



“Summer Prairie Grass” by Erin McCoy

2nd Messenger

Biology Alumni Newsletter

Summer 2016

July 2016

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Note to Alumni

Goodby-ish

By Michael Swift, Biology Emeriti

The 2015-16 academic year was my last year as a St. Olaf faculty member – I’ve retired and am leaving along with the 2016 graduating class. As I reflect on my years at St. Olaf, truly my “academic home” among all the institutions with which I’ve been affiliated, my best recollections are times I’ve spent with students – in the classroom and in the lab or field. It has been my pleasure to expose students to biodiversity in intro bio (126), and invertebrate biology (248), to ecology (261), to functional morphology (266) and limnology (263,363) and to Chaoborus larvae (really the world’s most beautiful aquatic insect larva) as frequently as I could! Research in local streams and ponds, the Cannon River, the Coe (ACM) Wilderness Field Station, zooplankton diversity, Ceriodaphnia stoichiometry, mussel age and growth, the “Black Magic” of Chaoborus genetics, etc., etc. was accomplished with the able assistance of many remarkable students who have gone on to bigger and better things in many fields. Thank you for the opportunity to have worked with you all!

The Board of Regents has seen fit to grant me Emeritus status so I will continue to have a real, but irregular, connection with St. Olaf. In the short term I plan on finishing some manuscripts, reading, gardening, and trying my hand at batik art again.

Note from Joy (AAA of the Biology Department):

Happy Summer! When I set out to ask the alumni for life updates, I truly assumed I would get about eight emails back like I usually do. This summer was over 150 emails! I tried to respect everyone’s wishes and I apologize if something was or was not included that you requested. I hope you enjoy the updates and publications – I hope they lead to connections between Biology Ole Alumni! Enjoy!

Alumni Updates: WOW the sheer volume was overwhelming but I wanted to include all of those who wanted to be included.

Maren Sandra Jansen ('73) - On September 13, 2015 I married Anthony D. Hanson. We live in NE Minneapolis.

Timothy E. Gundlach, MD, MBA ('81) - I graduated from Auburn University Harbert School of Business with my MBA on May 8. In September I will leave North Carolina, where I currently serve as President of the North Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists, and start a new job at Aurora Healthcare in the Milwaukee area.

Sarah Ludda Ludwig ('13) - I graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks with a masters degree in biology. My thesis was titled "Fire severity effects on nutrient dynamics and microbial activities in a Siberian larch forest." I am now working at the Woods Hole Research Center in Falmouth, MA.

Dr. Kyle Halvorson ('03) - I will be graduating from Duke Neurosurgery residency in 6/25/16. I matched at the University of Utah as the Nathan C. Avery pediatric neurosurgery fellow for this coming year. I will be joining Children's Minnesota as a staff pediatric neurosurgeon in July of 2017. My wife Paige and I just had a set of twin boys, Ford and Finn Halvorson on 3/4/16. I hope they will be future Oles!

Elsa Mitchell ('04) - I received my doctorate of physical therapy from Pacific University in 2010 and became a nutritional therapy practitioner through the Nutritional Therapy Association in 2015. I am currently working as a physical therapist at New Leaf Physical and Massage Therapy in Portland, Oregon. I am a certified lymphedema therapist through the Lymphology Association of North America, specializing in lymphedema and oncology rehabilitation. This spring I was a guest lecturer at the Campbell University Doctor of Physical Therapy program presenting on the important role of nutrition in the rehabilitation process. For the past 4 years I have been an assistant lecturer at the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Pacific University for the lymphedema laboratory skills. I enjoy teaching nutritional therapy classes to my patients and within the community.

Karen Thiebes ('08) - While I was working toward my PhD in Neuroscience at Oregon Health & Science University, I discovered my passion for translating scientific concepts into engaging figures, illustrations, animations, and presentations. This led me to start my own digital design company called Simplified Science Publishing, LLC and I currently work with researchers and scientific organizations to create graphics for their publications and presentations. I also create logos and marketing materials for small businesses. More about info about my business can be found at www.simplifiedsciencepublishing.com.

Eric St Louis ('87) - I remain at Mayo Clinic, engaged in sleep medicine and neurology practice, and doing research with several St. Olaf students and alumni/ae focused on REM Sleep Behavior Disorder.

Grace Wilkinson ('10) - I will be starting an Assistant Professor position at Iowa State University in January. I will be working on issues related to Iowa lake water quality.

Laurie Kallevig ('84) - I'm in Kolkata, India in my fourth 6-month stint of Survivor Girl Ukulele Band Project: bringing restoration and hope to survivors of human trafficking through the healing power of music and love!!!

Annie Brownlee ('11) - I'm currently employed as the lab manager for the Stable Isotope Lab at the University of Alaska Anchorage's Environment and Natural Resources Institute. I got my first exposure to stable isotope analysis when I was a senior at Olaf doing independent research when the Biology Department got its IRMS; it's fun how things have come full circle! I also get to continue some of the dendroecology research I started working on during my Master's degree while at UAA.

Hal Halvorson ('11) - I graduated with a PhD in Biology from the University of Arkansas in May 2016 and am transitioning to a postdoctoral research position at the University of Southern Mississippi, where I will be investigating effects of light on microbial decomposition of plant litter in wetlands.

Dr Bob Gehringer ('71) - Bob spends several months a year in Perú working with the NGO Health Bridges International where he teaches Peruvian medical professionals. Over the last few years he has taught the basics of hands-on newborn resuscitation skills to over 2000 physicians, nurses, and midwives, and currently he leads a collaborative effort through the Peruvian National College of Midwives to establish ongoing resuscitation training programs in all of the 24 states in the country, focused on a "train the trainer" model. In October, he will present a poster session on this collaborative work at the national conference of the American Public Health Association. Additionally, each January Bob leads the Arequipa segment of the St Olaf Peruvian interim elective through the biology department.

Adam G Starr, MD ('12) - I graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in May. I'm starting residency at the University of Colorado this month, beginning with an internal medicine internship followed by a diagnostic radiology residency.

Chee Lee ('09) - Chee received her PhD in bioinformatics from the University of Michigan this past April.

John and Amy (Deeg) Schantzen ('10) - Amy and I are just finishing up our second year of family medicine residency at Via Christi in Wichita, KS. And we welcomed our beautiful daughter Eleanor Rose Schantzen into our family on 3/31/16!

Sara Galbraith ('11) - I graduated from University of Idaho and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center with a Ph.D. in entomology in December 2015. In April, I started a post-doc at Oregon State University. My project looks at how burn severity and post-wildfire management impact native bee communities in southwestern Oregon forests.

Julie Nelson, PhD ('89) - I am a research assistant professor at UNC-Chapel Hill in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and I am the Director of the UNC Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) Virology, Immunology & Microbiology Core.

Joshua Hanson ('02) - Josh recently joined the Office of the Solicitor at the Department of the Interior as an attorney in the Division of Land Resources in Washington, D.C. Josh previously served as a Senior Advisor to the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), where he led agency priorities related to public lands in Alaska, utility-scale renewable energy

development, transmission permitting, and hardrock mining. Prior to that, Josh worked for two years as the Natural Resources Fellow in the Office of Senator Harry Reid. As an attorney in the Division of Land Resources, Josh provides counsel to the BLM on environmental, natural resources, and federal administrative issues, including federal litigation, regulation drafting, and legislative matters.

Susan Dakin ('72) - I would like to share that I received a National Institutes of Health Award of Merit from the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for my role in production of the National Toxicology Program's 13th Report on Carcinogens. The Report on Carcinogens is a congressionally mandated report identifying substances known or reasonably anticipated to cause cancer in humans, and I serve as the RoC scientific editor and desktop publisher. Also, in late 2014, I celebrated 30 years of self-employment as an independent consultant in scientific writing and editing, and I continue to serve on the faculty of the Duke University Certificate Program in Technical Communications.

Ola Fincke ('71) - As a professor of Biology at the University of Oklahoma, I just spent the 2015-16 academic year teaching for my university in Arezzo, Italy. It was the best year of my recent life, and I was so happy being able to live so fully in the moment that I'm thinking of relocating somewhere in Europe upon my retirement in a few years. Also had a major paper published on sexual conflict (yes, females of all species are affected J that over-turned one of my long-held hypotheses (that male damselflies learn to recognize females!). (see the list of publications to find this!)

Lindsey Andres-Beck ('14) - I started at Mayo Graduate School as a pre doctoral student in the Molecular Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics track in July 2015. In March I joined the lab of Dr. Kendall Lee and am studying the mechanism of deep brain stimulation.

Kristin Swenson ('88) - I've just finished a wee book of creative nonfiction titled *God of Earth: Discovering a Radically Ecological Christianity* in which I express gratitude to St. Olaf, especially Gene Bakko (Alternatives in Agriculture), for planting some of the seeds that grew into ideas that I write about there. It's due out in October (Westminster John Knox Press), but there's a bit of info already on the web.

Jamiee Glasgow ('05) - After 1.5 years as a medical writer for clinical trial publications at AbbVie, I recently transitioned to a new position as an associate clinical scientist for AbbVie's oncology program (currently focusing on lung cancer). I review data for ongoing oncology studies and support other aspects of clinical trial planning and conduct. I'm really enjoying my work and would be happy to discuss with current students or alums who are interested in clinical research and/or the pharmaceutical industry.

Dr. J.E. Bouquot ('67) - I don't know if it's of interest to the group but I've recently retired and stepped down as a co-author of the most popular textbook of my dental specialty, Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology. Back in the early 1990s I talked one of my old students (from West Virginia University) and a couple of other mutual friends into writing a replacement for the pathology textbook that had dominated dentistry for the 40 previous years. They wouldn't do it unless I helped, so I agreed to be the last author. As a result, in 1995 Saunders, the largest US medical text publisher, published "Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, by Neville, Damm, Allen, Bouquot. It was one of the three best selling dental books that year and has gone on to become the most popular Oral Pathology textbook of all time, with about 135,000 copies sold over 20 years; it is the standard pathology textbook for almost every US dental school and many foreign schools. The 3rd edition, 2008, was the last on which I worked, and the 4th edition just came out so I'm finished with it now, but I've always taken pride in having an Ole be part of what is called "the Bible of Oral Pathology."

Lisa Leege ('88) - I direct the Center for Sustainability at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia, where I am a Professor of Biology. I recently coauthored a college environmental science textbook, *Christensen and Leege. 2016. Environment and You, 2nd Edition. Pearson, San Francisco. 700pp.* One of the features for the agriculture chapter highlights St. Olaf's STOGROW program - a student-run campus farm that supplies the dining facility with local, sustainable food. This feature was inspired by a visit to campus for my 25th reunion when I got to see the farm and eat the fantastic food in the dining hall.

John M. Elvig ('82) - I have been working with Atara Biotherapeutics for the last 3 years as head of Quality related to drug product manufacture. We are largely focused on adoptive immune cellular therapy product development and have some very exciting products in research stage and in human clinical trials now. Our daughter Lauren (Ole Class of '15) is envious...she took Ted's Immunology class in Spring of 2015 and is telling me all of the science behind our allogeneic cytotoxic T cell materials....happy to tell her Dad she knows more than me! While I don't profess to be a lymphomaniac like Ted, this is a great time to be in drug development.

Paul McCray ('76) - I am a physician-scientist at the University of Iowa Department of pediatrics. I am the division director for Pediatric Allergy/Immunology, and Pulmonary Medicine. In addition to being a clinical pediatric pulmonologist, I run a basic science lab that is mainly focused on the disease cystic fibrosis.

Trevor Keyler ('07) - I am working on my PhD with the U of M in the Integrated Biosciences program. I have a fisheries concentration and I am doing behavioral and visual work with freshwater fishes.

Stephen Schendel ('69) - Some time ago I retired from Stanford University Medical School as Professor Emeritus of Surgery. I am still practicing and doing research. My surgical practice is now based mostly on aesthetic surgery and sleep apnea surgery. Below is my most recent publication on stem cells and fat grafting.

Kjell Stenberg ('98) - I didn't go into biology, so my post may be different from other's. I'm a manager at Intel, focused on leadership, learning, and organizational effectiveness. Currently managing culture change with a business after being acquired by Intel.

Karen Jaeger ('70) - I have a busy solo physical therapy practice focusing on manual therapies Lymph Drainage, Brain Focus and CranioSacral Therapy here in Madison, WI. Developments in this field are exciting and continue to keep me well engaged into my "retirement" years.

Mark Gunderson ('95) - I am currently an Associate Professor of Biology and Chair of the Biology Department at the College of Idaho.

Lissa Flemming ('91) - BIG LIFE CHANGE:I just opened an Art Gallery!!! Silverwaves Jewelry Working Studio and Art Gallery: Bayfield, WI. It features my jewelry with a few local, Lake Superior and regional artists from WI and MN.
www.silverwaves.net

Nancy Van Buren, MD ('79) - I left my hospital-based pathology practice with Central Regional Pathology Laboratories last fall to join Innovative Blood Resources/Memorial Blood Centers of Minnesota as their associate medical director. I'm also co-medical director of the transfusion services with Dr. Jed Gorlin at Hennepin County Medical Center and Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota.

Linda Whittaker - I retired from the Israel Nature and Parks Authority in April 2014, and since then have become a research fellow at the DEIAHL (German Protestant Institute of Archaeology in the Holy Land). I am doing landscape archaeology in the Gadara region of Jordan and also in the Philistine Plain of Israel, the latter in collaboration with archaeologists in Bar Ilan University.

Melissa Songpitak ('14) - I am a Customer Success Team Lead at a startup called Science Exchange, located right in the heart of Silicon Valley in Palo Alto, CA. In a nutshell, Science Exchange is an online marketplace where scientists from all around the world can outsource their experiments to the best labs. Our goal is to improve the quality and enhance the pace of scientific discovery by democratizing access to cutting-edge technology to all. We recently raised funding and are actively hiring for many positions - both senior and junior. I joined Science Exchange after I graduated from St. Olaf in 2014 and have had the time of my life.

Richard Raymond ('67) - I recently returned from Gondar, Ethiopia, where I have been working for the past several years with the Corvallis-Gondar sister Cities Association to develop water infrastructure including drinking water wells in rural areas, public restrooms in the urban area, and developing a program to plant tree seedlings to distribute to local farmers to help reduce erosion that threatens the city's water supply.

Stan Davis ('81) - I have been working with the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ), part of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on using simulation to improve teamwork and communication for Labor and Delivery staff across the country.

Rebecca Duerst ('00) - In March, I took a new position as director for diakonia (international development and disaster response) in the ELCA's Global Mission unit at the churchwide organization in Chicago. I had previously been serving with the ELCA as program director for global health.

Spencer Schubert ('13) - I just completed the first year of my PhD program at Old Dominion University, where I am studying ecology. The focus of my independent dissertation research is on avian seed dispersal, particularly in the ecosystems of the Dominican Republic (and possibly Haiti in the future). I won a couple of small grants to support my research projects, including funds from the Rufford Foundation and the Animal Behavior Society. Rufford has a webpage about my project
http://www.rufford.org/projects/spencer_schubert.

Lieutenant Colonel (Dr.) Elizabeth Erickson ('98) - After five years of work as an Air Force International Health Specialist at Pacific Air Forces and U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii, she will begin a Preventive Medicine Residency at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, in July 2016.

Ian Pray ('09) - I'm currently working on a PhD in Epidemiology at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, OR after finishing an MPH last year at the same university. Prior to that I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Mozambique from 2010-2012.

Allison Tims ('07) - I am living in Denver working for Kaiser as a family medicine physician doing outpatient medicine and seeing newborns in the hospital. My husband and I have done two recent medical trips to Nepal, and plan more in the future. We are expecting our first child in December 2016.

Kate Carroll ('09) - I just finished a Master's in Natural Resources Science and Management at the University of Minnesota -- Twin Cities. Next month I'm headed to Rwanda to join [One Acre Fund's](#) Field Operations team.

Leigh Cooper ('05) - I finished my Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at University of Colorado Boulder before earning a Science Communication Certificate at University of California, Santa Cruz. I now work as a science writer for the Proceedings for the National Academy of Sciences

Megan McGovern ('12) - I just graduated from the Augsburg College Physician Assistant Program this past December after Dr. Ted Johnson introduced me to the PA profession during my senior year at Olaf. I recently accepted a PA position on the Adult Endocrinology team at Park Nicollet in St. Louis Park. This is truly my dream job and I am excited to start practice in September. I attribute a lot of my success and my network to my time at St. Olaf.

Genevieve Dunton ('98) - Promoted to Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine and Psychology with tenure at the University of Southern California.

Hans Walter-Peterson ('90) - I started a Ph.D. program in viticulture (grapes) at Cornell University in 2014. I'm working on my degree while also working as Cornell's viticulture extension specialist for the Finger Lakes region - which basically means I try to communicate research to the grape growers in the area that will help them grow better grapes and make better wine.

Phillip Weber ('86) - I moved back from Telemark, Norway after living there with my wife (Roselyn Hanson '86) and kids from 2007-2012. Since then, have been working at the Minneapolis Heart Institute in Mpls, MN in a cardiology practice.

Haley Eidem ('11) - I'm a 4th year PhD candidate in computational genomics with Dr. Antonis Rokas at Vanderbilt University.

Eden Ehm ('13) - Last fall I accepted a new job as a Project Coordinator at Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development, a non-profit that serves the Northeast Iowa region. I work on many projects that use my biology and mathematical biology background, such water quality and watershed assessment, integrated roadside vegetation management along scenic byways, and writing grants to help rural farmers fund solar panels. I also continue to play violin and Hardanger fiddle. Um ya ya!

Jessica (Theorin) Holm ('03) - I continue my work as a full-scope Certified Nurse Midwife at Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) and have recently transitioned into the role of Interim Service Director for our Midwife Service. In my personal life, my husband Noah Holm ('02) and I welcomed our second child, a son named Axel Glenn, one year ago. He joins our 3.5yo daughter, Elsa Jayne and nicely rounds out our family of four.

Kristen Meyer ('79) - I've gathered and processed data for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, earned a Master's in Environmental Journalism, lived and worked for 6 years in rural Papua New Guinea, raised and launched four kids, and, most recently, taught and tutored in the Minneapolis Public schools. I am currently in transition, refocusing my profession energy back on the environment.

David Larson ('93) - I continue to work at Mayo Clinic and remain the Chair of Colorectal Surgery with research in Inflammatory bowel disease, rectal cancer, and standardization of care. I have NIH RO1 grants in Informatics and Natural language processing which works with our electronic medical record. Like Eric St Louis I am working with several of the St Olaf undergrads this summer in research looking at surgical SSI and Readmission.

Chad Durgin ('98) - I am finishing my 13th year as a Financial Consultant with Thrivent Financial. In addition, I attained the Certified Kingdom Advisor® Designation in 2015 to help my members be better stewards with their financial resources.

Alumni and Faculty Recent Publications

Jacobson Andrew ('06), Gerngross P, Lemeris Jr. JR, Schoonover RF, Anco C, Breitenmoser-Würsten C, Durant SM, Farhadinia MS, Henschel P, Kamler JF, Laguardia A, Rostro-García S, Stein AB, Dollar L. (2016) Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) status, distribution, and the research efforts across its range. PeerJ 4:e1974 <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.1974>

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Thomas, Alexandra ('12). L., Coarfa, C., Qian, J., Wilkerson, J. J., Rajapakshe, K., Krett, N. L., ... Rosen, S. T. (2015). Identification of potential glucocorticoid receptor therapeutic targets in multiple myeloma. *Nuclear Receptor Signaling*, 13, e006. <http://doi.org/10.1621/nrs.13006>

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Nature Communications: miR-218 is essential to establish motor neuron fate as a downstream effector of Isl1–Lhx3, **Karen Thiebes ('08)**, [PhDhttp://www.nature.com/ncomms/2015/150727/ncomms8718/full/ncomms8718.html](http://www.nature.com/ncomms/2015/150727/ncomms8718/full/ncomms8718.html).

Article title: Depression Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Across the Lifespan Article reference: POP808 Journal title: Primary Care: Clinics in Office Practice Corresponding author: **John M. Wilkinson, MD ('73)** First author: Elizabeth W. Cozine, MD Final version published online: 1-JUN-2016 Full bibliographic details: Primary Care: Clinics in Office Practice 43 (2016), pp. 229-243 DOI information: 10.1016/j.pop.2016.02.004

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Ireland PJ, Tavis JE, D'Erasmio MP, Hirsch DR, Murelli RP, Cadiz MM, Patel BS, Gupta AK, Edwards TC, Korom M, Moran EA, **Morrison Lynda ('82)**. 2016. Synthetic α -hydroxytropolones inhibit replication of wild-type and acyclovir-resistant herpes simplex viruses. *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy* 60:2140-2149. PMID:26787704

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Lin, W.W., Yi, Z., Stunz, L.L., Maine, C.J., Sherman, L.A. and **Bishop, Gail ('77)** The adaptor protein TRAF3 inhibits IL-6 receptors signaling in B cells to limit plasma cell development. *Science Signaling* 8:ra88 (online), 2015.

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[A recurrent immunophenotype at diagnosis independently identifies high-risk pediatric acute myeloid leukemia: a report from Children's Oncology Group.](#) **Brodersen Lisa Eidenschink ('03)**, Alonzo TA, **Menssen, Andrew ('12)**, Gerbing RB, Pardo L, **Voigt, Andrew ('14)**, Kahwash SB, Hirsch B, Raimondi S, Gamis AS, Meshinchi S, **Loken Michael ('67)**. *Leukemia*. 2016 Jun 3. doi: 10.1038/leu.2016.119. [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available.

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Summer Greenhouse Photos



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