on *Morning Edition* and *Weekend All Things Considered*. And I reported a story of my own that aired on *Weekend Edition*. Going through the pitch-to-air process with all that support honed my approach to reporting.

**STO: How does your current work as a reporter compare with your NPR internship last summer?**

**SW:** My job uses a lot of the skills I learned as an intern in a more concentrated format. I reported my NPR story over the course of a month or more, but now I'm doing daily stories. The pace of the learning, too, has sped up. Every day I come in to work and figure out a handful of new things about how to do this job. I'm fortunate in that I have a beat, so I get to come back to the same education issues again and again and learn more about their complexities.

**STO: In what ways did you prepare yourself for the work of a reporter during your time at St. Olaf?**

**SW:** I worked on the *Manitou Messenger* for three years, which was great experience. I got a look at every part of the process, from contributing writer up to executive editor. I didn't take any journalism classes, though, which I sometimes regret. I think I would have saved myself some headaches later on with some solid instruction in the basics. Of course, I learned all of that eventually by osmosis at the Mess and at my two other internships. And then NPR took it to the next level.



# REUNION WEEKEND

## MAY 29-31, 2015

Set almost entirely on the St. Olaf campus and throughout Northfield, Reunion Weekend is a chance for alumni to move back to Northfield for a weekend full of classes with faculty members, special class gatherings, music, entertainment, family activities, recreation opportunities, worship, and more.

The Classes of 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2010 will celebrate their class reunions in 2015. However, all alumni are invited for this festive weekend on the Hill.



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**FUTURE OLE**  
Olaf Kern '36

## Future Oles

Katrina Pakonen Hueber '94 and Dennis Hueber, a daughter, Isabelle  
Emily Bratt Stange '97 and Erik Stange '96, a son, Henrik  
Mike and Margaret Fang Laughton '97, a son, Maddox  
Gregg and Elizabeth Fritz Roberts '97, adopted a son, Henry  
Anne Kidder '97 and Blake Rice, twin sons, Jack and Max  
Liam and Elizabeth Musselman Palmer '97, a daughter, Miriam  
Jason and Mary Otterness Rosenbloom '97, twin sons, Harlan and Magnus  
Bradley and Manda Helmick Herzing '98, a daughter, Flora  
Christopher and Melissa Rudd Nesbitt '98, a daughter, Leah  
Michael and Anna Ingeri-Worlein Marmor '98, a son, Kavi  
Kathryne Fisher '00 and Dan Swanson, a son, Fisher  
Peter and Rachel Hart-Brinson '00, a son, Eli  
Luke and Rebekah Holmes Nowak '00, a daughter, Louise  
Justin and Jillian Morgan Pritchard '00, a daughter, Julia  
Christy Boraas Alsleben '01 and Adam Alsleben '01, a son, Russell  
Jeff and Amanda Goetze Androli '01, a son, Elijah  
Reid and Michelle Manke Ronning '01, a daughter, Elsie  
Sarah Rasmussen '01 and Joshua Tobiessen, a son, Isak  
Marcy Bartsch Korynta '02 and Kyle Korynta '03, a son, Karsten  
Kathryn Lindley Olson '02 and David Olson '02, a son, Samuel  
Lionel and Leslie Nechville Schmitt '02, a daughter, Olivia  
Brandon and Krista Barsness Winkel '03, a daughter, Berit  
Laura Beito Jaunich '03 and Kevin Jaunich '03, a daughter, Penelope  
Melissa Johnson Bills '03 and Matthew Bills '04, a son, Samuel  
Doug and Sarah Olson Richter '03, a daughter, Annika  
Anne Rissman Pezalla '03 and Andrew Pezalla '03, twin sons, Jack and Owen  
Ben and Margaret Anderson Hoehn '04, a daughter, Amelia  
Crystal Baer Green '04 and Weldon Green '04, a daughter, Alexandra  
Lori Blomquist Gartner '04 and Jeff Gartner '04, a daughter, Maeva  
Juan and Lindsay Boutillier Martinez '04, a daughter, Laura  
Jamie Brau Juelfs '04 and Micah Juelfs '05, a daughter, Aviana  
Jared and Breanna Bunke Scheer '04, a daughter, Eleanor  
Armen and Michelle Donnell Adzhemyan '04, a daughter, Ashley  
Paul and Amanda Erdmann Sobiech '04, a daughter, Lily  
Jenny and Jeffrey Jaspersen '04, a daughter, Eila  
Sarah McBroom '04 and Aaron Squadroni '04, a son, Lorenzo  
Gretchen Riewe Burch '04 and Jonathan Burch '04, a son, Alexander Doyle  
Tom and Kirsten Sauey Hofmann '04, a daughter, Talia  
Andrew and Katrina Vander Kooi Wallmeyer '04, a daughter, Juliana Christine  
Kathryn Weber Douglass '04 and Andrew Douglass '04, a daughter, Greta  
Tyler and Amanda Wessel Holley '04, a daughter, Clara  
Mark and Kristin Williams Frost '04, a son, Eliot  
Stephanie Barron Lindberg '05 and Peter Lindberg '05, a son, Noel  
Nathan and Julia Butcher Knoll '05, a son, Caleb  
Elisabeth Douglas Berg '05 and Bjorn Berg '05, a son, Eivind  
Bethany and Evan Meyer '05, a son, John  
Katie Pater Collins '05 and Brian Collins '06, a daughter, Cecilia  
Kevin and Sarah Roach Willey '05, a daughter, Marit  
Daniel and Krista Springer Appel '05, a son, Owen  
Jeanette Wong '05 and Michael Renner, a son, William

Seth and Caitlin Young Wait '05, a son, Rawlin  
Meredith Shay Samuelson '06 and Carl Samuelson '08, a daughter, Eda  
Lindsey Thoreson Hansen '06 and David Hansen '06, a son, Walter  
Tyler and Kari Bergeson Holden '07, a son, Anders  
James and Sara Berry Hein '07, a son, Jacob  
Kali Johnson Higgins '07 and Jay Higgins '08, a daughter, Sage  
Erin Oliver '07, a daughter, Charlotte  
Aaron and Lauren Ziehr Robbins '07, a son, Gavin  
Megan Delain Jimenez '08 and George Jimenez '08, a son, Kai  
Christine Dold '08 and Benjamin Heidgerken '07, a son, Isaac  
Kirsten Higdem Zumwalt '08 and Brandon Zumwalt '09, a daughter, Lillian  
Evan and Laura Hiller Thunell '08, a daughter, Aria  
Kate Olson Penz '08 and Matthew Penz '08, a daughter, Sophie  
Alex and Ann Knutson Kopplin '09, a daughter, Elsie  
RJ and Krista Olsen Kern '99, a son, Olaf  
Sara Fischer Pluth '11 and Anthony Pluth '10, a daughter, Madeleine  
John and Britta Anderson Maddox '12, a son, Barit

## Weddings

Mindy Rosell '95 and Richard Calieri, Aug. 18, 2013  
Laurie Van Alstyne '00 and Lori Holmes, Aug. 1, 2014  
Jennifer Smith '01 and J.D. Shaffer, Aug. 23, 2014  
Jason and Alisha Cowell McAndrews '06, Sept. 27, 2014  
Anna Grelson '06 and Lucas Keturi, Sept. 20, 2014  
Katherine McBride '07 and Matthew Goyette, Oct. 18, 2014  
Elizabeth Steffensen '08 and Ryan Mattsen, Aug. 17, 2013  
Kirsten Higdem Zumwalt '08 and Brandon Zumwalt '09, Nov. 23, 2013  
Krista Schmidt '09 and Gabriel Ulman, Aug. 9, 2014  
Elly Arevalo '10 and Luke Steidl, Sept. 8, 2014  
Katherine Borchardt '11 and Christopher Cremons '09, Oct. 26, 2013  
Abbe Haller '12 and Aaron Holmgren '12, Aug. 17, 2013  
Maria Ward '12 and Reginald Wardoku, Sept. 20, 2014  
Catherine Haines '13 and Benjamin Paro '13, July 11, 2014  
Chloe Hennes '14 and William Brezczinski, June 28, 2014

## Deaths

Violet "Sister Marie Karen" Hawkinson '36, Menomonie, Wis., Dec. 2, 2014  
\*Gordon Albertson '37, West Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 29, 2014  
Hans Krusa '37, Chapel Hill, N.C., Oct. 1, 2014  
Cleo Anderson Hanson '38, Mountain Iron, Minn., Oct. 1, 2014  
Sylvia "Sallie" Larson Boyum '38, Winona, Minn., Oct. 20, 2014  
Evelyn Eastvold Stueland '39, Wheatland, Iowa, Dec. 27, 2014  
\*Lois Kloth Meyer '39, Brookings, S.D., Dec. 17, 2014  
Lois Olson Knutson '39, Owatonna, Minn., Nov. 15, 2014  
\*Norris Skogerboe '39, Crystal, Minn., Dec. 27, 2014  
Jeanlyn Gunderson Samuelson '40, Cottage Grove, Minn., Jan. 12, 2014  
\*Albert Samuelson '40, Cottage Grove, Minn., Sept. 28, 2014  
Margaret Sandberg Ryberg '40, Wauwatosa, Wis., Dec. 5, 2014  
Lucille Hartberg Jennings '41, Racine, Wis., Sept. 27, 2014  
\*Robert Boen '42, Minneapolis, Nov. 24, 2014  
\*Morris Hersrud '42, Naples, Fla., March 31, 2013  
\*LeRoy Quale '42, Roseville, Minn., Nov. 15, 2014  
\*John Yaeger '42, Pueblo, Colo., July 27, 2014  
Charlotte Alexander Althoff '43, Cannon Falls, Minn., Sept. 11, 2014  
Ruth Campbell Boe '43, Sun City Center, Fla., Nov. 11, 2014  
Esther Eastvold LePage '43, Lake Elmo, Minn., Nov. 16, 2014  
Esther Tufte Rian '36, Honolulu, Oct. 16, 2014  
Delphine Kiphuth Schleif '44, Buffalo, Minn., Oct. 16, 2014  
\*Arnold Martinsen '44, Lenexa, Kan., Nov. 6, 2014  
Melvin Sucher '44, Perham, Minn., June 8, 2014  
Katherine MacDonald Bade '45, Chaska, Minn., Oct. 10, 2014  
Ellen Perkins Keuseman '45, Willmar, Minn., Dec. 29, 2014  
E. Elise Ayers Sanguinetti '46, Anniston, Ala., Nov. 16, 2014  
Carolyn Bue Burt '46, Boulder, Colo., Sept. 26, 2014  
Marjorie Mott Nerison '46, Jamestown, N.D., Sept. 22, 2014  
Maxine Schult Halvorsen '46, Inver Grove Heights, Minn., Nov. 10, 2014  
\*Virgil Edson '47, Barron, Wis., Nov. 26, 2014  
Eunice Isaac Keljo '47, Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 11, 2015  
Elsa Kesatie Dross '47, Edneyville, N.C.  
Eileen Schrader Fehner '47, Northfield, Minn., Oct. 9, 2014  
\*Orlan Tollefson '47, Minot, N.D., Oct. 18, 2014  
Anna Zupp Feigal '47, Coon Rapids, Minn., Nov. 8, 2014



Ruth Aamoth Thomack '48, Monroe, Mich., Oct. 16, 2014  
 \*Ivan Fagre '48, Middleton, Wis., Oct. 26, 2014  
 Katherine Grandy Andren '44, Hopkins, Minn., Oct. 2, 2014  
 Eldred Peterson '48, Chippewa Falls, Wis., Oct. 15, 2014  
 \*Magnus Egge '49, Fallbrook, Calif., Oct. 12, 2014  
 Christine Holm Keay '49, Everett, Wash., Dec. 30, 2014  
 \*Vernon Rood '49, Sparta, Wis., Aug. 24, 2014  
 Donald M. Anderson '50, Santa Barbara, Calif., Dec. 10, 2014  
 Hazel Bjorge Preston '50, Summerfield, Fla., Oct. 10, 2014  
 Dorcas Byro Dorow '50, Osage, Iowa, Dec. 8, 2014  
 Sylvia Christiansen Buselmeier '50, Stillwater, Minn., Jan. 17, 2015  
 \*L. Richard Jurgensen '50, Galesburg, Ill., Nov. 4, 2014  
 Rolette Sandwick Kraai '50, Cross Plains, Wis., Dec. 4, 2014  
 Audrey Stephenson Erdman '50, Decorah, Iowa, Oct. 24, 2014  
 Jean Jacobson Maus '51, Dawson, Minn., Oct. 16, 2014  
 James Lysne '51, Northfield, Minn., Oct. 23, 2014  
 \*G. Frederick Mohn '51, Champaign, Ill., Jan. 1, 2015  
 \*John Morgenson '51, St. George, Utah, Oct. 24, 2014  
 James Rotramel '52, Portland, Ore., Nov. 20, 2014  
 \*Burnell Schubbe '52, Sarasota, Fla., Jan. 9, 2015  
 \*Norman Temple '52, West Concord, Minn., Dec. 19, 2014  
 Barbara Lacher Brooks '54, Zionsville, Ind., Nov. 28, 2014  
 A. Jane Maland Vinger '54, Rochester, Minn., Dec. 18, 2014  
 Lois Runge '54, Paynesville, Minn., April 9, 2014  
 \*Phillip Thompson '54, St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 10, 2014  
 O. Raymond Champlin, Jr. '55, Melrose, Mont., Nov. 29, 2014  
 H. Eugene Karjala '55, Lilydale, Minn., Nov. 18, 2014  
 \*Marvin Selnes '55, Sioux Falls, S.D., July 12, 2014  
 Fred Wagner '55, Rochester, Minn., Dec. 2, 2014  
 Faith Fjeld '57, Moab, Utah, Oct. 18, 2014  
 \*John Odden '57, Red Wing, Minn., Jan. 1, 2015  
 Marilyn Lonsbury Drake '58, Lanham, Md., Oct. 9, 2014  
 Gwen Lee Sherrod '59, Boston, Nov. 26, 2014  
 \*Richard Matson '59, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Dec. 10, 2014  
 \*Richard Thompson '59, Tucson, Ariz., Nov. 28, 2014  
 Caryl Weyhrich Larson '59, Golden Valley, Minn., Oct. 29, 2014  
 Sandra Helmen Aasheim '60, Littleton, Colo., Jan. 14, 2013  
 Katherine Jacobson Akre '60, Portland, Ore., Sept. 13, 2014  
 Zane Leitis Ieleja '61, Burnsville, Minn., Aug. 30, 2014  
 \*Terrill Olsen '61, Bremerton, Wash., Sept. 16, 2014  
 W. Douglas Pritchard '61, Tucson, Ariz., Aug. 10, 2014  
 James Sandum '61, Wayzata, Minn., Nov. 5, 2014  
 Shirley Hilden '62, Brush Prairie, Wash., Nov. 17, 2014  
 Anne Husby Hanson '62, Roseville, Minn., Jan. 20, 2015  
 Joanne Qualley Larson '62, Zimmerman, Minn., Aug. 29, 2014  
 \*Isaiah Harriday '63, Minneapolis, Dec. 19, 2014  
 Judith Ranney Eddy '63, Shoreview, Minn., Nov. 11, 2014  
 Steven Edwins '65, Northfield, Minn., Dec. 14, 2014  
 Phyllis Petersen '65, Stillwater, Minn., Nov. 19, 2014  
 \*David Larson '66, Wayzata, Minn., Oct. 25, 2014  
 Jane Oiseth '66, Albert Lea, Minn., Oct. 27, 2014  
 \*Donald Wright '66, Forest Lake, Minn., Dec. 8, 2014  
 \*Arthur Otto '67, Kalispell, Mont., Dec. 23, 2014  
 Cynthia Olsen Ohlrogge '69, Minneapolis, Sept. 12, 2014  
 Torger Omdahl '69, Iron River, Mich., Dec. 16, 2014  
 Marsha Landgraf Smith '71, St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 6, 2014  
 E. Trent Abel '72, Oakland, Calif., Nov. 10, 2014  
 Eric Heggeseeth '72, Cypress, Texas, March 15, 2014  
 \*Janet Jorstad Edwards '73, Blaine, Minn., Dec. 30, 2014  
 Alan Kelsey '73, Apple Valley, Minn., Jan. 19, 2015  
 Paul Mainz '75, Rochester, Minn., Nov. 14, 2014  
 Paul Kottom '77, Alameda, Calif., Sept. 14, 2014  
 Timothy Kruger '77, Quarryville, Pa., Aug. 15, 2014  
 Denise Larsen Collins '78, Osakis, Minn., Jan. 6, 2015  
 Charles Benson '79, Stillwater, Minn., Jan. 7, 2015  
 Michael Monson '80, Duluth, Minn., Dec. 15, 2014  
 Van Bredeson '82, Hudson, Wis., Oct. 30, 2014  
 Karen Thompson Medhi '82, Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 18, 2014  
 \*Lon Anderson '94, Poway, Calif., Dec. 5, 2014  
 Evan "Alec" Johnson '97, Menomonie, Wis., Dec. 23, 2014  
 \*VETERAN

# WHY DO WE TRAVEL?

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The Italian Renaissance was a period of tremendous change. Remarkable innovations took place in art and literature, philosophy and religion, commerce and technology. However, as in all revolutionary periods, change had disruptive and disconcerting side effects. During this learning adventure, we will look at many facets of this cultural era and examine reactions it prompted in Germany during the Protestant Reformation. *Led by Eric Lund, Professor of Religion, and Cynthia Lund, Assistant Curator and Special Collections Librarian, Kierkegaard Library*



## Ole Adventure in the Bay Area | October 4–11, 2015

Join us in San Francisco and the surrounding San Francisco Bay area for an Ole Connections adventure! This city is so beautiful, so exciting and diverse, and so cosmopolitan that there is always something new to see and do no matter if it's your first visit or your 50th. Oles living here are doing amazing things. We've gathered alumni and Ole parents who are involved in innovative and entrepreneurial projects and asked them to share their time and stories with us. From riding cable cars to strolling through Fisherman's Wharf to visiting the Google campus to traveling to Napa Valley and the redwood forest, we'll explore the best of the Bay Area. *Hosted by Barry Carlson '79, Senior Development Officer and 50th Class Reunion Liaison*

## Listening to the Holy Land: Its Past, People, and Geography | October 22–November 3, 2015

A thoughtful visit to Israel and Palestine is fulfilling, perplexing, inspiring, challenging — and worth every minute. Our visit will bring us to many important biblical sites: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho, Capernaum, and Nazareth, among others. But our visit will also engage us in serious current issues while introducing us to a variety of religious expressions, all staking their claim to this small place on Earth. We will walk the hillsides of Galilee and the suqs of the Old City of Jerusalem. We will stand on the Mount of Olives, meditate in the Garden of Gethsemane, and float in the Dead Sea. We will explore ancient archaeological sites and the human longing for peace. No one can guarantee you will come home changed, but the odds favor it. *Led by Bruce Benson, Retired College Pastor, and Carol Benson, Retired Music Teacher*

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# Home of Sweet Home

BY JEFF SAUVE IMAGES COURTESY OF THE SHAW-OLSON CENTER FOR COLLEGE HISTORY

AT THE BOTTOM OF OLD MAIN HILL lies a quiet, open and unmarked stretch of land that resounds with distant memories. From 1947 to 1961, hundreds of St. Olaf College students were housed here, in a complex dubbed Viking Court.

Established in January 1947 and bordering Lincoln Street, Viking Court was meant to be a temporary five-year solution that addressed the emergency housing needs of post-World War II veterans who were enrolled St. Olaf students, and their families. The complex included a trailer camp and several converted government barracks, which contained 15 apartments for married veterans and 87 rooms for single men.

Each married couple's apartment had two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchenette, a bath, and four closets. The barracks for the single men were divided into eight-man units, each with four bedrooms, two study rooms, and a bath.

A jarring event took place at Viking Court on the night of May 2, 1947 — only a few short months after its opening — when the odor of natural gas permeated the air. In the midst of this gas leak, one student thoughtlessly lit a match, likely causing the gas to ignite. The force of the explosion that followed was heard miles away. Stone and splinters rained down on the entire area near campus. Three Viking Court apartment units were blown sky-high.

The following day, the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* front page headline announced, "4 Hurt as Blast Wrecks St. Olaf Vet Housing Unit." One of those slightly injured was a baby found in the wreckage, pinned under a big timber.

Trailer living offered challenges as well. Bill Johnson '47 and his wife, Marian, recalled in a 2010 interview that their trailer provided, "a kitchen, dining room, living room, bedroom in all the same room!" Laughing, Bill added, "You could sit in the middle and reach anything you wanted."

Bob '50 and Joyce Harter, interviewed in 2000, said that when they considered enrolling in the college in 1946, St. Olaf responded that no rooms were available. The college added that the couple was welcome to come, as long as they provided their own housing. The couple purchased a trailer, moved it to a lot near campus, and then moved it again the following year to the newly formed Viking Court.

The Harters also recounted their excitement at hosting a Thanksgiving meal in 1946. They somehow managed to squeeze a



Bob '50 and Joyce Harter enjoy a meal in their trailer, which was parked at the base of the Old Main hill near the Viking Court apartments.



party of six into the tightly cramped trailer. The meal was quite memorable, due in a large part to a cooking mishap, when the pressure cooker's lid

"blew off and we had mashed potatoes all over the ceiling."

Joyce also remembered the hardships endured, particularly weathering the poorly insulated trailer. When the water pipe froze, she pressed her electric iron against it until water ran. Bill Johnson also recalled how unevenly the fuel stoves heated the trailers, "You'd stand up and you'd just roast, but your feet would be freezing!"

Viking Court was home not only to single young men and couples but also to the next generation. In May 1947, veterans' families reportedly included 26 babies. That same year, Viking Court dwellers created a banner proclaiming themselves "Fathers of Our College" as part of a Homecoming off-campus decorating contest. The phrase was a takeoff on the college song "The College of our Fathers." Another banner declared, "The Lions, Their Mates, and Cubs Welcome You." For their efforts, they won first place in the contest.

The temporary housing remained in place until the summer of 1961, when the last vestiges of Viking Court were removed in anticipation of the opening of two new dormitories: Ellingson and Hoyme Halls. The *Manitou Messenger* noted in its September 29 edition that tearing down the complex was meant "to discourage students from marrying, since the dorms must be filled first."

For those who lived there during its 13 years, Viking Court proved a memorable place, where friends could gather in a cozy atmosphere and play card games, study, or enjoy a cup of coffee while their children played. In short, it was a place many Oles called home.

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



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PARTING SHOT

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Warm spring days on the Hill bring out the best of nature. PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER