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CELEBRATE

Congratulations! You're going to love being an Ole.



When you become an Ole, you are joining a community of thinkers and doers on a lifelong journey. You'll live and learn with smart and active students; you'll work with dedicated and inspiring teachers and mentors; and you'll connect to a network of alumni ready and willing to help you explore ways to use your St. Olaf education. The St. Olaf community will lift you up and carry you far. 🦋 The following pages will introduce you to a few of your fellow Oles: musicians and athletes, researchers and entrepreneurs, globetrotters and scholars from across the U.S. and around the world. These are the kinds of people you'll meet at St. Olaf. We're happy you've chosen to become a part of this great community!

PAULO GLADNEY | CONDUCTING AND COMMUNICATING

JUNIOR | FREMONT, CALIFORNIA | MUSIC EDUCATION MAJOR

Music plays an integral part in Paulo Gladney's daily life on the Hill. "There is nothing more incredible than feeling music in my hands," says Paulo, a junior with an immense passion for conducting. He hones his conducting in the classroom, studies voice with renowned choral conductor Anton Armstrong, and sings as a member of the St. Olaf Choir. He also conducts the St. Olaf Gospel Choir, which he describes as "just so much fun!"

A music education major from Fremont, California, Paulo first became intrigued by the art of leading with a baton in high school. "I was quite close with my high school and community choir director, and I admired his leadership," he says. "He's the person who truly taught me how to conduct."

Paulo took every opportunity he could to practice leading rehearsals. After his community choir had returned from performing in Carnegie Hall, his director offered him the opportunity to conduct a movement of their final concert in California. Describing the experience, he says "There were hundreds of singers and a full orchestra, and it was just breathtaking. I remember the conviction I had in that moment that conducting was what I had to pursue for the rest of my life."

Apart from conducting, Paulo uses his hands to communicate in another dimension — through American Sign Language (ASL). The few signs he picked up from friends in junior high left him hooked, and he grew to conversational fluency when he later studied ASL in the classroom. He says, "A lot of people who are deaf consider themselves to be part of an ethnicity with their own history, way of life, and language. I am refreshed by how this community sees the world."

"I dream of creating environments where I can freely share music with others," Paulo says of his goal to become a high school music director. "If I can touch even one life the way that my high school director touched mine, then I'll consider all of my hard work to be fulfilled."





ALISON CURRY | BALANCING SPORTS AND STUDIES

JUNIOR | REDWOOD FALLS, MINNESOTA | CHINESE AND SOCIAL WORK MAJORS

I've changed a lot over the past three years," says Alison Curry. "I feel like I really understand more about who I am and what my strengths are." Alison is a member of the St. Olaf volleyball and softball teams, serves on the Student Athletic Advising Board, and also takes time to apply her Chinese and social work skills off campus.

She spent last Interim in China and Japan as part of the St. Olaf Asian Conversations program. Through the St. Olaf Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment program, she returned to Beijing this summer to spend six weeks completing an air quality study.

Closer to campus, Alison works with elders as a story partner at the Northfield Retirement Community each week through her social work major. She hopes to eventually pursue a social work career with an emphasis in public health or criminal justice.

"The Asian Studies Department has been so flexible and helpful in allowing my majors in Chinese and social work to become a reality," Alison says, noting that she has developed a strong relationship with her academic advisor.

As someone who has balanced athletics, academics, study abroad, and volunteer work off campus, Curry believes one of the greatest strengths of St. Olaf is how well-rounded everyone is. "Your friends are understanding and supportive when you're busy with homework and need space to study," she says.

This ability to prioritize is essential for a student athlete with two majors. "Three years ago I would never have thought I'd be speaking Chinese," Alison says. **"My path is not where I thought it would be, but I love where I'm headed."**

RAMMAH SHANDAQ | CREATING CULTURAL BRIDGES

SENIOR | YEMEN AND WISCONSIN | ECONOMICS MAJOR | EMPHASIS IN FINANCE

If you were to ask me where I call home, I'd ask in turn if I really needed to choose just one place," says Rammah Shandaq, a senior who refers to St. Olaf, a small town in Wisconsin, and his birth city in Yemen as his homes. He spent the first 17 years of his life in Yemen, and traveled to Wisconsin for his senior year of high school through the Youth Exchange Study (YES) program. Rammah says, "I've learned from traveling that no matter where you are, there will always be good people who can help show you what's going on around you. These people inspire hope. My host family in Wisconsin was that guiding force for me, and I now call them my family."

With the encouragement and support of his host family, Rammah applied to St. Olaf, where he is on the soccer team and is majoring in economics with an emphasis in finance and a concentration in statistics. In his time at St. Olaf, Rammah has developed a special interest in the financial world. Eager to explore what he's learned, he interned with an investment team at Enterprise Bank and Trust in St. Louis, Missouri. He spent five weeks collaborating on a variety of projects, the most significant of which involved credit analysis. Rammah says, "It was very useful to work with a team on a daily basis to see what it's truly like to work in the world of finance."

As an international student, Rammah is also passionate about something that hits close to home: cultural bridging. He interned in San Diego as a program counselor with AFS Global Preparation. "I was one of seven coordinators who led workshops on change-making and global competency. It was neat to connect with students who were going through the same process that I first had when coming to the U.S. — feelings of excitement and joy, then culture shock, and finally learning how to adapt to daily life in a new environment."

Balancing his different interests is compelling for Rammah. He returned to the AFS program as a manager to work with a new group of international students, and also interned as an Innovation Scholar with the Mayo Clinic. "As humans we tend to like patterns, but I prefer change. I like to get uncomfortable and chase my curiosity for what is possible," Rammah shares. Looking toward the future, he wants to break into a career in finance in New York City. Regardless of what the future holds for him, Rammah is certain that he will continue to strengthen his connection to that first place he called home. "I would like to bring peace to my country, and give back to the community where I come from."



I taly. Bulgaria. Ireland. Turkey. Claire Mumford has been pursuing archaeology in field schools across the globe. Claire first discovered her love for archaeological field work while on a St. Olaf summer course in Turkey with Professor of History Tim Howe. **“Without this experience, I likely would never have discovered my passion that has opened so many doors for me,”** she says.

One such door was Claire’s opportunity to present her research at the annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America. Another was using Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) to record half a mile of Dakota religious carvings. Claire will work with fellow Oles on campus to develop a website so the petroglyphs they recorded using RTI can be viewed interactively.

Claire has found just as much to do on campus as off campus. She is currently a member of three choirs, including the renowned St. Olaf Choir, and has participated in six choral ensembles over her college career. She also serves as an RA in Mohn Residence Hall and has helped coordinate Ole Spring Relief: a spring break service trip that provides aid to areas affected by natural disaster.

None of this would have been possible without support from St. Olaf. Claire says that the meaningful relationships she formed with professors here “has enriched my college experience in so many ways.” St. Olaf also provided crucial funding for Claire’s archaeological studies through the Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry program and the Piper Center for Vocation and Career.

Claire believes that her liberal arts education “gives me the tools to ask questions and analyze critically, and that differentiates me from others in my field.”



ANDERS HANSEN | REDEFINING A LEGACY

SENIOR | MCFARLAND, WISCONSIN | MATHEMATICS MAJOR

During their final week on campus, tradition holds that members of the senior class venture into the attic of Old Main, where the soon-to-be graduates can chalk their signatures on the walls. Anders Hansen plans to add his mark this spring.

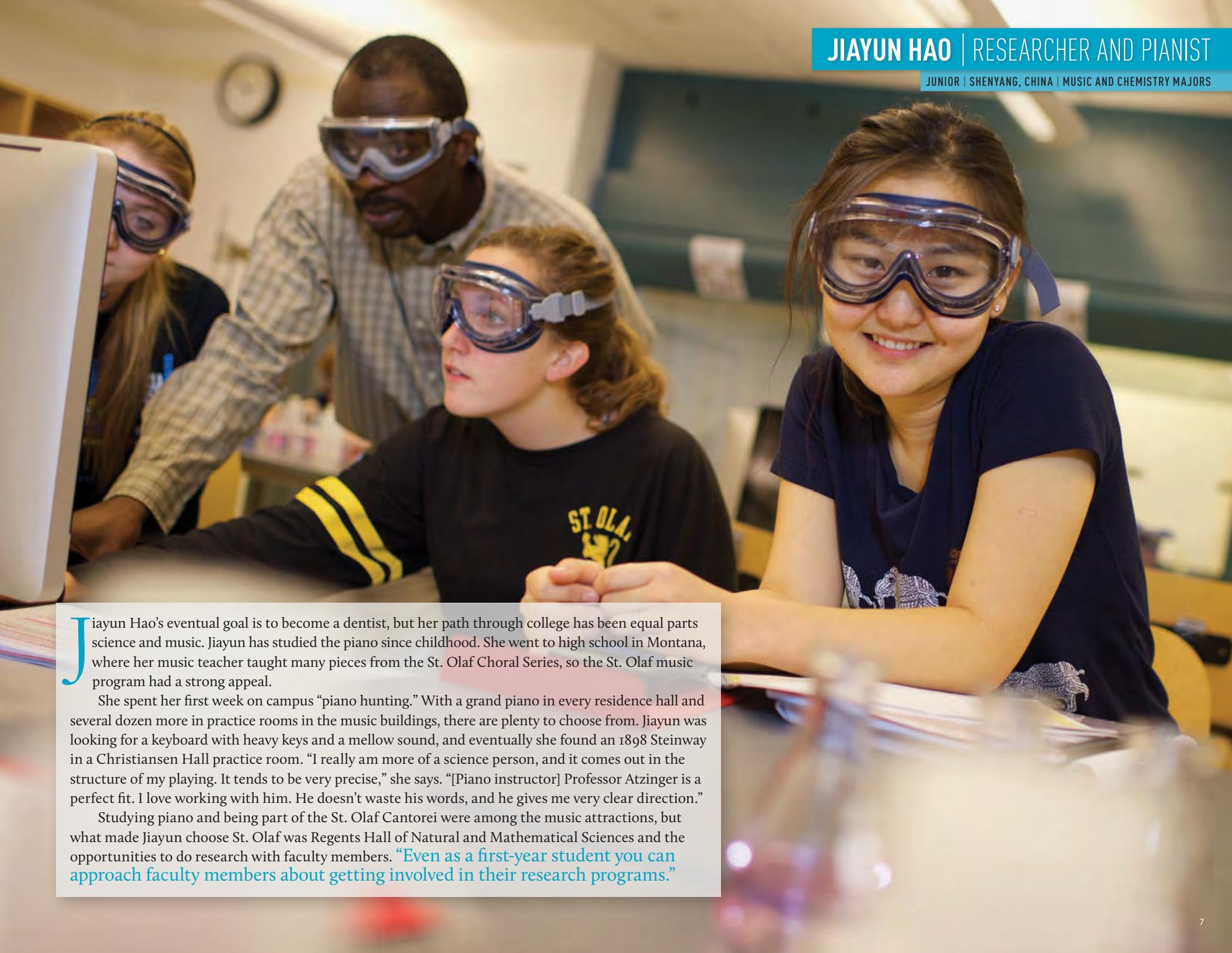
When Anders Hansen began his college search, he quickly crossed St. Olaf off the list. “So many of my family members have attended St. Olaf, including both of my parents and two older siblings, so I was determined to go anywhere but here.” After much cajoling, he agreed to a campus visit and discovered — albeit grudgingly — that St. Olaf was the ideal college for him.

“I loved the discussion-based, interactive learning environment and the warmth and friendliness of the professors and students, which convinced me I could fit in and forge my own path,” Anders says. Once he finally admitted to his parents that “St. Olaf was the one,” he signed on to become the 37th Ole in his extended family to attend the college.

St. Olaf’s philosophy of giving students ample time to explore wide-ranging academic interests before settling on a major course of study was perfect for him. He took courses across the liberal arts — in political science, economics, Russian, and religion — before choosing a mathematics major.

Anders’ interests extend beyond the classroom to include singing tenor in Cantorei (one of the college’s eight choirs), playing intramural sports, and working as an admissions fellow. Anders studied at the Oslo International Summer School in Norway, engaging in intercultural conversations with classmates from around the world, and he’s looking forward to further developing his mathematics skills in Hungary on the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program.

“St. Olaf challenges and pushes you to explore varied perspectives and ideas, to think critically, and to write well,” Anders says. **“Every experience I have here is preparing me for whatever I choose to do in the future. That’s the beauty of a St. Olaf education.”**



Jiayun Hao's eventual goal is to become a dentist, but her path through college has been equal parts science and music. Jiayun has studied the piano since childhood. She went to high school in Montana, where her music teacher taught many pieces from the St. Olaf Choral Series, so the St. Olaf music program had a strong appeal.

She spent her first week on campus "piano hunting." With a grand piano in every residence hall and several dozen more in practice rooms in the music buildings, there are plenty to choose from. Jiayun was looking for a keyboard with heavy keys and a mellow sound, and eventually she found an 1898 Steinway in a Christiansen Hall practice room. "I really am more of a science person, and it comes out in the structure of my playing. It tends to be very precise," she says. "[Piano instructor] Professor Atzinger is a perfect fit. I love working with him. He doesn't waste his words, and he gives me very clear direction."

Studying piano and being part of the St. Olaf Cantorei were among the music attractions, but what made Jiayun choose St. Olaf was Regents Hall of Natural and Mathematical Sciences and the opportunities to do research with faculty members. **"Even as a first-year student you can approach faculty members about getting involved in their research programs."**

JUDD LOEWENSTEIN | PASSIONATE LEARNER

SENIOR | DEERFIELD, ILLINOIS | ECONOMICS MAJOR

Judd Loewenstein enrolled at St. Olaf after playing junior hockey in Kenai, Alaska, for two years following high school. “I wanted to come to St. Olaf because I knew I would be able to continue playing hockey while getting a world-class education,” he says.

Now a senior and captain of the men’s hockey team, he’s enjoyed getting to know fantastic people both on and off the ice. “The driven and passionate student body and the outstanding professors contribute to the strength of community at St. Olaf,” Judd says, noting that he’s had many influential mentors across campus. He’s learned new hockey skills from head coach Mike Eaves, who came to St. Olaf last year from the Division I program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He’s received sage career coaching and advice from Kirsten Cahoon in the St. Olaf Piper Center for Vocation and Career. And he’s honed his critical thinking skills in engaging discussions led by faculty members like Associate Professor of History Abdulai Iddrisu and Entrepreneur in Residence Sian Muir.

That guidance has helped him pursue a variety of interests and discern what he wants to do after graduation. He completed a Wealth Management Investment Product Internship at U.S. Bank in Minneapolis this past summer and recently accepted a full-time position at U.S. Bank in Ultra High Net Worth Management. Judd says St. Olaf has prepared him well for the future.

“Being an Ole means being a curious person, a passionate learner, and someone who is going to make a serious difference in our world.”



Judd Loewenstein sits in front of the newly renovated Holland Hall, which houses the Economics, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Social Work and Family Studies, and Sociology and Anthropology departments.