

ST. OLA F

WINTER 2014

THE PIONEER

Dr. Diane Havlir '80,
a leader in the fight
against AIDS



ARCHAEOLOGY IN TURKEY GLOBAL POSITIONING A PASSION FOR BOXING

ON THE COVER:

Dr. Diane Havlir, photographed at San Francisco General Hospital, where she is chief of the UCSF Division of AIDS. PHOTOGRAPHED BY JASON BELL

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JAMES FRYER



ST. OLAF

features

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BY MARLA HILL HOLT '88

In a high-tech, digitized world, where communication is ubiquitous and a smart phone app can instantly translate words into any language, the study of foreign languages may seem antiquated, but in fact, successful global citizenship calls for a familiarity with — and deeper understanding of — another country, its culture, and its language.

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BY GREG BREINING

St. Olaf students bring a wide-ranging perspective to an archeological dig at the site of an ancient Roman city on Turkey's Mediterranean coast, and are among the first researchers in the world to use a new technology that changes how scholars study ancient artifacts.

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BY ERIN PETERSON

Ending HIV/AIDS would be among the greatest accomplishments of modern medicine. Thanks in no small part to AIDS researcher, doctor, and trailblazer Diane Havlir '80, we may be tantalizingly close to attaining that goal.

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BY ANDY STEINER

In many ways, Heidi Henriksen '07 is a typical Ole who majored in studio art, music, and Nordic studies, sang in three choirs, and played intramural volleyball. She's also one of the top amateur women boxers in the Midwest, and she's about to compete in the USA Nationals.

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A liberal arts education equips you with the knowledge, the skills, and the habits of mind and heart that enable you to discern your vocation and to flourish in pursuit of it.

Dear Oles,

What could articles about an AIDS researcher, an archeological dig, a boxing champion, and St. Olaf's distinctive take on foreign language instruction possibly have in common?

Opportunities provided by St. Olaf College.

One of the things I most enjoy celebrating about our college is the vast richness of the opportunities to learn, to grow, and to develop that are presented to our students every day in our classrooms, in our residence halls, on our playing fields, and everywhere else on campus where students, faculty, and staff gather. Those opportunities bear fruit. This issue of the magazine shows us both what some of those opportunities are and how they play out in the lives of Oles on the Hill and after graduation.

Diane Havlir '80 came to St. Olaf thinking of environmental law as a career. An Interim course on cancer steered her to biology and chemistry, and an off-campus study course steered her to research. The rest, as they say, is history. You can read about the result in "The Pioneer." Diane has saved thousands of lives.

St. Olaf prepared Heidi Henriksen '07 to recognize and to seize opportunities after graduation. In a tight job market, Heidi was holding down three jobs but not feeling fulfilled when boxing came along. Then yoga. Now she's a world champion and a successful entrepreneur. "At St. Olaf, we talked so much about finding our vocation," she says. "I know that I've found something in my life that I was meant to do."

It will be fun to see what Rebecca Frank '14, Seth Ellingson '15, and Joseph Rynasko '16 do one day as a result of the opportunities presented to them while on Professor Tim Howe's archeological dig in Turkey. Rebecca and Seth learned to use a breakthrough technology that reveals details about ancient objects that cannot be seen any other way. Joseph, a potter, discovered an ancient kiln. How will their recovery of the past shape their futures?

Louis Pasteur observed that "Chance favors only the prepared mind." St. Olaf's rigorous foreign language requirement — and its distinctive content-based method of teaching foreign language — are preparing minds for opportunities in a global marketplace that will only be available to those with multilingual and multicultural skills. "Global Positioning" shows how the college is positioning students now for success when they enter that marketplace.

Many readers of this magazine will reflect back on how opportunities provided by St. Olaf prepared them to seize other opportunities later in life. That's what a liberal arts education does: it equips you with the knowledge, the skills, and the habits of mind and heart that enable you to discern your vocation and to flourish in pursuit of it. It happened to many of us, and it is still happening to Oles everywhere.

David R. Anderson

Davis Visit Delights Scholars

St. Olaf's 60 Davis United World College Scholars gathered this fall to meet philanthropist Shelby Davis and his wife, Gale, who visited the St. Olaf campus for the first time. Davis, who wanted to learn more about St. Olaf, one of the fastest-growing Davis schools, cofounded the Davis UWC Scholarship program in 2000 to advance international understanding through education and to increase the number of international students on American college campuses. Since St. Olaf welcomed its first four Davis Scholars in the fall of 2009, the number of Davis Scholars on the Hill has increased substantially.



Class of 2017 Davis UWC Scholars with their crystal globes (L-R): Doris "Precious" Ismail, Nigeria (Li Po Chun UWC); Jaya Bhojwani, St. Maarten/Netherlands (UWC Maastricht); and, Toam Feldestein, Israel (UWC in Mostar).



Fifteen first-year Davis Scholars were presented with a crystal globe from Shelby and Gale Davis, with a card that read: "Congratulations on being a Davis United World College Scholar. We believe the world's future depends on talented individuals who are committed to international understanding. You are that future, and we are proud to support your education. This crystal globe is a symbol of your status as a Davis UWC Scholar and your future leadership potential. We wish you much success as you 'learn, earn and return' throughout your life."

Shelby and Gale Davis are surrounded by many of St. Olaf's 60 Davis UWC Scholars, who hail from 43 countries and nearly every continent.

THE ST · OLAF BAND

TIMOTHY MAHR · CONDUCTOR



WINTER TOUR 2014

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
Edina, Minnesota

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
St. Paul, Minnesota

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
Bettendorf, Iowa

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3
Cincinnati, Ohio
WITH THE CCM WIND ORCHESTRA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
WITH THE NORTH HILLS HIGH SCHOOL WIND ENSEMBLE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5
Bowling Green, Ohio

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6
Waukesha, Wisconsin
WITH THE YOUTH WIND ORCHESTRA OF WISCONSIN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7
DeKalb, Illinois

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
Madison, Wisconsin

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10
Northfield, Minnesota
HOME CONCERT

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THE ST·OLAF CHOIR

ANTON ARMSTRONG · CONDUCTOR

WINTER TOUR 2014

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
Anoka, Minnesota

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
Mason City, Iowa

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1
Birmingham, Alabama

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
Montgomery, Alabama

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3
Tallahassee, Florida

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
Jacksonville Beach, Florida

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5
Orlando, Florida

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6
St. Petersburg, Florida

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7
Naples, Florida

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9
Vero Beach, Florida

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10
Savannah, Georgia

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11
Augusta, Georgia

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
Greenville, South Carolina

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13
Atlanta, Georgia

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
Cleveland, Tennessee

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
Nashville, Tennessee

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
Northfield, Minnesota
HOME CONCERT

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KATIE LAUER '13

Making Connections

Twenty-five students traveled recently to Chicago to explore career paths and connect with alumni working at places like the Boston Consulting Group, Chicago Public Media, and the Chicago Urban League. The Piper Center's Career Connection Program helps students to not only make choices about their vocation after graduation, but also to receive insight and advice from alumni on the challenges of navigating the path from college to career. The Chicago Connections Program focused specifically on careers in consulting, law, community development, and media and communications. In addition to networking, students had the chance to explore the city of Chicago, its culture, and its history.

St. Olaf ranks No. 1 in study abroad for fifth straight year

St. Olaf College sent more students to study abroad during the 2011-12 academic year than any other baccalaureate institution in the nation, according to the Open Doors 2013 Report on International Educational Exchanges. This marks the fifth straight year the college has ranked first among its peers in the total number of students studying abroad. St. Olaf currently offers study-abroad programs in 54 countries, including nearly 80 semester- or year-long programs and nearly 30 off-campus courses during Interim. Faculty-led semester programs include Global Semester, Term in Asia, Mediterranean Semester, and Environmental Science in Australia.

St. Olaf among top producers of U.S. Fulbright students

St. Olaf College is one of the top producers of Fulbright fellows among liberal arts colleges across the nation. Six St. Olaf students won Fulbright awards for 2013-14, putting the college on a *Chronicle of Higher Education* list of colleges and universities that produced the most fellows this year. St. Olaf tied with Amherst, Carleton, Grinnell, Macalester, New College of Florida, Trinity, and Wellesley Colleges in the number of students at each institution who earned Fulbright fellowships.

Of the six St. Olaf students who earned the prestigious award this year, three are using it to conduct research on topics ranging from social activism to public health to cochlear implant use. The other three students have received English teaching assistantships through the program.

Mellon Foundation awards St. Olaf and Carleton \$1.4 million grant

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded St. Olaf and Carleton colleges a \$1.4 million grant to support increased institutional collaboration. The award funds a four-year project to advance collaboration in library services, information technology, management operations, and academic programs.

"We are truly excited about this initiative, viewing it as one of the most significant steps we can take to enhance the long-term health and success of both Carleton and St. Olaf and to promote broader collaboration in liberal arts education," St. Olaf President David R. Anderson '74 and Carleton President Steven G. Poskanzer wrote in a letter to the Mellon Foundation.

The project — *Broadening the Bridge: Leading Carleton and St. Olaf Colleges into a More Collaborative Future* — builds on efforts that began in 2012 with a planning grant from the Mellon Foundation. Carleton and St. Olaf can now implement these plans to strengthen liberal arts learning and teaching in ways that each college would be unable to accomplish individually. The two colleges will also collaborate to reduce current costs and contain cost growth.

"While Carleton and St. Olaf will still each nourish its distinct culture and mission, this generous support from the foundation will enable us to leverage what we have in common to better fulfill our respective missions and serve our students," Anderson says.

Read more at stolaf.edu/news

Ole Athletic Highlights

Men's Cross Country team claims NCAA Division III title

The St. Olaf men's cross country team won the NCAA Division III Championship on Nov. 23. The team had four All-America finishes — led by Grant Wintheiser '15 in third place and Jake Brown '15 in eighth — on its way to claiming the first NCAA team title in school history.

Wintheiser, the two-time Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champion, was just five seconds off the winning pace. Brown was about 30 seconds off the winning pace. Brian Saksa '14 was 17th and sophomore Jake Campbell was 31st.

The national championship came just a week after the team won the Central Region NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships, behind seven all-region performances, and Wintheiser won the MIAC Elite 22 Award, which honors individuals who have reached the pinnacle of competition at the MIAC championship level in their sport while also achieving the highest academic standard among their peers.

St. Olaf was the only team in the country to boast seven all-region runners. Wintheiser was second in the regional, Brown third, Saksa sixth and Campbell 18th. At the MIACs, the Oles had one of the most dominant efforts in league championship history, taking the top three and six of the top 10 spots in the event.

Head coach Phil Lundin was named the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Division III men's coach of the year. In six seasons, Lundin has led St. Olaf to three MIAC titles and five appearances in the NCAAs.

Women's Cross Country

Noelle Olson '17 finished second at the NCAA Division III Championships. Olson was the MIAC champion, and Jordan Johnson '15 the runner up as St. Olaf ran to a second place finish at the league championships. The duo helped St. Olaf finish third at the NCAA Central Region Championships, finishing second and fourth individually. The third place effort helped St. Olaf earn an at-large bid to the NCAA Championships, which was the team's 21st in program history. Michaela Banz '15 was an all-region performer, running to 27th place.

Men's Soccer

The St. Olaf men's soccer team started 8-1-0 on the way to a 14-win season, going 14-4-1 and 7-2-1 in league play to finish as the MIAC's second-place team. The Oles lost in the semifinal round of the MIAC playoffs. Midfielders Claudio Barboza '16 and Mackenzie Lund '14, defender Stephen Johnson '14, and forward Kevin Skrip '16 were named All-MIAC. Johnson anchored a defensive unit that allowed 13 goals in the Oles' 19 games, and was a second-team all-region pick. Skrip led the Oles in goals (10), points (25), shots (35), and shared the team lead in game-winners with Lund. Goalkeeper Ben Braman '17 was named All-MIAC honorable mention after posting a 0.70 goals against average.



Women's Soccer

The Ole women's soccer team advanced to the MIAC playoffs for the second straight season by finishing fourth in the MIAC with a 7-3-1 record in conference play. Kajsa Brindley '16 and goalkeeper Nora Forbes '14 were named to the MIAC women's soccer all-conference team. Brindley had team highs in goals (9), assists (6), shots on goal (26), and game-winning goals (4). She had all nine of her goals in MIAC play, which ranked third in the league. Forbes went 8-7-2 with a 1.18 goals against average overall. In league play, she was even better, allowing only seven goals (0.66 GAA) in her 10 games. In her career, she went 29-20-9 and had 22.1 career shutouts. Seniors Emma Crumley and Amanda Leone were All-MIAC honorable mention selections.

Men's Golf

St. Olaf was seventh at the MIAC Championships in October. Charlie Johnson '16 shot an 80 on the final day of action to tie for 18th overall. Johnson went out in 39 as he did in the first two rounds as well, but bogeyed each of the last three holes. He ended the tournament four strokes ahead of the Oles' next-best finisher, J.R. Shimpach '15, who finished tied for 28th.

Women's Golf

St. Olaf was seventh at the MIAC Championships in October. Nadia Baka '15 was 13th in the event, and Maxine Carlson '15 was 17th. Baka shot back-to-back 79s to open the tournament. Carlson had her best effort on the final day, when she shot an 81.



Volleyball

The St. Olaf volleyball team finished 8-20 overall and 1-10 in MIAC play. The Oles started the year with a four-game winning streak. The team was paced by junior middle Maggie Prunty, who led the team in kills, and sophomore setter Kersten Bork. Kelly Heissel '14 was second on the team in kills, while Abby Slack '17 led the defensive efforts.

Football

The football team went 1-9, losing four games decided by seven points or less. The sub-.500 season marked the first since 2003. Over the past 10 seasons, St. Olaf has amassed a 62-38 record. The Oles picked up five honorees on the All-MIAC second team. The Oles had four on the offensive side, including a pair of wide receivers: Jake Schmiesing '14 and Stephen Asp '14. Quarterback Nate Penz '16, offensive lineman Alex Hsu '14, and defensive back Cam Smith '14 were also honored. Asp finished his career with 132 catches, which ranks sixth in school history. He was a first-team All-MIAC twice. Schmiesing had nine receiving scores to finish in a tie with Horace Gant '08 for the school career record of 27. Schmiesing's second-team All-MIAC honor was his third straight. Penz threw for 2,475 yards and 17 touchdowns in his first season as a starter. Hsu was a first team All-MIAC selection in 2012 and finished his career with a second-team honor in 2013. Smith led the team in interceptions and was second in tackles and pass break-ups.

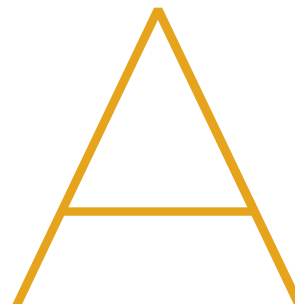
Global Positioning

Learning a language at St. Olaf helps students develop effective intercultural skills and provides greater depth to their understanding of the human experience.

By Marla Hill Holt '88



KEN ORVIDAS



quick search of Apple's App Store yields several free language translation apps, including Google Translate, SayHi, and Mantaphrase, as well as numerous dictionaries for translating English to any other

language. The apps are simple: Say or type a word or phrase you need translated, and the app provides it for you. If you're in a foreign country, ask the person you're with to respond in their language, and the app will tell you what he or she said in English.

On the surface, apps like these would seem to make the need for learning foreign languages obsolete. But while using a language translation app may help you see the sites or order a meal off the menu during a whirlwind tour abroad, it certainly won't lead to meaningful interactions and relationships with people from other cultures.

In today's increasingly multilingual and multicultural society, St. Olaf students more than ever need linguistic competence, combined with deep cultural knowledge, if they are to become successful global citizens with a nuanced understanding of people and their communities. St. Olaf ensures that need is met by requiring that each student complete the intermediate level of foreign language instruction — four semesters worth — or the equivalent demonstrated proficiency. Students can choose from among nine languages:

Chinese, French, German, Greek, Japanese, Latin, Norwegian, Spanish, or Russian. And those who have successfully completed the foreign language requirement can participate in St. Olaf's Alternative Language Study Option, a pilot program that currently offers instruction in Arabic, Korean, and Italian.

St. Olaf's foreign language courses do more than teach a student how to speak and understand another language. They immerse the student in a complex exploration of another culture. "It is a common perception that language study entails learning vocabulary words, grammar, and important facts about the culture associated with the language," says Professor of Spanish Jonathan O'Conner. "That perception paints a woefully inadequate picture of what language study can accomplish, since it fails to understand language itself as a cultural phenomenon. Language serves as the vehicle of cultures, their history, their worldviews, and how they conceive of their place in the world."

By requiring students to study language — fully embedded in a deeper examination of culture in all its complexity — St. Olaf is helping them to understand the interconnectedness of the world in which they live, to shed prejudices and stereotypes, and to gain new perspectives through lenses and cultural norms different than their own.

The key to language learning at St. Olaf is diversity, says French Professor Wendy Allen. "St. Olaf offers a tremendous range of different kinds of programs, often as a function of the language," she says, noting that students come to realize that the study of language and culture allows them to think critically about many issues of global significance.

For example, the Romance language departments use content-based instruction at the second-year or intermediate level rather than a grammar-based approach. Students read and discuss texts — in the language they are learning — on topics of global import, such as sustainability, globalization, immigration, or education. Vocabulary and grammar lessons are grafted onto that content-rich learning.

"We're not doing name-the-objects-in-the-classroom," says Allen, who notes that St. Olaf has received national attention for developing curriculum that situates language study within cultural, historical, geographic, and intercultural frameworks. Students are learning a language through content similar to what they might be studying in other 200-level courses across the liberal arts.

"I consider it a fantastic success when a student reports enthusiastically that some element of our discussion on sustainability, immigration, or indigenous rights came up in their sociology, history, or environmental studies class," adds O'Conner.

This combining of language instruction with a deep examination of complex cultures also extends to non-language courses at the college. St. Olaf's Foreign Languages Across the Curriculum (FLAC) initiative, begun a couple of decades ago, provides opportunities for students to improve their language skills by studying a foreign language alongside another discipline. For example, in Professor Robert Entenmann's Chinese Civilization course, taught through the history department, all students explore traditional Chinese

thought, culture, institutions, and society. Students who elect to take the course with the FLAC component meet for an additional hour once a week to read and discuss primary sources in Chinese.

"To truly understand another culture, you must approach it through its language to gain dimensions that are just not accessible through English," says Entenmann, who teaches both history and Asian studies. "To study everything through an American perspective gives you a sense of false familiarity."

In today's increasingly multilingual and multicultural society, students more than ever need linguistic competence, combined with deep cultural knowledge.

Additionally, learning a foreign language affects a student's cognitive abilities, says Professor of Russian Marc Robinson. "There are important cognitive training issues that go on when learning a language," he says. Language learning forces students' brains to slow down. They learn nuances and shades of meaning and understand how words are structured and strung together. Students develop an understanding of language as a system, and that knowledge improves communication skills in any language. "It also demonstrates long-term discipline in acquiring specialized knowledge," Robinson says, a skill that potential employers may find attractive.

Foreign language competence can be a key asset on a student's résumé, says Branden Grimmert '03, director of St. Olaf's Piper Center for Vocation and Career. "The need for employees who are bilingual spans all sectors of the workforce," he says.

That need is only expected to grow within the next few years, with the U.S. Department of Labor predicting as many as 25,000 new jobs for interpreters and translators by 2020. For the Minneapolis area alone, roughly 450 job listings with the term *bilingual* popped up in a recent search on the job-search website *Indeed.com*. Many industries are seeking employees with a combination of language skills and other qualifications, making liberal arts graduates a perfect fit, says Grimmert.

"Our graduates have the ability to excel in the field of their choice," he says. "When they are bilingual and passionate about interacting with other cultures, they're that much more appealing."

Many St. Olaf students, through friendships with classmates from countries around the world or participation in a study abroad program, become passionate about intentionally and conscientiously participating in a multicultural society. They realize that linguistic and cultural fluency awakens them to new worlds and new experiences.

"Language helps us break out of our provincialism," Entenmann says. "That's one of the goals of a St. Olaf education: to prepare students to be responsible and knowledgeable citizens of the world." ►

St. Olaf alumni are using the language skills they acquired on campus in all sorts of interesting ways. We asked a handful of them to give us a look into their chosen careers.

Alex Potter '03

Minneapolis, Minnesota
VICE PRESIDENT AND SENIOR
RESEARCH ANALYST, PIPER JAFFRAY

In order to stay competitive, Alex Potter needs to give his clients a reason to pick up the phone when he calls. As a senior research analyst at Piper Jaffray, an investment bank in Minneapolis, he tracks more than a dozen truck- and machinery-related companies listed on the U.S. stock exchanges, such as Caterpillar, Chart Industries, and Maxwell Technologies. He writes “buy,” “sell,” or “hold” recommendations for his clients based on his research.

It isn't exactly a job that no one else does — there are probably 30 to 40 analysts at other investment banks covering the same stocks, Potter says. To differentiate his research, he spends about a third of his time in China, meeting with manufacturers, dealers, and other specialists who have firsthand knowledge of the development industry in one of the most important regions in the world.

“The tools that allow me to do my job well — language fluency, an understanding of different cultures, the ability to think, reason, and write well — those I learned at St. Olaf.”

“When I call my clients in New York, Boston, or London from a ditch somewhere in the interior of China to say I just finished talking to an excavator dealer who told me that a particular model isn't selling well or that construction activity isn't what he thought it was going to be, it gives them a reason to pay attention to what I'm saying,” Potter says.

Potter's fluency in Mandarin Chinese is what allows him to conduct that research in China, and it sets him apart from other analysts. A lot of the people he conducts business with don't speak English, and Potter's ability to communicate in their language enriches their interactions, he says. “I'm not working in the cosmopolitan areas of Beijing or Shanghai. I go to the remote areas where development is happening,” says Potter, who values being able to speak without using an interpreter. “I like being able to control the quality of the conversation without having to rely on someone else's ability to keep up with me in my language. My Chinese language ability is the determining factor that allows me to do this job, period.”

It's ironic, considering that, as a freshman at St. Olaf, Potter signed up for Chinese just to get the foreign language requirement out of the way. “In 1999, China wasn't the juggernaut that it is today, and people weren't really falling over themselves to learn Chinese,” he says. “As I

recall, St. Olaf reduced the number of semesters [of Chinese] you needed to take as a way to give students an incentive to take Chinese, and I totally took the bait. I figured I'd go with the shortest possible distance between two points and just get it over with. I would just as easily have chosen Spanish or Norwegian had they reduced that requirement.”

Potter's love of Chinese may have caught him a bit off guard, but he soon found himself adding a major in Asian studies to his already chosen major of biology. He also earned a concentration in environmental studies. By the time he finished a semester at Shanghai's East Normal China University as a junior, Potter knew China would be a part of his future. After graduation, he attended Beijing University as a Fulbright Scholar, taking graduate level economics courses in Chinese. He also began working as a translator for the World Bank. He returned to the United States in late 2006 to earn an M.B.A. at the University of Minnesota.

“The M.B.A. taught me the language of finance and financial modeling, but the tools that allow me to do my job well — language fluency, an understanding of different cultures, the ability to think, reason, and write well — those I learned at St. Olaf,” Potter says.



PHOTOGRAPHED ON THE JOB
IN THE CITY OF WUHAN, CHINA

Maren Olson '98

St. Paul, Minnesota

PEDIATRIC HOSPITALIST AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS AND CLINICS OF MINNESOTA, AND MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE NEWBORN NURSERY, UNITED HOSPITAL

Maren Olson tested into fifth-semester Spanish at St. Olaf, effectively fulfilling the foreign language requirement before ever taking a single class on campus. Even so, she continued to take Spanish courses, deciding early on to combine a major in Spanish with one in biology. She'd gotten her first look at how fluency in Spanish might be helpful to a medical career during a medical mission trip to Guatemala in high school.

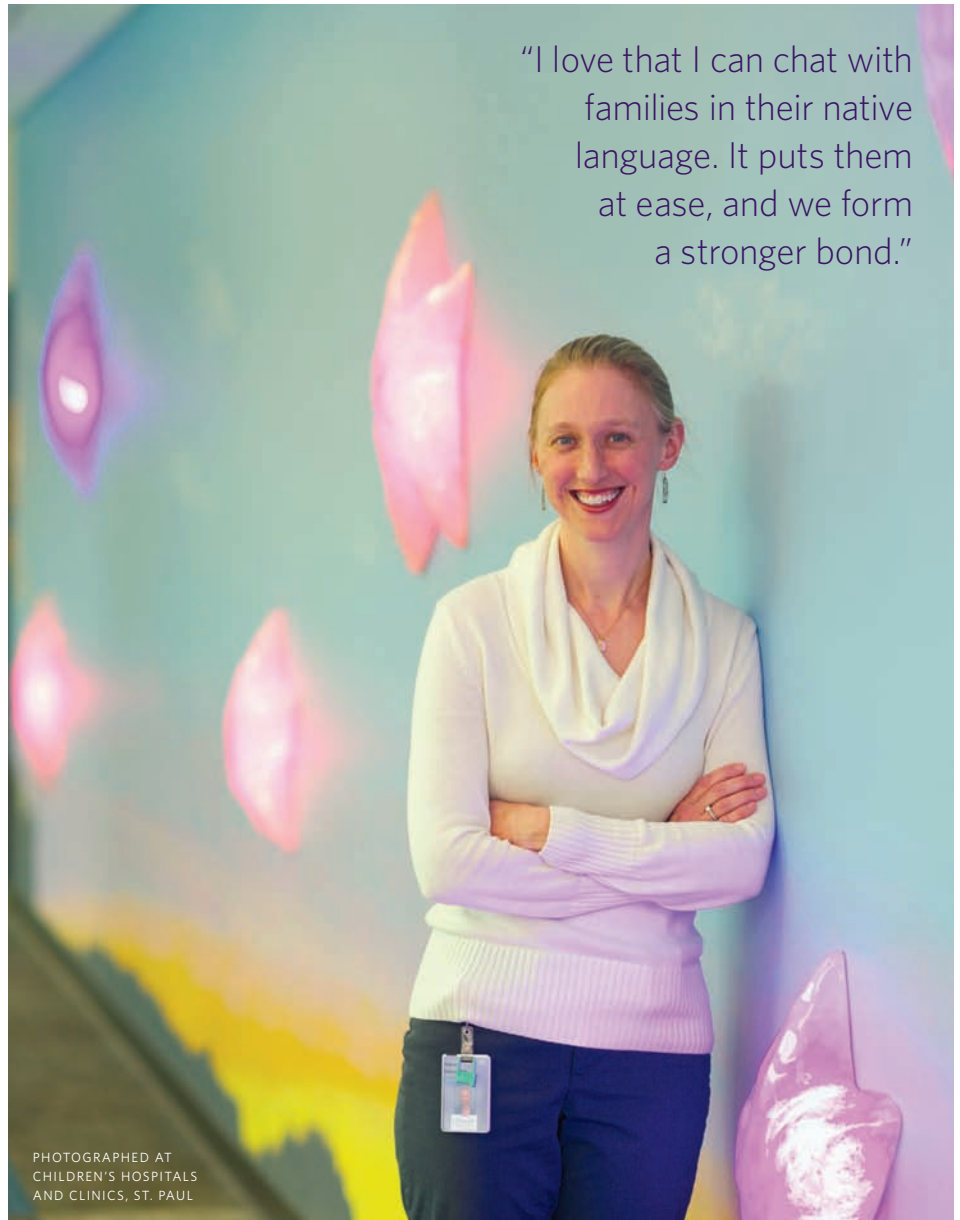
Solidifying her speaking skills at St. Olaf, she participated in the Associated Colleges of the Midwest Tropical Field Research semester abroad program during her junior year, conducting public health research in a small town in Costa Rica.

"Fluency in a second language isn't vital for a physician, but I'd say it's extremely useful," says Olson, a pediatrician whose work is primarily in hospitals, caring for children who have a variety of illnesses and medical needs and who require hospitalization.

The Twin Cities has a large Hispanic population, and Olson's employer, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, serves many families for whom Spanish is the primary language spoken at home. When Olson was a clinician at Children's, she became known as the only doctor in her clinic group who was proficient in Spanish, drawing many Hispanic families to her practice. In her current role as a pediatric hospitalist, Olson continues to speak Spanish daily while providing inpatient care for the pediatric ward at Children's.

"I love that I can chat with families in their native language," Olson says. "It puts them at ease, and it augments the physician-patient relationship in a really positive way. We form a stronger bond because I'm able to make small talk, tell a joke, and ask them about themselves in a way I wouldn't be able to do through an interpreter."

Olson also finds that, because of her facility with the language, she can trust that the information her patients and their families are receiving from her is accurate.



"I love that I can chat with families in their native language. It puts them at ease, and we form a stronger bond."

An interpreter accompanies Olson when she is discussing particularly complicated medical information, and occasionally, the interpretation isn't quite what Olson said. Because she's fluent in Spanish, she's able to correct the misinformation immediately.

"I need the patient to absolutely understand the complex information I'm trying to convey," she says. When speaking with families through interpreters in other languages, such as Somali or Hmong, Olson worries that some information might be lost in translation.

"I can never be entirely sure that what they've interpreted me as saying has really been understood by the family, because I don't speak those languages," she says. "With my Spanish-speaking families, the quality of communication is just that much richer."

Olson herself has worked as an interpreter, using her Spanish skills to translate patient-doctor communications at the Neighborhood Health Care Network in the Twin Cities before earning her medical degree at the University of Minnesota. She also holds a master's degree in public health from the University of Washington. Olson has traveled several times to teach and perform clinical work at a hospital in Arusha, Tanzania. She prepared for those trips by learning as much Swahili as she could for the same reason she speaks Spanish in her practice at Children's.

"I wanted to be able to build rapport with my families," she says. "I think it's important to learn other people's language and to understand where they're coming from. It makes me a more compassionate, thoughtful, and open-minded physician."

Rita Guenther '97

Washington, D.C.

SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER

DIVISION OF POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

When she was in fourth grade, Rita Guenther watched a filmstrip that highlighted the death in 1985 of Konstantin Chernenko, then general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The filmstrip also featured the Star Wars Missile Defense program and showed images of Russian tanks patrolling Red Square.

"It was clearly meant to scare us," Guenther says. "But the people didn't look very scary, and they didn't seem evil, so I wanted to learn more."

At the school library, Guenther asked for a book about the Soviet Union, awakening a fascination with all things Russian. She went on to study the language in high school through a program offered at a local community college, and attended a six-week exchange program in Stavropol as an 11th grader. At St. Olaf, she earned a triple major in Russian language, Russian area studies, and political science, and studied abroad for a semester in St. Petersburg. Guenther then spent an additional year teaching English in St. Petersburg before going on to earn an M.A. in Eurasian, Russian, and East European studies and a Ph.D. in history from Georgetown University.

Guenther has parlayed her Russian linguistic and cultural fluency into a successful career as a senior program officer in the Division of Policy and Global Affairs for the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). The NAS is a private, nonprofit society of distinguished scholars that serves the nation as an independent adviser on scientific matters. "Using the best scientific knowledge from experts around the

world, we work to answer difficult questions in matters of science, engineering, technology, medicine, and education," Guenther says. "Examples range from how to improve school lunch programs to how to deal with post-traumatic stress disorder in soldiers returning from war to how to improve complex engineering systems in the aerospace industry."

Guenther is the key liaison for the organization with the Russian Academy of Sciences. She works with Russian scientists on topics of national import, such as issues surrounding drug-resistant tuberculosis, counter-terrorism, postwar education in Chechnya, and the safety of nuclear weapons and power plants.

Beyond using her Russian skills in preparing data and background research, proofreading and editing written translations, and drafting joint U.S.-international science policy papers, she monitors the accuracy of both Russian and American interpreters at major events for the NAS, regardless of whether the meetings are in the United States, Russia, or elsewhere in the world.

"The speakers use highly technical terms, and it's my job to make sure the interpretation is correct in terminology as

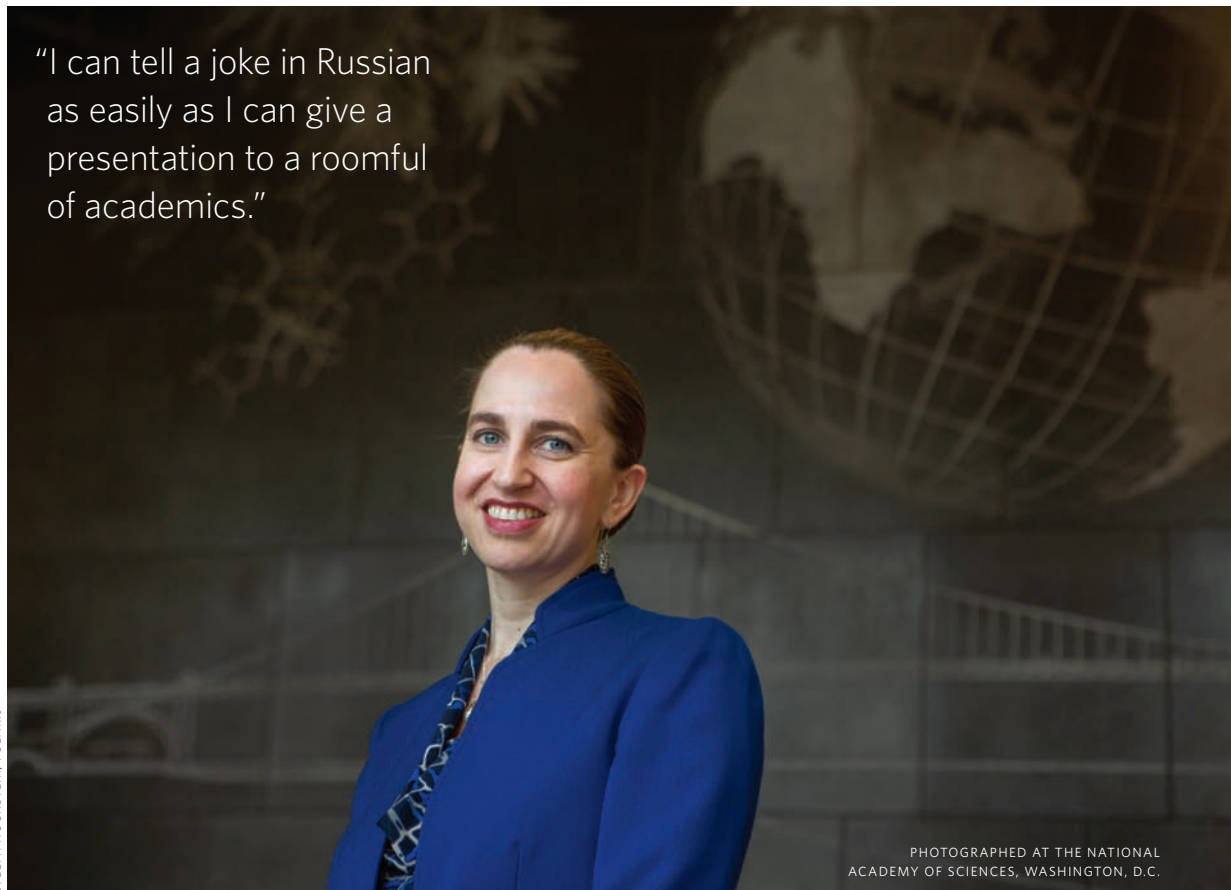
well as tone and intent," she says. "I'm able to do that because of St. Olaf's emphasis on learning the roots of language. If I hear a new term — even if it's related to the inner workings of a nuclear power plant — I can figure it out, because I have that grounding in the roots of Russian."

When she travels to Russia, leading delegations of scientists and other scholars, Guenther can function independently within the country, relying on the nuanced cultural knowledge she learned at St. Olaf. "I'm able to conduct everyday tasks and manage logistics, such as getting buses where they need to be on time. I enjoy being able to interact with Russians in different ways. I can tell a joke in Russian as easily as I can give a presentation to a roomful of academics."

Guenther credits St. Olaf with preparing her not only to be an expert in her area of choice — Russian language and culture — but also how to be a consummate professional in general. "I couldn't do my job properly without the strong liberal arts background that St. Olaf provided," she says. "I learned to be articulate, to write and speak well, and to interact with people at every level, including Nobel Prize-winning scientists."

"I can tell a joke in Russian as easily as I can give a presentation to a roomful of academics."

EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/POLARIS



PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Scott McDonald '93

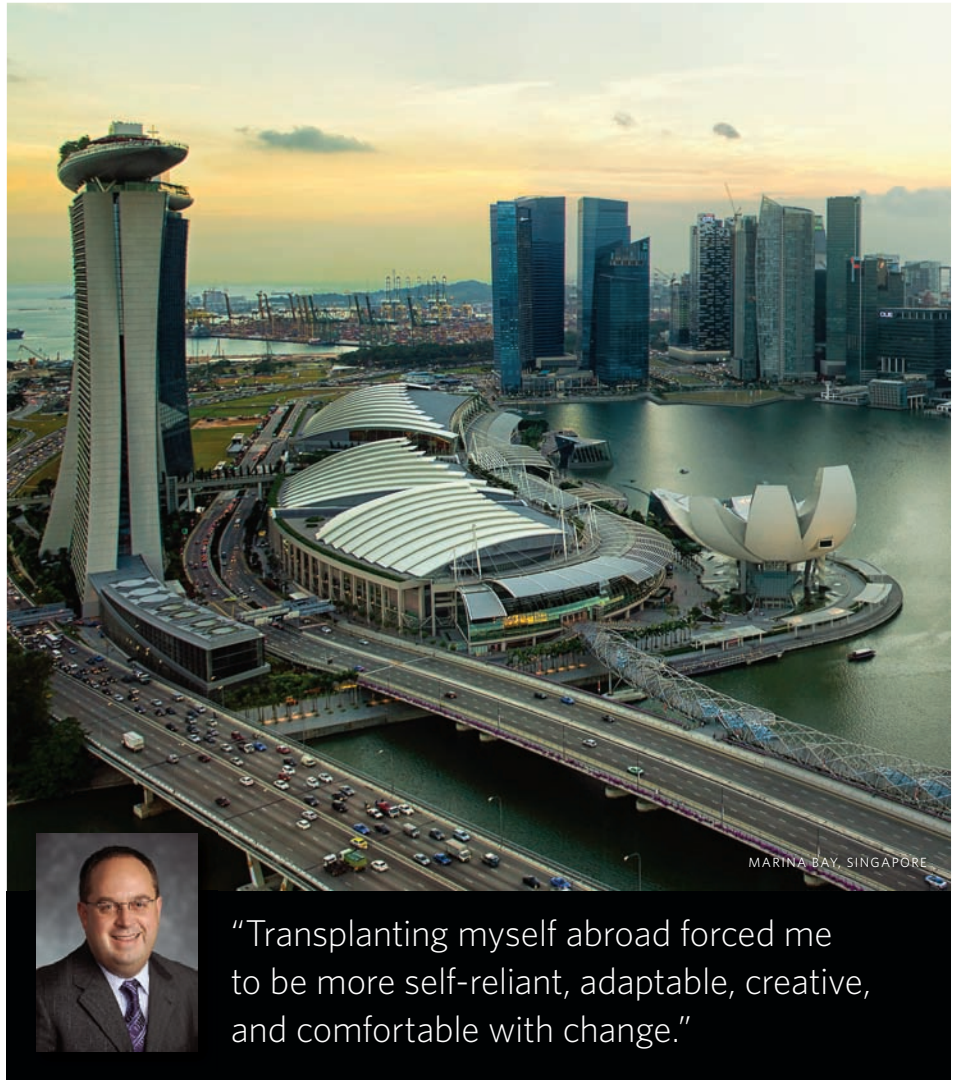
Singapore

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
CARLSON WAGONLIT TRAVEL
ASIA PACIFIC REGION

Scott McDonald has traveled to nearly every continent and has lived and worked on two, but he has no idea what first sparked his wanderlust. “I can’t explain it. It’s like an addiction,” says the American expatriate, noting that even though his job requires that he spend 60 to 70 percent of his time traveling to countries around Asia and Oceania, he uses his vacation time to travel even more.

“I just spent a week in Laos with my brother,” he says. McDonald has climbed the Great Wall of China, snorkeled in the water off the Great Barrier Reef, and visited the Great Pyramids, the Taj Mahal, and Machu Picchu, among many other sites. As the chief financial officer for the Asia Pacific region of Carlson Wagonlit Travel, a business travel management company, McDonald oversees 150 employees in nine different countries, a position that requires him to travel regularly from Singapore — where he is based — to Carlson Wagonlit’s other offices in Australia, India, Hong Kong, and Thailand, as well as to joint venture operations in Japan, China, and Indonesia.

Though he lives and works in Asia today, McDonald has an abiding love of French language and culture. After earning a B.A. from St. Olaf in economics and French with a concentration in accounting, he earned a master’s degree in French from Middlebury College. McDonald, who has spent his entire career with Carlson Wagonlit, began working for the company as an accountant in 1996. About three years later, the company asked him to transfer to its Paris-based operations. All told, he spent eight years living in Paris, fully immersed in the French language and adapting to French culture. “I didn’t go to France to watch American movies and eat hamburgers,” he says. “For me, the whole meaning of the experience was to assimilate.” In an essay he wrote for the French Embassy, McDonald noted that “transplanting myself abroad forced me to be more self-reliant, adaptable,



“Transplanting myself abroad forced me to be more self-reliant, adaptable, creative, and comfortable with change.”

creative, and comfortable with change.”

There is only occasional need for McDonald to speak French in his current position, and his busy schedule so far has not allowed him time to learn Chinese. But the years he spent in Paris continue to influence how he interacts with people.

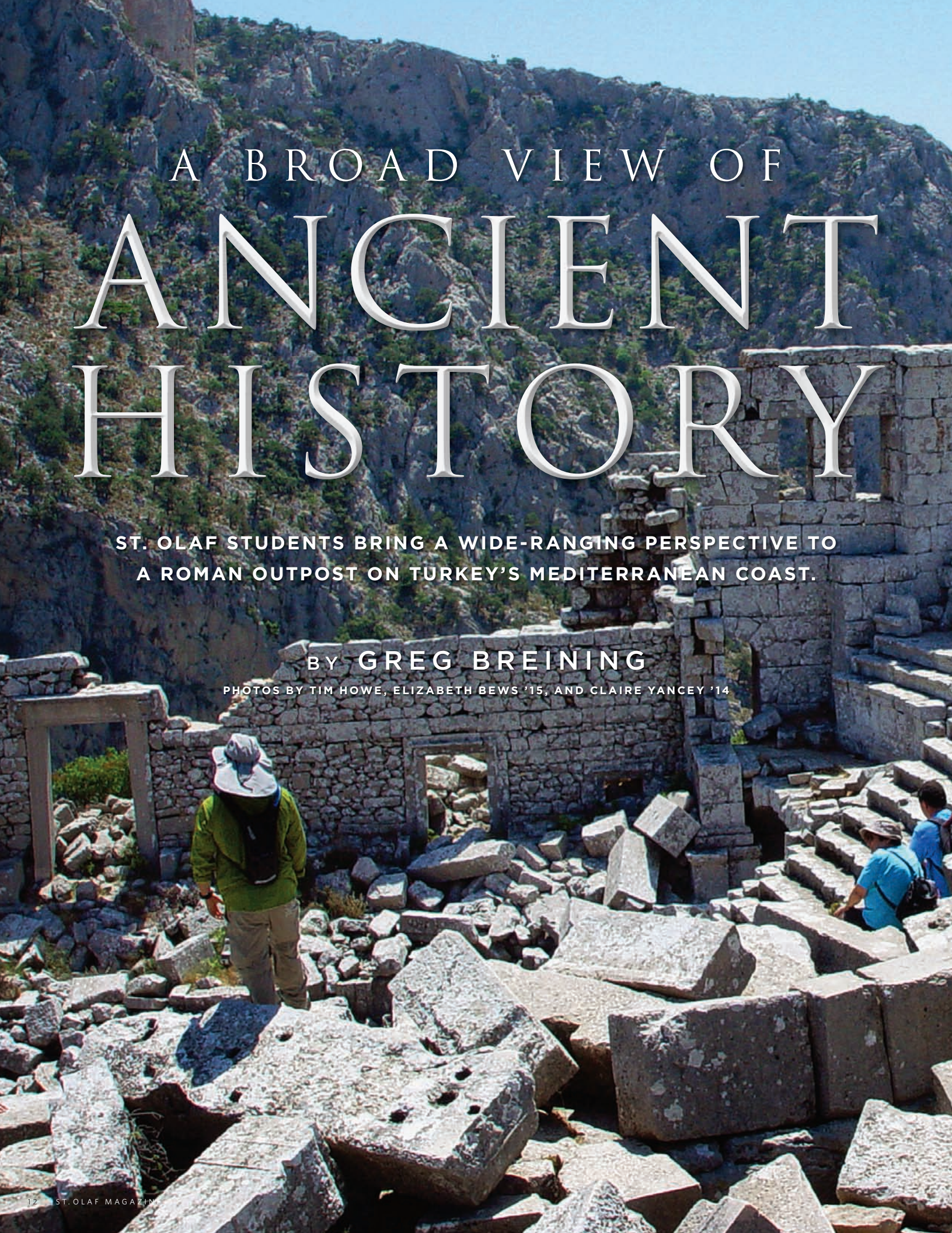
“My time in France gave me a sensitivity and empathy for people who come from different cultures,” McDonald says, noting that to build successful professional relationships, he must adapt to culturally acceptable behaviors in a variety of business settings. “The approach I take to solving problems and moving objectives forward is different from one country to another,” he says. “For example, in Japan, I’ll accomplish nothing if I scream and pound my fist on the table. Not that I’d do that, anyway, but in some cultures that would be okay. In Singapore, which is a very hierarchical society, it’s difficult for

people to have frank conversations or to tell you that they disagree with you. I’m not going to change those cultures, so I must figure out how to adapt my style in order to get done what I need to get done.”

McDonald believes his extensive international experience, his French language skills, and his genuine interest in other cultures give him an edge, and says that Americans must engage with the world broadly if they are to succeed in a global society.

“Having the ability to understand and deal with other cultures will be increasingly important,” he says, “especially when the economic growth potential is coming from places where Americans don’t have even a basic understanding of the culture, the people, the language, or the economy.” 🦄

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



A BROAD VIEW OF
ANCIENT
HISTORY

ST. OLAF STUDENTS BRING A WIDE-RANGING PERSPECTIVE TO
A ROMAN OUTPOST ON TURKEY'S MEDITERRANEAN COAST.

BY GREG BREINING

PHOTOS BY TIM HOWE, ELIZABETH BEWS '15, AND CLAIRE YANCEY '14



The group surveyed the Theatre at Termessos, in Pamphylia, as part of the preliminary work before excavation season began.



The remains of Antiochia ad Cragum (Antioch on the cliffs), sit where Turkey's Taurus Mountains taper to a cliff that drops 1,000 feet to the Mediterranean Sea.

ELIZABETH BEWS '15 sat in the dirt on a high terrace along Turkey's Mediterranean coast, picking away at an 1,800-year-old mosaic with dental tools and paintbrushes. The work, in the blazing sun and dust, was both tedious and nerve-racking — not just because this remnant of the Roman Empire was rare and priceless, but also because Bews had never done anything like this before — “a trial by fire” made all the more tense because none of the Turkish archeologists or graduate students working at the dig site spoke English.

But as she picked away the dirt and tree roots to reveal the tiles, she heard a voice speaking French. Bews, a triple major in French, Russian area studies, and history, tracked down the source of that voice and began to converse in the language. Soon she discovered many of her coworkers spoke the language too. “It was very liberal-artsy,” says Bews, “a real-world application of what I learn at St. Olaf. It definitely broke the tension and got us communicating a lot more effectively.”

Bews is one of 14 St. Olaf students who worked last summer as part of the St. Olaf Archaeological Field School, a collaborative research project with Turkish scientists and researchers from Purdue University and the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. The team excavated a recently opened archeological site along a rugged coast where Julius Caesar was once kidnapped by Cilician pirates.

As the students dug centimeter by centimeter through the strata of ancient history, they revealed the surprising reach and influence of the second- and third-century Romans along the coast of southern Turkey, more than

1,000 miles from Rome. Just as importantly, they figuratively broke ground by using a new technology to image artifacts in the field with greater clarity than ever before. The experience, says St. Olaf Associate Professor of History Tim Howe, shows the value of recruiting liberal arts students.

“Having students with a wide range of interests was actually quite beneficial to that process because they would all notice different things,” says Howe. “The notebooks we kept are some of the richest that I’ve seen.”

THIS DIG SITE, known as Antiochia ad Cragum (Antioch on the cliffs), sits where Turkey's Taurus Mountains taper to a cliff that drops 1,000 feet to the sea, a landscape reminiscent of coastal northern California. Before falling under Roman control, it had a long history of human habitation, beginning with King Antiochus IV of Commagene. The community was part of a vast Mediterranean trading system. Goods

were shipped aboard large rowed galleys and carried up from the harbor on a road that ran along a declivity in the cliff. Along this rugged coast, good harbors were at a premium. Yet while the westward current running close to the coast aided shipping, it endangered ships. Says Howe, “It’s the most common shipwreck spot in the Mediterranean.”

Excavation of the area began in 2005, with an American team from the University of Nebraska–

Lincoln and Turkish teams from Alanya Museum and Atatürk University. Tiles loosened by a farmer plowing his field led to the discovery of a 1,600-square-foot Roman mosaic. It’s believed to be the largest mosaic of its kind in the region. Archeological work two seasons ago showed the mosaic to be part of what was once a partially roofed bath-gymnasium complex with a large pool. And last year, the Antiochia ad Cragum Archaeological Research Project, as the association of academics is known, also began exploring a courtyard ringed by a colonnade. Within the courtyard is a large public building, possibly a temple.

A principal goal of the project, says Michael Hoff, a University of Nebraska professor of art history and director of the excavation, is to unearth and restore the public



The dig site was once an ancient Roman city located in what is now the village of Güney, just southwest of the town of Gazipaşa, on the southern coast of Turkey.



Excavation of the site began in 2005, when tiles loosened by a farmer plowing his field led to the discovery of a huge Roman mosaic that was part of a large bath-gymnasium complex with a swimming pool.



Morgan Wychor '15 (top) and Lillian Maasen '15 excavate a "winged victory," the wing of which can be seen at the base of the marble block.



building. The very size and richness of the work demonstrates the cultural and military sway of Rome over the far-flung reaches of its empire.

St. Olaf became involved in the Antiochia ad Cragum project when Howe attended an Association of Ancient Historians meeting in 2012. A colleague asked if he'd like to bring students to join the dig. Howe recognized the invitation as a terrific opportunity. He began recruiting students, first from his own classes, then from other ancient studies classes, and finally from every discipline.

Howe and his student team traveled to Turkey last summer for the first time. Some of the students began the trip by surveying sites high in the Taurus Mountains for future deforestation research and then moved on to analyze and record transport amphorae — narrow-necked clay jars with two handles — in the Anamur Museum. In mid-July, both groups met at the dig site, where they worked for the next month. Once there, they split into different work assignments at various sections of the site — the Roman bath (which included the mosaic), the colonnaded courtyard, and the large public building.

Among the major finds from the season was a life-sized marble head of Aphrodite, which the St. Olaf students uncovered in the ancient bath's pool. Fourteen statues perched atop bases once surrounded the pool, but that changed in the fourth century, apparently, as the entire building was converted to a glass factory. Toppled by an earthquake, or simply knocked over, Aphrodite fell into the basin. The marble body, like that of the other statues, was probably burned in a lime kiln to make cement, Howe says, but the head remained. Despite some damage to her nose and other parts of her face, Aphrodite's appearance is unmistakable. "It's like Barbie," says Howe. "Barbie's face always looks the same. If you want Aphrodite, that's what she looks like."

Discoveries like this one are helping archeologists and scholars piece together a picture of the region's past. "Archeology is becoming a much more focused discipline with respect to trying to answer questions about an entire region," says Hoff. The ancient history of the region in which the dig is taking place is not well documented. "Historians and archeologists have only vague notions about how it functioned. How did [the region] exist in the fabric of the Roman Empire?"

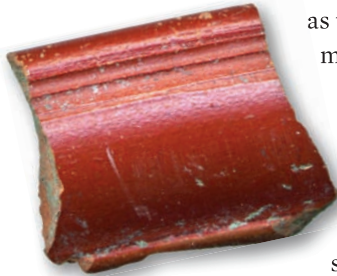
The mosaic, bath, and head of Aphrodite hold some important clues. They show that the main city was "robust and economically active," says Hoff. If indeed the large building proves to be a temple, "what it does show is that these people wanted to show their connection to the Roman Empire. The construction of a temple, whose purpose was to worship Roman emperors, is a clear sign that they are flying the flag of the Roman Empire. They

want to be thought of as Romans, even though they may not have been Roman citizens."

The big discoveries are what kept the St. Olaf students and the professional archeologists going, but there were plenty of smaller finds too. Students sorted through a staggering amount of broken pottery at the dig sites. They tossed most aside. But they saved sherds with diagnostic rims, bases, or paintings which had specific details that could help them date and classify a piece. "The students have to make that call [about what pieces to save] as they excavate," says Howe. "It engages their memories, it engages their analytic skills and their observation skills."

Students also used GPS and computerized survey equipment to plot their finds in three dimensions — latitude, longitude, and elevation. "This is the type of advanced surveying they'd need should they go into construction or engineering or anything like that," says Howe. It's just one example of what made the trip valuable to students from a variety of disciplines.

"Because archeology spans the sciences and the humanities, it requires hard science to do some things, although it's entry-level hard science. So it appeals to a wide group of students. One of the things that I've found teaching at a liberal arts college is our students have so many interests and talents that if you cast your net wide, they are able to bring a lot of expertise."



ONE OF ST. OLAF'S MAJOR contributions to the excavation involved pioneering the use of imaging technology known as reflectance transformation imaging (RTI). Although the system has been used to record museum holdings, "no one had ever used it as [artifacts] come out of the ground," says Howe. RTI is the future of archaeology, he says, and the St. Olaf team is the first to use the technology on an active excavation site.

A camera fixed to a tripod is positioned to photograph an object, such as a worn coin. Up to 90 images are taken without moving the camera or coin. But with each image, a flash of visible light is reflected from a shiny moving sphere that captures a pulse of light, illuminating the object from a new direction to create a 3-D image. The multiple files are combined by a software program that mathematically enhances the image, revealing details not visible by direct examination of the object.

The RTI technology took a long time to master, says Rebecca Frank '14, one of the students who practiced using the technology in the year leading up to the trip. None of the students had the advantage of being an expert in photography, and the software was also difficult to use. "Some of our computers weren't cooperating with the software,"



Reflectance transformation imaging (RTI) is the future of archaeology, says history professor Tim Howe. The St. Olaf team was the first to use the technology on an active excavation site. "The use of RTI for the inscriptions and coins was incredibly valuable," says Rebecca Frank '14. "We were able to reconstruct broken and eroded inscriptions, as well as date and type coins that were previously unidentifiable."

says Frank, a classics, history, and ancient studies triple major. "There was a lot of fighting with it to try to figure out what was going on."

Eventually, the students got the results they were looking for, says Seth Ellingson '15, a history major and member of last summer's archeology team. "We had a penny from the 1960s that was really deformed. When we imaged it, you could actually see Abraham Lincoln inside the Lincoln Memorial on the back of it. You could not see that with the naked eye by just looking at it."

That the technology was new and promising – without being expensive or highly technical – made it appealing to St. Olaf students, says Ellingson. "That was really one of the biggest draws: we could really contribute to the conversation. It's a new field, so it enabled an undergraduate like me and a few people who had also worked on the team with me to really become experts in this field of study that was really gaining some speed in archeology. We didn't have to have Ph.D.s."

Once in Turkey, the technology continued to challenge the students. The dust and heat were hard on computer equipment. Bright sunlight introduced an unpredictable and unwanted source of illumination. Says Ellingson, "Under field conditions, to put it bluntly, it was a headache." Particularly challenging were objects, such as a partially excavated mile marker along a Roman road, that had to be photographed in place. "We couldn't get a full-light imaging of the mile marker, but we tried our best."

Still, the students were able to create RTI images of all important artifacts, from ancient coins smaller than a fingernail to an inscription on a slab of rock. An RTI image of the head of Aphrodite revealed chisel marks that showed how she was carved, as well as other marks that indicated how she might have been damaged. Signs of weathering, clearly visible in the images, even suggested when the damage might have occurred.

As American researchers, the St. Olaf team wasn't allowed to bring artifacts home, but they do have a complete set of images. "That was the idea of RTI," says Ellingson. "We could get the best possible view of the actual object, without taking the artifact out of the country."

FOR SOME STUDENTS, the experience in Turkey enriched their lives in unexpected ways. Joseph Rynasko, a history and ancient studies sophomore who is also a potter, arrived in Turkey early. He spent two weeks at a museum in the seacoast city of Anamur, where he sketched amphorae.

"I look at amphorae as the ancient Tupperware," he says of the vessels, which traditionally held oil or wine. "They're kind of everywhere." As a potter, Rynasko was especially interested in how particular ancient pieces were designed and crafted. "I think I have a little bit of an appreciation of

Before falling under Roman control, Antiochia ad Cragum had a long history of human habitation, beginning with King Antiochus IV of Commagene. The community was part of a vast Mediterranean trading system.



Among the major finds of the dig was a life-sized marble head of Aphrodite, uncovered by the students in the pool of the bath. Despite some damage to her nose and other parts of her face, Aphrodite's appearance is unmistakable. "It's like Barbie," says Howe. "Barbie's face always looks the same. If you want Aphrodite, that's what she looks like."

With long hours spent on the excavation with Turkish scientists and American archeologists, students still made time for relaxation, including a dip in the "pirate cove" where a captive Caesar might have come ashore.



the style of it. I can imagine where their hands would have had to be to pull it a certain way or to get a certain design.”

Armed with the vaguest of notes from an ancient source, he then went on a hunt for an ancient kiln site with French graduate student and pottery expert Caroline Autret, who is finishing her Ph.D. dissertation at the Sorbonne in Paris. Walking through a field, Rynasko stumbled over the mother lode of broken pottery — clear evidence, American and Turkish experts later agreed, that the ancient kiln had been located in that spot.

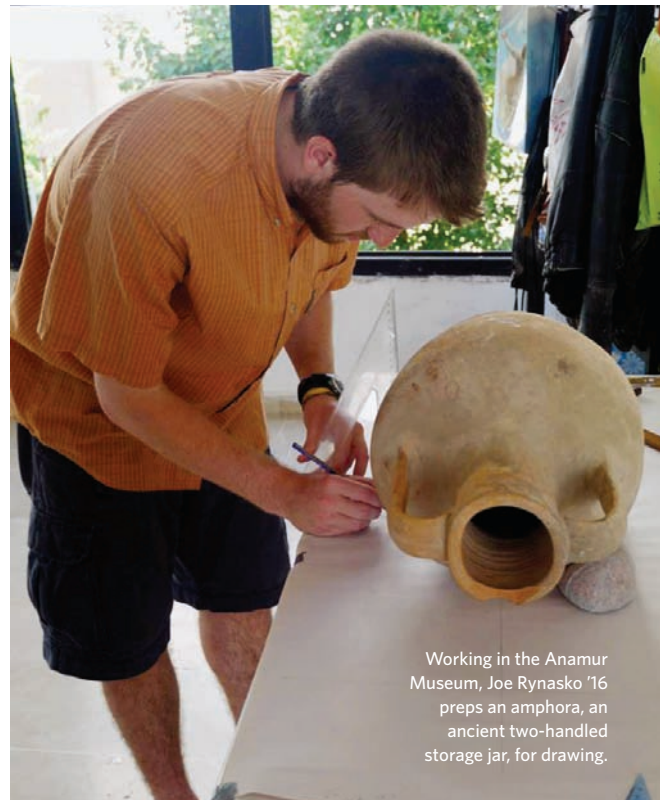
“It was an exhilarating feeling to find a kiln site that hopefully I’ll be able to go back and help excavate,” says Rynasko.

“BECAUSE ARCHEOLOGY SPANS THE SCIENCES AND THE HUMANITIES, IT REQUIRES HARD SCIENCE TO DO SOME THINGS, ALTHOUGH IT’S ENTRY-LEVEL HARD SCIENCE. SO IT APPEALS TO A WIDE GROUP OF STUDENTS. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I’VE FOUND TEACHING AT A LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE IS OUR STUDENTS HAVE SO MANY INTERESTS AND TALENTS THAT IF YOU CAST YOUR NET WIDELY, THEY ARE ABLE TO BRING A LOT OF EXPERTISE.”

— PROFESSOR TIM HOWE

For Seth Ellingson, the dig provided him with an invaluable cultural exchange. After committing to traveling to the dig, he began studying Turkish in earnest. Once he was in the field, he observed that the camp was split between Turks and Americans.

“I thought it was cool to kind of break that barrier,” he says. “We had break-time every day at 10 o’clock for a half hour, and I thought the best time of each day was just sitting with the Turks and trying to use as much Turkish as possible. It was really cool — because the workers did not speak any English — to be able to ask them [things like] ‘Would a shovel be the best tool for this?’” Because Ellingson was so comfortable mingling with the Turks, one of the men who worked on site and provided security invited Ellingson to his home for the Eid al-Fitr feast with his family to mark the end of Ramadan.



Working in the Anamur Museum, Joe Rynasko '16 preps an amphora, an ancient two-handled storage jar, for drawing.

THE TRIP WAS SO SUCCESSFUL that Howe intends to return to Turkey with his students next summer. “I think in many respects, every student who went found something sort of life affirming — ‘Wow! I’m doing the right thing,’” he says.

Next summer, Jason Menard, a St. Olaf geographic information system instructional technologist who holds a doctorate in Roman archaeology and geographic information systems (GIS) from the University of Minnesota, plans to come along to use GIS to map the harbor road. “We’ll be able to determine exactly where the road is and how they brought things up from the harbor, and then how this site is connected to others on land,” says Howe.

Howe wonders whether the native population interacted or even lived among the Romans — and why a city of perhaps 30,000 existed here. “It is not a premier harbor, nor a popular port, just one of many. What is unusual is the size of the site and its relatively inhospitable position. We’re going back to the market place. We’re going to continue to try to understand what is the commercial activity going on there, what is the political and social activity.”

Howe will continue to bring students to this site for years to come. “That’s my hope. As far as I’m concerned, there are enough research questions here that students can help me answer until I retire. As long as the [Turkish] Ministry of Culture is happy to have us, we’re happy to go.” 🏺

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

ENDING HIV/AIDS WOULD BE AMONG THE GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF MODERN MEDICINE. THANKS IN NO SMALL PART TO AIDS
RESEARCHER, DOCTOR, AND TRAILBLAZER DIANE HAVLIR '80, WE MAY
BE TANTALIZINGLY CLOSE TO ATTAINING THAT GOAL.

THE PIONEER

BY ERIN PETERSON

PHOTOGRAPHED BY
JASON BELL



In her early days as a doctor for AIDS patients, Diane Havlir says, her job was always the hardest during the holidays. Havlir, who started her medical career in San Francisco General Hospital's AIDS ward in the mid-1980s, had sought out the white-hot center of the AIDS crisis and quickly discovered that the hardest questions she would tackle weren't the medical ones. They were the human ones.

Like clockwork, in the weeks before Thanksgiving and Christmas, many young men with AIDS — and at the time, her patients were mostly young, gay men — asked her the same devastating question: “Is this my last holiday? Should I go home? Because I want to see my family one more time.” Recalling those painful moments now, Havlir says, “I dreaded it. And I would go through it every year.”

Several decades away from the worst of the HIV/AIDS crisis, it may be difficult for many of us to conjure the fear and despair that gripped the country in the 1980s and '90s, but it remains fresh to Havlir. She vividly recalls the scientific conferences she attended, where angry protesters, frustrated by the roadblocks to research, threw blood that she wasn't sure was fake or real. On the other end of the spectrum were the shattered parents Havlir sat with as they helplessly watched their sons succumb to the disease. “[Those early years] taught me so much about compassion, and so much about how society can marginalize certain populations,” she says.

Those experiences also haunted her. And they drove her.

Over the past 30 years, in no small part through her work, the trajectory of AIDS research and treatment has been transformed. The disease has changed from being a certain death sentence to a chronic illness. And if Havlir has anything to say about it, within our lifetimes, it will no longer be a chronic disease. It will be a non-existent one.

Long before she ever entered the field of medicine, Havlir was hardwired to achieve. As a teenager, she was a gifted speed skater who became the country's national short track speed-skating champion in 1974. But when she realized she'd have to choose between speed skating and academics, academics won. The Illinois native was eager to attend a small, private, liberal arts school, and even though St. Olaf

didn't have a speed skating team, it fit the bill.

Havlir, a biology and chemistry major, channeled her energy into her studies on the Hill and traded in her skates for running shoes. To her cross country running coach, Chris Daymont, she was a standout even then. “What I remember most about Diane was her intensity, her attention to detail in everything, and her ferocious competitiveness,” says Daymont. “Academics were a priority, but when she was at practice and meets, she was all in. And when she was done, she'd be back at the library.”

Havlir originally thought she might become an environmental lawyer, but a transformative Interim course on cancer opened her up to the field of medicine, which she realized offered powerful opportunities to create change. When she saw that St. Olaf offered a study abroad program to Costa Rica in botany, she worked with Biology Professor Ted Johnson to craft an independent program that would allow her to go to Costa Rica to study not botany, but the nutrition habits of the elderly.

AIDS HAS CHANGED FROM BEING A CERTAIN DEATH SENTENCE TO A CHRONIC ILLNESS. AND IF HAVLIR HAS ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT, WITHIN OUR LIFETIMES, IT WILL NO LONGER BE A CHRONIC DISEASE. IT WILL BE A NON-EXISTENT ONE.

That study abroad experience proved to be invaluable. “It gave me the latitude to do hands-on work. I got to design a question, collect and analyze data, then write it up and share results. It's similar to the work I do today,” she says. “That experience taught me how to approach questions, it taught me that I could get answers, and it taught me that those answers lead to new questions.”

To Johnson, the work Havlir did in Costa Rica epitomized what made her so successful at St. Olaf. “She was willing to take risks, to do things outside of her comfort zone,” he recalls. “It was clear that she wanted to do something important with her life.”

After graduating, Havlir studied at Duke University Medical School. There she discovered a fascination with infectious diseases, referring to herself as “an infectious disease junkie.” As she devoured the new literature that



An AIDS-free generation is within reach, noted Havlir in a November lecture at St. Olaf. Dr. Havlir, who returned to campus to receive the college's Distinguished Alumni Award, met with students before and after her talk in Regents Hall.

PHOTOS BY TOM ROSTER



Sudip Bhandari '14, a public health major from Kathmandu, Nepal, spoke to Havlir about the importance of community activism in the global effort to end HIV/AIDS. "Dr. Havlir understands the difficulties and intricacies of providing AIDS treatment to all, but she is immensely optimistic that we can cure this epidemic."

had just started coming out on HIV/AIDS, she realized she wanted to do her training where she could be at the heart of this powerful but little-understood disease. Ultimately, she landed at the University of California at San Francisco for her residency, where she met her husband, Arturo Martinez, a physician; they relocated for a time to Cleveland, where Havlir did an infectious disease fellowship at Case Western Reserve University and Martinez did a fellowship in kidney transplantation at the Cleveland Clinic, before returning to San Francisco.

If her experience in the AIDS ward was shot through with a sense of the scale and tragedy of an utterly ruthless disease, it also gave her a sense of real purpose. “In my [residency] cohort, we were cognizant that we were really young doctors in the formative years of our training, but we were becoming the experts in the disease,” she recalls. “In a positive sense, it was an exhilarating responsibility.”

In addition to her work with patients, Havlir was

becoming a powerhouse researcher (she has been an author or co-author on nearly 200 publications to date). Just as she had at St. Olaf, she pursued answers relentlessly, and often successfully. But while the professional successes were satisfying, the human impact meant more to her.

In the first decade of the AIDS crisis, doctors saw that AIDS patients were getting all sorts of exotic infections and cancers. Havlir was among the researchers who believed that a certain type of antibiotic, Azithromycin, could help prevent one of the most devastating and opportunistic AIDS-related infections, mycobacterium avium. To test her hypothesis, she spearheaded a major study with more than 700 participants to see if using the antibiotic might make a difference. She hoped that her combination of scientific knowledge and intuition might just make an impact.

She was right.

It was one of her first major successes as a researcher, but bigger ones would follow. During the 1990s, she led



In addition to Havlir's stellar professional accomplishments, she is the mother of four and married to physician Arturo (Art) Martinez. From left: Jackie, Danny, Diane, Art, Andy, and Becky.

study after study trying to rein in the progress of the AIDS disease with one-drug, two-drug, and finally three-drug combinations. “And it was when we got to three drugs together — the HIV cocktail — that we suddenly saw that we could suppress the virus,” she says.

Havlir recalls that moment of success with crystal clarity. “I remember getting the fax that showed the results of our first study [that we could suppress the virus],” she recalls. “I just thought, *Everything’s going to change now*. The drugs were hard to take, and they required a lot of effort on the part of the patients. But the fact that we could do this? It was an incredible moment.”

Suppressing the virus was a turning point. Doctors began talking with patients about how they could live with AIDS, instead of how they would die of it. But even for patients desperate for treatment, this new approach wasn’t a panacea. The multi-drug cocktail — which included more than a dozen pills and had to be taken throughout the day with nine total glasses of water to prevent kidney stones — cost \$30,000 per year.

The complexity of the regimen, along with its breathtaking price, was part of what nudged Havlir to take on a new project. At the time, patients took the complicated three-drug regimen more or less indefinitely to keep the virus in check. Havlir designed a study to see if fewer drugs could be taken once the virus had been suppressed. “We thought it would be easier for the patient, there would be fewer side effects, and it would cost less,” she says. “And it might make it possible to bring this [treatment] to other places in the world.”

“WE CAME TOGETHER AS A GLOBAL COMMUNITY TO SAY THAT IT’S NOT OKAY TO SAY WE CAN’T TREAT PEOPLE IN AFRICA. IT’S NOT OKAY TO SAY IT’S TOO EXPENSIVE. WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO DO THAT.”

This time, she was wrong. The study she crafted showed that reducing the number of medications allowed for a resurgence of the virus.

The failure was painful — and also incredibly public. Havlir had established herself as a star in the field, and when the study proved to be unsuccessful in late 1998, it was reported on the front page of the *New York Times*. For all of the remarkable work she had done, it was the

only time she’s ever been on the front page of the *Times*. She laughs uncomfortably at the memory, even 15 years later. But as a scientist, she has been able to put the results in perspective.

“‘AIDS Study Fails,’ yes,” she acknowledges. “But [in the bigger picture], it’s not really failure. It’s knowledge that empowers one to go on and ask the next question.”

By 2000, with her two sons and two daughters growing older and both herself and her husband firmly established in their medical careers, Havlir began thinking beyond the United States. And perhaps no place needed her laser-like focus as much as Africa did. As destructive as HIV/AIDS had been in the United States, it had been catastrophic on that continent.

At the time, many African leaders, particularly in areas where AIDS had hit hardest, held a fatalistic view of the disease. AIDS was awful but unchangeable, they believed. The available treatment, if it could be called that, amounted to little more than hospice care.

For Havlir and her colleagues working to fight AIDS, the situation in Africa was unacceptable. At the 2000 International AIDS Conference, in Durban, South Africa, she was one of many who pushed for change through action. “We came together as a global community to say that it’s not okay to say we can’t treat people in Africa,” she says. “It’s not okay to say it’s too expensive. We have to figure out how to do that.”

Her work was more than talk: she built relationships with African doctors, and, as a founding member of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) International HIV Drug Surveillance Program, helped craft the WHO’s guidelines to treat HIV-positive patients. She also began directing trials to help stem devastating co-infections that were popping up in HIV/AIDS patients, such as tuberculosis and malaria.

What also turned the tide was cold, hard cash. The conference led to the birth of global financing to fight the AIDS epidemic, including multi-billion-dollar commitments from the United States through PEPFAR (the United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief), and lesser but significant funding through the Global Fund.

But the international goals of Havlir and others required more than just money. They required tough negotiations with pharmaceutical companies to bring down the cost of treatment for patients, which still hovered around \$15,000 per year. Thanks to brokered agreements and exceptional ethical advocacy, the U.S. government was ultimately able to support purchase of generic HIV/AIDS

When asked, “What is the most important lesson you have learned over the last 25 years that HIV researchers and policy leaders should keep in mind as we move forward?” Havlir responded, “We should not be afraid to tackle the toughest questions, the seemingly most impossible strategies.”



drugs under PEPFAR, bringing the annual cost per patient to about \$150 per year.

In 2000, through WHO, Havlir and her colleagues set an ambitious goal of treating three million people by 2005. To many, the number seemed too audacious to be believed. Yet it took them only two extra years to achieve their goal in 2007. “It was something that seemed totally impossible at the time, but it was realized,” says Havlir.

If Havlir’s years as a researcher made her among the most recognized experts in the field, her more recent work as a powerful strategist in the fight against AIDS has launched her into the stratosphere. Currently, she’s chief of the HIV/AIDS division and Positive Health Program at San Francisco General Hospital and professor of medicine at the University of California–San Francisco School of Medicine.

In her new position, she’s come to understand that it’s one thing to work on the research that will lead to a better treatment, a vaccination, or even a cure. It’s something else to understand how to bring those solutions to the world. That work requires the ability to foster collaboration among scientists, doctors, politicians, community advocates, and pharmaceutical companies.

While the role was a natural fit given Havlir’s vast experience and successes in the field, it was, she says, also a tribute to the value of her St. Olaf education. “[The way we’re approaching this problem] is such a plug for a liberal arts education,” she says. “Attacking big, global problems requires thinking about approaching problems vertically, through expertise, and horizontally, through collaboration.”

In 2012, Havlir was the co-chair of the International AIDS Conference, an event that attracted 20,000 scientists, world leaders, and policymakers from 200 countries. It was the first time in decades that the event had been held on U.S. soil. It also marked another turning point in the fight against AIDS, partly because it came on the heels of some of the most remarkable advances in AIDS research to date.

Researchers had recently found that adult male circumcision reduces a man’s chances of acquiring the HIV virus by more than 50 percent. They also discovered that pre-exposure prophylaxis — medicines for those who do not have the virus — can dramatically decrease a person’s chance of contracting HIV. And, perhaps most remarkably, using HIV treatment for *prevention* can decrease forward transmission by 96 percent. Indeed, in 2011, the idea of taking HIV treatment as a preventative measure was named *Science* magazine’s breakthrough of the year.

This combination of successes allowed Havlir and AIDS researchers to launch their most daring goal yet:

ending AIDS altogether. It’s a bold objective, given the fact that each year HIV infects 2.3 million more people and leads to 1.6 million deaths. In total, 35 million people currently live with the HIV virus.

Yet Havlir is optimistic because the three-pronged goal she helped establish is remarkably simple: prevent infections through methods that currently exist, identify new HIV infections early, and treat HIV-infected patients effectively. The trends are heading in the right direction: since 2001, new infections of HIV have decreased by 30 percent; since 2005, there has been a similar reduction in HIV deaths; and by 2015, mother-to-child transmission of HIV could potentially be eliminated entirely.

“ATTACKING BIG, GLOBAL PROBLEMS REQUIRES THINKING ABOUT APPROACHING PROBLEMS VERTICALLY, THROUGH EXPERTISE, AND HORIZONTALLY, THROUGH COLLABORATION.”

To be sure, Havlir and her research colleagues face a long road ahead. There is no question that HIV/AIDS continues to be an incredibly devastating disease. But to Havlir, there’s plenty of room for hope.

In her experience, the response to the disease has often highlighted what is best in humanity. “When an epidemic comes around, what is the way, as a global society, that we need to respond?” she asks. “We haven’t always gotten it right in AIDS, but we’ve tried a lot of different things, and I really feel proud to be part of that movement.”

As a country, and as an international community, we may still have a long way to go. But thanks to dedicated scientists like Havlir, for the very first time, an end may be in sight. 🦁

ERIN PETERSON is a Twin Cities writer and editor.

FURTHER READING

These days, it seems that Diane Havlir is everywhere. Academic journals? Check. *Vanity Fair* Magazine? Check. Read more about her achievements and expertise here:

Read the July 2012 *Vanity Fair* “Hall of Fame” story about Havlir: vanityfair.com/culture/2012/07/hall-of-fame-diane-havlir-hiv-aids

Read a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Q&A interview with Havlir about the 2012 International AIDS Conference: rwjf.org/en/blogs/new-public-health/2012/08/aids_internationalc.html



TKO

**HEIDI HENRIKSEN '07 FINDS HER
AVOCATION IN THE BOXING RING.**



BY ANDY STEINER

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MEG OJALA AND TOM ROSTER

If you were to challenge her to a fight, odds are Heidi Henriksen would win. That's not a surprise if you watch her in action, training in the boxing ring with her coach, mitts landing solidly — *bam-bam* — into their targets; or sparring with members of the St. Olaf boxing club at the Tostrud Center. § “Most of my college friends, even the ones I’ve maintained close contact with since graduation, are shocked to hear that this is what I’m doing now,” Henriksen says. “People who knew me before say, ‘You’re the last person I’d expect to be boxing.’ I guess partly it’s because I’m this blond-haired, blue-eyed girl from northern Minnesota.” She smiles slyly, and pauses, adding: “I used to be quiet and shy, but this sport stared me in the face and forced me to say, ‘Take me as I am.’ It’s turned me into a whole new person.”

One of the people who was surprised to learn about Henriksen’s enthusiasm for boxing was Meg Ojala, St. Olaf professor of art and one of Henriksen’s academic mentors.

“Heidi was just a few years out of college when she came back to campus for a senior show opening,” Ojala recalls. “We talked about what she’d been doing since graduation. First she told me about her day job, but then she told me she’d just taken up boxing. You could see it in her eyes: She told me she thought she’d found her passion. I have to admit I was just flabbergasted. My image of a boxer is someone who is really tough on the exterior, maybe even wounded on the interior. But that’s the last way you’d ever describe Heidi.”

Adds Henriksen’s brother, Jonathan ’05, (they also have a younger sister, Katie ’09): “Getting in the ring and fighting someone is something we’d never expect Heidi to do. She’s not your stereotypical boxer, but she loves it. And the cool thing is, she’s really, really good at it.”





TRAINING

EVERLAST

EVERLAST



Henriksen took up boxing on a lark. Bored and looking for a new way to meet people while getting some exercise, she signed up for a free intro class at Uppercut Boxing Gym in Northeast Minneapolis. The gym appealed to Henriksen because it is the only boxing facility in the nation owned and operated by a woman. She thought that would make the place seem less intimidating. But she was wrong.

“To get there, you drive down this dark, alley-like cobblestone street,” she says. “Your car is rocking side to side. You pull up, and there is just one little light dangling there with a sign that says *Uppercut*.” That first time, Henriksen recalls, she had to talk herself into getting out of the car. She’s glad she did: “The gym was super bright inside, and the staff was very welcoming. I felt at home right away.”

She felt so at home that she signed up for a monthly membership package that very night. And, energized by

the new physical challenge, Henriksen kept coming back. Boxing not only made her body feel stronger and leaner, it also made her mind feel clearer.

“After about a month and a half of going to classes, I was starting to think, ‘Maybe it would be fun to get in the ring,’” Henriksen says. “Then the gym’s owner came up to me as I was getting ready for class and said, ‘I’ve seen you around. You look like you know what you’re doing. Are you interested in fighting?’ I thought, ‘Why not?’ and so I said yes.”

That first yes turned into more opportunities.

“People kept asking me if I wanted to try new things, and I just kept saying yes and welcoming it all in,” Henriksen says now.

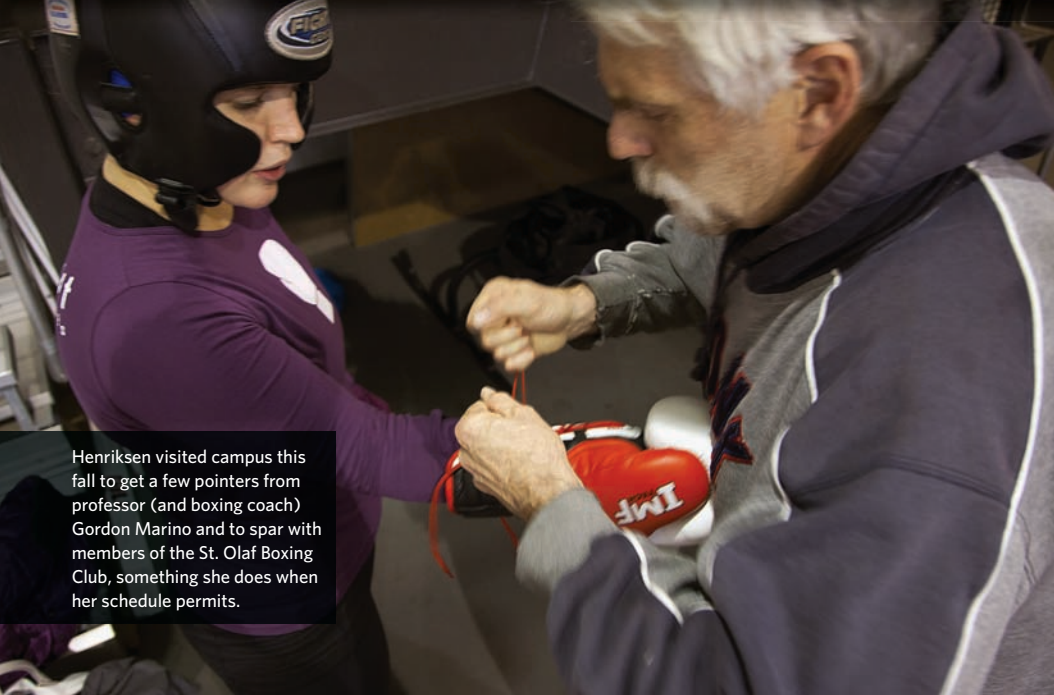
She began sparring with Uppercut trainer Alfonso Vazquez, who eventually encouraged her to fight in the amateur circuit. In December 2009, just a little more than a year after she started going to the gym, Henriksen had her first official fight. She won.

“Heidi has a lot of natural talent,” Vazquez says. “Some people are interested in boxing just for fitness, but they don’t have the talent to fight. That’s not Heidi. She’s got what it takes.”

St. Olaf Philosophy Professor Gordon Marino is also a sports journalist who writes about boxing. He didn’t know Henriksen while she lived in Northfield, but he got to know her a few years ago, around the time she won the 2011 Ringside World Championship title belt. He’s seen her fight several times since then.

“PEOPLE KEPT ASKING ME IF I WANTED TO TRY NEW THINGS, AND I JUST KEPT SAYING YES AND WELCOMING IT ALL IN.”

“Heidi has unusual courage,” Marino says. “She is dedicated to this sport. She has very good technique, good balance, good strength.”



Henriksen visited campus this fall to get a few pointers from professor (and boxing coach) Gordon Marino and to spar with members of the St. Olaf Boxing Club, something she does when her schedule permits.

Boxing requires physical strength, to be sure, but there's also plenty of mental strength involved. When she got in the ring for the first time, Henriksen recalls feeling nervous about putting herself in the line of fire.

"At first you notice that fight-or-flight response," she recalls. "Do I run away? Or do I stand my ground? Then you get hit the first time and you realize, 'Okay. That just happened.' You can stand there and let yourself feel hurt, or you can take it as part of the game. If you get hit, that means you either dropped your cover, or you weren't moving your head. You can either bring your hands up or start moving around."

Henriksen loves the stylistic elements of boxing, the focused movement of the body, the intense concentration required to anticipate — and deflect — an opponent's blow. When she's in the ring, Henriksen's dedication is evident; she measures every movement, listens intently to her trainer, and lands punches with focused strength. It's almost like the rest of the world fades away.

"For me, boxing is a huge rush," Henriksen says. "When the bell rings, I start moving, and I land that first punch. Then the adrenaline kicks in and I think, 'This is why I'm in here. This is what I'm supposed to do.'"

At the suggestion of a friend, Henriksen tried yoga as a way to balance out boxing's hard punches and jabs with long stretches and mindful breathing. The combination turned out to be magic. "I've found power in sitting still and being quiet, and I've also found power in being in the ring with the bell and the hits and the noise," she says. "There's this really amazing parallel between the two that seems to work for me."

That magical feeling of combining boxing with yoga inspired Henriksen to make a career out of it. Like many college graduates who had landed in a choppy job market, she'd cobbled together a mixed bag of work — as a personal shopper at J.Crew, a setup worker for a firm that staged



Henriksen won both her December fight at Uppercut gym and the Upper Midwest boxing regionals a week later. Next up: the USA Boxing National Championships.

“GETTING IN THE RING AND FIGHTING SOMEONE IS SOMETHING WE’D NEVER EXPECT HEIDI TO DO. SHE’S NOT YOUR STEREOTYPICAL BOXER, BUT SHE LOVES IT. AND SHE’S REALLY, REALLY GOOD AT IT.”

— JONATHAN HENRIKSEN '05

houses for sale, and a marketing coordinator and project assistant at a Twin Cities architecture firm. The jobs were all rewarding, Henriksen says, but none of them made her

feel the way she felt when she stepped into the gym. “Hardly anybody always wants to go to work,” she smiles, “but I always wanted to go to the gym.”

Henriksen was already teaching a few classes a week at Uppercut and had a handful of personal-training clients. She went on to complete a 200-hour yoga instructor teaching certificate, landing a gig teaching classes a few times a week at a local yoga center. Then she decided to take a big leap of faith: She launched HH Fitness, a fitness training business that combines the high-energy world of boxing with yoga.

“At St. Olaf, we talked so much about finding our vocation” Henriksen says. “I know that I’ve found something in my life that I was meant to do. At this point, I really truly feel that what I’m doing is my avocation. I am supposed to be in this world of breath and movement and body.”

These days, besides running her business, Henriksen, a light heavyweight with a personal win record of 7–2, is



neck deep in training, spending about 13 hours a week in the gym. Opponents in Henriksen's weight class are few and far between, so months may pass between fights.

But her fight schedule has been picking up. Henriksen faced off — and won — against an opponent on December 7 at a special event hosted by Uppercut. One week later, Henriksen won the Upper Midwest regionals in boxing,

“AT ST. OLAF, WE TALKED SO MUCH ABOUT FINDING OUR VOCATION. I KNOW THAT I’VE FOUND SOMETHING IN MY LIFE THAT I WAS MEANT TO DO.”

and in January, she and Vazquez will travel to Spokane so she can compete in the USA Boxing National Championships. A spot on the U.S. Olympic women's boxing team is even a possibility, but Henriksen says she would rather focus on her new business, the upcoming fights, and the opportunity to win another world title.

On a recent training day at the gym, Henriksen jumps rope like a pro. Then Vazquez leads her through a series of drills: sprints up and down the length of the gym; several sets of pushups, stair steps, and burpees; and three rounds of sparring in the ring.

She's not even halfway through the day's workout, and Henriksen is already working up a serious sweat. But she wipes her forehead, puts her head down and keeps going, her blue eyes bright and her punches direct.



Professor Marino says this is a boxer's life: "Boxing teaches you to keep going. You have to soldier on. That's a good life lesson, no matter where you come from. Nobody boxes without getting hit hard. And nobody wins without getting up again."

Henriksen agrees. "I just love how strong this sport has made me. The first time I knocked someone down, I was like, 'Did I just do that?' I glanced at my coach and he said, 'Yep. That was you.' It made me proud. I thought, 'Wow. I'm powerful. If I can do this, who knows what I can do next?'" 🦊

ANDY STEINER is a St. Paul-based writer and editor.

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— TOM '63 AND CLAIRE HEDINE RYKKEN '63



Tom, Elyn, and Claire Hedine Rykken

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The St. Olaf College Board of Regents welcomed **Kari Bjorhus '80**, **Leon Clark '12**, and **Theresa Hull Wise '89** as new members this fall.

By Suzy Frisch

Meet St. Olaf Regent **Kari Bjorhus '80**

A vital ingredient in executing business strategy is communication. It can mean the difference between an initiative's success and its undoing. Kari Bjorhus excels at guiding companies to hit the right notes with communications, rolling out effective messages that allow them to achieve their goals. These skills helped her land top public relations and communications jobs at large corporations such as Ecolab in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she currently is vice president of global communications.



Bjorhus has spent the bulk of her career in corporate communications. She graduated with an English degree from St. Olaf, then went on to earn a master's in journalism from Columbia University. Bjorhus landed a job with Bristol-Myers in New York City, where she learned the ins and outs of corporate communication. Eventually she returned to her native Minnesota to work for local public relations agencies, until Atlanta-based Coca-Cola lured her away in 1996.

During her 15 years in Atlanta, Bjorhus learned branding from the best in the business. Her time at Coke culminated with her serving as vice president of enterprise communications, where Bjorhus handled internal and digital communications, sustainability communications, and professional development for global public affairs teams in nearly 200 countries. With her children in college — Nicholas, who graduated from Rhodes College in 2012, and Noah, now a St. Olaf senior — and the perpetual pull of family and friends in Minnesota, Bjorhus and her husband, Ken Carlson, returned home in 2011.

Bjorhus does similar work now at Ecolab, where she leads global communications strategy and execution. In this position, she enjoys advising company leaders on communications, both internal and external, to ensure success for their business goals. In addition, she serves on the Northern Star Council board of the Boy Scouts of America and on her church's stewardship committee. When she looks back on all she has accomplished, Bjorhus says she has St. Olaf to thank for starting her off strong.

How did St. Olaf prepare you for your career?

I majored in English, and it was an excellent foundation for my communications career. I learned to write well, synthesize information, and present ideas clearly. I also found that over the years there wasn't much I learned at St. Olaf that I didn't draw on at some point, including what I learned in my

science, history, and religion classes. The international experiences that I had added so much to my education. I went on Global Semester and also participated in an Interim program in Greece, and both experiences helped give me a broader sense of the world. When I was at Coke and my responsibilities were global, I felt I had a better understanding of cultural differences, and I knew something about the history of our major markets. That helped me develop more relevant and effective communications programs.

How do you hope to make an impact as a Regent?

I was really excited about the opportunity and pleased to have the chance to do something for St. Olaf. I hope that my communications skills will be helpful to the school and that I can be a resource as St. Olaf works to tell its incredible story and convey what the school is all about.

What does St. Olaf mean to you?

St. Olaf opened my eyes to new ideas and a bigger world. My professors helped me explore a wide range of ideas and subjects, and encouraged me to think more deeply. The time I had at St. Olaf was a tremendous opening of my mind, and it gave me a much richer source of knowledge to build upon as I continue to learn and develop my own ideas.

What have been some of the lasting effects of St. Olaf on your life?

When I think about the world I've experienced in the time since I left St. Olaf, I think the liberal arts education was the best possible preparation for all of the changes that have happened in my profession and in business. The basic abilities that I honed at St. Olaf were the foundation for everything I did as I moved through my career. Also, I learned how to learn at St. Olaf, and that has helped me adapt, adjust, and maintain a sense of perspective. The St. Olaf experience grounds people in a solid understanding of what's gone on before and gives people the skills they need to continue to think and learn.

Meet St. Olaf Regent **Leon Clark Jr. '12**

Leon Clark graduated from St. Olaf with a keen sense of teamwork and loyalty, not to mention the ability to set goals and create a vision for achieving them. Developing these skills as a running back on the Ole football team, Clark found that they permeated many aspects of his time on the Hill, from singing in the Cantorei choir to working on intense projects as a Mayo Innovation Scholar. Add in challenging



academics, global travels, and a close-knit community, and Clark came away with the well-rounded experience he sought when considering colleges. Though St. Olaf felt a little too close to his hometown

of Rochester, Minnesota, Clark decided it was the right place for him. Now he couldn't be happier with that decision. A mathematics major, Clark took plenty of science classes in hopes of going on to medical school, and he credits St. Olaf with preparing him for that rigorous course of study and profession.

Now a second-year medical student at the Mayo Medical School, Clark calls on many of the skills he gained at St. Olaf, including thinking critically, finding balance, and preparing for a major challenge. And then there are the softer benefits of a St. Olaf education, like getting to know

students from vastly different backgrounds and building a strong sense of vocation. Through it all, Clark learned to move gracefully from the football field to the choir room to the classroom, all without missing a beat.

Why did you choose to attend St. Olaf?

I got interested because of athletics and music and academics, but looking closer at the identity of the college, there is tradition rooted in these values that I also believe in. It's a really open place for dialogue and interreligious relations; it is a Lutheran institution, and yet you get to learn about all these different religions and have dialogues about all these different things. I was impressed by the breadth and depth of courses that were provided. I thought it was a place that could nurture me intellectually, and I decided it was a good fit.

Did your experience turn out the way you anticipated?

It was right on point and a little more than I expected. The academic experience was great, and what makes St. Olaf stand apart is what it offers outside of academics. Right away, the alumni network was incredible. It's like a family you want to be part of. And there is the support, the tutors and professors, and all the resources they have on campus, like the Piper Center. Those were some of the most important experiences for me. I ended up doing the Mayo Innovations Scholars program, and our group of four worked on a collaboration with Medtronic and Mayo Ventures during the Interim. From that experience, I went to Washington, D.C., and networked with alumni and talked about career opportunities.

What were some other important parts of your time at St. Olaf?

I played football for four years and also ran track for two years. I was in Cantorei for three years, and I went to Budapest for an Interim course my sophomore year. That was amazing. It was a great experience to get a different world perspective, and it was my first time out of the country. I made a lot of close friends with students I might not have interacted with on a normal basis. And that's another unique thing about St. Olaf — you're able to interact with a host of different people, and you get a lot of different people in one place, yet you feel connected to the people around you. It's the culture that St. Olaf built.

Why did you want to serve on the Board of Regents?

St. Olaf is a place I believe in, and I think it has given me so much that I'd be a little foolish and selfish not to give back all that I can. I appreciate my education more than I can express in words, and I would jump on any opportunity to help develop the college in any way. I think a lot of the board members are removed from the student life aspect of St. Olaf, so anything I can do to give them a sense of community life and a recent student perspective might inform the decisions we're making on the board.



Meet St. Olaf Regent Theresa Hull Wise '89

Talk about putting one's college education to use. Theresa Hull Wise was an intern at Northwest Airlines when she solved a missing piece of the complex and perpetual puzzle of crew scheduling. Wise created a mathematical model that took into account numerous moving parts, like labor laws and crew members' skills and locations,

to design a system the airline quickly adopted. In the process, she charted her own course to a full-time career.

A math and chemistry major at St. Olaf, Wise next earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in operations research and applied math from Cornell University. But it was some of her early research in computational chemistry at St. Olaf that allowed Wise to begin building the skills and perspective she used to succeed. Those assets helped pave the way for her to ultimately progress to senior vice president and chief information officer at Delta Air Lines — a role she also held at Northwest before the Delta acquisition in 2008.

Wise won kudos for masterminding the integration of the two airlines' information technology systems and business readiness plans, which involved 1,200 systems and a team of more than 2,000 employees. *The Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal* selected Wise as CIO of the Year in 2011, highlighting her IT career and leadership during the integration.

A violinist who played with the St. Olaf Orchestra throughout college, Wise continues to perform with the Bloomington Symphony. She's also a community leader who has served on the boards of the Children's Theater Company and the Science Museum of Minnesota.

How did St. Olaf prepare you for your career?

I value the technical capability that I developed at St. Olaf and the liberal arts foundation. For me, those combined to develop a broader view of purpose and inquisitiveness, backed by strong technical skills. My math and chemistry major prepared me very well to earn my Ph.D. in applied math. I also participated in a couple of directed research projects with faculty in math and chemistry at St. Olaf. This blend of undergrad, graduate degrees, and problem-solving experience formed an excellent foundation to begin a career at Northwest Airlines. I also studied abroad in Budapest, Hungary, which created a global appreciation that has been important when serving a global airline. These were all important factors in my education that I would love to see offered to St. Olaf students of the future as well.

What were some of your formative experiences at St. Olaf?

To me, the St. Olaf experience is a combination of factors that center around an amazing community of students and faculty, on and off campus. Specific academic experiences that made a difference for me include study abroad — being behind the Iron Curtain in 1988. I also participated in the math practicum, a January Interim course where I worked with a group of students on a math-based project for Cray Research. And I spent two summers at St. Olaf doing research projects with the chemistry department. They were all great experiences to further understand what I love doing: applying math and science in new and different ways that might make a difference in our community.

What do you hope to contribute as a Regent?

I see it as an opportunity to continue to give back to the college, because it has been so instrumental in helping me launch my life and career. I want to do what I can to help ensure that, as our world continues to change and evolve, some of these core aspects of St. Olaf endure. It's what generates graduates who are prepared for and interested in serving our communities. I like the idea of continuing to further engage other alumni from St. Olaf to help preserve some of the experiences, such as study abroad or internships, that were so meaningful to us. I'd also like to help explore what this burst in technology means to St. Olaf and to our mission going forward.

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

Your Alumni Board: Encouraging Engagement

By **Samantha Jo Botz '14**

PHOTOS BY PUMLA MASWANGANYI '16

Alumni around the globe stay actively engaged with the St. Olaf community in a variety of ways — from class reunions, regional events, and annual galas to social and professional networks like Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

Although the ways in which alumni connect are changing, the goals of the St. Olaf Alumni Board remain the same: to strengthen and enrich engagement with purpose while preserving unique traditions that together involve alumni and parents in the life of the college.

The Alumni Board welcomed two new members this fall, both of whom deeply value their St. Olaf experience and look forward to participating in a community dedicated to establishing long-lasting and far-reaching connections. Lisa Warren '86 and Karl Johan Uri '99 bring a fresh perspective, enthusiasm, and passion for the college to the Alumni Board. The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations also acknowledges and thanks departing board members who have completed their terms of dedicated service: Katherine Kroeger '99, Mitch Lehn '92, Gary Perkins '80, Maggie Wells '08, and Kari Swanson '13.



2014 ST. OLAF ALUMNI BOARD (L-R, bottom row): Amy R. Gillespie '88, Washington, D.C.; Ron Pechauer '59, Sun City, Ariz.; (second row): Paul Finley '99, Mission Viejo, Calif.; Lisa Warren '86, Minneapolis; Nikki Brock-Maruska '95, Pearland, Texas; Brock Metzger '03, Minneapolis; (third row): Samuel Dotzler '00, Chicago; Karl Johan Uri '99, Seattle; Kate Sands Johnson '95, Dallas; Vijay Mehrotra '86, Oakland, Calif.; (top row): Brad Hoff '89 (director, Alumni and Parent Relations), Northfield, Minn.; Rebecca Schmidt Taibl '70, St. Paul, Minn.; Kate Bollman Pearce '01 (board chair), St. Paul, Minn.; and Ben Baker '09 (board president), New York City. (Not pictured: Randy Betcher '79 (annual fund board chair), Shorewood, Minn.; Greta Fure '09, Eden Prairie, Minn.; Bailey Williams '16 (Student Alumni Association representative); Jennifer Rajala Sawyer '94, Northfield, Minn.; Sandy Skustad Jerstad '66, Sioux Falls, S.D.)

LISA WARREN '86

Early in her St. Olaf career, Lisa Warren realized the value of doing what she loved.

"I was filling my schedule with classes in the English Department, despite being an economics major, so I decided to switch," she says. That decision enhanced her time at St. Olaf and prepared her to be an enthusiastic lifelong learner.

"To effectively communicate my thoughts, to work within a community as an integral part of a team, to give my best any time I'm involved in a project — these are the qualities that make a difference when you're building a career, and are qualities I gained as a student at St. Olaf," Warren says.

St. Olaf also cultivated her faith. During her time as an undergraduate, Warren unexpectedly found a place within the Lutheran Church and a deeper appreciation for what it means to be Lutheran. "St. Olaf helped me connect faith to my day-to-day life," she explains. "It demonstrated what it truly means to put faith into action."

Today Warren does just that on a daily basis, serving as the director for community engagement for Thrivent Financial in Minneapolis, a financial services organization

for Lutherans. While her career naturally complements the Alumni Board's dedication to engagement, it wasn't until a friend invited Warren to help with the college's annual Black and Gold Gala that she became aware of the opportunity to join the Alumni Board.

"Connecting with old friends and meeting new ones inspired me to get more involved as an alum," she says.

Warren hopes being part of the Alumni Board will give her the opportunity to communicate and connect with a wide range of people dedicated to St. Olaf's mission.

"St. Olaf is really such a special place," she says. "When I think of the college, I think of the fun I had, the things I learned, the people I met — it was a fantastic college experience."

KARL JOHAN URI '99

Being a transfer student from the University of Rhode Island allowed Karl Uri to see St. Olaf from a unique perspective.

"It was such a different academic environment than I had experienced on the East Coast," he says. As a student in St. Olaf's Paracollege, Uri was given the opportunity to take courses in a diverse range of disciplines, including theater, Norwegian, and women's

studies. "It was truly an amazing institution. My education went far beyond the classroom."

One of the defining experiences of his undergraduate career was the Paracollege's integrated approach to education. Taking Norwegian classes that allowed him to study *Helmskringla* — the Norse King Sagas — and the works of O.E. Rølvaag with Professor Emerita of Norwegian Solveig Tweet Zempel '69 proved some of "the greatest moments of my academic career," Uri says.

Those kinds of meaningful experiences with St. Olaf didn't end after Uri graduated. "When Solveig retired, I received an envelope from the college," he explains. "Inside was a paper I had written while studying with her — it was one of those St. Olaf moments."

Uri finds that such "St. Olaf moments" are in abundance in the years since he left the Hill. That includes his friendship with Katherine Kroeger '99, who resides in Seattle, the city where Uri also lives and where he works for Alaska Seafood Marketing.

"When Katherine moved to [Seattle], she brought me back into the St. Olaf world," he says. A member of the Alumni Board herself, Kroeger encouraged Uri to get involved with planning alumni activities. With Kroeger's four-year term coming to an end, he soon realized he had a wonderful opportunity to continue with the board by joining it himself.

Uri will serve as an advocate for the Seattle chapter of the Alumni Board, representing alumni in the Pacific Northwest. While he looks forward to engaging this vibrant community of Oles, he has personal goals as well: "I hope to encourage my friends who were in the Paracollege to come back to St. Olaf and see what great work the college is doing. After my first meeting this past November, I am thrilled and honored to be a part of the board."

SAMANTHA JO BOTZ '14 is majoring in English and history.



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The Return of the Sword

WWII Veteran Orval Amdahl '42 returns a Japanese sword to the family of its original owner.

By Caren Stelson | PHOTOS BY KYLE WHITNEY

“Can I show you something?” Orval Amdahl asked. It was a September afternoon in 2012, and I had just finished interviewing the 93-year-old St. Olaf alum, a former World War II Marine artillery captain. He had given me two hours of his time. Now he headed up the stairs of his home, returning with a four-foot-long samurai sword, a *katana*, sheathed in worn, brown leather. He slid the blade out of the scabbard. Razor sharp, the sword gleamed.

“I’ve been cleaning this sword for sixty-seven years,” he said. Clearly, Orval had more to tell me.

Orval had been one of the GIs to first enter the bombed city of Nagasaki after Japan’s surrender in World War II. I found his name in the Minnesota History Center’s “Greatest Generation” database and had been eager to interview him for a book project set in the Japanese city.

A native son of Lanesboro, Minnesota, Orval had grown up on a farm not far from the Victorian house on the bluffs where he and his wife, Marie, still live. In 1938, he entered St. Olaf and majored in biology, but as the war in Europe deepened, he decided to enlist in the Marine Corps. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Orval was called up for duty. He graduated from St. Olaf, then headed to Quantico, Virginia, for Officers Candidate School.

For thirty-one months, Orval fought with antiaircraft field artillery in the campaigns for Guadalcanal, Russell Islands, Eniwetok, Marshall Islands, and Saipan. By the beginning of August 1945, Orval’s ship carrying the 2nd Marine Division was on its way toward Nagasaki as part of the Allied invasion of Japan.

Suddenly the ship stopped. “We knew there was something big [going on], but didn’t know the truth about the bombs,” says Orval. The 2nd Marine Division disembarked at Nagasaki three weeks later. Orval still struggles to describe the utter devastation of the flattened city, a vacant landscape of dust and rubble. He recalls that “eight-foot apartment buildings had just steel pipes going up. Anything organic was ashes.”

Now, nearly six decades later, he stood before me with a reminder of that time: the sword in his hands.

Orval explained that after a few weeks in Nagasaki, he had orders to head north to Omura. One day before he left the city, Orval’s quartermaster nodded toward a warehouse and told Orval to go in and find “a souvenir.” Inside were mounds confiscated Japanese weapons. Near the top of an eight-foot pile of swords, Orval spotted “a beauty, a work of art,” he says. With full permission from the U.S. Marine Corp, Orval brought it home.



Top photo: Orval Amdahl showed the sword to President Harry S. Truman’s grandson, Clifton Truman Daniel. Middle and Lower: Amdahl, 94, returns the sword to Tadahiyo Motomura, 68, the son of its original owner, before embracing him as a “brother.”

Athletics Hall of Fame Welcomes Six Oles

St. Olaf inducted six alumni into its Athletics Hall of Fame during Homecoming, including Chris Daymont, women's cross country and track and field head coach, and her daughter Megan Daymont Thomas '03, who was a star runner at St. Olaf. The duo is believed to be the only mother-daughter pair to be inducted into an athletics hall of fame on the same day at the same institution.

THE INDUCTEES

Chris Daymont has been at St. Olaf for 33 seasons. She coached women's track and field for 29 of those seasons and has led the women's cross country program each season in her tenure. Under her leadership, the Oles have won nine MIAC titles in cross country and have made 20 NCAA appearances.

Megan Daymont Thomas '03 was a six-time All-America runner in indoor and outdoor track and field and cross country. She was a six-time captain and team MVP, and qualified for the NCAAs in all 12 seasons in which she competed.

Bruce Govig '80 is St. Olaf's all-time leading scorer in men's basketball and was a two-time All-MIAC honoree.

Adam Rice '91 was an All-America defenseman for the men's hockey program, collecting 70 points in 76 career games.

Cole Pinnow '96 is one of the most decorated swimmers in school history. He was a 13-time All-America honoree, was named honorable mention All-America eight times, and won 21 conference titles as a part of four MIAC championship teams.

Steve Ryan '02 was the MIAC's offensive player of the year in football as a junior. He earned three all-conference honors in both baseball and football. As a career .342 hitter in baseball, he helped St. Olaf win MIAC titles in each of his last three years.

A small block of wood dangled from the sword handle by a frayed, orange thread. It was a surrender I.D. tag, with Japanese characters written in black ink. "Someone told me the sword was from Nagasaki," Orval said.

The way he said those words, I couldn't help wondering out loud, "If you found the family, what would you do?" Without hesitation, Orval said, "I want to give this sword back in peace, with honor.

As a member of the St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee, I had friends in Nagasaki who might be willing to help. I sent photos of the sword and tag to Fumiko Yamaguchi, vice president of the Nagasaki-St. Paul Sister City Committee. Twenty-four hours later, Fumiko had found the family of the sword's original owner. It belonged to the father of a man named Tadahiro Motomura, president of the *Nagasaki Newspaper*.

Orval wrote Tadahiro explaining how he found the sword, and his desire to know the original owners. Tadihiro said he had recognized his father's handwriting on the tag and his grandfather's name, Tadasaku Motomura, which appeared on the tag as head of household. During the war, Tadahiro's father had fought in Burma and China. Like many veterans, he had shared little about his war experiences before his death in 1986. Tadahiro had been too young to ever have seen the sword, but he vividly remembered his mother's stories about it. Yes, he told Orval, he would like the sword back. What's more, he would travel to Minnesota with his wife and two sons to personally thank Orval for his faithful care of the sword.

...

On September 21, 2013, the International Day of Peace, more than 300 people packed an auditorium at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory in St. Paul. The unsheathed sword and its scabbard rested on a traditional Japanese sword rack in front of the podium; flags of the United States and Japan stood guard, and *shakuhachi*, traditional Japanese flute music, gently filled the room.

A line of guest speakers faced the audience: St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee President JoAnn Blatchley, St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, Honorary Consul General of Japan at Minneapolis Mirja Hanson, and Clifton Truman Daniel, author and grandson of President Harry Truman. Each had prepared greetings to the Amdahl and Motomura families. When it was Orval's turn to speak, the room hushed.

"*Ohayo*. Good morning." Orval smiled at Tadahiro Motomura — his "brother," Orval had called him. He paused. He had not prepared words in advance because he wanted to feel the emotions of the room and speak from the heart. "It's with my heartfelt thoughts and actions that I wish to return the sword to Motomura," he said. Then, with the help of his two sons, Orval slipped the blade into the scabbard for the last time and presented the sword to Tadahiro Motomura. Holding back tears, Orval reached out and embraced his "brother."

In that moment of embrace, Orval captured the true meaning of peace, reconciliation, and friendship. Just as he had first showed me the sword, he now showed all of us something the world needs most: honesty, empathy, understanding, and a deep desire for peace.

CAREN STELSON is a Twin Cities writer and the Return of the Sword project coordinator with JoAnn Blatchley, president of the St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Chris Daymont and Megan Daymont Thomas '03, Cole Pinnow '96, Adam Rice '91, Steve Ryan '02, Assistant Athletic Director Mike Ludwig '03 with Bruce Govig '80.

class notes

1939

Brynhild Rowberg was inducted into the St. Olaf Phi Beta Kappa (Delta chapter) in November during a ceremony at the home of President **David R. Anderson '74**. She was initiated into the organization because of her long career in the Foreign Service, her outstanding lifelong achievements,



and the fact that she graduated before St. Olaf even had a PBK chapter, notes Professor of Social Work and PBK President **Mary Serine Carlsen '79**. Brynhild will celebrate her 75th class reunion at St. Olaf next summer.

1943

Keith Textor first graduated from St. Olaf in 1943, but after flying airplanes for the Navy during WWII, he wasn't sure what he wanted to do with the rest of his life. He returned to St. Olaf for an additional semester in 1946 and formed the Honey Dreamers, a vocal group consisting of "two gals



and three guys, singing pop tunes with unusual harmonizations, a talented group of good people." After graduation, Keith and lead singer

Sylvia Mikelson '47 were married, and the group went first to Chicago and then to New York City, where they performed in nightclubs and on various radio and television shows like CBS's *Faye Emerson's Wonderful Town* and *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Keith and Sylvia eventually struck out on their own in New York, singing as a duo on *The Fred Waring Show* and then joining *Your Show of Shows* with Sid Caesar and Imogene Coca. Keith writes: "Anxious to come home at night to our family, like normal people, we [then] formed a production company

called Scott-Textor Productions. For the next 30 years, we used our talents to keep active and make a good living, writing and producing television and radio commercials. I was busy as a conductor, composer, arranger, and singer [for] 'Fly the Friendly Skies,' the *Candid Camera* theme, and hundreds of others." Keith and Sylvia happily retired to Palm Desert, California, in 1986. "It was a very different musical path, and it all began at St. Olaf."

1952

Robert Tengdin and his wife, **Dorothy Halvorson Tengdin '51**, competed in tennis at the Senior Olympics, held in Cleveland at the end of July. Dorothy was fourth in women's 80 doubles; Bob lost in the finals of the men's 80 doubles. He writes: "Dorothy and I hope to qualify for and play together in the 85 mixed doubles when it is held in Bloomington, Minn., in 2015. I was happy to finish second in Cleveland and at the Masters Alpine Ski Championship (in my age group) at Big Sky, Montana. Work-wise, I [have stepped down from] my position of CEO at Allison-Williams but will continue as chairman of the firm I joined in 1952 shortly after graduating from St. Olaf."

1954

Rev. **Jim Went**e writes that he especially enjoyed the article "Bearing Witness" in the Fall issue of *St. Olaf Magazine*, noting that his own Lutheran cousins operate the well-known Went Winery, established in 1883 in Livermore, California.

1961

Bob Algoe writes, "There is a bike ride across Iowa every year, the RAGBRAI (Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa), that ranges from 400 to 500 miles. Three 1961 Oles have enjoyed this ride for many years. **Robert Netteland** has ridden 18 of the 41 RAGBRAIs, **Darla Boesch Algoe** has ridden 24 of the rides, and I have ridden 29 of them. Darla and I have decided that doing this bike ride for so many years only means that we must have strong legs and must not be too smart."

1962

Virg Foss writes, "There were 10 of us from the 1960 and 1961 Midwest Conference championship football team on campus for our annual reunion during [last September's] St. Olaf-Northwestern football game. Our teams were honored on the field [during] St. Olaf football games in 2010 and 2011 in celebration of the 50th anniversary of those

titles. It's pretty special when teammates of more than 50 years can carry that bond forward. Um! Yah! Yah! indeed." In addition to participating in the reunion, **Jack Rajala '61** and **Dave Hindermann** enjoyed catching up with Ole legend Coach Bob Gelle at the pre-game lunch. **Ann Mickelson Gallon**, who photographed the 1960-61 football reunion at St. Olaf, adds, "Part of the charm for me in this mini-reunion of players is that my father, **Harold Mickelson '31**, was on the Championship Undefeated St. Olaf team in 1930.



Pictured above are members of the Midwest Conference championship teams of 1960 and 1961, bottom row (L-R): **Gene Knutson '63**, **Jim Bloedel '62**, and **Tom Everson '62**; top row (L-R): **Bill Greenslit '61**, **Harold Christensen '62**, **Virg Foss '62**, **Ken DeFor '61**, **Dave Hindermann '62**, St. Olaf President **David R. Anderson '74**, and **Jack Rajala '61**. Also attending, but not pictured, was **Dave Norman '61**.

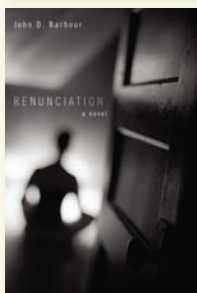
1965

Following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963, **Gretchen Farwell Lundstrom** wrote a letter of condolence to Jacqueline Kennedy. When her letter, one of thousands, was selected for inclusion in *Letters to Jackie: Condolences*



from a Grieving Nation (2010), Gretchen thought that was the end of it — until last year when she received a phone call from Academy Award-winning filmmaker Bill Couturie, who had been commissioned by The Learning Channel to make a documentary about *Letters to Jackie*. The documentary included Gretchen's letter, read by an actress and shown against black and white footage of the St. Olaf campus, and aired nationally on the 50th anniversary of JFK's assassination. Gretchen is still marveling at the resurfacing of her "tiny pebble" 50 years after she penned her heartfelt letter. ■

ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATIONS The St. Olaf Office of Alumni and Parent Relations currently is accepting nominations for alumni who should be considered for awards in the following categories: Distinguished Alumni Award, Alumni Achievement Award, Distinguished Service Award, and Graduate of the Last Decade. Learn more by visiting my.stolaf.edu/alumni (click on *Alumni Awards*).



NEW BOOKS BY ST. OLAF ALUMNI AND FACULTY

Simon Peter's Denial and Jesus' Commissioning Him as His Successor in John 21:15-19: Studies in Their Judaic Background (Studies in Judaism series), (University Press of America, 2013), by **Roger David Aus '62** (amazon.com)

Planning Chicago (American Planners Press, 2013), by **Jon DeVries '66** and D. Bradford Hunt (amazon.com, wipfandstock.com)

Isaiah Speaks: A Voice from the Past for the Present and **Psalms for Troubled Times** (Resource Publications, Wipf and Stock Pub., 2012), by **Merrill Morse '70** (amazon.com)

The Greek House: The Story of a Painter's Love Affair with the Island of Sifnos (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013), by **Christian Peltenburg-Brechneff '72** with Tim Lovejoy (amazon.com, thegreekhousesifnos.com, christianbrechneff.com)

Channel Zilch (Panverse Publishing LLC, 2013), by **Doug Sharp '75** (amazon.com)

The Wide Awake Loons (Silver Knight Publishing, LLC, 2013), **The Swan Bonnet** (Enigma Press, 2013), and **Curiosity Killed the Sphinx and Other Stories** (Hollywood Books International, 2012), by **Katherine Holmes '76** (amazon.com)

Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation (Fortress Press, 2013), by **Cynthia Moe-Lobeda '76** (amazon.com)

Bite This Book (Mirror Publishing, 2013), by **Lony Ruhmann '78** (barnesandnoble.com, amazon.com)

International Conflict Over Water Resources in Himalayan Asia (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), by **Daniel Stoll '82**, Robert G. Wirsing, and Christopher Jasparro (amazon.com)

Nights I Dreamed of Hubert Humphrey (Outpost 19 Books, 2013), by **Daniel Mueller '85** (amazon.com)

Exotic Gothic 4 and Exotic Gothic 5 (PS Publishing, England, 2013), by **Danel Olson '87** (amazon.com, www.pspublishing.co.uk)

Restored to Earth: Christianity, Environmental Ethics and Ecological Restoration (Georgetown University Press, 2013), by **Gretel Van Wieren '93** (amazon.com)

Chasing the Moon (North Star Press of St. Cloud, 2013), by **Carolyn Boehlke Youngbauer '01** (barnesandnoble.com, amazon.com)

Divine Multiplicity: Trinities, Diversities, and the Nature of Relation, eds. Chris Boesel and Wesley Ariarajah (Fordham University Press, 2013), contributing writer **Jacob Erickson '06** (amazon.com)

Renunciation (Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2013), by St. Olaf Professor of Religion **John D. Barbour** (wipfandstock.com, amazon.com)

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

Caroljean Nickerson Newell writes, "Each having survived cancer, these Oles celebrated by participating in the Forest City, Iowa, Relay for Life last summer." Pictured below with Caroljean (right) are **Leah Johnson Boyd, Neil Boyd, and Ron Newell '66**.

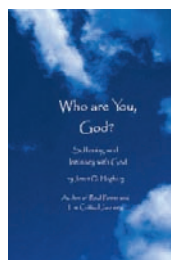


■ **Steve Larson** is releasing his first album, produced by his son Nick Jacobson-Larson, and

featuring many old friends and family members, including his daughter, Rachel Sage. Steve says that music is in his blood: his parents, Dick Larson and Borgney Meium, and his grandparents, Frida Giere and Olof Larson, were St. Olaf graduates, and all of them were members of the St. Olaf Choir. Friends can learn more about Steve's debut album at kickstarter.com.

1968

Janet Olson Hagberg has published *Who Are You, God? Suffering and Intimacy with God*. Friends can find the book on amazon.com, and can learn much more about the author on her web site, janethagberg.com.



1973

Rick Esse was promoted to vice president and senior communications counselor at Neuger Communications Group. Rick serves as team leader for several local and regional accounts in the heavy equipment, agriculture, manufacturing, and financial services industries.

1975

Gary Briggie writes, "In an effort to stay at home more, now that Wendy (Lehr, actress/director) has 'retired,' I've curbed my regional theater/opera travels, and am 're-inventing' my career in the Twin Cities." Gary's recent Twin Cities performances included *Urinetown*, *Hamlet*, *Dial M For Murder*, *Cinderella* (with Wendy) at the Ordway Performing Arts Center, and a "bucket list" experience of playing the Fool in *King Lear* at Park Square Theatre. Gary adds, "I will conclude my teaching stint at the St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists this year, as chairman of the music-theater department. In the coming season I'll make my debut at the History Theatre in *Baby Case* (about the Lindbergh kidnapping) and direct *Hansel & Gretel* (and appear as the Witch) for Dayton Opera. I'm always so impressed to find talented young Oles among my colleagues, delighted to meet Oles in the audience, and feel truly blessed to continue to find fulfilling work as a performing artist in the fields of music and theater, for which I was so well-prepared at St. Olaf."

1976

Michael Devine flew from Newcastle upon Tyne, England, to Oslo, Norway, to attend the opening concert of the St. Olaf Choir's 2013 Norway Centennial Tour at the Oslo Concert Hall last spring. Michael is an associate tenant of Magdalen Barristers' Chambers in Exeter, England, and continues as senior lecturer in law at the University of Northumbria at Newcastle School of Law, Newcastle upon Tyne, England.

1978

Jeannine Lee, a Leonard, Street and Deinard shareholder, was selected as one of the Top 50 Women Minnesota Super Lawyers for 2013. She serves as national counsel in product liability cases across the country and in Minnesota for manufacturers of products ranging from gas valves to alarm systems and components to pharmaceuticals.



1981

Vilis Inde has published *The Golden Horse by Rainis: A Translation of Zelta Zirgs*. Vilis writes, "The underlying story was written in 1909, after the defeat of the 1905 Revolution and before Latvia's Independence of 1918. This is an English translation of one of the most important pieces of Latvian literature." Friends can find it on amazon.com.

1983

David LaRochelle writes, "2013 was a good year for me with the publication of three new children's picture books: *How Martha Saved Her Parents from Green Beans*; *Moo!*; and (after working as an author and illustrator for 25 years), the first book where I've been able to create both the words and artwork, *Arlo's ART-rageous Adventure!*"



1985

Daniel Mueller, who has taught on the creative writing faculty of the University of New Mexico since 2001 and now directs its creative writing program, has had his second collection of 11 short fiction stories released by Outpost 19 Books.

1987

Danel Olson's *Exotic Gothic 4* won the Shirley Jackson Award for Best Edited Anthology last July, and in August it was named as one of five nominees for the World Fantasy Award in the anthology category. Danel also has released *Exotic Gothic 5*, a two-volume set of all-new dark fiction from writers of ten nations, including one author he says he remembers chilling over in his St. Olaf English classes, Joyce Carol Oates.



1990

Timothy Cofer has been named executive vice president and president, Asia Pacific and Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa for Mondeléz International, a world leader in chocolate, cookies, gum, candy, coffee, and powdered beverages, with billion-dollar brands such as Cadbury, Nabisco, and Oreo cookies. In his new role, Tim will relocate from Zurich to Singapore at some point in the near future. ■ Twin Cities lawyer **Leslie Pitt Schneider** has become the public face of a Twin Cities-based organization that has been heavily involved with helping the victims of the April 15 Boston Marathon bombing. Members of the Wiggle



Your Toes Foundation, which provides support to people who have lost limbs, have been making trips to Boston to offer both moral support and practical assistance. Their mission is to provide the victims with whatever they need, be it a shoulder to cry on or experience to call upon. Having lost her left leg in an accident as a child, Leslie felt compelled to reach out to the Boston victims. "For me, life with limb loss has been a gift," Leslie said in a recent interview with the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. "I've learned that life is about using that which could limit you to make your life limitless." Friends can read the article at startribune.com/life-style/relationship/220392811.html.

1991

Beth Pesonen Burns has joined the staff of the Minnesota Zoo as chief external relations officer, overseeing marketing and sales, public relations, education, and government affairs for the zoo. ■ **Ted Koland** wrote and directed the independent feature film *Best Man Down*, starring Justin Long. ■ **Ann Pibal** was selected by DeCordova



Sculpture Park and Museum as the 14th recipient of the Rappaport Prize, which annually awards \$25,000 to a contemporary artist with ties to New England. Ann's work has been widely exhibited at venues in the United States and Europe, and is in the permanent collections of several major museums, including the Smithsonian Institute, the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and the Yale University Art Gallery. Ann has been a professor of painting and drawing at Bennington College in Vermont since 1998.

1994

Lousene Hoppe was recently elected one of 16 new shareholders of the Minneapolis-based law firm of Fredrikson & Byron. She represents corporations and individuals accused of health care fraud, financial or tax crimes, and criminal felony and misdemeanor cases at both the state and federal levels.

1996

Megan Becher, a shareholder of McGeady Sisneros PC, a special district and real estate law firm based in Denver, was appointed by Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper to serve a four-year term on the Colorado Municipal Bond Supervision Advisory Board.

2000

Erin O'Donnell Dotzler, director of public, practice, and scientific affairs at the American Academy of Periodontology, was named one of the "Forty Under 40" association executives by the Association Forum of Chicagoland and *USAE*, the weekly newspaper of associations.

2001

Christina Moses recently graduated from general surgery residency at Hennepin County Medical Center. She, her husband, **Ross MacMullan '02**, and their three boys have relocated to Hutchinson, Minn., where Christina will work at Hutchinson Medical Center as a general surgeon.

2002

Lynn Hofstad graduated with a Ph.D. in Systematic and Philosophical Theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif., and is now teaching at Seattle University. ■ **Jessica Leibfried** is the new music education coordinator for the Perpich Center for Arts Education's professional development group. The Perpich Center is a state agency serving all school districts in Minnesota, which seeks to advance K-12 education by teaching in and through the arts. Jessica specializes in elementary music education and has taught in Hong Kong, Japan, and several districts in the state of Minnesota.



2005

Matt Nienow was recently awarded the prestigious Ruth Lilly Poetry fellowship from *Poetry* magazine and the Poetry Foundation. Friends can read the announcement and also link to some of Matt's most recently published work at poetryfoundation.org/foundation/prizes_fellowship. ■ **Anna Sundberg**



and **Emanuel Ardeleanu '02** appeared recently in the Guthrie Theater's production of *Pride and Prejudice*, with Anna playing one of the leads opposite *Mad Men*'s Vincent Kartheiser.

2006

Jacob Erickson joined the St. Olaf religion faculty this year as a visiting instructor, teaching *Introduction to Religion*. He has been working on religion and environmentalism lately following his time at Yale and is also finishing up his Ph.D. in theology and climate change at Drew University.

2010

Taylor Brorby writes, "This year I will be at Holden Village as their first-ever, full-time writer in residence, working on the village's next book. In addition to this, I have been awarded a \$20,000 grant by the North Dakota Humanities Council to teach creative writing in the Bakken oil field, where much of the country's shale fracking is taking place."

■ **Sarah Jacobson** and **Katherine Zimmermann** successfully summited Mt. Kilimanjaro as part of a fundraiser for local Tanzanian schools. More than \$5,000 was raised for the Augustine Perfect Secondary School and the Maji Moto Primary School.



■ **Linnea Logas** and her husband, **Ross Stirratt**, have opened a food truck business in the Twin Cities area that emphasizes sustainability by using organic, local ingredients and serving a menu with plenty of vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options. The name of the truck is the Moral Omnivore (or "MO"), and their tag line is "ethical eats, from bacon to beets." Linnea is simultaneously working toward her master's degree in marriage and family therapy. Friends can find the Moral Omnivore on Facebook.

2011

Summer DeNaples Gaasedelen is working at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, where one of her many tasks involves organizing and proofing their version of alumni class notes. ■ **Owen Gaasedelen** is a graduate assistant for Iowa Testing Programs and continues to work toward his Ph.D. in counseling/psychology at the University of Iowa. ■ **John Hartzheim** and **Natalie Warren** recently participated in Paddle Forward, an expedition organized by the nonprofit Wild River Academy. From mid-September to late November, 10 young adults and a videographer paddled the Mississippi River from Itasca, Minn., to New Orleans, creating a video documentary about watershed communities and their relationship to the mighty Mississippi.



2012

After attending the University of Denver Publishing Institute last summer, **Alexandra Garrett** moved to New York City to start a fall editorial internship at Oxford University Press (OUP). After that, she was hired by W.H. Freeman (a higher education imprint of Macmillan Publishers) as an editorial assistant. When asked by the assistant editor of the Classics/Ancient



History list at OUP to recommend candidates for an internship, Alexi emailed St. Olaf humanities faculty, alerting students to the opportunity. Happily, **Kaitlin Coats '13** was selected as the fall editorial intern. "I recognize the importance of the St. Olaf alumni network in making connections for past, present, and future students, and I was delighted to help one student gain a real-world internship in New York City," writes Alexi, who is applying to graduate schools. Kaitlin has now accepted a permanent position at OUP as the editorial assistant for the Philosophy and Religion list in the higher education group.

2013

Phil Beardsley-Schoonmaker is working with Green Corps, the nonprofit field school for environmental organizing, as a Green Corps field organizer. Phil writes: "It's a one-year program within the Public Interest Network that trains recent college grads in the skills we need to fight and win campaigns for the environment, gives us hands-on experience running campaigns in the field, and helps to connect us with jobs in the social change movement afterward. Right now, I'm running a campaign in Columbus, Ohio, to build congressional support for parts of the President's Climate Action Plan, which would reduce CO₂ emissions from new and existing power plants starting in 2016." Phil is excited about his Green Corps experience and is getting the word out about the many opportunities offered by Green Corps. Fellow Ole **Ryan Doyle '09** is also working with Green Corps as an assistant organizing director. Friends can learn more at greencorps.org. ■ **Julie Fergus** is the new marketing assistant for the Science and Clinical Medicine titles at Oxford University Press. Julie attended the New York University Publishing Institute last summer.

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future oles

Angela and Brett Perry '91, a son, Brayden
Tiffany Prow '96 and Nick Gay, a son, Harrison
Kris Boback Hoplin '03 and Nels Hoplin '03, a daughter, Alexandria
Breia Euteneuer Schleuss '03 and Benjamin Schleuss '03, a daughter, Maren
Kelly and Megan Techam Swanson '03, a daughter, Elsa
Christie Larson '04 and Marc Hosmer '04, a son, Hudson
Lisa Schaus Barker '06 and Timothy Barker '06, a son, Caleb
Heidi Youngren Lund '07 and Trevor Lund '04, a son, Bennett

deaths

Philip M. Peterson '33, Edina, Minn., Nov. 7, 2013
Lilias Werner Opie '38, Minneapolis, June 22, 2013
Arthur Breven '39, Des Moines, Iowa, July 6, 2013
*LeRoy Johnson '39, Robbinsdale, Minn., June 12, 2013
Astri Larson Hildahl '39, Spokane, Wash., July 7, 2013
Helen Mohn Fauskin '39, Fargo, N.D., July 6, 2013
Brunhild "Bunny" Tetlie Sather '40, Salem, Ore., Oct. 29, 2013
Arno W. Windsor '40, Tucson, Ariz., Dec. 4, 2012
Lillian Ingebrigtsen Jacobson '41, Northfield, Minn., June 25, 2013
Blanche Guenther Anderson '42, Cataract, Wis., June 30, 2013
*Harold Heiberg '43, Denton, Texas, June 17, 2013
Neal S. Johnson '44, Kerrville, Texas, Aug. 24, 2013
*Richard Copperud '47, Bernal Heights, Calif., June 20, 2013
LaVonne Ersland Prieb '47, Webster, S.D., July 6, 2013
*Allen Tuftee '47, Beloit, Wis., June 18, 2013
Tridean Wood Cox '48, Joplin, Mo., June 27, 2013
Mary Baird Carlsen '50, Walla Walla, Wash., July 4, 2013
Dorothy Gilbertson Olson '50, Carlos, Minn., July 12, 2013
Marion Lund Bunge '50, Greensboro, N.C., July 4, 2013
*Charles Anderson '51, St. Paul, Minn., June 14, 2013
Catherine Lindeberg Meyer '52, Lincolnshire, Ill., May 10, 2013
*Paul Anderson '54, Bloomington, Minn., July 19, 2013
Barbara Corcoran Davidson '54, Onalaska, Wis., May 27, 2013
*John R. Julsrud '54, Alexandria, Minn., July 26, 2013
*Lowell Mason '54, Henderson, N.C., June 15, 2013
Elizabeth Booker Schellenberg '55, Virginia Beach, Va., July 3, 2013
Robert Olson '55, Haslett, Mich., May 1, 2013
Carolyn Olson Canfield '55, St. Paul, Minn., July 17, 2013
Faith Dahlen Johnson '57, Richville, Minn., July 15, 2013
*Donald Nordmeier '57, Morristown, Minn., June 30, 2013
*Harold Hoese '59, Minneapolis, July 6, 2013
Joyce Bloedel Anderson '61, Edina, Minn., June 19, 2013
*Stephen Berglund '63, Milaca, Minn., July 12, 2013
Dennis Anderson '64, Rochester, Minn., July 13, 2013
Alan Gongaware '64, Woodruff, Wis., July 13, 2013
Ronald McKinley '71, St. Paul, Minn., July 21, 2013
Peter Huber '76, New York, N.Y., May 7, 2012
* Veteran

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

Jennifer Anderson Koenig '87

The Reverend Jennifer Anderson Koenig '87, who served as associate pastor at St. Olaf for more than 15 years before going on medical leave in April 2012 to receive treatments for brain cancer, died September 20, 2013, at the age of 47.



Jennifer grew up in Geneva, Illinois, and attended Geneva High School, where she served as class president for three years, was a member of the National Honor Society, competed in the Illinois State Track and Field Championships, and was active in many school programs.

She had a love for dance and choreography, which led her to major in dance at St. Olaf. After graduating, she pursued a career in the arts. For three years, she performed with a professional modern dance company, Ballet Harren, before being called to the ministry. In 1994, she earned her master of divinity degree from Luther Seminary, where she served for three years on the dance and fine arts committee.

Jennifer served in parish ministry in West Des Moines, Iowa, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church before returning to St. Olaf in 1997 as the college's associate pastor. She described the St. Olaf position as her "dream call," and devoted herself to leading campus worship, preaching, and counseling students. "One of her greatest strengths was her sincere willingness to sit down and have a meaningful conversation at any time with anyone," says longtime colleague and retired St. Olaf Pastor Bruce Benson. "She took a genuine interest in people's lives, and that endeared her to so many."

Jennifer worked with a variety of departments across campus, from the arts to the sciences. However, her enduring legacy rests in the many personal relationships she developed with students and faculty over the years. One of the spaces in Regents Hall of Natural and Mathematical Sciences is named in her honor as a gift from parents of a former student. In addition, several musical pieces, either commissioned by parents of former students, friends of the college, or friends of Jennifer, have been composed and performed in her honor.

Active in the community as well as on campus, Jennifer mentored high school students, helped lead the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Malaria Campaign, and actively organized neighborhood gatherings so that new neighbors could meet new friends.

Jennifer loved poetry and the arts and had a zeal for life. In everything she encountered, she saw beauty, profundity, and the opportunity to ask more questions. Her smile was luminous, and her laugh was full-bodied, endearing, and infectious. She loved to celebrate God’s creation in — and with — others.

Jennifer is survived by her husband, David, and their children, Anders and Sylvia; her father, John Anderson; her sister, Karla Boucek; and many other relatives and friends.

Alice M. Hanson

Professor of Music Alice Hanson, who shared her passion for music history with students for more than three decades, died unexpectedly on October 11, 2013, at the age of 64.

Hanson was “a stickler for precision, whose students saw her as brilliant — and terrifying, too,” notes a *Star Tribune* story in memory of her [startribune.com/local/229634731.html]. “She relished being a tough music history professor at St. Olaf College in Northfield, where she was loud, legendary, and now, deeply missed.”



Hanson earned a bachelor’s degree from Wells College in Aurora, New York, and a master’s and Ph.D. in musicology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, with additional studies at Austria’s Universität der Stadt Wien. She began her teaching career at Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music, during which time she was the program annotator for the Houston Symphony.

Hanson joined the St. Olaf faculty in 1982. She taught a broad range of courses, from introductory-level music history to the arts of Japan and the U.S.S.R., as well as many courses on genres and seminars on specific composers. She was deeply respected by countless students, each of whom she held to the highest academic standards.

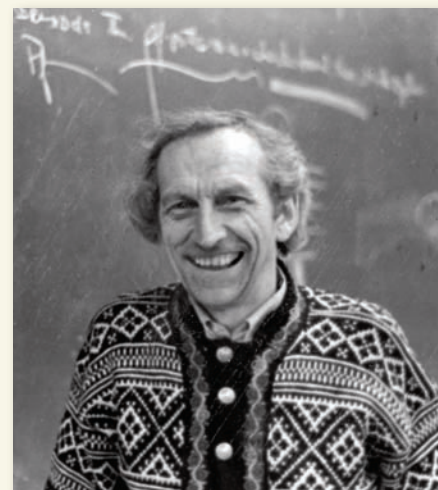
Hanson’s academic expertise focused on the music of Vienna, from the 18th to 20th centuries, but she also had interests in opera and American music. She documented one of her major research interests, the life and works of Franz Schubert in the context of the politics and economics of Biedermeier Vienna, in her book, *Musical Life in Biedermeier Vienna*. She also published articles in *Music and Letters*, *Anterem*, and the *Oxford Biographical Dictionary of Music*.

She received numerous grants, including two from the Fulbright-Hays Program for study in Vienna, and was a member of the American Musicological Society and the Fulbright Alumni Association. She also presented lectures to the Classical Philadelphia Orchestra, the Aston Magna Academy at Rutgers University, Westminster Choir College, and Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis.

Paul Fjelstad ‘51

Paul Fjelstad was the only Ole ever to graduate with majors and departmental honors in five fields of study: physics, mathematics, chemistry, German, and philosophy. He went on to earn his doctorate at Harvard University. Joining the St. Olaf faculty in 1967, Fjelstad served as an associate professor of natural sciences until retiring in 1988.

As a professor and scholar, he creatively applied the science of mathematics to all facets of human life. He was also one of the founding members of the Paracollege, a tutorial program that offered an alternative to the structured liberal arts curriculum. Fjelstad died in Northfield, Minnesota, on December 3, 2013, at the age of 84.



John Treon

John Treon served as an assistant professor of history at St. Olaf before serving in the college’s administration. He earned his bachelor’s degree at Lambuth University, his master’s degree at the University of Arkansas, and his Ph.D. at the University of Virginia.



Joining the St. Olaf faculty in 1968, Treon left in 1974 to work in the financial industry but returned to the college in 1984 to serve as the registrar. In 1997 he was appointed the director of academic events and

alumni abroad programs at St. Olaf. In that role, he coordinated major public ceremonies, including Commencement, Honors Day, and the Peace Prize Forum. He also worked to create new academic outreach services, such as study abroad programs for alumni and friends of the college. He retired from St. Olaf in 1999. Treon died on November 23, 2013. He was 73.

The \$3.2 Million-Dollar Question

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

“Are you all set, St. Olaf?” asked Allen Ludden, host of *The G.E. College Bowl*, a nationally televised weekly quiz show on CBS during the 1960s. In unison, four clean-cut St. Olaf students — first-year student Georganne Rentas, sophomores Paul Farseth and John Mathiason, and senior Richard Toensing — responded with an exaggerated Norwegian inflection, “Yah, shuuure!”

The audience attending the May 27, 1962, taping of the event in New York’s Studio 52 erupted in laughter. Surely many of the estimated 22 million home viewers chuckled as well. This set the stage for a battle of minds between the Oles and the University of Tennessee Volunteers, confident winners of three previous matches.

The journey to *The G.E. College Bowl* began in early March when the show’s producers contacted members of the St. Olaf administration and requested that the college send four students to New York City to participate in the Bowl. The invitation gave St. Olaf the enviable opportunity to become the first Lutheran-affiliated college in the program’s four-year history. William “Bill” Narum ’43, professor of philosophy and religion, agreed to serve as coach of the team that had been determined through preliminary competitions involving as many as 45 students.

On Saturday, May 26, Narum and the four well-prepared St. Olaf students boarded a flight to New York. For some of them, this was their first visit to the Big Apple, with overnight accommodations provided at the luxurious Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

On Sunday morning, both the Oles and their opponents gathered at Studio 52 for practice sessions. Television host Ludden, well-educated with an M.A. in English, was described as a smooth, pleasant man whose voice had just a hint of a “crack-of-the-whip” quality. He explained the rules to the students: “Don’t glance at each other, don’t be sidetracked by emotional considerations. Guess if you don’t know. Try, don’t sit there with egg on your face. Don’t jump the gun, wait until your name is called. Listen to the question. Loud and Clear! Concentrate. Concentrate!”

At the start of the first 10-minute half, the Oles immediately took a commanding lead of 90–25 by answering questions that ranged from “In what general direction would you travel if you took a trip from the capital of Iraq to the capital of Iran?” to “What much-discussed novel begins with ...?” The University of Tennessee

Volunteers patiently fought their way back, answering questions about Shakespeare, Spanish artists, and what states border the Mississippi River. When the half-time whistle sounded, St. Olaf led 120–110.

With another whistle, the second 10-minute half commenced and both teams found success in answering questions like “During what war did Edward III of England proclaim himself King of France?” and “What writer described Great Britain as an island off the Dutch coast?” The final question, “What man was sued for divorce by his 27th wife?” presented something of a challenge.

Mathiason for St. Olaf buzzed in with a contemporary and

entertaining — but wrong — answer: “Tommy Manville, a playboy multimillionaire who had been married 13 times.” The audience, delighted with his response, laughed as the final whistle sounded. Unfortunately, the University of Tennessee ultimately defeated St. Olaf 250–220. The Oles received a consolation prize of a \$500 scholarship for the college and tied for the highest losing point total in the show’s history.

Within the next year, Vernon and Marie Gedge of Santa Rosa, California, a retired couple who had

no children, no affiliation with St. Olaf, and who, like millions of others, had watched *The G.E. College Bowl* segment that featured the Oles and the University of Tennessee Volunteers, contacted the college. Impressed by the students’ conduct on the program, even in defeat, the Gedges decided to gift St. Olaf with an astounding \$160,000.

Marie Gedge later explained, “We liked [the St. Olaf students] forthrightness. They were of good stock and good kids, and, too, we’ve always been interested in youngsters getting an education.” She added, “There was a quality of honesty in the St. Olaf group,” a quality that the Gedges had not detected in the other teams of students appearing on the program.

Over the next several decades, Vernon and Marie Gedge, motivated by their commitment to support St. Olaf students, built a lasting friendship with the college. The bulk of their estate, totaling more than \$3.2 million, was donated to the college upon Marie Gedge’s death in 1991 — one of the largest donations in the school’s history to date. 🐾



Oles Paul Farseth, John Mathiason, Georganne Rentas, and Richard Toensing faced off against a team from the University of Tennessee in *The G.E. College Bowl* in May, 1962

JEFF SAUVE is the associate archivist at the Shaw-Olson Center for College History. Share your own Um! Yah! Yah! story with him at sauve@stolaf.edu.



The Class of 2016
is preparing
for finals.



The Class of 2017
is taking shape.



The Class of 2018
is thinking about
where to apply.



The Class of 2019
is visiting campus.



The Class of 2020
is asking, "What's
Um! Yah! Yah!?!?"



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Thank you for giving by May 31.

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“ANNOUNCED BY ALL THE TRUMPETS
OF THE SKY, ARRIVES THE SNOW.”

— RALPH WALDO EMERSON



LET IT SNOW! As every Ole knows, winter can be magical on the Hill. For theater and political science major Tara Schaeffe '16, the holiday season and Interim is a special time, a “fun change of pace from the rest of the year.” While many students study off campus in early winter, those remaining on the Hill delve into a variety of activities, from art projects and science research to rehearsals for upcoming music tours to — in Tara’s case — the winter theater production of *The Skin of Our Teeth*. PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER