HAPPY NEW YEAR BAY AREA OLES! If you’re like us, you have a hard time believing that another year has come and gone…but you’re also feeling excitement about what this New Year will bring. From your alumni team, we want you to know that there are some really exciting events coming up in the next few months – time to get reacquainted with old friends, make new friends, and help support those who follow in our footsteps.

What’s Happening This Month?

January 31st: St. Olaf On The Road (in San Francisco!)
A day of networking, learning and conversation at the Intercontinental Hotel on Saturday, January 31st, followed by a reception and remarks from President Anderson. Guest speakers include four faculty members: Gary Muir (Psychology), Sian Muir (Entrepreneur in Residence), Susan Smalling ’97 (Social Work), and Tom Williamson ’86 (Anthropology).

Watch this video to get a taste of what’s in store: https://t.e2ma.net/click/o2prl/cl4hac/gw338c

Please register here by Jan. 26th (family and friends are welcome): http://tinyurl.com/OlafOnTheRoad

Feb 1-4: Ole Career Connections Comes to the Bay
This program comes to San Francisco during the first week of February to connect current students with alumni to give a hands-on perspective on what a liberal arts education can achieve within the vibrant Bay Area business community.

Events include walking tours of the city and surrounding areas with alumni, and workplace visits with alumni engaged in the fields of technology, innovation and entrepreneurship.

While things have taken shape nicely, we have a few volunteer needs for these events:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>How You Can Help</th>
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<tr>
<td>Walking Tours</td>
<td>In/Around San Francisco</td>
<td>Sunday, February 1 11:30am – 3:00 pm</td>
<td>The students will divide into groups of 4-6, with each group doing an informal walking tour of a different area while the students have a chance to visit with an alum in a relaxed weekend setting. So far, we have groups heading out to SF Marina, UC-Berkeley, and Muir Woods, and we are in need of a few more alums for different areas. GG Park? Mission District? SOMA? The Haight? Where would you like to help the students explore?</td>
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<td>Student/Alumni Pizza Party</td>
<td>Hampton Inn Mountain View</td>
<td>Monday, February 2</td>
<td>Calling any/all interested alums living in the South Bay: come and join our hearty group of 25 current juniors and seniors for an informal dinner and gathering to discuss jobs, careers, and life in the Bay Area.</td>
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If you’re interested in either of these opportunities, we would love to have you. Please contact Vijay Mehrrotra ’86 (vmehrotra@usfca.edu, 650-465-8443) as soon as possible to get involved.
Feb 20th-23rd: Black & Gold Online Auction
As part of the annual Black and Gold Gala, there will be an online auction to benefit the St. Olaf Fund. The St. Olaf Fund supports a variety of student needs, from financial aid to library resources and student-faculty research, and plays a huge role in maintaining the quality of the St. Olaf student experience.

We need your help and participation to be successful!

- To donate items (accepted through Jan. 20th), please go here: https://stolaf.wufoo.com/forms/black-and-gold-gala-auction-item-donation-form/ Items of particular interest are those with a “San Francisco” or California theme.
- The online auction will run from Friday, Feb. 20th at 7am PT through Monday, February 23rd at 10pm PT. Auction items will be posted shortly at: http://my.stolaf.edu/alumni/events/gala/auction-items. Bid early and often!

Feb 28th: Black & Gold Gala (Minneapolis)
Join Oles from around the country (and world!) for a reunion-of sorts in Minneapolis at the 7th Annual Black & Gold Gala. This evening of dinner and dancing also gives alumni the opportunity to help current students through a live and silent auction that benefits the St. Olaf Fund. The St. Olaf Fund supports everything from technology enhancements for classrooms to financial aid for studying abroad.

More information here: http://my.stolaf.edu/alumni/events/gala

What’s Happening This Spring in the Bay Area?
Save the Date and tune in to the next edition of the newsletter for future events, including:

| Happy Hour | Wednesday March 11th (Mountain View) |
| Happy Hour | Thursday, April 16th (Oakland) |
| Hiking in Marin | Saturday, May 16th |

“How Can I get in on the fun?” – We’re Glad You Asked!
Regardless of how long ago you graduated, what you do for a living, or where in the Bay Area you live, we want to make it both fun and easy for you to get involved in whatever ways make sense for you. Here are some suggestions:

- Join the Conversation on the Bay Area Oles Facebook Group
  - You can find us at https://www.facebook.com/groups/StOlafAlumniBayArea/

- Nominate someone for an Alumni Award
  - Fast and easy to complete, the nominating form is available at https://stolaf.wufoo.com/forms/alumni-awards-nomination-form/.

- Send submissions for the next newsletter to Vijay Mehrotra ’86 (vmehrotra@usfca.edu) and Amy Koop ’95 (amykoop1@gmail.com). We would love to hear from you!
THE LAST WORD
Growing up in Duluth, the warmth and sunshine and glory of California was something that I dreamed of constantly. Twenty seven plus years after arriving here in my early 20s, the fact that I’ve managed to find my way out here is still something of a miracle to me. Yet in talking to young people who have moved here in the past few years, I am struck by how much more challenging it is now to find your way out here, to navigate the job market, to figure out where to live and how to pay for it. For most young people today, the decision to leave home behind and move out to the Bay Area is an act of both courage and an assertion of faith.

The Ole Career Connections trip is a chance for us to work together to provide a group of current St. Olaf students, all of them with California Dreams of their own, with a window into our world. For those who have already agreed to participate in this making this into an outstanding program, all of us (the students, the Piper Center, the college administration, and myself) are very grateful. For those who are considering it, I do hope you will step up and find a way to participate. A couple of specific opportunities are described above. If you are interested in finding another way to contribute, please let me know.

We have a chance to make a real difference in the lives of some highly motivated young people. This is a gift for both us and them,

Vijay Mehrotra, ‘86

Until next time…

Your Bay Area Alumni Leadership Group:

Sonja Clark       Vijay Mehrotra
Lindsay Giese    Nathanael Nelson
Amy Koop         Kate Bernsten Siegel