

## HIGHLIGHTS

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For the third consecutive year, the Institute of International Education's *Open Doors 2011 Report on International Educational Exchange* ranked St. Olaf **first among all baccalaureate institutions in the nation in the total number of students studying abroad** for the 2009–10 academic year. During that period, 672 St. Olaf students participated in study-abroad programs.

**Nathan Bishop '12 won the prestigious Council for Undergraduate Research award** for his presentation "Sizing up the Rationals" at the annual Mathematical Association of America's MathFest conference. Bishop's presentation on the application of rational theory was selected out of more than 120 papers. The award is regarded as the top prize for the MAA student paper session.

**St. Olaf College again earned a place on the annual Peace Corps list of top volunteer-producing colleges and universities**, coming in third among small schools enrolling fewer than 5,000 students. The 24 Oles serving overseas were stationed in locations from Azerbaijan, Benin, and Mali to Panama, Moldova, and Mozambique. Since the Peace Corps was established in 1961, 488 St. Olaf alumni have served in the organization.

**Nine St. Olaf students were named Fulbright fellows for 2012–13** — the same number as last year — and the most students the college has ever had accepted into the prestigious program in a single year. Six of the students will use their Fulbright awards to conduct research on topics ranging from Chinese archaeology to the dengue virus. The other three students will take on English teaching assistantships.



*St. Olaf seniors (from left) Eric Becklin, Julia Coffin, Zachary Erickson, Lisa Drewry, Cecilia Noecker, Virginia Ma, Jamie Mosel, and Sarah McGivern have been named Fulbright fellows for 2012–13 (Ma was named an alternate). Sarah Chao '11 and Jonathan Hemm (not pictured) were also accepted into the prestigious program.*

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**St. Olaf has earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, one of the nation's premiere independent charity evaluators.** Charity Navigator evaluates the financial health, accountability, and transparency of America's largest charities. A rating of four stars from Charity Navigator indicates that St. Olaf College adheres to good governance and other practices and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way.



*St. Olaf juniors Benjamin Keisling and Sarah Ludwig, recipients of the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, have traveled as far as Siberia and Norway to perform scientific research.*

**Two St. Olaf students were awarded Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships**

for the 2012–13 academic year. Benjamin Keisling '13, a physics major, participated in the St. Olaf student research team that spent two summers analyzing the evolution of a subglacial lake in Antarctica. Sarah Ludwig '13, a chemistry and biology major, spent a summer in the Siberian Arctic with the National Science Foundation-funded Polaris Project researching the impact of carbon and nutrient transports on global climate change. Goldwater Scholarships are awarded each year to undergraduate students who have shown significant achievement and potential in the fields of mathematics, science, and engineering. Since 1995, 31 St. Olaf students have been awarded this scholarship.

**St. Olaf College will use a new \$50,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to develop initiatives that integrate Asian and environmental studies.** The funds will support the development of a core group of students with transcultural and translanguagual competence and strong backgrounds in environmental studies. The grant also will increase collaboration between faculty in Asian and environmental studies on program development and foster the use of web-based technology to engage partner institutions in Asia. As a recipient of this initial pilot grant, St. Olaf will be eligible to apply for an additional implementation grant worth up to \$400,000 in the summer of 2013.

**For the second time in four years, a team from St. Olaf won the 2012 Rube Goldberg contest,** building a machine that took 191 steps to inflate and pop a balloon. Named for the late cartoonist-inventor known for drawing wacky and complex ways to accomplish simple tasks, the contest attracts teams from many of the best engineering schools in the nation.



**On October 14, 2011 the college hosted King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway during their official state visit to the United States.** While on campus, Their Majesties engaged in a private tour of Tomson Hall, visited a Norwegian language class, and attended a *Sammenkomst* (gathering) in their honor at Boe Memorial Chapel. Other Norwegian royal visits to St. Olaf have included King Olav V in 1987, Crown Prince Haakon in 2005, Princess Martha Louise in 2006, and Princess Astrid in 2008.

**A \$1 million grant received from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute will enable St. Olaf to provide greater support for students interested in teaching science** at both the K–12 and college levels. The four-year grant will also be used to incorporate science into a wider array of disciplines across campus. The grant is part of a HHMI science education initiative designed to create more engaging science classes, bring real-world research experiences to students, and increase the diversity of students who study science.

**St. Olaf students Josie Boyle '12 and Esme Marie '14 received U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarships** to attend summer language institutes for intensive study of a foreign language. Boyle, a Russian and biology major, studied Russian at Bashkir State Pedagogical University in Ufa, a city near Russia's Ural Mountains. Marie, a political science major with a concentration in Middle East studies, studied Arabic in Tunisia.

**Biology and environmental studies major Kateri Salk '12 was awarded a prestigious three-year Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation** to support her work in aquatic environmental studies. Salk will use the fellowship to pursue a Ph.D. in zoology with a specialization in environmental science and policy.

**The St. Olaf Debate Team placed first against 28 teams representing 12 colleges at the Minnesota Parliamentary Debate State Tournament.** The win featured Kevin George '13 and Alex Everhart '15 successfully opposing the resolution "character matters in presidential elections." The team, which was reconstituted in 2010, sent six debaters to the National Parliamentary Debate Tournament at Western Washington University in March.



**St. Olaf College received a \$2,575,000 gift from the family of St. Olaf Board of Regents Chair Addison “Tad” Piper to name and support the Harry C. Piper Center for Vocation and Career.** The newly established center, under the leadership of its new director, Branden Grimmert ’03, is the successor to the college’s Center for Experiential Learning. The Piper Center will provide resources and experiences for St. Olaf students as they discern their vocations and plan their careers.