

WINTER 2015

ST. OLAF

MAGAZINE



GREAT
EXPECTATIONS

SMALL BUT
MIGHTY

OUR 140TH
ANNIVERSARY

ON THE COVER:

The St. Olaf campus is always beautiful, and winter brings a special kind of magic.

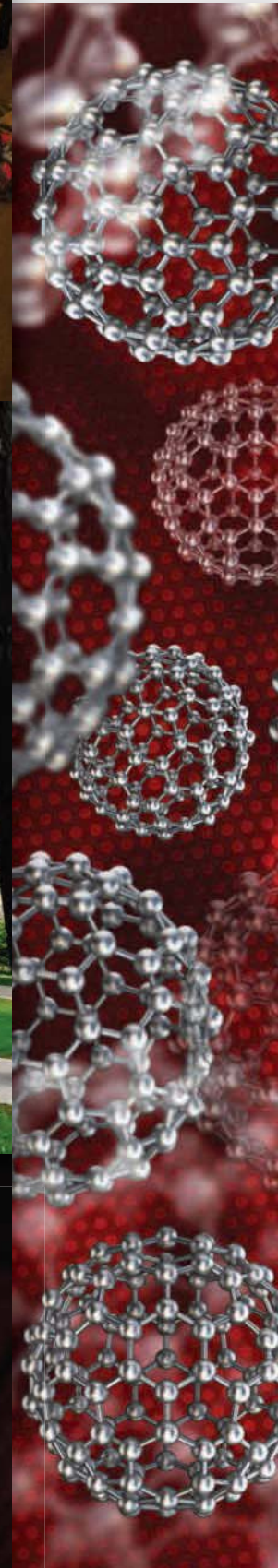
PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER



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St. Olaf has partnered with the Posse Foundation, a national leadership and college access program, to bring 10 of Chicago's top students to campus. With only a few months on the Hill behind them, St. Olaf's first posse reveals a group of smart, talented, and community-minded students poised for leadership.

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Author Nina McConigley '97 explores the rural immigrant experience in an award-winning collection of short stories.

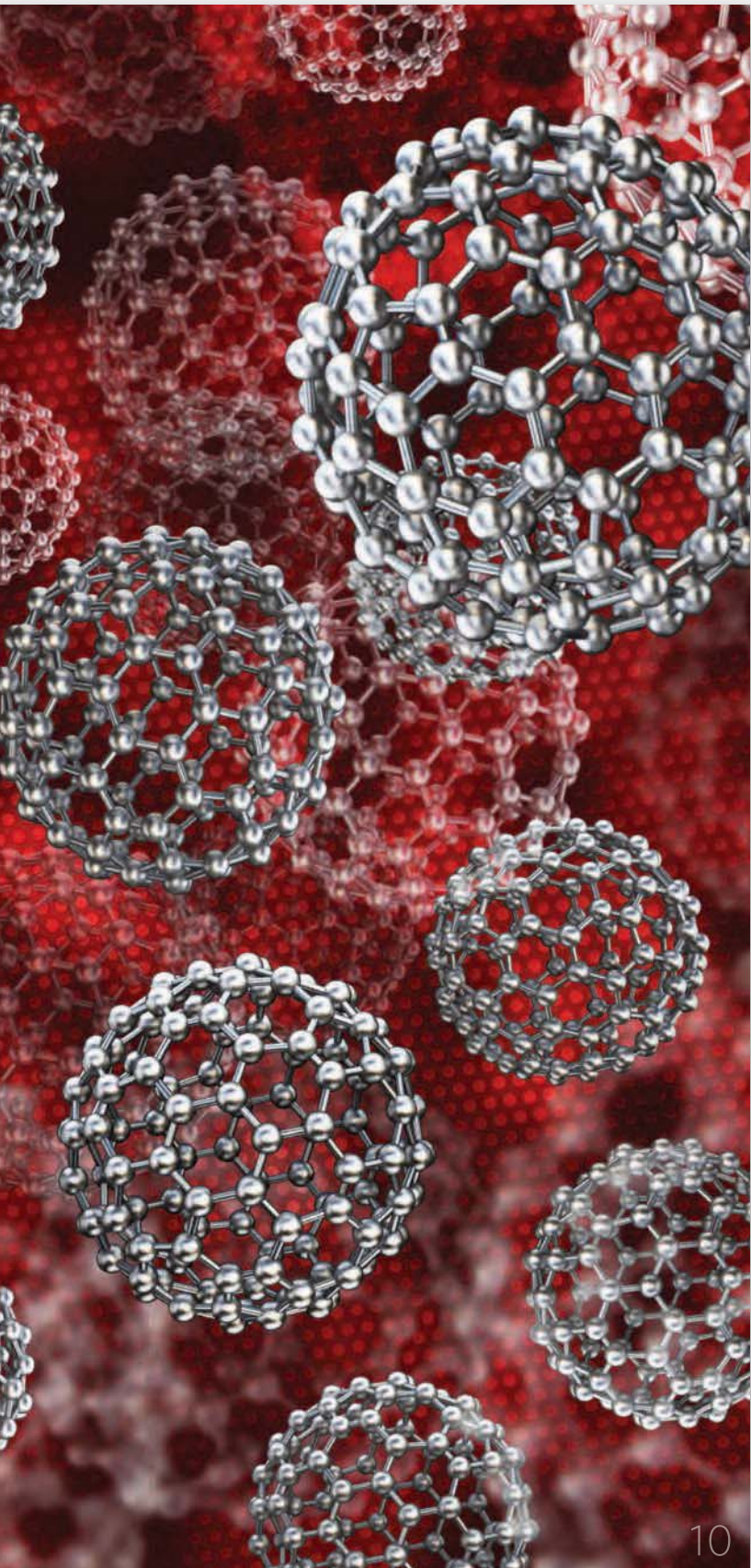
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FROM THE DESK OF
PRESIDENT DAVID R. ANDERSON '74



GREETINGS, OLES

In the short essay “St. Olaf at 140” in this issue of the magazine, I argue that “Thriving organizations develop and adapt in response to their environment and to the needs of the people they serve.”

This is more difficult than it sounds.

Part of the challenge is to correctly understand the environment. We must ask ourselves, “How much of what is happening around us is just noise, how much represents emerging trends that may or may not be sustained, and how much is real, substantive change that is happening to us and around us?” Overreact to every headline or every braying voice in the blogosphere, and you end up simply blowing around in the wind, untethered to any real identity or purpose. Underreact because of an incorrect reading of the environment or because you are in denial about the nature or direction of change, and you find yourself isolated and irrelevant: “Where was I when the parade went by?”

Similarly, understanding the needs of the people you serve can be complex, especially when, as at St. Olaf, you serve many constituencies. We have well over 30,000 alumni, and many have strong views about the world and about their college. You won’t be surprised to hear that not all of these views agree. Then throw in 3,000 current students, 800 faculty and staff, 20,000 Northfielders, Lutherans everywhere, city, state, and federal government and — I could go on, but you see the point.

So, developing and adapting in response to the environment and to the needs of the people you serve is challenging, but it is a challenge we embrace because we must. The goal of any successful organization is to find the proper balance between who you have been, who you are, and who you need to be in order to live out the mission. Whether you call it a balance, a relationship, or a calibration, you’re always trying to discern what to hang on to, what to embrace, and even sometimes what to let go.

This issue of the magazine shows this process at work. We are looking forward to our sesquicentennial year in 2024, thinking about what actions we need to take now to position the college most advantageously for its 150th year. Meanwhile, faculty and students are leading us forward with the kind of cutting-edge work depicted in the article on nanotechnology at St. Olaf. Nina McConigley’s stories explore the age-old question of identity set in a postmodern confusion of feathers and dots. (You have to read the story about her work to understand that last sentence!) And the college’s exciting new partnership with the Posse Foundation underscores our commitment to raising up new leaders with the skills and commitments to advance society.

All of this is taking place against the backdrop at St. Olaf of 140 years of relentless pursuit of academic excellence, of steadfast commitment to faith, of determination to foster the growth of leaders for our world, and of a deep appreciation for the special contributions of the Norwegian immigrants who founded this place.

To develop and adapt: That is the challenge. That is the goal. That is our commitment.

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



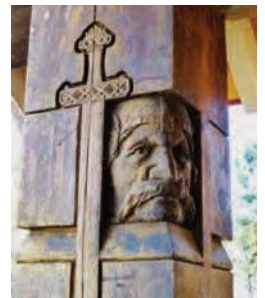
UM! YAH! YAH!



THE ART BARN



The Flaten Art Barn — inspired by the original 1932 building that housed the college's fledgling Art Department and was constructed by Arnold Flaten '22, founder of the department — has a new life and location. The new Art Barn sits near the wind turbine and hosts a variety of activities, from academic courses to conferences and retreats. Carefully preserved and incorporated into the new building were Flaten's original carvings, including the most iconic portion of the original building, the ornate entry. The new Art Barn was built using methods and materials designed to make the building as self-sustaining as possible, and as a result, it requires very little energy to maintain temperature and lighting.





Emily Witt '17 in the Goodsell Observatory at Carleton College. The 22-foot-long Brashear telescope was the 12th largest in the world when it was installed in 1890.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER

Starry, Starry Night

EMILY WITT '17 recently worked with a community of researchers at the University of Chicago's Materials Research Science and Engineering Center, using one of the premier telescopes in existence — the South Pole Telescope — to measure the radiation of the sky. It was part of a National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates program. As a math and physics major, Witt used her skills to help create a code that lays the groundwork for future researchers. The code plots the temperature of point sources, a source of released radiation in the sky that can be seen with the telescope. The code then determines which of these sources are significant by comparing the variation of their radiation to the background radiation present throughout the universe. "Knowing how variable a point source is can help determine what it is — a galaxy, quasar, or star — and which point sources merit further investigation," she says.



ST. OLAF

at

140

EMBRACING THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE

BY DAVID R. ANDERSON '74

IT IS WONDERFUL AND INSPIRING to have the opportunity all this year to celebrate our college's 140th anniversary. But being 140 years old if you're a college is like being 39 if you're a person. Everyone's attention is really focused on that big milestone ahead: the next year that ends in zero. For us, that's the 150th — the sesquicentennial that we will celebrate in 2024.

As we ponder the future and prepare for the coming sesquicentennial, the question on the table is simple to state but complex to answer: what do we think St. Olaf should look like ten years from now and the years to follow?

And, in contemplating that, how can we liberate our thinking on the subject? One way to do that is to paint a picture of how much the college has changed in the last ten years. This is

liberating because measuring the extent of that change should stimulate our sense of what's possible going forward. It's inspiring to see what has changed in the last decade. If we've changed this much in the last ten years, and for the better, imagine how bold we can be in our hopes for what the college can accomplish in the next ten years.

In the fall of 2004, the enrollment at St. Olaf College was 3,046 students, most of whom came from Minnesota and were, for the most part, Caucasian. This past fall, the college enrolled a total of 3,034 — a difference of only 12 students. That sounds pretty static, but buried within those numbers is an important story. Over the last decade, the college has become significantly more international, more national, and more diverse, and you can see the evidence of that every time

you walk across campus. St. Olaf has also become more selective — applications for admission increased by 55 percent from 2004–5 to 2014–15 — and the students coming to us have stronger academic credentials.

The resources available to support the college have changed significantly as well. The market value of the endowment has grown substantially from \$185 million to \$436 million at the beginning of this fiscal year, and the actual endowment dollar per student — a more meaningful measure of financial health — has increased by 117 percent. What that means in practical terms is that in 2004 the endowment contributed \$8 million to the operating budget, while in 2014 it contributed more than \$12 million. Another way of looking at the resources available to support the college’s program is to consider the number of faculty and staff who deliver it. The total number of employees at the college in the fall of 2004 was 812. Today, that number is 836, an increase of only 3 percent. As the number of students has stayed about the same, so has the number of faculty and staff assigned to provide them with the experience that we promise.

Anyone who has spent any amount of time at St. Olaf knows that the physical resources and facilities of the college have changed dramatically over the past decade, and that comes on top of the previous of decade that also saw dramatic improvements. Since 2004, the college has added roughly 193,000 square feet of new space — approximately the size of Regents Hall — but since some smaller buildings came down, the net addition of space is about 150,000 square feet. But new construction is only part of the story. We have in that same time period remodeled and improved 364,000 additional square feet, with major renovations to Old Main; Skifter Hall; the old

Science Center (now Tomson Hall); Hoyme, Boe, Ellingson, and Kildahl residence halls; and the old administration building (now Alumni Hall and the Hall of Music).

We have also made substantial progress on reducing our environmental footprint, driven by strategic decisions we have made to invest in the kinds of sustainability initiatives that are rarely visible but that, ultimately, matter the most, such as insulation and new windows. Normalized for weather, the college’s energy usage in BTUs per square foot has dropped by more than 17 percent, despite the addition of new building space. Carbon emissions have also dropped, and Big Ole — the St. Olaf wind turbine — has turned over 44 million times in the past eight years, producing over 23 million kilowatt hours of electricity.

Numbers tell an important story, but not the whole story of how the college has developed in the last decade. Another measure of that development is programmatic change. Thriving organizations develop and adapt in response to their environment and to the needs of the people they serve. It’s invigorating and inspiring to look back at the innovative program developments of the past decade, especially those that have advanced the curriculum we offer and employed new approaches to teaching and learning.

A good example is the expanding use of what is known as high impact learning practices, involving student-faculty research collaboration, expanded small-group learning communities, and experiences outside the classroom, such as professional internships.

Changes to our academic offerings have been varied and rich, from the extension of the Great Conversation and Asian and American Conversations experience to the nature of scientific inquiry and, most recently, environmental issues. The addition of a Film Studies and Education Studies area of concentration, along with a combined Mathematics/Biology Concentration, an archeology field school, and an engineering practicum during Interim. And, an exploratory partnering with the Associated Colleges of Midwest that resulted in an online calculus course offered during the summer of 2013.

That same embracing of innovation and progress has occurred outside the curriculum. With the establishment of the Piper Center for Vocation and Career, the college signaled its determination to be a leader in helping students to discern their vocation, to map their interests and abilities against the needs of the world, and to leave St. Olaf on a path to fulfilling, rewarding, and impactful lives. In a very short time, the Piper Center has established itself as a key resource for students and faculty that is clearly meeting a demand.

By all of the measures I have cited, St. Olaf has flourished in the last decade, and frankly that is not something that can be said for every private liberal arts college in America. We have increased demand for the experience we offer from more diverse and better academically prepared students; we have a beautiful and sustainably operated campus where they come to live together and to study; and we have the human and financial resources sufficient to deliver the program and fulfill our mission. The way in which we deliver on our mission attracts philanthropic dollars in support of the college. And we continue to develop, to innovate, and to adapt in ways that keep us relevant in a rapidly changing world.

THEN and NOW

	TEN YEARS AGO	TODAY
Enrollment	3,046	3,034
Applicants	3,144	4,875
Entering International Students	4	60
Entering Domestic Multicultural Students	59	135
Entering Students from Beyond Minnesota	43%	56%
Entering Average ACT Score	27	29
End of Fiscal Year Market Value of the Endowment	\$185.5 million	\$435.9 million
Contribution to the Annual Budget from the Endowment	\$8.3 million	\$12.7 million
Endowment Per Student	\$64,737	\$140,806
Operating Revenue after Financial Aid is Awarded	\$88.5 million	\$128.3 million
Operating Expenses	\$87.1 million	\$117.4 million
Total Number of College Employees	812	836
Energy Usage (BTUs per square foot)	17.89	14.74



“ST. OLAF COLLEGE IS
A 140-YEAR-OLD
NATIONAL TREASURE
WHOSE WELL-BEING LIES
IN OUR HANDS TODAY.”

We should be proud of St. Olaf’s last decade. And it should inspire us to dream optimistically and expansively about our future. But we also have to be realistic about our situation. Embedded in the inspiring data about our past decade are signs that important challenges face us in the next ten years, and much as I may want the future to be about bold ideas and bold ventures, we also have to acknowledge and to engage obstacles that may stand in the way of our dreams.

The comprehensive fee (tuition, fees, and room and board) has increased by \$20,000 in the last decade, from \$31,000 to \$51,000. That trend cannot continue. Unless the world changes in ways that no one now expects, ten years from now, families are not going to be both able and willing to spend \$71,000 a year for a college education for a child. What colleges will do in the face of that fact is to increase their discount rate: that’s the amount of the comprehensive fee that is not collected because families can’t or won’t pay it and we write it off as institutional

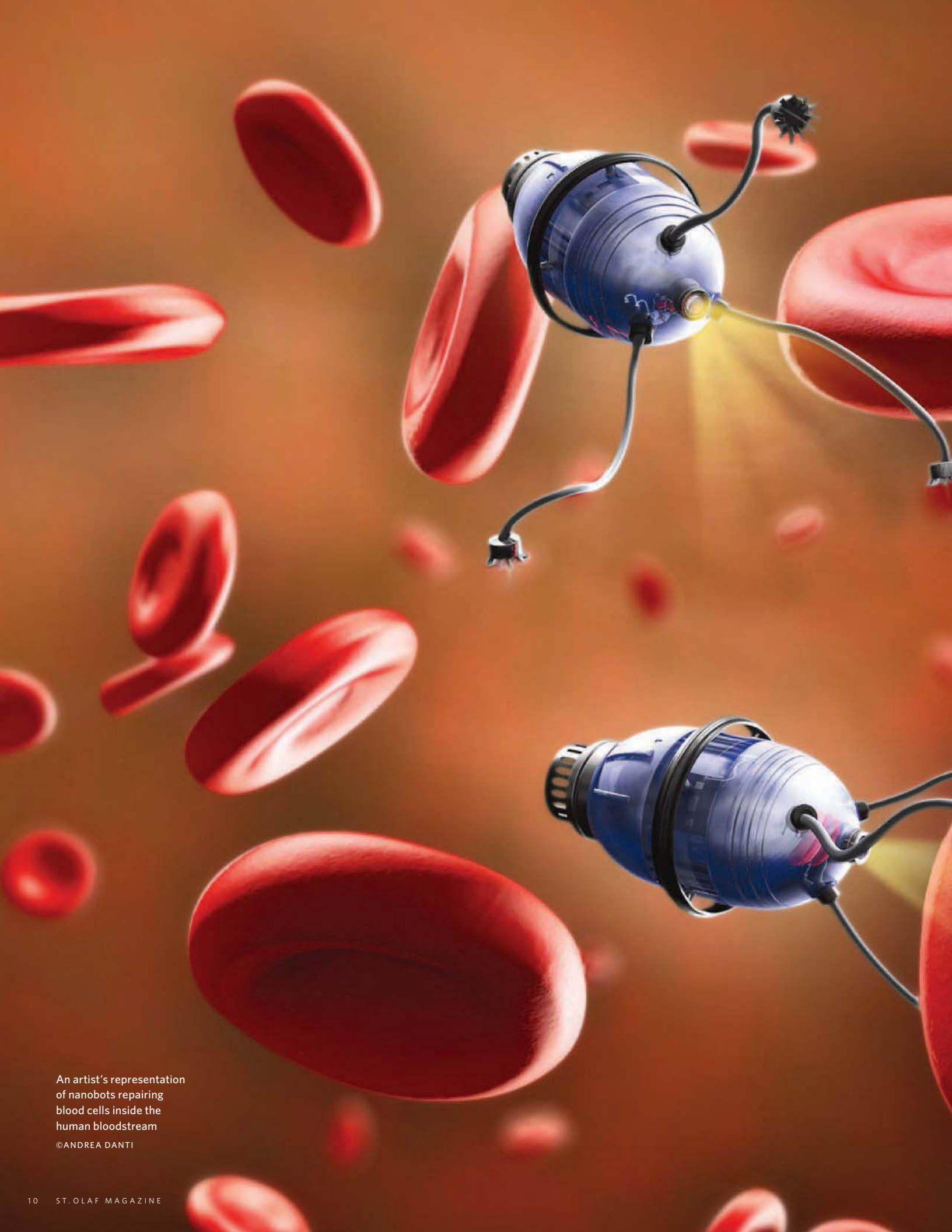
financial aid. But there comes a point where you discount your fees by so much that you are not generating enough revenue to fund the program, and that is when the death spiral begins for a college.

While the cost of attending St. Olaf has increased dramatically in the last decade, so also has the cost of enrolling the student body that we aspire to attract. Our comprehensive fee has maintained a steady upward trend; so has our tuition discount rate. Consequently, the number that has not maintained a steady upward trend — and this is the challenge for colleges like St. Olaf going forward — is our net tuition revenue. That’s the amount you collect from students and their families after you allocate financial aid against the comprehensive fee. In recent years, that number — the average net tuition revenue per student — has gone up some times and down others. That means that in some years, while our price has increased, our revenue has not, and — over time — consecutive years of flat, or — worse — declining net revenue impairs our ability to deliver on the mission and threatens our ability to stay in business.

People often say to me, “What keeps you up at night?” and my standard answer is that I sleep like a baby: I wake up screaming every three hours. But the truth is that I prefer to answer a different question: “What gets you up in the morning?” I walk up the steps by Rølvaag Library every morning eager to start the day because I’m grateful for what this college did for me when I was a student, because I believe in what this college does for its students today, and because I believe in our mission to provide a superior liberal arts education, in an intensely residential setting, incorporating a global perspective, and informed by the Lutheran faith tradition.


There are some responsibilities that feel like burdens: you feel that you’re carrying a rock around all day. But there are other responsibilities that lend energy and purpose to your day, that invite you to lean in, that you’re proud to accept. Stewardship of St. Olaf College is such a responsibility. This college is a 140-year-old national treasure whose well-being lies in our hands today. We could rest on our laurels, but let’s don’t. We could look into the future with trepidation, but let’s don’t. We could walk around regretting change. But let’s don’t. Instead, let’s be thoughtful, responsible, creative, and bold. Let’s generate the ideas and settle on a direction that will enable us to pass a St. Olaf to its next generation of stewards that is purposeful, sustainable, focused, and impactful. Doing that requires all of our best ideas. 🍷

These remarks were excerpted from President Anderson’s opening address to St. Olaf College faculty, staff, and emeriti at the beginning of the 2014–15 academic year.



An artist's representation
of nanobots repairing
blood cells inside the
human bloodstream

©ANDREA DANTI



S M A L L

————— B U T —————

M I G H T Y



ADVANCES IN NANOTECHNOLOGY ARE POISED TO TRANSFORM MEDICINE, ELECTRONICS, AND EVEN AGRICULTURE. RIGHT NOW, OLES ARE LAYING SOME OF THE IMPORTANT GROUNDWORK FOR THE PLANET'S TINIEST TECHNOLOGIES.

BY ERIN PETERSON

IT SOUNDS LIKE A SCIENCE FICTION DREAM: A world where doctors fight cancer with tiny robots that target cancer cells one by one, demolishing the harmful cells while leaving healthy cells unscathed. A world where molecule-sized machines sop up oil spills or scrub pollutants out of the air. A world where the clothes we wear harness the power of the sun to power our smartphones and laptops.

But many scientists insist such advances are within the realm of possibility. And they are all within the purview of nanotechnology — science and engineering done on a molecular scale. While the term was coined in 1974, it's been only in the past 15 years or so that nanotechnology has made its way into the consumer world. Nano-sized advancements have already led to better car airbags, lighter tennis rackets, and bacteria-resistant fabrics. And that smartphone or the iPod in your hand? You can thank nanoscience for the processor and memory components that help it run. "There isn't a piece of consumer electronics that you have in your pocket that isn't a product of nanotechnology," says Jason Engbrecht, an associate professor of physics at St. Olaf.

But as scientists look ahead, they see entirely new worlds to explore. "We are seeing only the beginnings of what nanotechnology will bring to the world," says Associate Professor of Physics Brian Borovsky. "Significant progress is continually being made to realize capabilities that at one time seemed impossible."

Before we get those tiny disease-slaying, energy-harvesting tools, researchers must overcome several significant hurdles. And Oles are at the white hot center of solving these problems and building those technologies. We talk to three about their work — and the larger implications of their fields.

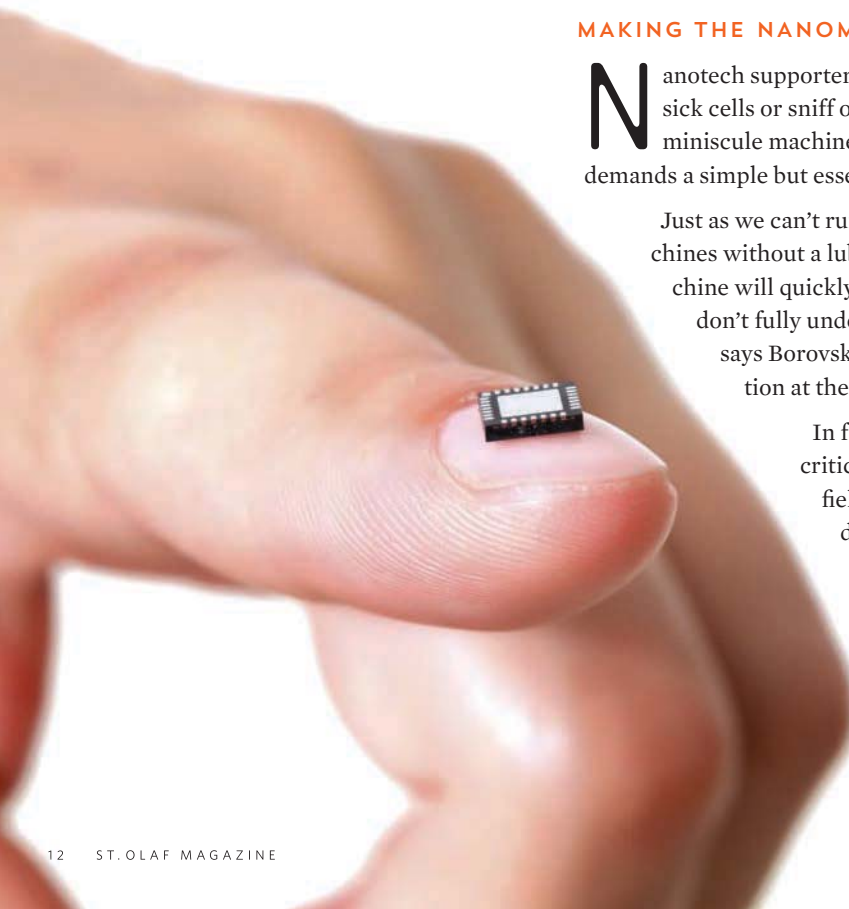
MAKING THE NANOMACHINE RUN

Nanotech supporters paint a future in which unseeable robots ferry medicine to sick cells or sniff out explosive devices in military settings. But developing these minuscule machines — complete with moving pistons and gears and hinges — demands a simple but essential component: lubrication.

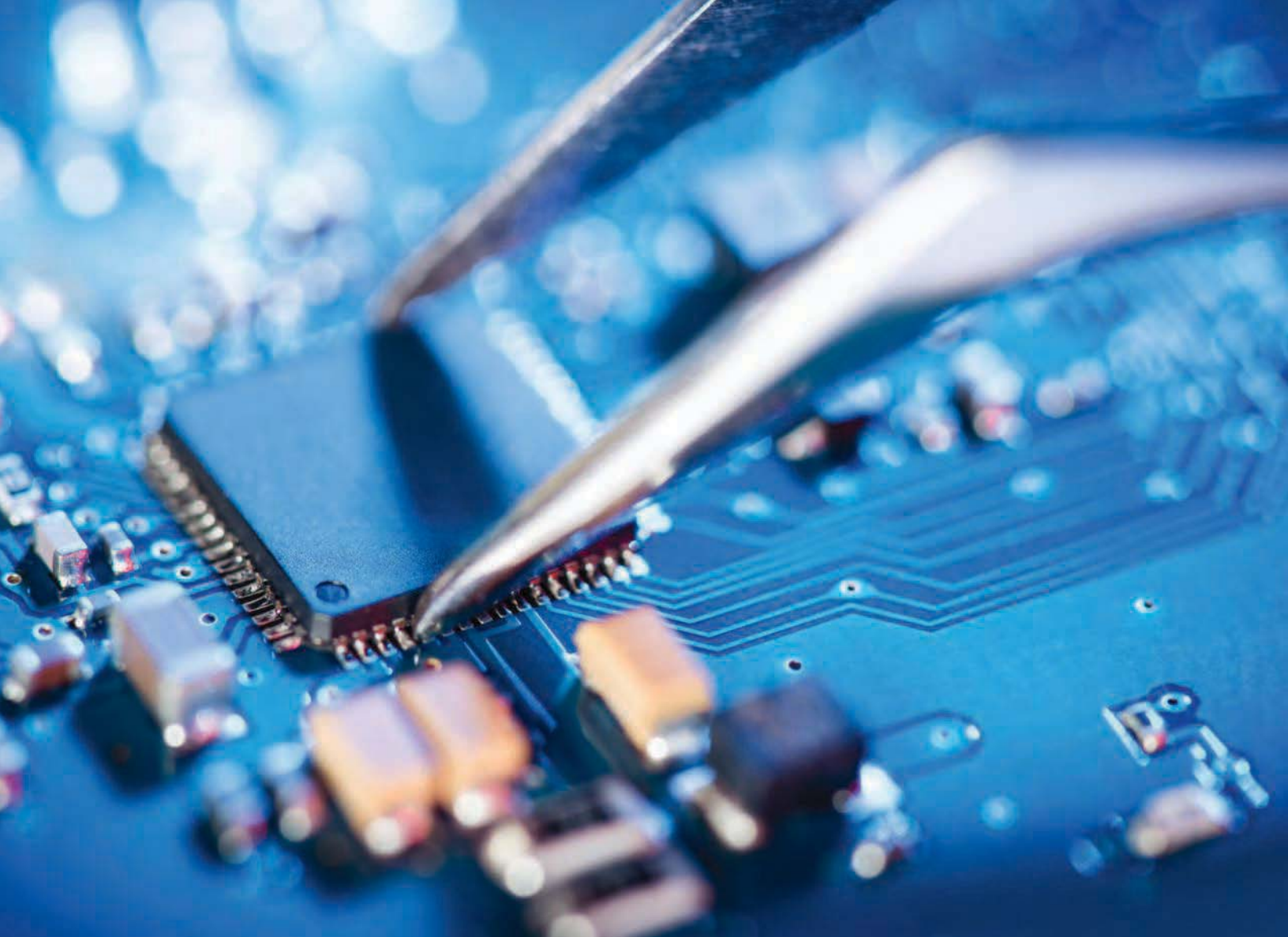
Just as we can't run a car without oil, scientists can't build working nanomachines without a lubricant. Without it, even the most perfectly designed nanomachine will quickly shred to ribbons as parts rub against each other. "Scientists don't fully understand what causes friction and wear between two surfaces," says Borovsky. "And it's one of the many questions that's ripe for exploration at the molecular level."

In fact, understanding and solving the problem of friction is so critical to moving nanotechnology forward that it has its own sub-field, called micro/nanotribology, Borovsky's focus. In his academic research, Borovsky has developed equipment and a process that tests frictional properties of surfaces coated with ultrathin lubricants.

Among the many companies eager to use such tests are those who specialize in data storage. Borovsky is working closely with both Seagate and Western Digital, two of the largest hard drive disk manufacturers in the world, to



© KRYSZTIAN NAWROCKI/ISTOCK



help them find ways to make increasingly compact hard drives. (They're impressively small even now: the entire printed contents of the Library of Congress could fit onto two commercially available hard drives that, together, are smaller than a shoebox.)

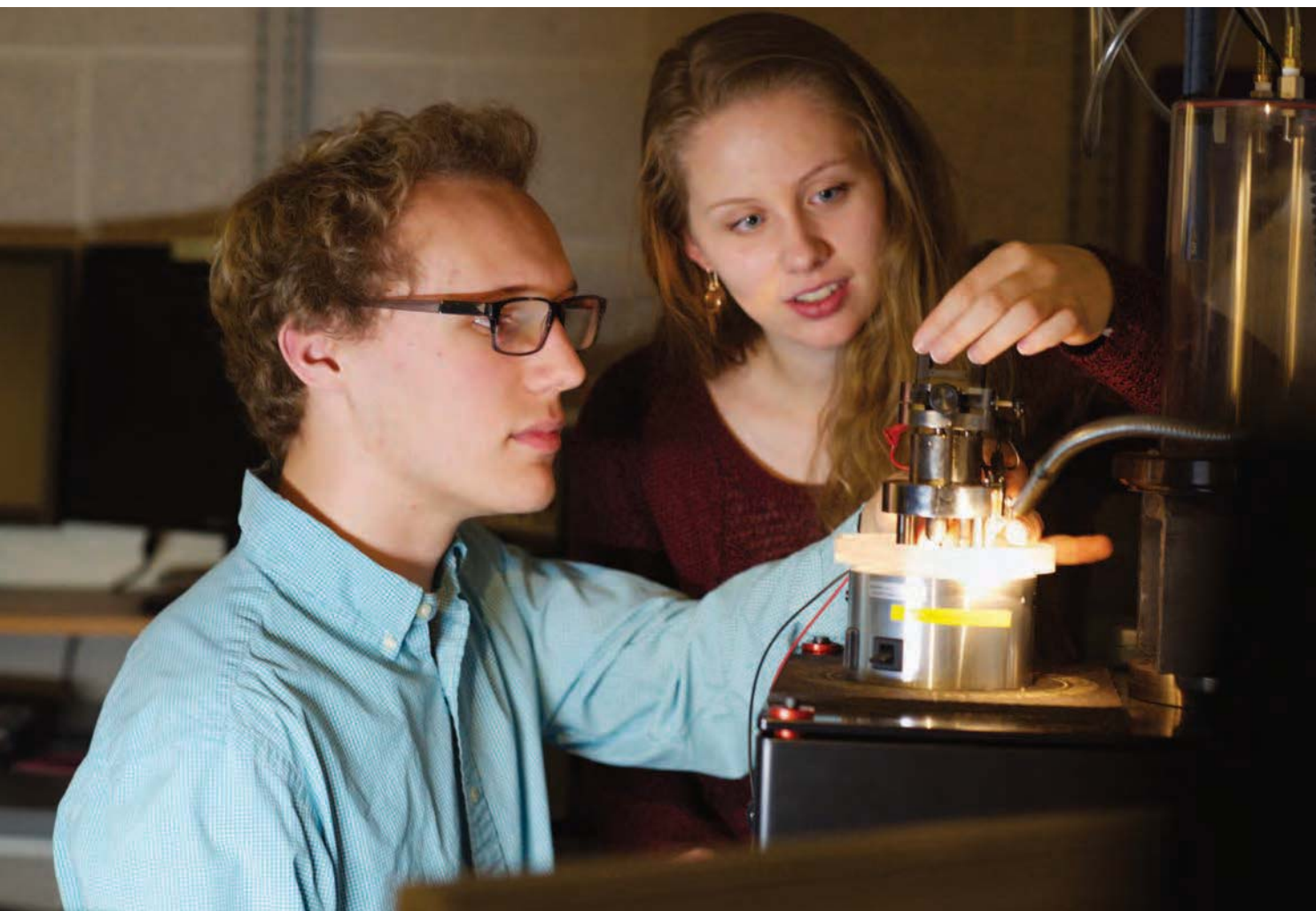
"These companies have goals relating to how much data they will store in a square centimeter 10 or 15 years from now," Borovsky explains. "As we extrapolate into the future, we see that maintaining the rate of improvement we've had in the past will bring us to the level of atoms pretty quickly," he says.

Right now, for example, the space between the data reader and the disk that contains the information is about one nanometer thick. But as manufacturers seek to squeeze more data into ever-smaller spaces, they're looking at eliminating even more of this tiny gap. As these companies shrink their hard drives, the data reader and the disk may not be separated at all; they'll be connected. Developers, then, will have to contend with the friction this connection creates. To get a jump start on that solution, companies send the coatings they've developed to Borovsky and his students, who use a specially designed piece of equipment known as a nanoindentation force probe to understand the long-term behavior of the material and the lubricant, the level of friction, and failure rates.

But why do fractions of a nanometer matter? The fact is that increasingly powerful and tiny computers have already transformed the world, and we cannot predict the ways they will do so again in the future. The computing power you've got on your smartphone effortlessly outperforms the 70-pound, \$150,000 Apollo Guidance Computer that Neil

"There isn't a piece
of consumer elec-
tronics that you have
in your pocket that
isn't a product
of nanotechnology."

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
PHYSICS JASON ENGBRECHT



TOM ROSTER

Rossing Physics Scholar Lucas Sletten '15 and physics major Emily Johnson '17 are working with Associate Professor of Physics Brian Borovsky in the nanotechnology subfield of micro/nanotribology.

Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin used to pilot themselves to the moon. And today, we're just beginning to harness vast stores of data to guide the way we understand the inner workings of our cities and treat complicated diseases. Today, we do these things with bulky computers; tomorrow, we may do so with pocketable devices.

BUILDING BETTER MATERIALS

Working at the nanoscale level, scientists are not only developing increasingly small devices. They are also finding new ways to produce stronger, lighter, and more specialized materials.

In 2010, a pair of researchers won the Nobel Prize for their work on graphene, a single layer of carbon atoms packed into a honeycomb-like lattice. The material — considered the strongest ever developed, led Columbia University engineering professor James Hone to declare, “It would take an elephant balanced on a pencil to break through a sheet of graphene the thickness of Saran wrap.”

The breakthrough has led some to dream of superlight jets, indestructible bullet-proof vests, and unbreakable screens on our phones and tablets.

But the discovery and development of graphene is just one advancement in the vast universe of nanoscale materials science. At St. Olaf, Physics Professor Jason Engbrecht is studying another versatile material that's seeing nanoscale advancements: plastics, all of which are made of polymers. These polymers, seen under a powerful microscope, often look much like a bowl of spaghetti — long molecules, with spaces throughout the

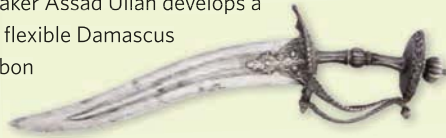
NANOTECHNOLOGY THROUGH HISTORY

A Timeline of Tiny Things



6th century: The richly colored stained glass windows in European cathedrals are the result, in part, of gold chloride nanoparticles that contribute deep red and purple hues to the artwork.

17th century: Swordmaker Assad Ullah develops a technique to create a stronger, sharper, and more flexible Damascus sword; his procedure, which depends on high-carbon steel cakes, actually created carbon nanotubes within the swords themselves.



1936: Erwin Müller develops the field emission microscope, which allows for near-atomic image resolution.

1956: MIT's Arthur von Hippel coins the term *molecular engineering*.

1965: Gordon Moore, a cofounder of Intel, introduces "Moore's law," which posits that the number of transistors in an integrated circuit doubles about every two years. The trend has held true for nearly 50 years, thanks to an increasing reliance on nanoscale advancements. The improvements have led to smaller, cheaper, and more powerful computers.



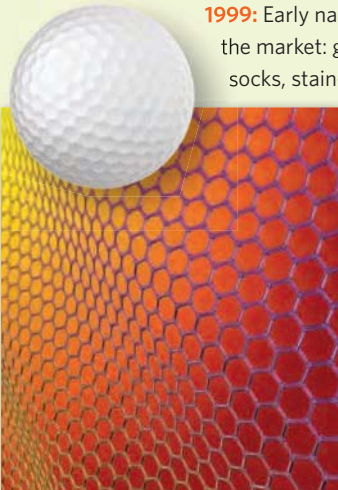
1974: Norio Taniguchi, a Tokyo Science University professor, coins the term *nanotechnology*.



1981: IBM's Gerd Binnig and Heinrich Rohrer invent the scanning tunneling microscope, which allows scientists to see individual atoms. This discovery earns them a Nobel Prize in 1986.

1986: Binnig, Calvin Quate, and Christoph Gerber invent the atomic force microscope, which helps scientists view materials down to the fraction of a nanometer in size.

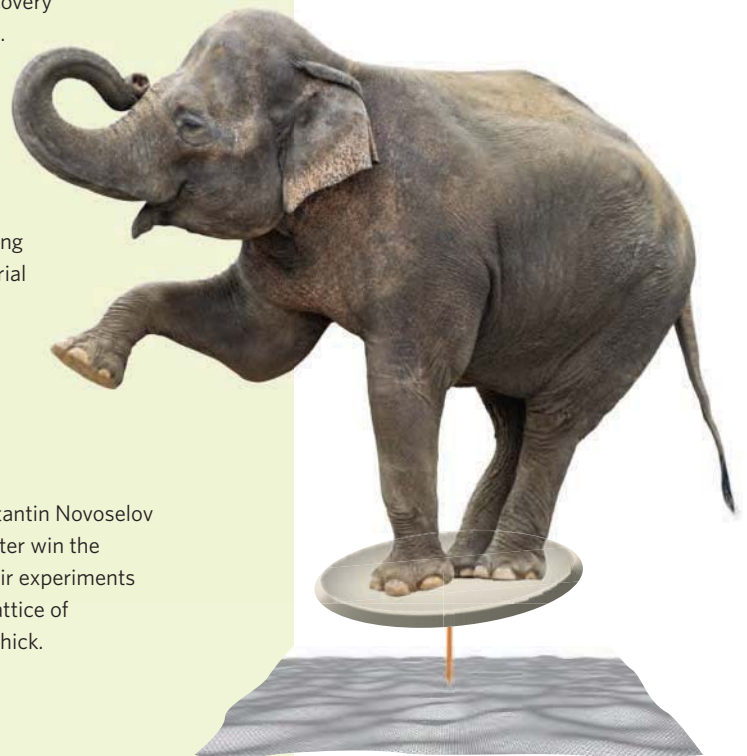
1999: Early nanotechnology products start hitting the market: golf balls, car bumpers, antibacterial socks, stain-resistant clothing, and improved cell-phone displays.



2000: The U.S. National Nanotechnology Initiative is developed and launched.

2010: Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov at the University of Manchester win the Nobel Prize in Physics for their experiments on graphene, a honeycomb lattice of carbon that is a single atom thick.

The nanomaterial graphene is so strong that it would take an elephant, balanced on a pencil, to break through a sheet the thickness of saran wrap.

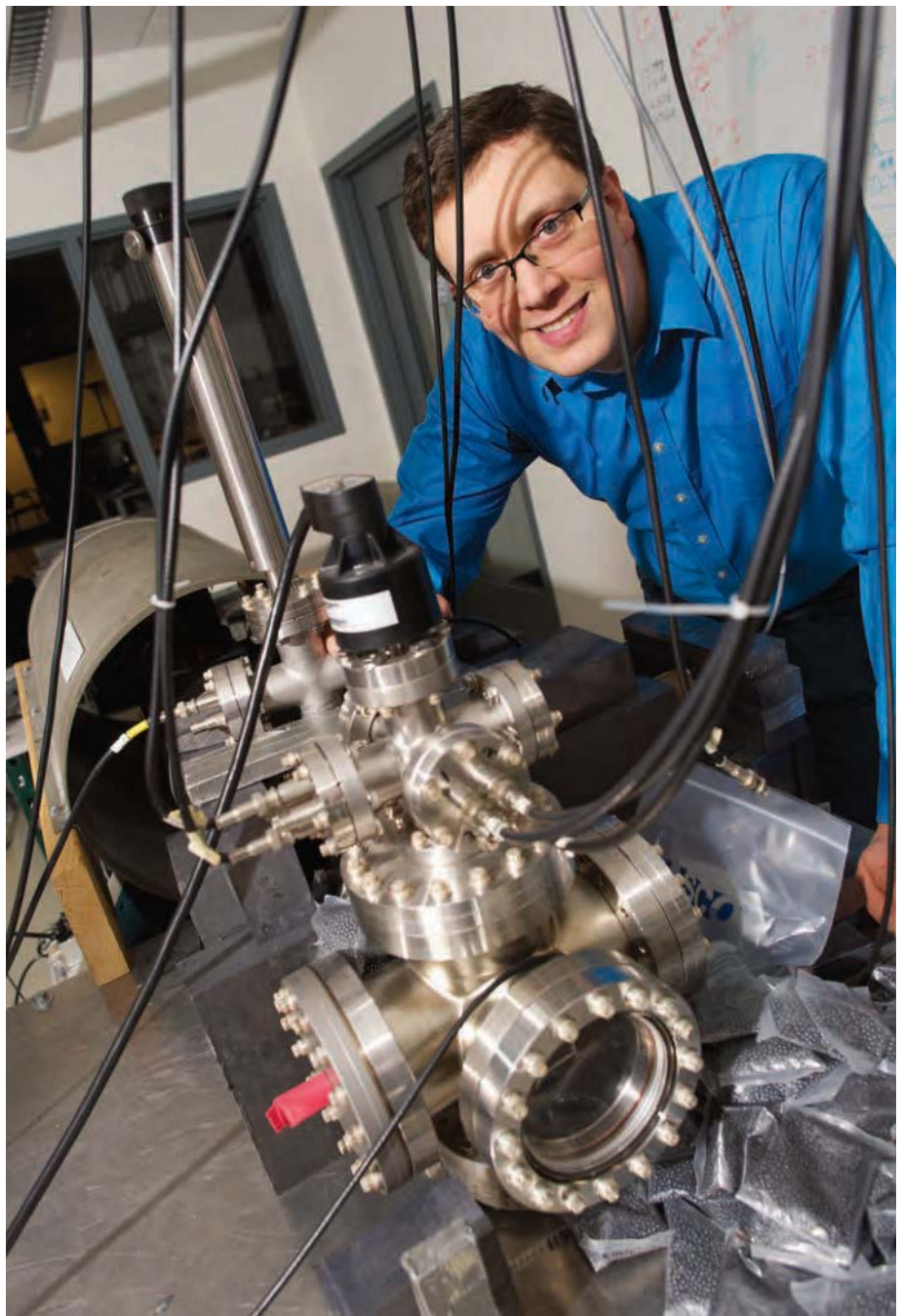


twisted, noodle-like structures. The “holes” in the polymers can be nanosized, and that’s where it gets interesting. To understand these plastics even better — to get a sense of how porous they are, how stiff they are, and whether the molecules are twisted up or if they’re as carefully structured as a honeycomb — researchers, including Engbrecht, must study and test the structures.

To discover the properties of these polymers, Engbrecht blasts billions of positrons — positively charged subatomic particles — into the material. The tiny positrons then bounce around the gaps in the material, “exploding” when they encounter an electron. By measuring the speed at which those explosions, called annihilations, occur, Engbrecht can begin to describe what’s going on deep beneath the surface of any material. “The positrons can tell you something about what the spaces between those big strands of molecules look like,” he says. “Often, you can see very subtle changes in those spaces that tell you things about the properties of the materials.”

While Engbrecht’s work isn’t connected with specific industry projects, there are many current and future applications of such research. With the appropriate molecular organization, for example, polymers could be used as filters for specific molecules. The right plastics could be used for food preservation, depending on whether the molecules

Professor Jason Engbrecht uses a positron beam to discover the molecular properties of nanosized polymers.



TOM ROSTER

Nano, Your Roots Are Showing...

In scientific terms, *nano* means “one billionth.” Where did the word for such a tiny thing come from? In Greek, the words *nanos* and *nannos* mean “little old man” and “dwarf.”

A Better Window on Small Worlds

St. Olaf College has long had unique strengths in nanotechnology research but, recently, that edge got just a little bit sharper.

This past summer, St. Olaf purchased a scanning electron microscope, a desktop-sized machine that provides resolution of 20 nanometers or better. (For perspective, a sheet of paper is about 100,000 nanometers thick; a fingernail grows at the rate of about 1 nanometer per second.) "Now we have optical microscopes, a scanning electron microscope, and an atomic force microscope, which means we can study surfaces on the level of millimeters, micrometers, and nanometers," says Associate Physics Professor Brian Borovsky. "We could find a butterfly wing out in the yard and see the structure that creates its strength, or the way that specific sizes and shapes of pollen are linked to certain allergic reactions. You can start linking information together across scales."

But it's not just equipment that gives St. Olaf its strength. The college also has strong ties with the University of Minnesota, whose nanoscience research community is consistently ranked among the top five in the country. Students frequently conduct nanoscience research with St. Olaf professors who are teaming up with U of M researchers working on essential research and industry projects.

For alumni like Nathan Eigenfeld '11, a single great connection can lead to a meaningful career trajectory. He enjoyed a class he took with Borovsky, and he landed a summer nanoscience research position with the physics professor after his junior year. He loved the work so much, he continued on projects with Borovsky for his entire senior year. Then, through a pilot program with St. Olaf's Piper Center for Vocation and Career, he landed an internship with a Colorado-based company, Advanced Energy Industries, doing plasma science research, before joining the University of Colorado-Boulder, where he is earning a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering.

While Eigenfeld, who was a physics and math major at St. Olaf, says other students in his Ph.D. program majored in more targeted fields as undergraduates, such as materials science or other engineering disciplines, he believes he benefits even more from St. Olaf's holistic approach. "The difference at St. Olaf is that you're learning the fundamentals," Eigenfeld says. "My experiences in physics, math, and the liberal arts at St. Olaf didn't just teach me how to pick the right equation to solve a problem. It taught me how to define and approach a problem."

With exceptional equipment, research opportunities, and connections, St. Olaf offers students many ways to learn deeply about a field that is poised to grow dramatically.



TOM ROSTER

In the lab, Professor Brian Borovsky and students measure friction in microscopic high-speed sliding systems where the lubricants are just one molecule thick.

do, or do not, diffuse through the plastic. “Right now, the only way to test whether or not something works is to put food inside of the plastic and wait a few months,” says Engbrecht. “That can be a long time to wait to see if the material you’ve developed is an improvement, or if you’ve actually made something worse.” But Engbrecht’s research innovations could speed up that testing process by determining the nature of a material on the molecular level.

Future applications of Engbrecht’s work could be even more powerful. If scientists can develop a plastic with tiny holes that form a honeycomb-like structure, the plastic might be able to store hydrogen for fuel cells that could be used in a next-generation car.



Nate Eigenfeld '11 and other researchers at the University of Colorado-Boulder are working on incorporating nanomaterials into the sensors of infrared cameras.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY GLENN ASAKAWA,
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO-Boulder

Engbrecht is quick to emphasize that his work is one of many tools to investigate such polymers. Just as inspecting a home might require a camera to take exterior photos, a carbon monoxide and radon analyzer to test for specific chemicals, and an electrical tester to analyze electrical circuits, scientists need many tools to fully understand the workings of such plastics. In the same way, while microscopes give us crucial information about a material, we also need techniques like Engbrecht’s to burrow deep and understand what’s beneath the surface.

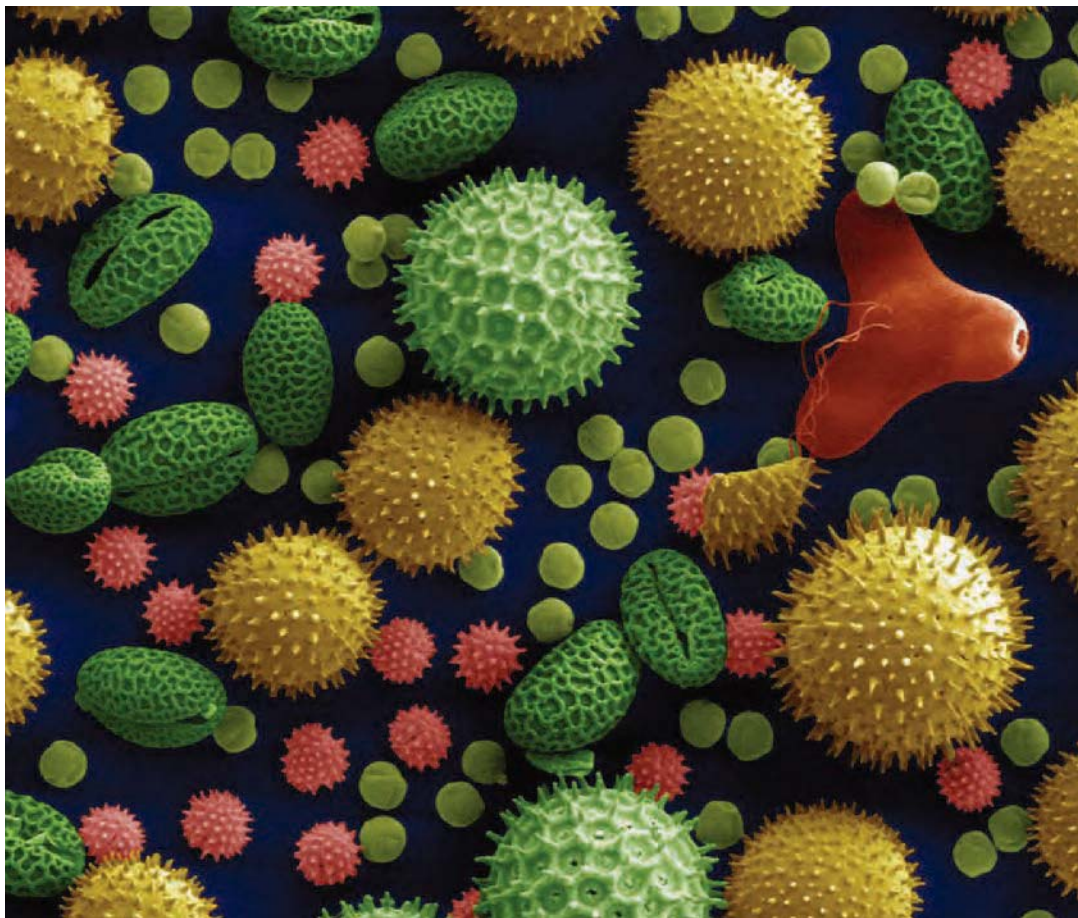
FROM MICRO TO NANO

If you’ve ever twisted a smartphone from a vertical to horizontal orientation and watched as the screen flipped with that change, then you’ve experienced the impact of MEMS: micro-electromechanical systems. MEMS relies on tiny accelerometers and gyroscopes inside smartphones that sense a change in gravitational orientation and trigger a screen switch.

While MEMS technology is quite common in electronics these days, Nathan Eigenfeld '11 is doing research at the University of Colorado-Boulder that may take micro-level systems one step further, to the nano-level (NEMS). Eigenfeld is working with other researchers under Dr. Victor Bright on a technology called atomic layer deposition, which allows scientists to develop thin but powerful films that can be made less than one nanometer thick — the thickness of a couple hundred-thousandths of a single strand of hair.

Right now, he and his team are incorporating the technology into pixels on the sensors of infrared cameras with applications in consumer, security, and military markets. The technology increases the sensitivity of each individual pixel, which can detect an ever-smaller change in temperature in whatever it’s looking at.

And soon we may be seeing such technology in our everyday life: High-end car manufacturers are working to incorporate NEMS technology into headlight systems, which might mean these “intelligent” headlights could detect a deer at the side of the road before the driver could see it. With the right sensing systems, it could both alert the driver and throw more light in the direction of the object so the driver can react appropriately.



With physics lab equipment such as a scanning electron microscope, and an atomic force microscope, St. Olaf faculty and students can study surfaces at the nanoscale level, allowing them to see the way that specific sizes and shapes of pollen are linked to certain allergic reactions.
COLORIZED PHOTO OF POLLEN GRAINS

Other NEMS applications could help scientists detect water pollution through aerial thermal imaging. Thermal imaging cameras could detect when an older person has fallen in his or her home, and contact emergency responders. Such cameras could even detect counterfeit money.

For Eigenfeld, there's great joy in finding practical applications in cutting-edge science. "When you start shrinking things down to the nanoscale — when there's so much surface area compared to volume — the physical properties of these materials start getting a little crazy, and that's really fun to study," he says. "And because there are so many direct applications for these nanomaterials, we have the funding to study these things as we help improve the performance of specific devices."

MOVING AHEAD

The field of nanotechnology continues to grow in size and diversity, and both industry and academia are clamoring for experts who will help shape the newest wave of technology.

As researchers forge ahead in a field with massive potential for transforming the world, Oles are particularly well suited to make the next generation of advancements because of its emphasis on collaboration and deep knowledge. "Nanoscale engineering brings physicists, chemists, and biologists together," says Borovsky. "The cutting-edge questions today mix all the disciplines together."

And no matter what the future brings, there's no question that the next big thing will be very, very small. 🐛

ERIN PETERSON is a Twin Cities writer and editor.

The St. Olaf men's soccer season ended with its sixth Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) championship. "Despite injuries to some of our frontline players, the team stayed strong, with the other players stepping up to lead," says Coach Kurt Anderson, named MIAC Coach of the Year for the fourth time.

Forward Aaron Stets '16 (left) led the team in assists and scored the winning goal in the championship game. Team co-captain Claudio Barboza '16 (center), who hails from Maracaibo, Venezuela, was named All-MIAC last season. Forward Jennings Pechauer Undlin '17 (right) led the team in goals, earning him the individual title of MIAC Top Scorer.

In addition to competing for conference titles and NCAA bids, academics remain a priority. The St. Olaf team has been ranked academically in the top 25 (with an average 3.4 GPA) out of 800 schools in Divisions I, II, and III in the nation.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER







St. Olaf's first Posse Scholars were selected from more than 2,600 nominated high school students in the Chicago area. Front, L-R: Demetrius Deshaun Brown, Jasmin Aramburu, Efren Ramirez Jr., Marnicia Kenna Johnson. Back, L-R: Stephanie Marie Ramos, Edgar Vaca, Mercy Angela Garriga, Damone L. Coachman Jr., Tiara Davis, and Jan Marusz



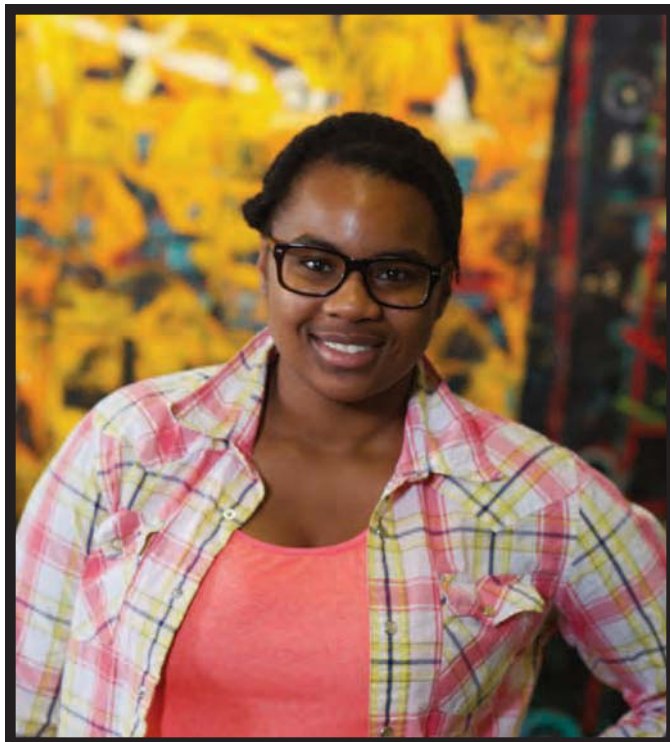
GREAT EXPECTATIONS

St. Olaf has partnered with the Posse Foundation, a national leadership and college access program, to bring ten of Chicago's top students to campus.

BY MARLA HILL HOLT '88 | PHOTOS BY TOM ROSTER

E FREN RAMIREZ '18 GREW UP in a traditional Mexican American household in the Brighton Park neighborhood on Chicago's south side. "My parents very much expected me to get good grades and go to college," he says. He was involved with the Chicago Freedom School, a youth leadership program that nurtures in young people a desire to create a just world. Ramirez also loves music and sings and plays guitar, bass, and drums. Tiara Davis '18 helped take care of her mother, who suffers from Crohn's disease, as a young girl in Chicago. She dreamt of graduating from college — something no one else in her family has done — so that "I can give back to others who are in pain," she says. Jasmin Aramburu '18 grew up on the west side of Chicago and volunteered to help build a school in Senegal with buildOn, an international youth service organization. Jan Marusarz '18, the son of Polish immigrants, is one of nine children in his family. He celebrates his Polish Highlander heritage through music and dance — by age 12 he was playing violin at cultural events and on the radio. He also taught private lessons in high school.

With only a few months on the Hill behind them, St. Olaf's Posse Scholars are just beginning their college careers. They have the potential to make tremendous contributions to the life of the college as fully active participants in its rigorous academic program.



"To me, being a leader means doing the best that I can to identify and solve problems. This could result in me changing the life of an individual, and maybe even the whole world. I must also set a positive example in all aspects of my life, since exhibiting leadership qualities starts on the small scale. I also feel the need to do my best and have grades that show it. It can be quite the heavy load to bear at times, but nothing I can't handle with the support of my posse and the faculty/staff at St. Olaf."

MARNICIA JOHNSON
Northside College Preparatory High School

"I believe I have the capability to lead, and I personally hold myself to that. At St. Olaf, I expect myself to change the campus in a positive way. I want to explore many different fields of education and many different clubs. I hope to find what I am truly passionate about."

DAMONE COACHMAN
De La Salle Institute



Ramirez, Davis, Aramburu, and Marusarz are exactly the type of students St. Olaf wants to attract, but historically, the college hasn't always found it easy to recruit promising students from urban public high schools like those in Chicago. Likewise, these students might not know about or be willing to consider a small liberal arts college atop a hillside in southern Minnesota.

Enter the Posse Foundation, an innovative youth leadership and college access program that for 25 years has been identifying, recruiting, and training outstanding young scholars from urban backgrounds, many of whom might be overlooked by traditional college selection processes. Posse works in nine cities nationwide and partners with 51 top colleges and universities. Based on the theory that students are more likely to succeed in college if they have strong peer support on campus, Posse selects and trains its scholars in small groups of 10 students, collectively known as a posse. Each student is awarded a four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarship from the college they were chosen to attend.

Partnering with the Posse Foundation is ideal for St. Olaf, says President David R. Anderson '74, who noted that the partnership fits well with the college's strategic goals. "We want to excel at preparing students for life after college and for leadership roles in their communities," Anderson says. "Having Posse Scholars on campus who have been selected first by Posse and then by us, precisely for their capacity to engage in the life of the campus community, is entirely consistent with that goal."

Becoming a member of a posse is no small feat. The Posse Foundation solicits nominations in each of the nine cities in which it works: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, and Washington, D.C. Each partner institution chooses a location — Chicago, in St. Olaf's case — from which to select its posse of students. After students are nominated by their high schools, the Posse Foundation conducts the Dynamic Assessment Process, a unique evaluation method involving personal essays and an intense round of interviews, both in groups and as individuals, to assess whether students have the perseverance and drive to succeed in a highly competitive academic environment.

The process measures qualities not always apparent on traditional applications, such as adaptability and a commitment to working out differences, says Louis Marquis, program director for Posse Chicago.

"We want to see the students challenging ideas, communicating well with their peers, confronting their own internal biases, and really showing leadership, not just on paper, but in their interactions with others," he says.

Between 20 and 25 students are chosen as finalists for each partner school. (Students are able to choose and apply to three colleges that have partnered with their city.) In mid-December of their senior year in high school, the finalists participate in interviews attended by admission committees from the Posse institutions to which they've applied. Once a student is chosen as a member of a posse at a particular institution, he or she commits to attending that school. Shortly thereafter, each posse begins an eight-month, precollegiate training program that focuses on team building, leadership, communication, and academics.



"During our summer retreat in Wisconsin, we all clicked and got a lot closer as a posse. I saw the potential we all have and how we are all similar and different. We respect each other for being leaders. I have since then become a more confident person and know that my voice matters and that I can help cause change."

EFREN RAMIREZ
Lane Technical College Preparatory High School

“St. Olaf values diversity of thought and diversity of experience. We expect that the Posse Scholars will enrich St. Olaf, not only in making our student body more diverse, but in challenging our worldviews by bringing new perspectives to the table.” — Rosalyn Eaton-Neeb '87, Dean of Students

“The only expectation I’ve ever placed on myself was to not get off track and lose my way. I always want to be seen as someone who knows himself, which is factor number one in striving to be a leader. The recognition as a leader feels great and definitely motivates me to be better than I was yesterday.”

DEMETRIUS BROWN
De La Salle Institute



“I hope to bring a sense of the real world to St. Olaf. I believe a lot of people are ignorant of the struggles of minorities, both in race and gender. I hope to diversify the campus, not through the color of my skin, but through knowledge on the ways of living. Personally, I hope to inspire students to volunteer in the community both at St. Olaf and in Northfield. I also hope to excel academically.”

JASMIN ARAMBURU
Prosser Career Academy

Rosalyn Eaton-Neeb '87, St. Olaf's dean of students and campus liaison for the Posse program, was a member of the admissions committee that traveled to Chicago to select St. Olaf's posse. She and other members of the committee observed the finalists in intense small-group interactions. "They were given a topic and told to figure it out as a group," she says. "For example, 'The Rebel flag has been hung in a window on your campus; people are very upset about it. What do you do?' In ten minutes, they had to figure out what their response was going to be and then hold a press conference detailing their decisions. It wasn't that the students had to come up with the right answer but rather about how they worked through the issue at hand. It was reminiscent of the type of project I might have been given in graduate school."

Eaton-Neeb and her colleagues chose St. Olaf's first Posse Scholars, who initially had been part of more than 2,600 nominated high school students in the Chicago area. Additional posses of 10 students will be selected for each future incoming class at St. Olaf, for a total of 40 Posse Scholars by the fall of 2018 and for each subsequent year.

"It's about expanding the pool from which St. Olaf recruits its students," Marquis says. "Posse is successful in finding those diamonds in the rough, those students who might not have had access to a top liberal arts college. Our program gets them to the table, and then we expect the students to make an impact on their campuses by standing up as leaders in the classroom and in whatever other ways are important to them."

With only a few months on the Hill behind them, St. Olaf's Posse Scholars are just beginning their college careers. They have the potential to make tremendous contributions to the life of the college as fully active participants in St. Olaf's rigorous academic program.

"St. Olaf values diversity of thought and diversity of experience," Eaton-Neeb says. "We have a willingness to explore the world, both globally and right here at home. We expect that the Posse Scholars will enrich St. Olaf, not only in making our student body more diverse, but in challenging our worldviews by bringing new perspectives to the table."

In addition to ongoing guidance from Posse Chicago staff members, each of St. Olaf's posses will share a faculty mentor during their first two years on campus. History professor Eric Fure-Slocum is mentoring the first group and functions as the students' academic advisor, meeting regularly with each individual Posse Scholar and also gathering the group weekly for discussions on topics of interest.

"We talk about their academic, career, and vocational goals," he says. "In these early days, much of the focus is on helping them find their way, just like it is for any first-year student."

Fure-Slocum has used the posse's group meetings to discuss broader academic issues familiar to all students. His hope is that these meetings will evolve into an opportunity for the students to delve deeper into larger social issues of interest to them, including race, class, and gender, that might be present both on campus and in broader society.

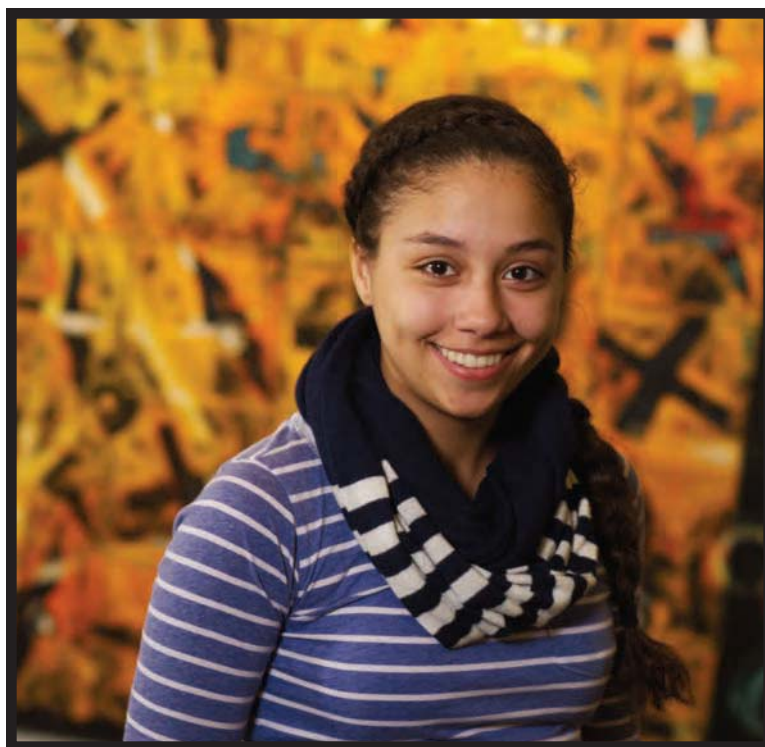


"I want to enjoy every day at St. Olaf because I'm just so unbelievably lucky to be here. There are so many people who don't have the same opportunities as me, and I hope to always be cognizant of that. Therefore, I hope to take many courses that interest me and take advantage of all of St. Olaf's resources. I want to steer myself toward a career that I'll love and to inspire other people to believe that it's possible for them to reach for their dreams as well."

STEPHANIE RAMOS
Chicago Bulls College Preparatory

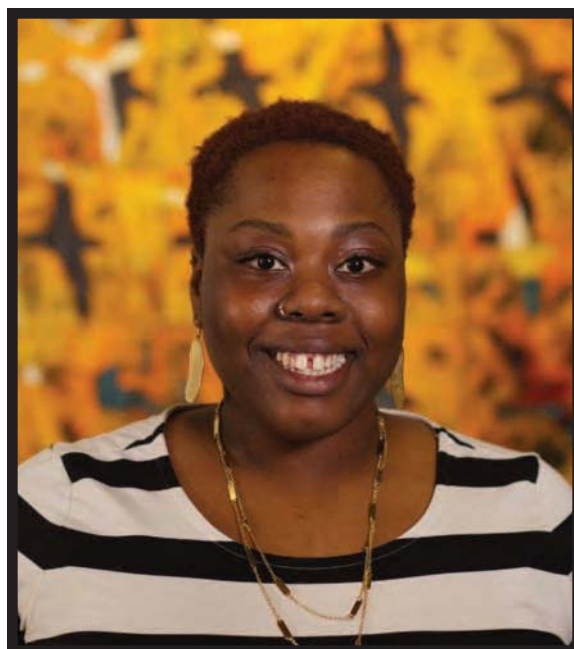
“My dream for college is to find something that doesn’t force me to only look forward to the weekends. I wish to enjoy the present instead of looking back on the past and looking forward to the future. I want to improve as a runner, student, friend, and all-around person.”

MERCY GARRIGA
Francis W. Parker High School



“My dad always told me that an education is the one thing that people cannot take away from me, so I hope to do well at St. Olaf and inspire my three younger sisters. I want to get a good internship and to study abroad. I want to see what this world has to offer. It has been amazing to me how the professors at St. Olaf are willing to reach out to make sure you succeed.”

EDGAR VACA | John Hancock College Preparatory High School



“Before coming to St. Olaf, the Posse Foundation had us do a scavenger hunt together in downtown Chicago. The experience showed me the wonderful opportunity that I have been given. I’m very fortunate to have Posse. It has taken the burden about college away from my family and me.”

TIARA DAVIS | St. Francis de Sales High School

“There is some expectation that these students will excel at those conversations that might be a bit challenging,” Fure-Slocum says. “Through lively participation in class and outside of class, I hope they’ll bring issues and concerns and new perspectives to the floor.”

In February, the Posse Scholars will invite other students, faculty, and staff members to join them at the PossePlus Retreat, an annual weekend-long event facilitated by the Posse Foundation. The 2015 retreat’s theme — voted on by Posse Scholars at all institutions — is Power, Authority, Crime, and Justice: Is Justice Blind? “The idea is that a core group of Oles will come together to talk about important issues in a safe and welcoming environment,” Eaton-Neeb says.

Though posses tend to include large numbers of students of color, the Posse program is not specifically a diversity program but rather one focused on providing college access to academically talented students with great potential for leadership. However, defining leadership in narrow terms — such as being the president of a student club or captain of a sports team — isn’t part of Posse’s mission, Eaton-Neeb says.

“We want to educate people to move out into the world ready to take on leadership roles, whatever those might be,” she says. “We aren’t going to tell these students, ‘This is what we think you should do.’ They have varying interests, and they’ll exhibit leadership behavior in whatever way works for them, whether or not it comes with a traditional leadership title.”

With a 90 percent graduation rate among Posse Scholars, the Posse Foundation has proven that its method of selecting, training, and supporting students in peer groups works. Posse’s career program, which includes access to internship opportunities, career planning assistance, and alumni networking, continues to support the students as they transition out of college into wide-ranging careers and graduate and professional education.

“Posse’s model of sending a group of students together to college isn’t really done by other programs,” Marquis says. “Having peer support, combined with an engaging campus community full of resources, is absolutely key to Posse’s success.”

Those faculty and staff members who’ve so far met and interacted with St. Olaf’s posse have been impressed with the group’s energy and enthusiasm. “They’re smart, they’re funny, and they’re full of ideas,” President Anderson says. “My hope is that they’ll make us all more interested and more interesting.”

Fure-Slocum agrees. “In the short time I’ve known them, it’s really been wonderful to see how they’ve connected with each other and with the campus. I look forward to seeing how they stretch themselves in the next four years and beyond St. Olaf.” 🦁



“My aspirations for college are to work to my maximum ability and proceed to medical school, after which I hope to become a plastic surgeon. I will continue to work off campus in the Northfield community, take advantage of opportunities to volunteer, and to help keep St. Olaf a great place because it already has given me a great start on my college career. What I already love about St. Olaf is that I can highly engage with my professors.”

JAN MARUSARZ
John F. Kennedy High School

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

“I’m a bit obsessed with how we figure out our identity, and I draw on that in my writing. Is identity formed by race? Is it formed by geography? Is it formed by experiences? These are the questions that I’m always thinking about.”



In Search of BELONGING

BY MARLA HILL HOLT '88

AS A CHILD GROWING UP IN CASPER, WYOMING, Nina McConigley sometimes felt like the wrong kind of Indian. Her brown skin, inherited from a mother who was born and raised in India, led others to assume McConigley was Native American. She often was asked to give the name of her tribe. Was it Shonshone? Arapahoe? Or Crow, perhaps?

“There just weren’t other East Indians in Wyoming,” McConigley says. “So to ask about my tribal affiliation was a way for a context to be drawn around me.”

McConigley explores this feeling of being an outsider in *Cowboys and East Indians*, her award-winning collection of short stories. The stories, which received the 2014 PEN Open Book Award for writers of color and the 2014 High Plains Book Award, are set in Wyoming and India and center around the rural immigrant experience.

A gnawing sense of never quite belonging troubles many of McConigley’s characters — from oil rig workers to cross-dressers to exchange students — whether they are East Indians in the American West or Indian-Americans in India. A reviewer for the *Billings Gazette* said of the characters in *Cowboys and East Indians*, “They are much more overwhelmed by confusion at the occasional show of outright hatred and violence that comes their way than by the lack of effort to know or understand them.”

Many of the stories draw from McConigley’s own experiences. She is as adept at writing about geologists working on oil rigs (her father is a petroleum geologist) as she is at depicting a young Indian-American woman trying to fit in with other expatriates in Chennai, India, (where McConigley made her first visit to India, shortly after graduating from St. Olaf, for a year-long internship at a publishing house).

Author Nina McConigley '97 explores the rural immigrant experience in an award-winning collection of short stories.

“There’s a little bit of me in every story,” McConigley says, who, like her characters, often lived on the edge of fitting in — both too familiar and too foreign. “As a fiction writer, I get to go back and change the story of what happened or build on vague things that I remember. It’s my opportunity to make sense of the world around me and have characters work out subtle incidences of racism that I recall from my own experience.”

Often, the characters in McConigley’s book must explain themselves to others. In the story “Dot and Feather,” Cindy, a foreign exchange student from India living in Wyoming, encounters a young white girl who is dressed as a Native American for Halloween. When the girl apologizes to Cindy for the cruel actions of white people who took away her land, Cindy feels obliged to point out, “There are two kinds of Indians. Some wear dots, others wear feathers. You’re a feather Indian. I wear a dot.”

Along with the people of Wyoming, the state’s landscape figures prominently in *Cowboys and East Indians*. This seems appropriate, given the state’s pull on McConigley’s heart: she has called Wyoming home since she was 10 months old (with occasional sojourns to other places for education and work), and she currently lives in Laramie, where she is a lecturer in the Honors College and Department of English at the University of Wyoming.

“The landscape has shaped me a lot,” McConigley says. “It’s extreme, but it feeds my writing in a way I can’t explain. The vastness of the open space — what others might call emptiness — fills me. I can drive five minutes out of town and see nothing but prairie and mountains. I’ve tried to stay away, but I always come back.”

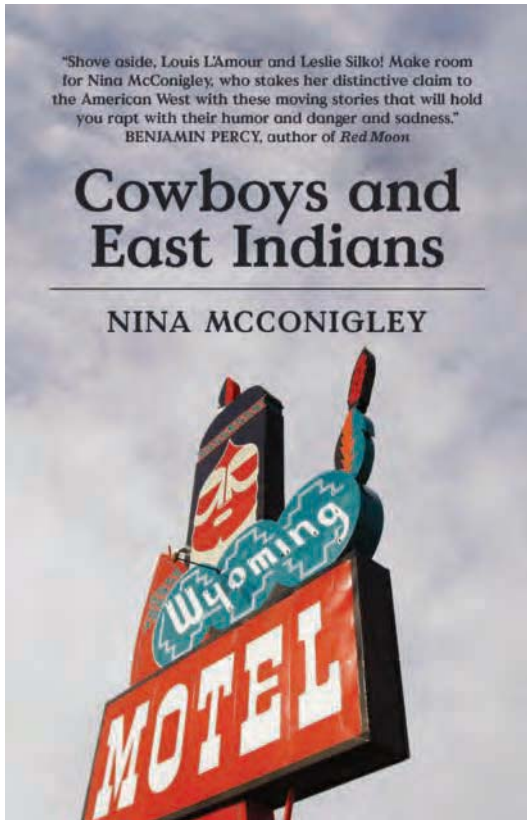
While mountains, ranches, and plains have kept her rooted to the place, McConigley says her childhood home in Casper was “very Indian.” Her mother, Nimi, who was a journalist and the first Indian elected to the Wyoming state legislature, “really wanted us to understand how important India was to her, and so Indian culture was very visible in our home,” says McConigley, who identifies strongly with her Indian heritage.

McConigley’s father, Patrick, a native of Ireland, also influenced her as a child. Her parents met while her father was serving in the Peace Corps in India in the 1960s, and it was his job as a petroleum geologist that brought them to Wyoming. He instilled in McConigley a love of Irish literature “deep in my soul,” she says. Her connection to the rural landscape, already shaped by living on the Great Plains, was deepened by visits to her father’s family farm in Donegal, Ireland.

“My mother is a firecracker, a really big personality,” McConigley says. “I’m more like my dad, quiet and observant, but because I’m brown, my Indianness is outwardly visible. I’m a bit obsessed with how we figure out our identity, and I draw on that in my writing. Is identity formed by race? Is it formed by geography? Is it formed by experiences? These are the questions that I’m always thinking about.”

Though McConigley’s childhood clearly influenced the stories in *Cowboys and East Indians*, it wasn’t until graduate school that she began to truly see herself as a writer. “I was a reader first,” McConigley says. “When I was at St. Olaf, I dabbled in writing, but I was very shy about sharing anything I’d written.”

McConigley started college at Lewis and Clark College in Oregon, mainly because her sister, Lila McConigley ’96, was already at St. Olaf, and Nina felt strongly that they should go to different schools. “But I wasn’t happy at Lewis and Clark,” she says, so she transferred to St. Olaf as a sophomore, becoming an English major and spending her junior year at Oxford University in England — reading all the great Irish and English writers, she says. As a senior, she enrolled in a creative writing class, but she opted out of the workshop sessions, meaning that only the professor, and not her fellow students, read her work.



McConigley’s collection of short stories, *Cowboys and East Indians*, received the 2014 PEN Open Book Award for writers of color and the 2014 High Plains Book Award.



“I passed on workshop week after week after week,” McConigley says. “I was mortified at the idea of sharing something in class, even when the professor told me some of my stuff was good.” After graduation, while working at an insurance company in Minneapolis, McConigley took a writing class at the Loft Literary Center, developing the sketches she’d begun at St. Olaf while getting over her fear of letting others see her work.

McConigley went on to earn an M.A. in English at the University of Wyoming and an M.F.A. in creative writing at the University of Houston, where she was mentored by writers Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni and Antonya Nelson. By the time she completed her M.F.A. thesis, she had a handful of stories. She wrote even more while interning at Tara Books in Chennai, India, and eventually the collection came together as *Cowboys and East Indians*.

McConigley has twice been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and for the annual fiction anthology *Best New American Voices*. “Curating Your Life,” which is the last story in her collection, was a notable story in *Best American Nonrequired Reading 2010*. Her work has also appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Salon*, *American Short Fiction*, *Memorious*, *Slice Magazine*, *Asian American Literary Review*, *Puerto del Sol*, and *Forklift, Ohio*.

McConigley has embraced her status as an emerging writer of color. “Being a person of color is half of who I am, and it informs what I write and how I am in the world,” she says. “I write about people who are living in a place where they don’t see a reflection of themselves. It’s important to me to tell those stories.” She is currently at work on a novel set in Wyoming during the summer of 1986. The main character is a teenage girl who is struggling to figure out how she fits in.

“The novel asks, in a bigger way, the same types of questions about identity that my stories do,” McConigley says. “I think all writers are a little bit outsiders. We’re always watching, observing, witnessing. Then we try to make sense of what we see.” 🐾

Learn more at ninemconigley.com.

In a state that relishes its pioneer history, Nina and her mother, Nimi, are themselves pioneers of sorts, challenging what it means to be “from Wyoming,” notes Lorena Garcia, executive director of *Wyofile*, who recently interviewed the McConigley women at Nimi’s home in Casper. Nimi was the first Indian-born person to become a state legislator in the country, serving in the Wyoming House of Representatives, often wearing her traditional sari on the House floor.

DUSTIN BLEIZEFFER/WYOFILER.COM

Honoring St. Olaf faculty past and present through endowed chairs in music and theater

By Suzy Frisch | PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER

As a St. Olaf student, Steven Fox '77 majored in both economics and theater, giving him an adaptability that has served him well in his wide-ranging career. In particular, he recalls two notable professors who made an enormous impact on his life: Theater Professor Patrick Quade '65 and Music Professor Robert Scholz '61.

Wanting to honor their lengthy tenures at St. Olaf, Fox recently created two endowed chairs — the Patrick J. Quade Endowed Chair in Theater and the Robert Scholz Endowed Chair in Music — to recognize their many contributions to St. Olaf and his own life. Fox established the two endowed chairs with gifts that will, through the Strategic Initiative Match, result in a \$3 million commitment to support distinguished teaching.

"I wanted to honor them because they spent almost their entire careers at St. Olaf, and most of the people there dedicate their lives to the school and their students," says Fox, who lives in the Twin Cities. "I felt that educators in our culture are underappreciated in general, so I wanted to make a gift to the college while also supporting the music and theater departments."

Fox was also motivated by a desire to ensure that others could enjoy the rich experiences he had at St. Olaf, as well as a wish to bolster the St. Olaf endowment and provide permanent foundational support for the college. He was gratified to see his gift put into action this year, when Professor of Theater Karen Peterson Wilson '77 and Associate Professor of Music Christopher Aspaas '95 became the first to hold the Quade and Scholz Endowed Chairs.

A philanthropic donation such as an endowed chair makes a substantial impact on St. Olaf, says Barry Carlson, senior development officer. "The bottom line is, for many families, college affordability is a concern, but they still want a high-quality academic experience for their daughter or son. These endowed chairs enable us to provide more resources for the college, faculty, and students," Carlson says. "For Steven, it was a wonderful way to honor both the professors who changed his life when he was a student at St. Olaf and professors who are changing the lives of today's students."

It was the college's music program that first drew Fox to the Hill. Fox made up his mind to attend St. Olaf after traveling from his hometown of Janesville, Wisconsin, to attend the junior recital of a friend from church and observing the strength of the college's musical opportunities. Throughout his time on campus, he sang in Viking Chorus — which was then for students of any year — under the direction of Scholz. He also studied voice with the professor.

Scholz, who spent nearly 40 years at St. Olaf, also led the Chapel Choir, Campus Choir (now Cantorei), and Chamber Choir, before retiring in 2005. Dr. Bob, as he was known on campus, additionally taught voice, choral conducting, and choral literature, all while mentoring hundreds of Oles. "He was a really wonderful conductor and musician," says Fox.

In addition to pursuing his love of music, Fox worked on many theater productions in lighting design, where he got to know Quade. A member of the theater faculty for nearly 30 years, Quade directed numerous acclaimed productions and served as director of International and Off-Campus studies for nearly a decade. In addition, he acted as field supervisor for the Global Semester, Term in the Middle East, and the Theater in London Interim. Quade, too, retired in 2005, though he still leads St. Olaf Study Travel programs around the world.

Quade's commitment to global studies was another reason Fox wanted to honor the theater professor. Fox spent time studying abroad in Europe and the Middle East, and it shaped his understanding of the world. He still treasures the time he spent on Term in the Middle East, where he and fellow students lived in Jerusalem for three months and studied historical and Biblical sites throughout the region. Fox remained abroad for an Interim experience that focused on the history of the early church and the Byzantine era, leading students along the Mediterranean to Turkey, Greece, and Italy.


"It was an amazing experience, and I learned so much," says Fox. "It was 1975, and in the United States, everyone was gearing up for the Bicentennial, celebrating 200 years [as a nation]. And then you go to Israel, and 200 years is a drop in the bucket. I'd never seen anything like that before, and it changed my whole perspective."

Those experiences inspired a lifelong love of travel for Fox, who has enjoyed visiting world heritage sites, particularly in Peru and Egypt. For a time, his desire for travel became his vocation, when he owned and operated a wholesale travel company that put together travel packages to global destinations for travel agencies. The agencies would then sell these trips to customers, helping them with logistics long before the Internet made international travel easier.

In addition to his travel business, Fox has worked as a lighting designer and stage manager and owned several other businesses, including a distribution company and a software business that specialized in database design. Though disparate on the surface, Fox often called on the skills he gained through his dual majors in theater and economics. It's one of the strengths of a liberal arts education, he says.

"You're entirely adaptable," says Fox. "The whole point is that you're not learning a particular trade, but you're learning a way to think and how to learn. I took what I learned [at St. Olaf], used it as a base, and went from there."

To learn more about endowing a faculty chair at St. Olaf, call 800-776-6523 or email development@stolaf.edu. If you have other questions about charitable gifts to the college, we have staff that look forward to working with you.



“Educators in our culture are underappreciated in general, so I wanted to make a gift to the college while also supporting the music and theater departments.”

— STEVEN FOX '77

Strength in Numbers

A gift to St. Olaf by Steven Fox '77 to establish endowed chairs in music and theater to support distinguished teaching (see page 34) has resulted in four alumni being honored. Professor of Theater Karen Peterson Wilson '77 has been named to the Patrick J. Quade Endowed Chair in Theater, and Associate Professor of Music Christopher Aspaas '95 has been named to the Robert Scholz Endowed Chair in Music.

PATRICK J. QUADE ENDOWED CHAIR IN THEATER

Karen Peterson Wilson earned her Ph.D. in theater at the University of Minnesota, garnering distinctions in philosophy of theater, acting, playwriting, and dramatic theory. She also holds a master's degree from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor's degree from St. Olaf.

Since joining the St. Olaf theater faculty in 1979, Wilson has distinguished herself in St. Olaf classrooms on campus and abroad, with both student and alumni learners. She connects her dual interests in theater and philosophy, creating innovative interdisciplinary courses such as *Who Owns the Arts: Censorship, Sponsorship, and Artistic Freedom* and a new international course, *The Arts and Literature of Australia and New Zealand*. Four of the 30 productions she has directed for the St. Olaf Theater have been part of the New Plays on Campus program, a national program she helped create, connecting college students and professional playwrights through the Minnesota Playwrights' Center.

Wilson has been awarded CTAM's (Communication and Theater Association of Minnesota) Outstanding Individual in Communication and Theater Award, and she was recently elected president of this same organization. She has presented papers and sat on panels at the international, national, and state level, has served several times as department chair, and continues to serve on Minnesota's Scholars of Distinction in Theater program.

The endowed chair honors Professor Emeritus of Theater Patrick Quade '65, who served on the college's theater faculty for nearly three decades and directed International and Off-Campus Studies for nearly ten years before retiring in 2005. During his 37 years at St. Olaf, Quade taught more than 20 different courses in theater and communication and directed more than 70 theater productions.

Quade received more than two dozen grants to develop initiatives that allow young people to explore theater. Among other projects, he founded the St. Olaf Children's Theater Institute, implemented a fine arts elementary education program for public schools, and created a workshop that helps elementary and high school instructors teach writing. His commitment to helping St. Olaf students become global citizens who, as he wrote in the *Star Tribune* in 2002, "appreciate the complexities, similarities, and differences that exist in our ever-shrinking world" has left a legacy that extends far beyond any classroom.

In addition to his service as director of International and Off-Campus Studies, Quade acted as field supervisor for the Global Semester, the Term in the Middle East, and the Theater in London Interim program (which he led 10 times). He continues to lead St. Olaf Adult Study Travel programs around the world.

ROBERT SCHOLZ ENDOWED CHAIR IN MUSIC

Christopher Aspaas joined the St. Olaf faculty in 2005 after receiving his Ph.D. in choral music education from Florida State University, his M.M. in choral conducting from Michigan State University, and his B.M. in voice performance from St. Olaf.



Aspaas conducts the Viking Chorus, a 90-voice ensemble of first-year student men, and also leads the St. Olaf Chapel Choir, a 100-voice ensemble specializing in the performance of oratorio and larger multi-movement works. In addition to conducting, he leads coursework in choral literature, choral conducting, and private applied voice.

In 2008, Aspaas was appointed as the music director and conductor for Magnum Chorum, a Twin Cities choral ensemble that is "Transforming Audiences through Artistry and Spirit." Additional experiences as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator have taken him around the world. Aspaas is also active as a tenor soloist, performing Bach cantatas with Helmuth Rilling and the Oregon Bach Festival Orchestra, the Evangelist roles in the John and Matthew Passions of Bach with the Bach Collegium of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and other solo roles with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, and the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic in Russia.



Clockwise from top left: Professor Emeritus of Theater Patrick Quade '65, Professor Emeritus of Music Robert Scholz '61, Associate Professor of Music Christopher Aspaas '95, Professor of Theater Karen Peterson Wilson '77

The endowed chair honors Professor Emeritus of Music Robert Scholz '61, who served on the college's music faculty for nearly four decades before retiring in 2005. He led the Chapel Choir, Viking Chorus, Campus Choir (now Cantorei), and Chamber Choir, in addition to teaching voice, choral conducting, and choral literature. Known on campus as "Dr. Bob," Scholz served as a mentor to hundreds of St. Olaf students.

In addition to his academic work, Scholz helped found the St. Olaf Summer Music Camp and assisted in planning the St. Olaf Christmas Festival. He also established the Northfield Chorale, which he conducted for 16 years. In 1995, Scholz received the F. Melius Christiansen Award for outstanding contributions to choral music from the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota. He continues to compose, guest conduct, and teach.

Why Do We Travel?

As Pico Iyer eloquently noted in his classic essay, "Why We Travel," "We travel, initially, to lose ourselves; and we travel, next, to find ourselves. We travel to open our hearts and eyes and learn more about the world than our newspapers will accommodate."

Celebrate the 140th year of St. Olaf's founding by continuing your education through Study Travel. All you have to do is decide where you want to go in 2015. We'll take care of the rest!



Hike, Bike, and Barge the Netherlands | April 16-29, 2015

Pack your sneakers and plan to hike, bike, and barge through the Netherlands while visiting some of this tiny country's pioneering sustainability projects.

Led by Dave Van Wylen '80, Professor of Biology, and Pat Van Wylen '80, Visiting Scholar Coordinator

The Great Conversation 35th Anniversary: Greece and Italy | June 8-23, 2015

Travel in two of the countries that gave birth to the Great Conversation: Greece and Italy. While this program is designed for Great Con alumni, it is open to all who are interested in the intersection of literature and art in its historical settings. Led by Karen Cherewatuk, Professor of English and former director of *The Great Conversation*, and Anne Groton, Professor of Classics



Wilderness Adventure in the Boundary Waters | June 14-20, 2014

Join us on an Ole adventure in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota's stunning Superior National Forest. We'll paddle from lake to river to lake again, and disembark as necessary to use the portage trails between bodies of water. This unique Study Travel has no deliberate educational theme but is an opportunity to gather with fellow Oles — official and honorary alike — and share time together in an area of natural beauty.

Led by Greg Kneser, Vice President of Student Life

Rebirth and Revolution: Exploring the Italian Renaissance and the German Reformation | September 13-27, 2015

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

VIEW ALL ST. OLAF STUDY TRAVEL ADVENTURES AT stolaf.edu/studytravel

Deepening Connections

Alumni and Parent Relations Director Brad Hoff '89 is committed to engaging Oles in the life of the college and with one another.

By Suzy Frisch

As the grateful recipient of a liberal arts education, Brad Hoff '89 took the skills and wisdom he received to heart, enjoying a varied career that included stints in community organization, public affairs consulting, and sales. He carried that rich background and flexibility with him when he became director of engagement, alumni, and parent relations at St. Olaf last year. "That's one of the beautiful parts of a liberal arts education," he says. "It's helped me learn, communicate, adjust, and adapt."

Hoff, who lives in Northfield with his wife, Sarah Carlsen '89, and their three children, returned to St. Olaf after serving as the chief administrative officer for facilities management at the University of Minnesota. He values the challenges of his position, and spent his first year on the job strengthening ties between St. Olaf and its constituency.

"The alumni are so critical to the ultimate success of St. Olaf, whether they are supporting us by volunteering, recommending us to prospective students, or supporting the college financially," says Hoff.

Harnessing the power of that network is currently Hoff's chief concern, and, with the help and support of the St. Olaf Alumni Board and college staff, he's implementing some significant changes that build on the deep connections alumni, parents, and friends of the college have with St. Olaf.

St. Olaf Magazine recently spoke with Hoff to learn more about what's happening in the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations.

Tell us more about the new connections you're making with Oles.

This coming summer, the alumni office is planning to launch an initiative called The Big Discovery. We have more than 36,000 living alumni — 14,000 of whom live in the Twin Cities — and they are a large and smart group with a lot of great ideas. It's a pilot program where about a dozen current students will each conduct 50 one-on-one, one-hour interviews with Twin Cities alumni.



KATIE LAUER '13

What do you hope to discover?

We want to learn two things: what kind of programming people are interested in and what they are passionate about in their volunteer lives. Is there a way we can create volunteer opportunities that align with these passions?

And we'll also be learning about their time on the Hill when they were students. For example, what classes were meaningful, which professors inspired them, did they study abroad? I'm excited about this process because it will enable us to shape our programming in upcoming years.

In giving people a chance to tell their stories, I hope the process will also remind alumni why St. Olaf was important to them, the critical role alumni and the college play in the lives of our current students, and what we can do to make sure all of this continues for future generations of Oles.

Tell us about the college's alumni chapters.

In working closely with our Alumni Board, we wanted to create a basic chapter structure that would do three things: match volunteers with their passions, prevent volunteer burnout, and provide for succession planning. We developed job descriptions with clear expectations for each volunteer position [within a chapter], which has helped our recruiting, because alumni have a clear understanding of what they're being asked to do.

How does this new structure work?

Each chapter has a steering committee comprised of a minimum of seven members, with two co-chairs, a Piper Center liaison, and a Welcome Ambassador. Each chapter decides how large a committee they need to be effective. The co-chairs run the alumni chapter, recruit volunteers, and help publicize events.

The Piper Center liaison focuses on communicating with the college's Piper Center for Vocation and Career about companies who have expressed an interest in hiring Oles. They also share job postings and help find internships for current students. Oles moving to a new city may find themselves greeted by a Welcome Ambassador. Some chapters have found that volunteers are interested in sharing a position. So, for example, rather than having a single Welcome Ambassador they have two individuals working together.

We now have this structure set up in Washington, D.C., New York, Chicago, Denver, Seattle, and San Francisco. We've had really positive initial feedback, and that's been exciting. Oles can learn more about what's going on in their region by checking the Alumni Events site (my.stolaf.edu/alumni/events).

Are there other changes that Oles should be aware of?

We restructured and relaunched the alumni awards process last fall. The nomination form is now online, and you have 2,000 words to explain why your candidate should be considered. You may also attach supporting material, such as scanned news articles, that enhance the nomination. Once submitted, you get instantaneous confirmation that the nomination was received. I hope that by making it easier, we'll have more people submit nominations.

Any final shout-outs?

Next month, on February 28th, we host our annual Black and Gold Gala at the Hilton in Minneapolis. Not only can alumni, parents, and friends of the college enjoy a fun social evening that includes dinner and dancing, the event

features a live and silent auction as well as an online auction for those unable to attend. All proceeds from the evening support the St. Olaf Fund and current students.

I'd also like to encourage everyone to attend their class reunions here on campus. We now celebrate reunions the weekend after graduation, which allows alumni to stay in the college dorms. Our next reunion will be the last weekend in May (May 29–31). I had my 25th last spring, and many of my classmates commented on how fun it was to reconnect with friends and to meet people they hadn't gotten a chance to know while they were students.

This year the Classes of '45, '50, '55, '60, '65, '70, '75, '80, '85, '90, '95, '00, '05, and '10 will celebrate their class reunions, but all alumni are invited to come home to the Hill for reunion weekend.

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO THE

Black and Gold Gala

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2015 · 6 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT · HILTON MINNEAPOLIS

\$125 per person · \$75 for Young Alumni (Classes 2004-14) and Faculty · \$1125 for full table by Jan. 30, \$1250 from Jan. 31–Feb. 16

Please register by Feb. 16, 2015 · Registration and auction details are available at my.stolaf.edu/alumni/events/gala or by calling 888-865-6537

Your Alumni Board

The Alumni Board is committed to deepening the engagement of every Ole with St. Olaf. From hosting regional events and encouraging volunteerism to preserving special traditions and finding new ways to strengthen connections, your alumni board is a vital force in the life of the college. The board welcomed four new members this fall, each of whom values their St. Olaf experience: Rebecca Ringham Odland '74, Curt Nelson '91, Cheryl Philip '10, and Kim Brody '78. The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations also acknowledges and thanks departing board members who have completed their terms of dedicated service: Kate Bollman Pearce '01, Brock Metzger '03, and Jennifer Rajala Sawyer '94.

REBECCA RINGHAM ODLAND '74

When Rebecca Ringham Odland looks back at her time on the Hill, she sees experiences and friendships that shaped her future. Four decades after graduating, she and her husband, Mark Odland '74, are still very close with many of the friends they made in their first-year corridors.

"The relationships developed at St. Olaf are a fundamental part of the community where people care for you," she says.

After graduating from St. Olaf as an English major, Odland taught English in high schools around the Midwest. She later earned her master's degree in education from the University of Minnesota. She is an active volunteer with organizations such as Friends of the Minnesota Orchestra, the Junior League of Minneapolis, and the Hennepin Health Foundation.

She also helps with the Minnesota Symphonic Winds, led by St. Olaf Band Conductor Timothy Mahr '78.

Odland volunteers for the Class of 1974, which has been a leader in participation and fundraising. As an Alumni Board member, she is grateful for the opportunity to expand the mission of St. Olaf and to enhance lifelong connections.



"As with any volunteer organization, you really have to be committed to the cause and have passion for the institution," she says.

Like many Oles, Odland is passionate about the college and its alumni.

"If you're halfway around the world and you run into someone from St. Olaf, you become instantly connected," says Odland. "That bond is invaluable."

KIM HANSEN BRODY '78

Kim Hansen Brody, an oboe performance major who spent much of her time on the Hill in the Music Department, admits she was a "music nerd."

Yet one of the most important lessons she learned from St. Olaf Band Conductor Miles "Mity" Johnson wasn't about music — it was about community. Johnson told students that "You don't make music by yourself — even a solo performance needs an audience," Brody recalls.

Participating in tours with the St. Olaf Band and St. Olaf Orchestra strengthened Brody's idea of community. On one St. Olaf Choir tour, she even performed a four-minute oboe solo that incorporated audience participation.

Since graduating from St. Olaf, Brody has continued to live a music-filled life. She moved to Chicago in 1986, where she played local gigs and worked as a freelance musician for 16 years. After starting a family, she moved to Boulder, Colorado, where she helps manage the Colorado Music Festival. She still teaches and plays oboe, and is proud to have put together a St. Olaf alumni band in Chicago.

"The world of professional music is especially competitive," says Brody. "But St. Olaf gave me the opportunity to experience support and celebration of my achievements."

Knowing that such support existed was of paramount importance to Brody, especially in the face of competition and setbacks in the professional world. The value of St. Olaf's supportive environment hit home again years later, when Brody was able to re-experience the college through her daughter, Lindsie Katz, a violinist who graduated in 2014.

"Seeing that this support, community, and camaraderie still exists makes St. Olaf such a special place," says Brody.

As a member of the Alumni Board, Brody wants to provide this support and outreach to



others. At St. Olaf, she learned that personal relationships are what life is all about. She intends to use this mantra when conducting her affairs as a member of the board, striving to get more Ole grads involved in the social sphere, and working to build the St. Olaf community in Colorado.

CURT NELSON '91

It didn't take Curt Nelson long to realize that the students and faculty at St. Olaf were genuinely interested in getting to know, support, and challenge one another.

That intentional effort to build — and nurture — community made a lasting impact on Nelson. He now strives to create that same sense of community in his role as executive director of the Carlson Family Foundation, a Minneapolis-based philanthropic organization.

"Helping communities to connect, both within and outside of themselves, is more than just my job," he says. "It's my passion and my calling."

At St. Olaf, Nelson served as a member, and later as president, of the Student Congregation. He also sang in St. Olaf Cantorei and worked in the Office of Educational Research.

As a member of the Alumni Board, Nelson wants to help sustain the community of St. Olaf alumni in the modern age.

"Even though we may not be physically on campus, there are new ways to reconnect with friends and professors from the college," he says.

Nelson notes that the college has created many opportunities for alumni to assist one another and mentor current students on the Hill. He hopes to build upon these programs, and is eager to share ideas about how the Alumni Board can continue to nurture community after students have left the Hill.

"I've benefitted from the network of Oles," Nelson says, "and I want to be sure that others have similar experiences."



"I've benefited from the network of Oles, and I want to be sure that others have similar experiences."

— CURT NELSON '91



2015 ST. OLAF ALUMNI BOARD (L-R, back row): Samuel Dotzler '00, Chicago; Ron Pechauer '59, Sun City, Ariz.; Brad Hoff '89, Northfield; Curt Nelson '91, Minneapolis; Ben Baker '09, NYC; (middle row) Rebecca Schmidt Taibl '70, St. Paul, Minn.; Greta Fure '09, Eden Prairie, Minn.; Vijay Mehrotra '86, Oakland, Calif.; Paul Finley '99, Mission Viejo, Calif.; (front row) Sandy Skustad Jerstad '66, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Cheryl Philip '10, St. Paul, Minn.; Amy Gillespie '88, Washington, D.C.; Rebecca Ringham Odland '74, Edina, Minn.; Lisa Warren '86, Minneapolis. Not pictured: Nikki Brock Maruska '95, Pearland, Texas; Kim Brody '78, Boulder, Colo.; Kate Sands Johnson '95, Dallas; Karl Johan Uri '99, Seattle

CHERYL PHILIP '10

Cheryl Philip still remembers what Associate Professor of Anthropology Tom Williamson wrote on the blackboard on the first day of her very first class at St. Olaf.

Inside a circle, he wrote the word "Know." Outside of it, he wrote the words "Don't Know." Pointing at the board, Williamson



told the class, "The more you know, the more you realize you don't know."

For Philip, that circle changed everything.

A graduate of a historically African American high school in south Chicago known for its student choir, Philip came to St. Olaf with interests in music and political science. But Philip, a native of India, became inspired to go outside her own circle to explore what she didn't know. After her first year at St. Olaf, where she experienced race in a new way, she stopped singing and became more devoted to understanding identity. "I have this passion," says Philip, "to explore how and why our identities, both self-identified and imposed, inform the ways in which we articulate ourselves."

The work positions she held as an undergraduate in Admissions and Multicultural

Affairs served to deepen her exploration of identity. "As an international student, I wanted to figure out who I was and where I fit in," she says. "And St. Olaf certainly helped with that."

Since her time at St. Olaf, Philip has discovered that we — as people, as institutions, and as a society — are constantly changing.

"St. Olaf is beginning to know itself more and discover things that it doesn't know," she says, citing that blackboard lesson from her first day on the Hill.

She hopes to help the college in this endeavor during her time on the Alumni Board. "I'm in it for each and every one of St. Olaf's students, because I have a really great bunch of Oles on my side," she says.

— SAM WEISNER '16

MEET ST. OLAF REGENT

Ward M. Klein '77

BY ANDREW WILDER '15

Ward Klein is Chief Executive Officer of Energizer Holdings, Inc., a position he has held since 2005. Reflecting on his career, Ward says he has always welcomed the jobs that provide maximum learning opportunities versus maximum status. "More than once did I take an assignment that offered profoundly new experiences *instead of* bigger budgets or more direct reports," he says. "Each new assignment was challenging and risky, but also a tremendous learning experience, which served me well as I progressed to CEO."

Klein says that his experience at St. Olaf taught him the importance of this kind of humility in the workplace. "Checking one's ego at the door allows one to be more effective," he says. "When you walk in a room to lead a department, a team, or a company, understand that it's not about you — it's about them."

"You learn more when you listen than when you talk," he adds. "Politeness does matter. It paves the way for one to be effective in diverse situations, whether in your own culture or in the cultures of others. I have overseen organizations and executives in dozens of countries over my career and worked with people in over 50 countries. 'Midwest nice' travels well."

How did St. Olaf prepare you for your career?

First, St. Olaf provided a positive and supportive environment in which to discover who I was, what my values are, what I might want to do with my life. My major in economics provided a solid foundation from which to pursue my master's in management at Northwestern [University] and my profession. Being one of the co-captains of the St. Olaf swim team, both my junior and senior years, helped me strengthen my leadership skills and self-discipline. Getting to start the college's first water polo club, secure materials and pool time, and craft a competition schedule strengthened my self-confidence to take on new tasks. Mind, body, spirit — St. Olaf nourished all three.

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

St. Olaf is a strong and well-run institution. I honestly don't know what sort of impact I can make, but I am well experienced at providing fiduciary oversight along with supportive counsel and advice to leaders of organizations, and will attempt to add value to the discussions and deliberations of the board.

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

In addition to the comments above, I would say a faith-based appreciation of family, friends, and community, and the sincere belief that the more one is blessed, the greater one's responsibility to give back.



"You learn more when you listen than when you talk. Politeness does matter. It paves the way for one to be effective in diverse situations, whether in your own culture or in the cultures of others."

MEET ST. OLAF REGENT

Samuel M. Dotzler '00

BY ANDREW WILDER '15

Sam Dotzler is the president of Dotzler Law, LLC, in Chicago. Reflecting on his St. Olaf education, Dotzler says, "The professors are world class." Two in particular had a significant impact on him: Gene Bakko, professor emeritus of biology, and Charles Taliaferro, professor of philosophy. "They challenged [me] and taught me to look at the world differently. They showed me a new paradigm of learning that I apply today," he says.

Dotzler spends many hours practicing law and building his firm, with the rest of his time devoted to his wife, Erin O'Donnell '00, and their three sons, Liam (age 4-and-a-half), Sammy Jr. (age 3) and Charlie (age 1).

Fond of cooking and appreciative of Chicago's good restaurants, Dotzler's engagement with St. Olaf and its alumni started out with planning St. Olaf "Around the World, Around Chicago" events for Oles living in the Windy City. Dotzler later stepped into the role as co-chair of the Chicago Alumni Chapter, which led to an opportunity to serve on the St. Olaf Alumni Board. Today, Dotzler is president of the Alumni Board and a member of the Board of Regents.

How did your biology major at St. Olaf lead you to a career in law?

A degree in biology helped build my skill sets in analysis, reasoning, and logic. Each of these is critical to the foundation on which I built my legal career. The liberal arts curriculum at St. Olaf also prepared me to be mindful of a global perspective, both in terms of geography and philosophy. I can attribute much of my personal and professional success to the education and experiences I had at St. Olaf. It provided me with friendships and a professional network that have stayed with me after my St. Olaf years, which will also enable me to sustain and grow as a person.

What were some of the most important aspects of St. Olaf for you when you were a student?

I was looking for a comprehensive experience — the ability to grow and learn as a student, with the goal of becoming a successful professional. But I also wanted an opportunity to build lasting friendships through shared, meaningful experiences. Living in the residence halls each year created a community and support system, which I still rely on today. Participating in student government and intramural sports, taking advantage of the opportunities to travel abroad, engaging and learning from professors and lecturers outside of my planned major at St. Olaf provided a holistic approach to my life, not merely a transactional education experience where I earned my degree.

At a very personal level, I met my wife through St. Olaf. Our shared values and principles, as well as our shared experiences at St. Olaf, have contributed to a meaningful marriage and family. St. Olaf is integrated across multiple dimensions of my life.

What do you hope to achieve as a St. Olaf Regent?

My interest is in increasing alumni engagement — enhancing the relationship between the college and the alumni community. When we graduate, we set on our path and have an emotional connection with St. Olaf as an institution, our alma mater, on top of the academic degree we received. I'd like to work with the Regents to help identify and execute a strategy that engages alumni, maintaining the emotional and professional connection we have when we graduate. As a regent and as president of the Alumni Board, I am excited to explore how we can amplify the college's efforts to engage the alumni base and create a strong, effective dialogue between the good work of the Board of Regents and the Alumni Board.



Celebrate a Legacy by Sponsoring a New St. Olaf Choir Robe



The deep purple robes worn by the St. Olaf Choir are a visible symbol of musical passion and excellence. For multiple generations of choir members, the robe represents a significant individual artistic achievement and a collective commitment to the musical legacy the St. Olaf Choir has developed over more than 100 years.

New and old St. Olaf Choir members share vivid memories of the first time they wore the distinctive garb. That first memory signifies a shared responsibility — to the music they performed, to relationships with one another, and to the larger St. Olaf College community.

In 2001, a special robe sponsorship program offered many friends of St. Olaf the opportunity to celebrate this legacy with a designated gift to the college to honor or memorialize a friend, family member, colleague, peer, mentor, or loved one. A special gold-embroidered label sewn into the robe identifies both the honoree and the sponsor,

making a powerful connection between current choir members and those who feel a deep connection to the choir's mission, its message, and its legacy.

The St. Olaf Choir will introduce a new robe for its 2015-16 performance season. Friends of the college are invited to sponsor the new robes — still in traditional purple but with a new Norwegian cross insignia — through a special robe sponsorship gift. Donors and honorees will be listed in the choir's annual tour program, recognizing this legacy of commitment for audiences around the country. Prior donors to this important enterprise will continue to be honored as the labels of dedication in current choir robes will be removed, stitched together, and framed for display on campus.

Robe sponsorship gifts will be counted toward reunion campaigns and in the St. Olaf Fund. To sponsor a choir robe, visit stolaf.wufoo.com/forms/give-online-onetime-gift and type "Choir Robe" in the comment box.

Calling All Manitou Singers!

There will be a special event for all former Manitou Singers during Reunion Weekend, **May 29-31, 2015**. Sigrid Johnson is retiring from St. Olaf after 32 years as conductor of the Manitou Singers. To celebrate Sig's retirement and her years of service, a mass choir of Manitou Singer alumnae who sang under Sig and Alice Larsen will be the featured music event on **Saturday, May 30, at 4 p.m. in Skoglund Center Auditorium.**

In addition to the mass choir, the 2014-15 Manitou Singers will also perform. Registration for singing in the mass choir will be available online this spring on the Alumni and Parent Relations website (stolaf.edu/alumni).



THE ST · OLAF CHOIR

ANTON ARMSTRONG · CONDUCTOR

WINTER TOUR 2015 JANUARY 24–FEBRUARY 15

The St. Olaf Choir, under the direction of Anton Armstrong '78, embarks on an 18-day tour beginning Jan. 24, with performances in the following cities:

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
MADISON, WISCONSIN
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN
CLEVELAND, OHIO
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
LANSDALE, PENNSYLVANIA
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
CINCINNATI, OHIO
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The February 16 home concert will be streamed live at stolaf.edu/multimedia.

Purchase tickets for tour performances at stolaf.edu/stolaf-choir.

SUBMIT YOUR CLASS NOTES ONLINE!

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

1945 | **Margaret Molberg Pederson** writes, "I am having fun with the recent notification that, as a nonagenarian, I appear as a co-author in an article in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Teaching in Social Work*. Our research comes under the title 'To Facilitate Advance Care Planning: The Novice Social Worker's Experience.' The research was an effort together with the University of Louisville's social work professors."

1947 | **Stanley A. Peterson** has, at age 95, written a memoir, *The Saint, Stories by the Navigator of a B-17*. A member of the 96th Bomb Group, 8th



Air Force in England who enlisted in the Army before Pearl Harbor, Stanley chronicles his adventures while flying 25 missions over German-occupied western Europe. He writes, "My daughter Cathy [Peterson Duncan] '77 served as editor, and my daughter Nancy

[Peterson Severson] '73 was good enough to type my experiences as a member of the Greatest Generation." Stanley, who has fond memories of St. Olaf, was decorated Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor in April 2012 in Florida. Friends can find Stanley's book on Amazon.com.

1950 | **Omar Juveland** writes, "I retired after more than 30 years with Amoco Chemicals Corporation [where I was] head of the Research and Development Department, comprised of 600 scientists and a support staff. Earlier, I had obtained 25 U.S. patents. I am still okay at 88 years."

1954 | In September, **John and Eleanor Goehring Yackel** were honored with the 2014

Changing Lives Award at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota's annual Celebration for Changing Lives. Eleanor shared the reminder that in Minnesota and across the country, we are a nation of new Americans. "It's important to remember that this is a settlement area for people from Europe who came to find their place," she says. "Now, we can get to work, help out and make new neighbors our friends."



1969 | **John Lang**, an author and professor emeritus of English at Emory & Henry College in Emory, Va., has written the first book-length study

Renewing Old Ties

Jerome Narveson '57, who has retired from teaching Latin and English at John Marshall High School in Rochester for 34 years, writes that a rare assemblage of Oles with deep connections to the history of St. Olaf gathered at Lake Pepin in Lake City, Minn., to honor their longtime friend and classmate **Alf S. Houkom '57** for his long and distinguished career in choral music, both as a composer and director, at Cornell College in Iowa.

Jerome's connection to St. Olaf began with his father, Bert Narveson, who taught Latin and Greek at the college, and his mother, Delia, who was an accompanist for Gertrude Boe Overby. Jerome's wife, **Charlotte Roe '57**, is one of eight siblings who graduated from St. Olaf and whose parents were also graduates. Additional legacy Oles included **John Hanson '57**, whose father, Rev. H.B. Hanson, was a former St. Olaf pastor and member of the college's religion department; Alf Houkom, whose father was once director of the St. Olaf library; 2002 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient **Shoonie Donhowe Hartwig '57**, who is the daughter of Charlotte Donhowe, a longtime piano teacher at St. Olaf; and **Steve Swanson '54**, a retired St. Olaf Professor of English and Lutheran pastor whose father, Cully Swanson '25, was a Hall of Fame Ole quarterback and served as dean of men and head of admissions at St. Olaf.

Many other distinguished Oles also attended the Lake Pepin event: **Arlen Erdahl '53**, a 1972 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient and former Minnesota Secretary of State; **Ellen Syrdal Erdahl '57**, who served in Washington, D.C., and, with Arlen, raised six children who graduated from St. Olaf; **Paul Peterson '56**, former director of the college's radio station, WCAL; 2011 Distinguished Service Award recipients **Paul Christenson '55** and **Lois Wold Christenson '55**, who dedicated endless amounts of time and resources to the betterment of their local and global communities; and **Judith Seleen Swanson '57**, a liturgical artist who, since 1992, has created the stage design for the St. Olaf Christmas Festival. Other Oles in attendance were **Margaret Halverson Heglund '57** and **Gene Heglund '57**, a retired Lutheran pastor, **Beverly Derschied Sorenson '57**, **Mary Bender Miller '57**, **Norma Jean Smith Seashore '57**, and **David Erickson '58**.



Pictured (L-R) are **John Hanson '57**; **Alf Houkom '57**; **Arlen Erdahl '53**; **Ellen Syrdal Erdahl '57**; **Paul Peterson '56**; **Beverly Derschied Sorenson '57**; **Don Miller and Mary Bender Miller '57**; **Shoonie Hartwig '57**; **Lois Wold Christenson '55**; **Jerome Narveson '57**; **Charlotte Roe '57**; **Norma Jean Smith Seashore '57**; **Paul Christenson '55**; **Margaret Halverson Heglund '57**; **Steve Swanson '54**; **Ruth Ann Stime Erickson and David Erickson '58**; **Judith Seleen Swanson '57**; and **Gene Heglund '57**

of the poet and novelist Ron Rash and his work to date. John writes, "A movie version of [Rash's] novel *Serena*, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper, is scheduled for release early this year. I continue to enjoy retirement after nearly 30 years teaching American literature, and my wife, Esther, and I celebrated the birth of our first grandchild."

■ **Craig Linn and Daniel Heiman** (L-R, photo at far right) harvested olives last fall at Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, as a service project for St. James Lutheran Church in Lake Forest, Ill. Augusta Victoria is located on Lutheran World Federation (LWF) grounds. The

olive groves, are owned by the LWF and managed by Rev. **Mark B. Brown '78**, who oversees and coordinates the LWF's health and educational programs. Oil produced from the olives is bottled and sold by the LWF to fund hospital care for the poor. [CONTINUED ON P. 46]





Shaw '49 releases new Kildahl biography

BY SAM WEISNER '16

The quest for an extensive written history of St. Olaf College continues: Professor Emeritus of Religion Joe Shaw '49 has just published a biography of the college's second president.

John Nathan Kildahl is a careful investigation into the life and times of a gifted servant of the college and the church. Shaw presents a very personal record of Kildahl that is an engaging narrative with historical substance. The project was

assisted by a grant from the Nygaard Foundation.

Shaw, who retired from teaching at St. Olaf in 1991, felt compelled to complete this biography after coming across numerous references to Kildahl in the course of his research for previous books. Up to that point, he had written a centennial history of the college in 1974 and the history of the St. Olaf Choir, as well as biographies of St. Olaf founder Bernt Julius Muus and St. Olaf's first president, Thorbjorn Nelson Mohn.

For Shaw, writing *John Nathan Kildahl* was the natural next step. "I became aware that Kildahl was simply a very important and pivotal leader in St. Olaf's early history," he says.

After immigrating to America from Norway, the Kildahl family soon settled in Northfield, Minnesota. John Nathan Kildahl studied at Luther College and Luther Seminary in Madison, Wisconsin, to become ordained as a pastor. After serving congregations in southern Minnesota and Chicago, Kildahl led St. Olaf College as president from 1899 to 1914. Called by the church to be a professor of theology in 1914, he taught at Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, until his death in 1920.

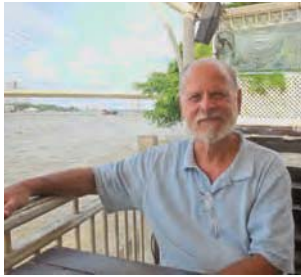


Shaw says Kildahl left the college a significant legacy that the campus community can be grateful for today. He enriched the college's academic program and laid the groundwork for accreditation, expanded the campus by adding campus buildings (among them, Steensland Library, Hoyme Memorial Chapel, and Mohn and Ytterboe Halls), secured coeducation at St. Olaf, built a strong faculty (which included Ole Rølvaag, Carl Mellby, and F. Melius Christiansen), organized student leadership outlets, established an endowment fund, and solidified the college's relationship with other academic institutions, with the Lutheran church, and with Norway.

In addition to his biographies, other books about the college by Shaw include *The St. Olaf Choir: A Narrative*; *History of St. Olaf College: 1874-1974*; *Dear Old Hill: The Story of Manitou Heights, the Campus of St. Olaf College*; and *Ole Time Religion: A History of the Department of Religion at St. Olaf College*.

Shaw's books, including *John Nathan Kildahl*, can be found at the St. Olaf Bookstore, either on campus or online at stolafbookstore.com.

1970 | Warren “Tom” Holmes, who for 25 years was pastor of a multicultural congregation near Chicago, has recently published a memoir. *Forty Days Alone in Thailand* was written “partly as a spiritual travel memoir, but partly as a way of encouraging readers to risk moving out of their cultural comfort zones as a way of meeting themselves again as if for the first time,” he says.



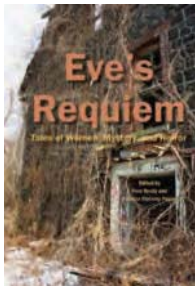
1975 | Linda Olsvig-Whittaker writes, “I retired from the Israel Nature and Parks Authority in April 2014 but remain in Israel as a permanent resident. Since then I have become active in two archaeological projects as a staff ecologist and landscape archaeologist. The first is the Tel es-Safi/biblical Gath project (<https://faculty.biu.ac.il/~maeira/>), where I am analyzing ancient plant and animal remains in comparison with modern flora, fauna, and habitats. The second is the Gadara Region Project, centered on Tall Zira’a in Jordan (www.the-fullwiki.org/Gadara_Region_Project). I am now a Senior Fellow at the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology in Jerusalem, which runs this project, and will be doing habitat mapping of the Gadara Region during the coming year.”

1976 | Orthopedic surgeon Paul Matson received the Minnesota Medical Association’s highest honor, its Distinguished Service Award, given annually to a physician who has made outstanding contributions to medicine and to the association. Paul has been active in the Blue Earth Medical Society and has served both as president of the MMA and chair of its board of trustees. “I was humbled and honored to be recognized by my peers,” says Matson.

1977 | Steven Langehough recently was awarded a Ph.D. in pastoral psychology by the Graduate Theological Foundation in Mishawaka, Indiana.



1978 | A short story by Lani (Lane) Longshore, “The Family Tree,” is featured in *Eve’s Requiem: Tales of Women, Mystery, and Horror*, edited by Fern Brady and Patricia Flaherty Pagan, and published by Spider Road Press. Lani is also co-author, along with Ann Anastasio, of *Death by Chenille* and *When Chenille Is Not Enough*, two novels in the newly created genre of quilting science fiction.



Oles Lead Rocky Mountain Synod Congregation

With the arrival of Paul N. Svingen ‘69 as interim senior pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in Cherry Hills Village, Colo. — the largest ELCA congregation in the Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA — the congregation’s professional leadership team is comprised of five Oles. The other two full-time pastors are Ruth Ann Loughry ‘91 and Russ Britton ‘98. Bethany’s director of finance and administration is Joel Halvorson ‘87, and its director of health & wellness is Janet Mortinsen ‘86. Paul, who has pioneered intentional interim ministry in the Lutheran Church and in the ecumenical community, writes that he has served more than 30 intentional interim pastorates within 14 ELCA synods across 10 states since 1978. Each member of the Rocky Mountain Synod pastoral team credits St. Olaf with preparing them well for their continuing journey of service.



(L-R) Russ Britton '98, Ruth Ann Loughry '91, Paul Svingen '69, Janet Mortinsen '86, and Joel Halvorson '87

1980 | Former college roommates, attorneys, and Ole parents Clark Whitmore (below, left) and Paul Peterson (right) met on a St. Olaf semester abroad and have been best of friends and travel buddies ever since. They have taken more than a dozen trips together on five different continents.



Their latest adventure was to Africa, where they climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and planted the Ole Lion at the summit. Paul and his wife, Margy Sather Peterson ‘80, who serves on the Black & Gold Gala steering committee, are parents of three Oles: Ilse Peterson ‘09, Christopher P. Peterson ‘12, and Andrew C. Peterson ‘14. Clark and his wife, Cheryl Alexander Whitmore ‘81, have two children, Charles A. Whitmore ‘13 and Claire Whitmore.

1981 | Mark Kaminsky co-authored a paper in catalysis that was recently published in *Angewandte Chemie, International Edition*. This research was done while he was a Dow Fellow. Mark is a co-inventor of 36 issued patents in the field of catalysis.

1982 | Jay Beech is now the director of the Center for Worship & Music Studies, a new worship music training program based in Minneapolis and formed through a partnership of ELCA synods. More info about Jay and the Center is available at worshipandmusic.org.



1985 | PGA and LPGA professional golfer Le Ann Hiddleston Finger has joined the Executive Women’s Golf Association (EWGA) as director of player development. Le Ann comes to the EWGA after working for the past six years as the PGA’s national promotions specialist at its Florida headquarters. In her new position, Le Ann oversees a variety of educational golf programs.



Emmy® Excellence

The one-hour PBS holiday program *Christmas in Norway with the St. Olaf Choir* has been recognized for excellence by the Upper Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The St. Olaf College production, produced by PBS affiliate Twin Cities Public Television (**tpt**), received two Upper Midwest Regional Emmy® statuettes — one for Special Event Coverage, and one for the program's director, Phillip Byrd. In the Special Event category, Anton Armstrong '78, Jeffrey O'Donnell '02, and Bob "BJ" Johnson were presented with Emmy® Awards, along with **tpt** creative staff who worked on the production.

"When you have peers outside the field of music recognize the stature of the choir and the very nature of that type of program, it affirms the work that we do and the level of excellence we strive for," Armstrong said in a recent interview.

The St. Olaf Choir's centennial tour of Norway in 2013 culminated in the filming of this very special Christmas program, which was filmed in Trondheim's beautiful Nidaros



Cathedral. Joining the St. Olaf Choir and conductor, Anton Armstrong, was the Nidarosdomens Jentekor, the cathedral's resident girls' choir.

In addition to directing the St. Olaf Choir, Armstrong was artistic director of the program; Johnson, who is the long-time manager of St. Olaf Music Organizations, served as production and concert manager; and O'Donnell, executive producer of the weekly radio program *Sing For Joy*, as well as director of broadcast and media services at St. Olaf, was the program's audio producer.

CDs and DVDs of *Christmas in Norway with the St. Olaf Choir* can be found at the St. Olaf Bookstore (stolafbookstore.com).



From left: Jeffrey O'Donnell '02, Anton Armstrong '78, and Bob "BJ" Johnson, with their 2014 Emmy® Awards

THE ST·OLAF ORCHESTRA

STEVEN AMUNDSON · CONDUCTOR

WINTER TOUR
FEBRUARY 1-7, 2015



The St. Olaf Orchestra, under the direction of Steven Amundson, embarks on a seven-day tour through Florida and Georgia, performing in:

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

LAKELAND, FLORIDA

NAPLES, FLORIDA

VERO BEACH, FLORIDA

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

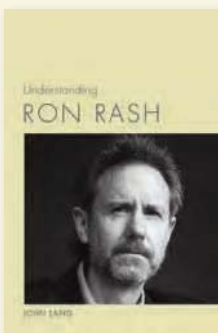
MARIETTA, GEORGIA

A February 16 home concert will be streamed live at stolaf.edu/multimedia.

For performance details and ticket information, visit stolaf.edu/stolaf-orch.

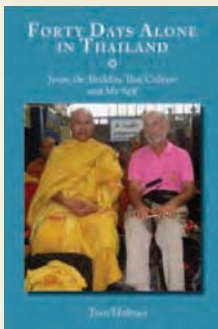
ON THE SHELF

NEW BOOKS BY ST. OLAF ALUMNI AND FACULTY



The Saint, Stories by the Navigator of a B-17 (self-published, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, September 2014), by **Stanley A. Peterson '47**

Spirituality and Your Life Story (Archway Publishing, 2014), by **Bradley Hanson '57**



The Birdman of Lauderdale (Levins Publishing, 2013), by **Clay Christensen '61**

Understanding Ron Rash (University of South Carolina Press, 2014), by **John Lang '69**

Forty Days Alone in Thailand: Jesus, the Buddha, Thai Culture, and My Self (self-published, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, August 2014) by **Tom Holmes '70**



More Do-It-Yourself Java Games: An Introduction to Java Graphics and Event-Driven Programming (Godtland Software Corporation, 2014), edited by **Paul Godtland '78**

Suspending Modernity: The Architecture of Franco Albini (Ashgate, November 2014), by **Kay Bea Jones '79**



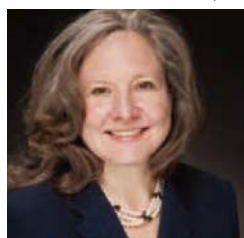
Journal of an ADHD Kid: The Good, the Bad, and the Useful (Woodbine House, September 2014), by Tobias Stumpf and **Dawn Schaefer Stumpf '92**



Understanding Dying, Death, and Bereavement (Eighth Edition, Cengage Learning, 2014), by **Michael R. Leming, St. Olaf professor emeritus of sociology/anthropology, and George E. Dickinson**

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

1988 | **Sylvia Strobel** has been named senior vice president and general counsel for Minnesota Public Radio/American Public Media



in St. Paul. She also was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the Association of Junior Leagues International in New York City.

1989 | **Arne R. Flaten**, professor of art history and chair of the Department of Visual Arts at Coastal Carolina University, has been elected to the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, an interdisciplinary network of leading world scholars based in Salzburg, Austria. He is the first professor in his university's history to receive this distinction, as well as the first in the state of South Carolina. In addition to Arne's distinguished research and academic credentials, he also cofounded the innovative Ashes2Art (coastal.edu/ashes2art), which digitally reconstructs monuments of the ancient world.



1990 | **Scott Hed**, director of Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska, has made a lot of progress in the Save Bristol Bay campaign over the past few



years, and recently was recognized for his many years of work on this issue. *Fly Rod & Reel* magazine named Scott their Angler of the Year. Scott writes, "It's a bit overwhelming to be singled out when there

are many people involved with our campaign's success." Friends can read more about this on Scott's website, sportsmansalliance4ak.org.

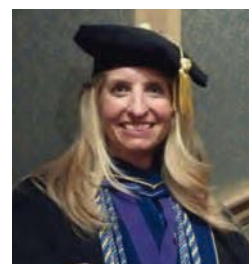
1992 | **Michelle Carlson Colte**, a library media specialist, received the *School Library Journal's* inaugural School Librarian of the Year Award. The award, sponsored by Scholastic Library Publishing, recognizes an accomplished K-12 library professional who is using 21st-century tools to engage students and promote multiple literacies. Says Michelle, "The greatest joy is seeing students when that light bulb goes off — seeing them empowered, seeing that they've learned something and they're going to go help someone else."

■ **Chris Laurel** (below, left) has spent more than a dozen years developing astronomy software, including contracting for NASA and the European



Space Agency. His latest project is with Fifth Star Labs, writing code for Sky Guide, an intuitive and detailed app for stargazers who have a passion for science, space, and exploration. Friends can learn more about the app at fifthstarlabs.com. ■

Matthew Newland is now serving as a senior policy analyst in the Office of Global Affairs in the Office of the Secretary in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), working with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the Global Health Initiative. Some of his duties include serving as a liaison among the HHS Operating Divisions, the Office of Global Affairs, and the State Department.



■ **Rebecca Novotny Collins**, who earned a Ph.D. in education from Northcentral University, is now adjunct faculty for Northcentral University and the University of Wisconsin-Superior.



■ Last summer, **Sara Pust Meza** started a small business called Contigo Disability Advocates, LLC. She represents Social Security disability claimants in the application and appeals process, with an emphasis

on serving legally underserved populations and Spanish speakers. ■ **Dawn Schaefer Stumpf** partnered with her son, Tobias, on the book *Journal of an ADHD Kid*. Originally self-published, the book has just been picked up by a national publisher, Woodbine House. Dawn is currently an elementary educator, and Toby is attending high school. Friends can learn more on Dawn's blog, journalofanadhdkid.weebly.com. ■ **Frank Van Alstine** has earned his Certified Information Systems Security Professional certification.

1994 | **Michael Rogan**, who completed a fellowship in interventional radiology at the University of Minnesota, has relocated with



his family to Fort Collins, Colo., where he has joined Advanced Medical Imaging.

1995 | **Brian Buckstead** is enjoying a new position as assistant professor of violin and viola at the University of Minnesota–Duluth. ■ **Chris Strom**, who led the design team for St. Olaf's Tostrud Center, has opened an architectural practice, Christopher Strom Architects, specializing in modern, custom residential projects. Chris recently earned the 2014 Emerging Talent Award for Residential Architecture from the American Institute of Architects–Minnesota.

1996 | **Matthew Flory** participated in the Innovative Uses of Data in Healthcare panel at Minnesota Community Measurement's 2014 "Making Measurement Matter" seminar.

1999 | **Molly A. Petersen** is working for the Montana Department of Revenue as its public information specialist.

2003 | Composer **Jocelyn Hagen** premiered a new dance opera called *Test Pilot* with choreographer Penelope Freeh at St. Paul's O'Shaughnessy Auditorium last fall as part of the "Women of Substance" series.



2004 | **Lauren Baske Davis** writes, "I have joined a staff of all-Ole clergy!" Lauren is now associate pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Owatonna, Minnesota, where she serves with Senior Pastor **John Weisenburger '88**, and Associate Pastor **Karl Korbelt '60**.

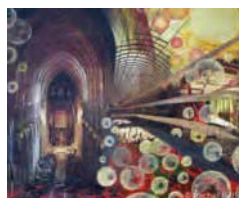
2010 | **Lauren Seline**, who graduated from the Medical College of Wisconsin last May, is completing her transitional year at Aurora St. Luke's in Milwaukee, followed by a dermatology residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

2011 | **Sonja (Midthun) Midtune**, an alternative rock artist based in Los Angeles, has released her second single, "Break Up With Me," accompanied



by her first official music video. Sonja performs in the Hollywood area, frequenting Bar Lubitsch, Room 5, The House of Blues in Hollywood, and VIBRATO Jazz Club in Bel Air. Check out her latest music and videos at sonjamidtune.com.

2012 | Out of 2,374 entrants, works of art by **Rachel Butler** and **Sheila Novak** were selected as two of 325 pieces accepted into the Minnesota State Fair fine arts exhibition. Rachel writes, "As graduates of the St. Olaf studio art program, we are extremely grateful for the springboard our education has given us." Friends can view their work at rachelbutlerdesign.wix.com/portfolio and sheilanovak.com. ■ **Michael Saas** was promoted to First Lieutenant and assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.



2014 | **Julie Laven** has joined the Volunteer Missionary Movement (VMM-USA) and, after training and orientation in New York, will begin two years of volunteer service in El Salvador working with the SHARE Foundation, a VMM project partner.

WHAT WILL YOUR KIDS LEARN THIS SUMMER?



SWIM CAMPS

June 14–18, 21–25, June 28–July 2

PIANO ACADEMY

June 21–27

MUSIC CAMP

June 21–27

FOOTBALL CAMPS

Lineman Camp: June 22–23
Perimeter Skills Camp: June 24–25

THEATER CAMPS

Advanced Theater Camp: June 19–28
Acting Camp: June 21–27

DIVING CAMP

June 28–July 2

ENGINEERING AND PHYSICS CAMP FOR GIRLS

June 28–July 3

OLE CHESS CAMP

July 26–31

NEW FOLK SCHOOL CAMP

July 5–11

For registration info, email summer@stolaf.edu or call 507-786-3031 or 800-726-6523

Learn more about St. Olaf Summer Camps: stolaf.edu/conferences/summer-camps

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youtube.com/user/stolaf

Future Ole Whitaker Martin '35



future oles

Carolyn and Kevin Chenoweth '92, a daughter, Elena
 Sarah Kesler '93, a son, Torsten
 Brian Buckstead '95 and Numa Ali, a son, Oliver
 Suzanna and Carrie L. Johnson '96, twin sons, Theo and Rhys
 Eric and Kathryn McCall Beazley '97, twin sons, Tommy and James
 Christina and Eric Stensvaag '97, a son, Jack
 Maggie and Christopher Martin '99, a son, Whitaker
 Abdur and Sarah McClimon-Rahman '99, a daughter, Anna
 Peter and Dawn Schuffenhauer Klesk '00, a son, Ryan
 Angela Balfanz Reese '01 and Daniel Reese '01, a son, Owen
 Elizabeth Douglass Espinoza '01 and Michael Espinoza '01, a son, Zachary
 Patrick and Sarah Olson Lyon '02, a daughter, Julia
 Christopher and Sarah Onnen Ash '02, a daughter, McKenzie
 Allison Grote Philson '03 and James Philson '03, a daughter, Breta
 Rob and Sarah Everhart Gilmor '04, a son, Thomas
 Elizabeth Henke '05 and José Balagueró-Sánchez, a son, Andreu
 Joe and Rachel Hunsinger Schmeltzer '05, a daughter, Amy
 Andrew and Sonja Moe Kromroy '05, a daughter, Ingrid
 Jonathan and Kimberly Schuh Chester '05, a son, Zane
 Kayla Wentz Clark '05 and Christopher Clark '06, a daughter,
 Hannah, and a son, Payton
 Erin Mercer Terpstra '06 and Benjamin Terpstra '06, a son, John
 Chris and Lucile Iverson Sesvold '09, a daughter, Anika
 Daniel and Kelly Stratton Roehl '09, a son, Louis

weddings

Michael Garland '71 and William Hogan, July 12, 2014
 Robert Brownson '75 and Kristi Oathoudt, April 11, 2014
 Diane Crooks '85 and Fritz Banfield, June 28, 2014
 David Wahlberg '87 and Rigoberto Gallegos, June 7, 2014
 Steven Johnsen '90 and Marianne Moe, Aug. 16, 2014
 Aubrey Spilde '02 and Brent Miller, Oct. 12, 2013
 Christopher Morgan '10 and Amber Oliver, Nov. 1, 2014

deaths

Isaac Enderson '29, Blue Earth, Minn., Jan. 15, 2013
 N. Odella Solheim Baak '36, Sioux City, Iowa, June 15, 2014
 Sigrid Horneland Quello '37, St. Paul, Minn., June 5, 2014
 Arne Sovik '39, Minneapolis, Sept. 16, 2014
 *Charles Ziemer '39, Minneapolis, July 4, 2014
 Clara Froiland Christianson '40, Bloomington, Minn., Sept. 21, 2014
 Enid Lace Olson '41, Oberon, N.D., Jan. 12, 2014
 Geneva Lilleskov Schenk '41, Minneapolis, Jan. 10, 2014
 Charlotte Mundale Karasek '41, Sapulpa, Okla., July 14, 2013
 *Mary Saltsman Cunningham '41, Chula Vista, Calif., Aug. 11, 2014
 Maude Knutsen Bassi '42, Coupeville, Wash., Oct. 29, 2013
 LaJune Thisted Barth '42, Port Saint Lucie, Fla., July 15, 2014
 Oliver Berven '43, Golden Valley, Minn., Sept. 5, 2014
 Ann Rockwood '43, Rochester, Minn., Sept. 10, 2014
 Janet Haugner Benson '45, Savage, Minn., Aug. 1, 2014
 Ruth "Kiatcha" Dahle Lie '46, Juneau, Alaska, July 19, 2014
 *Harry "Top" Peterson '46, River Forest, Ill., July 23, 2014

Graham "Stan" Frear '47, Northfield, Minn., Aug. 17, 2014
 Sylvia Mikelson Textor '47, Palm Desert, Calif., July 20, 2014
 Helen Dahlgren Emerson '48, Andover, Minn., July 27, 2014
 Joanne Jacobson Moline '48, Minneapolis, July 2, 2014
 Helen Moeller Lee '48, Hopewell Township, Pa., Sept. 6, 2014
 *Gordon Nelson '48, Minnetonka, Minn., Sept. 7, 2014
 Joan Werhan Hollenbeck '48, Lincolnshire, Ill., Aug. 18, 2014
 John Huff '49, Bloomington, Minn., July 21, 2014
 Joycelaine Tronson Evenson '49, Ora Grande, Calif., July 28, 2014
 *Arnold Hamren '50, Chanhassen, Minn., Aug. 14, 2014
 *Theodore Hinderaker '50, Tucson, Ariz., July 28, 2014
 Ruth Jacobson Helgeson '50, Walnut Creek, Calif., Sept. 22, 2014
 *William Moore '50, Sun City West, Ariz., April 14, 2012
 *Orville Nysted '50, Colfax, Wis., Aug. 3, 2014
 *Sigurd Rimestad '50, St. Croix Falls, Wis., Sept. 25, 2014
 Gerald Rygh '50, North Aurora, Ill., July 5, 2014
 Herbert Strom '50, St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 6, 2014
 *Raymond Traeger '50, Savannah, Ga., July 18, 2014
 Agnes Braaten Akland '51, St. Peter, Minn., Sept. 4, 2014
 *Donald Elstad '51, Plymouth, Minn., Jan. 28, 2014
 Arthur Olsen '51, Sioux Falls, S.D., May 4, 2014
 Melvin Kurnow '52, Minnetonka, Minn., Aug. 10, 2014
 Donald Sneen '52, Sioux Falls, S.D., Sept. 5, 2014
 *Christopher Moller '53, Brookings, S.D., May 7, 2014
 Grace Thompson Hines '53, Billings, Mont., May 14, 2014
 *Robert Wilken '53, Eugene, Ore., Aug. 8, 2014
 Barbara Babcock Johnson '55, Litchfield, Minn., Feb. 20, 2014
 Elizabeth Huizenga Buntrock '55, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., July 1, 2014
 David Johnson '55, Rice Lake, Wis., June 12, 2013
 Joyce Strand Sorensen '55, Tallahassee, Fla., Aug. 19, 2014
 Joanne Anderson Simpson '56, Yuma, Ariz., March 14, 2014
 *Sally Johnson '56, Elk River, Minn., Dec. 17, 2013
 Yvonne Bottem Jorgenson '57, Northfield, Minn., July 1, 2014
 Faith Lorraine Fjeld '57, Moab, Utah, Oct. 18, 2014
 Lillian Gilbersten Frederiksen '57, Austin, Texas, July 5, 2014
 Alan Lyng '57, Lakeville, Minn., June 8, 2014
 Alfred Roe '57, Oceanside, Calif., June 14, 2014
 *Arvid Ronning '58, Stanwood, Wash., May 25, 2014
 *Richard Fredrickson '59, Red Wing, Minn., Sept. 3, 2014
 Robert Kruger '59, Rock Island, Ill., June 14, 2014
 Richard G. Matson '59, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Dec. 10, 2014
 David Verbarg '60, Burbank, Wash., Sept. 8, 2014
 Thomas Everson '62, Rochester, Minn., Sept. 24, 2014
 *Daniel Schoeneman '62, Albert Lea, Minn., Sept. 10, 2014
 Richard Toensing '62, Longmont, Colo., July 2, 2014
 Barbara Jensen Aspaas '63, Sioux Falls, S.D., Aug. 13, 2014
 Flora Skaar Schulz '63, Bismarck, N.D., June 11, 2014
 Keith Christenson '64, Eagle River, Alaska, Aug. 10, 2014
 Jerry Zank '65, Coral Gables, Fla., May 27, 2014
 David Brunet '69, Eagan, Minn., Sept. 15, 2014
 Raymond Conklin '71, Moline, Ill., July 4, 2014
 Bruce Helland '71, Nisswa, Minn., July 12, 2014
 Kathy Borchardt Dyess '72, Shakopee, Minn., June 17, 2014
 Linda Mix '72, Cookeville, Tenn., Aug. 7, 2014
 Steven Seidel '73, Houghton, Mich., June 26, 2014
 Michael Ward '73, Washington, D.C., Aug. 27, 2014
 David Olson '78, Minneapolis, July 16, 2014
 Susan Wilson Robinson '79, Minneapolis, July 6, 2014
 Maria Windh Lind '89, Atherton, Calif., Oct. 3, 2014
 Renee Solid Zager '95, Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 15, 2013
 Kinara Erickson '96, Bayside, Calif., July 5, 2014
 *VETERAN

IN REMEMBRANCE

Graham "Stan" Frear '47

Associate Professor Emeritus of English Graham "Stan" Frear '47, who supervised and taught more than 2,000 English education majors during his 24 years on the Hill, died August 17, 2014, at the age of 92.

Frear, who first studied biology but also had an interest in English, taught high school biology and English for 15 years. After earning his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, he joined the St. Olaf faculty in 1962.

In addition to teaching English education, Frear taught rhetoric and American literature, offered the first course focused on African American literature, and founded St. Olaf's Irish studies program. He also published two books of poetry: *Red Shoes and Other Poems For My Wife* and *Love, Marriage, Cancer, Death and Poetry in Past and Present Tenses*.

During his tenure at St. Olaf, Frear became the first secondary teacher in Minnesota elected president of the Minnesota Council of Teachers of English (MCTE). He also was a charter member of the Conference on English Education, sponsored by the MCTE and the National Council of Teachers of English. After his retirement, in the spirit of lifelong learning, he continued to teach Irish literature at the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium in Northfield, Minn., a place that provides high-quality academic experiences in the liberal arts for students over age 50.



Throughout his career, Frear always had a passion for art and began painting landscapes and seascapes from the North Shore of Lake Superior and the countryside of England and Ireland. He especially enjoyed constructing collage boxes, an art form he began pursuing in 1957. He sold many throughout the nation, earning a number of commissions for his work. Particularly popular was his work dealing with literary figures, such as boxes depicting the writing, life, and times of William Faulkner.

Frear, who was preceded in death by his wife, Helen, is survived by his daughter, Christine King, his son, Jonathan Frear '79, and one granddaughter.

What's in a Number?

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

When St. Olaf College concluded its first fiscal year, in June of 1875, the account ledger showed a balance of \$1.40 to the good. That figure may seem insignificant, about the cost of a cup of regular

coffee today. Yet it tells a larger story of the college's founders and its original 37 students, whose sacrifice and perseverance helped the fledgling institution get off the ground.

President David R. Anderson '74 conveys the meaning behind such historical numbers in his article, "St. Olaf at 140." St. Olaf's history is replete with narratives, often forgotten, that are tied to specific figures — sometimes innocuous, other times humorous, but certainly meaningful in respect to the development of the college and its student body.

The following stories inform the college's history through numbers:

10,000,000: The number of estimated listeners for a coast-to-coast broadcast of the St. Olaf Choir via WCCO Radio on May 8, 1932. The choir, in what is believed to be its first radio foray, sang seven pieces and garnered wide acclaim, including complementary telegrams from listeners in Boston and San Francisco.

270,000: The number of cubic feet of dirt referenced in a facilities memo dated May 13, 1993, and titled "Transferring Holy Ground to Carleton." Norm E. Madson, former director of the college's physical plant, confirmed to President Mel George that excess dirt from a building project was coincidentally the same amount needed by Carleton College to fill a construction site, aptly named by some as "St. Carleton."

5,810: The number of paces that five students walked — backward — from St. Olaf to the nearby town of Dundas, Minnesota. In early March 1955, Lars Kindem '55, Robert W. Larson '56, Wendell Miller '55, Richard Nickerson '55, and John E. Strom '56 formed a Walking Club at St. Olaf. Along with their backward trek to Dundas, they also walked blindfolded from Manitou Heights to downtown Northfield. Parked cars, telephone poles, and trees caused some interference, but the group managed to complete its goal in a little over an hour.

275: The number of live goldfish swallowed by one St. Olaf student.

On a bet, Matthew Aarsvold '76 started his gustatory endeavor at 6:10 p.m. on January 12, 1974. At 11:20 p.m., he broke the world record of 225 goldfish consumed. Aarsvold's feat received national attention on radio, television, and in the Associated Press wire. The college newspaper, *Manitou Messenger*, reported that it was easy sailing for Aarsvold after 226. "The only reason I quit was I was running out of goldfish," Aarsvold said.



58: The number of yards that halfback Harry Newby '34 gained for a touchdown on his first carry in a football game. In the following three successive games, Newby, who weighed only 147 pounds, again scored touchdown runs of 72, 45, and 35 yards on his first carry of each game.

Incredibly, Newby was used sparingly, playing a total of only 16 minutes in those four games. Newby's scoring achievement was featured in the syndicated newspaper column *Ripley's Believe It or Not* on Nov. 29, 1930.

27: The dollar amount for room and board for the 81 students in St. Olaf School's Preparatory

Department for one trimester in 1886–87. Winter fuel (wood) for each room cost an additional \$2.50. But the best deal went to the five newly enrolled first-year college students. Their tuition was free for the entire year, as promised in the St. Olaf catalog, which unashamedly advertised, "Terms Unusually Cheap."

1: The sole color — old gold — that students originally chose to represent St. Olaf College in April 1893. Georgina Dieson Hegland, Class of 1904, noted that female students attending athletic events sat "decorously, in their long skirts, buttoned shoes, high collars, and long sleeves, showing their approval and enthusiasm [for St. Olaf teams] by waving canes, to which old gold pennants of satin or felt were attached." Black was added as the second color in 1907.

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



EXPENSES.	
Preparatory Department.	
FALL TERM.	
For Tuition, Board, and Room, to be paid in advance,	\$20 00
WINTER TERM.	
For Tuition, Board, and Room, \$75 to be paid in advance and the balance, \$75, to be paid January 15,	70 00
For fuel in bedrooms, during this term,	2 50.
(From January 20 to April 1st, \$50.)	
SPRING TERM.	
For Tuition, Board, and Room, to be paid in advance,	50 00
For Instrumental Music per term,	10 00
For use of Instrument per term,	2 00
College Department.	
For Board and Room during the whole school year, payable in three installments,	\$80 00

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to Ida and 3,033 other Oles.

"I am so thankful to live in an atmosphere of constant growth, challenge, opportunity, and fun. I would not be the person I am today if not for the generous donors who made it possible for me to come here.

Thank you very much!"



MEET IDA SOBOTIK '15

With your gift, you change the lives of all 3,034 students at St. Olaf today.

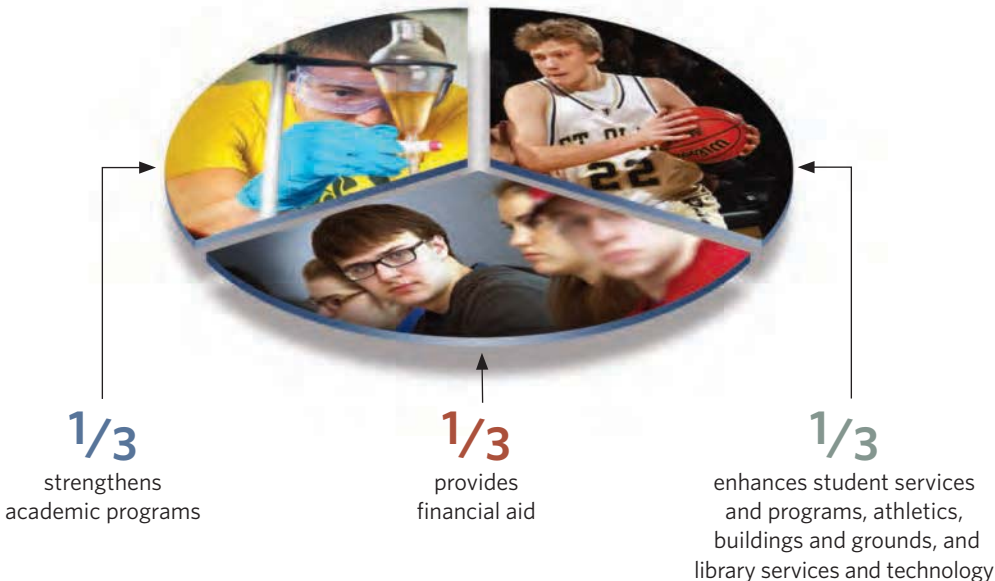
Meet just one, Ida, from Madison, Wisconsin, a studio art major with concentrations in Chinese studies and education.

She plays Ultimate Frisbee, has worked as an elementary school tutor, served last year as a resident assistant, and is co-leading Ole Spring Relief.

Ida is planning on becoming an experiential educator, and her dream is to found an environmentally focused school that would include an organic farm.

She is changing the world.

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for academic programs

\$1.5 million
for financial aid

\$1.5 million
for student services, athletics, buildings and grounds, and library services and technology

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The average need-based financial aid package in 2013-14 was \$33,967. Last year the St. Olaf Fund provided essential need-based financial aid for many students.

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PARTING SHOT



From ice skating at the foot of Old Main in 1904 to coasting down St. Olaf Avenue in 1910 on wooden toboggans that held up to 14 young men and women, Oles have always enjoyed winter on the Hill. This group of Ole women, seen on a sunny day circa 1943, were about to take their toboggans for a ride down Old Main Hill, a tradition still enjoyed by Oles in 2015. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SHAW-OLSON CENTER FOR COLLEGE HISTORY