St. Olaf Alumni Awards – Purpose/Award Definitions/Criteria

Statement of purpose:
The St. Olaf Alumni Awards are given to nominated alumni who exemplify the ideals and mission of the College. The statement, which accompanies the award, says:

‘The Board of Regents of St. Olaf College and the St. Olaf College Alumni Association, in recognition of outstanding achievements, bestow the St. Olaf Alumni Awards on those alumni whose accomplishments have brought honor to self and to the College; whose service and leadership have exemplified its ideals; and whose concern for St. Olaf has supported and strengthened its program.’

The Alumni Awards serve several purposes:

• To honor alumni who exemplify the fulfillment of the College mission
• To inspire students and alumni through alumni achievement and volunteer service
• To engage or re-engage alumni through the Alumni Awards process
• To exhibit and publicize the success of the College program as reflected by its alumni
• To encourage support of the College program from alumni and parents, through achievements of alumni that exemplify the strengths and benefits of St. Olaf’s liberal arts program

1. **Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA) - 50+ year history**
   
   Exceptional professional achievements partnered with the use of talents/skills in volunteer service to community and St. Olaf College
   
   Candidates: Alumni (graduates and former students)
   
   • Exceptional Professional Achievements ['Profession' can embrace beyond traditional definitions] (60%)
     o Excellence in their profession, with professional competencies that lead to unusual success or contribution(s) in a field
     o Innovation or research that leads to advancement of a profession or field
     o Extraordinary contributions and achievements that improve the quality of life for a segment of society
   
   • Exceptional Volunteer Community Service (30%)
     o Use of talents or skills, in or beyond profession, to benefit community
   
   • Significant Volunteer Service to St. Olaf (10%)
     o Dedication to the advancement of the programs and mission of St. Olaf College through significant volunteer service and consistent loyalty to the college

2. **Alumni Achievement Award (AAA) - First awarded in 2005**
   
   Exceptional professional achievements that advance a profession/field and improve the quality of life for a segment of society
   
   Candidates: Alumni (graduates and former students)
   
   • Professional Achievements
     o Excellence in their profession, with professional competencies that lead to unusual success or contribution(s) in a field
     o Innovation or research that leads to advancement of a profession or field
     o Extraordinary contributions and achievements that improve the quality of life for a segment of society

3. **Outstanding Service Award (OSA) - First awarded in 2006**
   
   Distinguished and meritorious volunteer service to Community and St. Olaf College
   
   Candidates: Alumni, parents, or friends of the College
   
   • Exceptional Volunteer Service to their Community and to St. Olaf College
     o Lifelong volunteer service using talents or skills, in or beyond profession, to the benefit of community through involvement and philanthropic efforts which seek to better the quality of life for a segment of society
     o Dedication to the advancement of the programs and mission of St. Olaf College through significant volunteer service and consistent loyalty to the school
     o Adherence to a high ethical standard