



*For the **Hill** and Beyond*

THE CAMPAIGN FOR ST. OLAF

A REPORT ON THE CAMPAIGN FOR ST. OLAF  
DECEMBER, 2016

## For the Hill and Beyond



For more than 140 years, St. Olaf has been preparing students to claim their place in the world. As we look toward a future filled with rapid and widespread change, St. Olaf's patience and persistence — how we uphold our mission and traditions — is amplified by the need to be bold and purposeful in helping students build meaningful lives beyond their years on the Hill.

This fall, St. Olaf embarked on the public phase of a \$200 million campaign for key priorities that reflect the promises we make to our students — to challenge them academically, help them find their purpose, and prepare them for professional accomplishment, financial independence, and personal fulfillment:

### Campaign Priorities

- **Advance High-Impact Learning — \$68.5 million.** Research has shown that off-campus study, faculty-mentored research, internships, and other forms of experiential education can improve knowledge retention, critical thinking, and career preparedness.
- **Strengthen Community— \$31.5 million.** On this purposefully residential campus, teamwork, inclusion, and civil discourse not only define the Ole way of life; they are urgently needed in a complex and divisive world. We seek to provide even more ways for St. Olaf students, faculty, and staff to discover and grow together.
- **Enhance Affordability— \$65 million.** St. Olaf remains committed to meeting the demonstrated financial need of every admitted student through a combination of grants, loans, and student work awards, and by keeping college debt reasonable and affordable. This pledge reflects our values, and it will require greater levels of philanthropic support.
- **Sustain Our Mission— \$35 million.** Our fast-paced world often presents unexpected opportunities to advance the college's mission. Annual gifts to the St. Olaf Fund help today's students take immediate advantage of opportunities to excel, while easing reliance on tuition.

As of October 31, over 17,870 donors have contributed more than \$133.9 million, or 67 percent, toward our \$200 million goal. From new commitments to the St. Olaf Fund to multimillion dollar endowed funds, gifts to *For the Hill and Beyond* are already making a tremendous impact. Every gift matters as we seek to advance the above priorities.

Much has changed since the college first opened its doors, yet the need for St. Olaf College is stronger than ever. A St. Olaf education sets graduates on solid paths to leadership in their lives, their chosen vocations, and their communities, spreading the impact of St. Olaf far beyond the Hill.

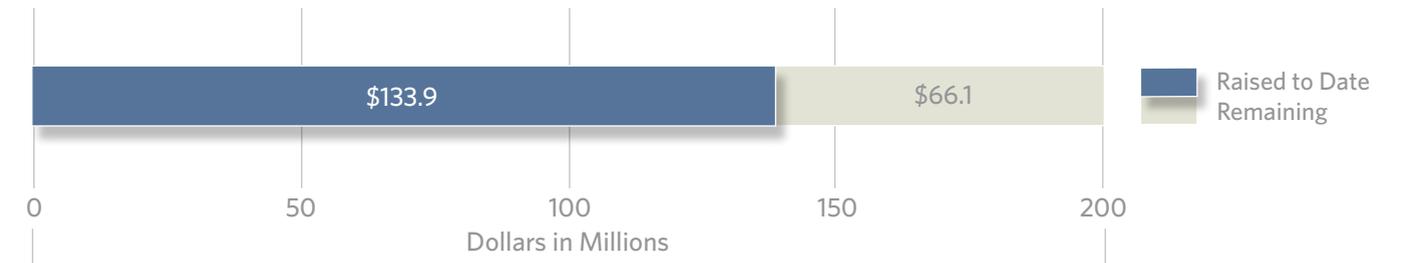
I invite you to read about how our students benefit from each of these priorities in the following report. We look forward to keeping you apprised of our progress.

David R. Anderson '74  
President

### On the Cover

Alexa Roemmich '15 benefited from St. Olaf faculty mentors who helped guide her to prestigious research positions in the field of regenerative medicine. Today Alexa is pursuing a Ph.D. from the University of California at Irvine in neuroscience.

## Progress to Date



### Commitments and Impact: Highlights

**\$6.1 million** endowing international and off-campus study that will make the Global Semester fee the same as studying on campus and provide \$140,000 annually to address student financial need in other programs

**\$37.9 million** endowing financial aid, making approximately 63 more funded gift awards available for students (average award: \$26,890)

**\$800,000** for modern low-environmental-impact turf on Manitou Field

**\$4.6 million** (\$1,495 per student) given on average to the St. Olaf Fund over the past three years to support academics, financial aid, and campus life

**\$34.6 million** endowing general needs that will generate \$1.56 million annually for operations

## DONOR PROFILE

Karen Buchwald Wright '74 established an endowed fund for St. Olaf's signature Great Conversation program and is directly supporting the first four years of operations for its Institute for Freedom and Community. Wright was particularly taken with the institute's goal of promoting civil discourse in a democracy. She believes that programming for both the Great Conversation and the institute will encourage students to approach issues with an open mind and carefully contemplate new ideas. "In almost everything you do in life, you will have to work with others," says Wright, president and CEO of Ariel Corporation. "The beauty of almost any group is that there will be a variety of perspectives. You need to have the ability to thoughtfully consider those perspectives in order to succeed."



# Advance High-Impact Learning



High-impact learning practices actively engage students in learning. At St. Olaf, we have long employed and continue to excel in these key practices: international and off-campus study, faculty-mentored research, academic and professional internships, and our signature Conversation programs. Such practices

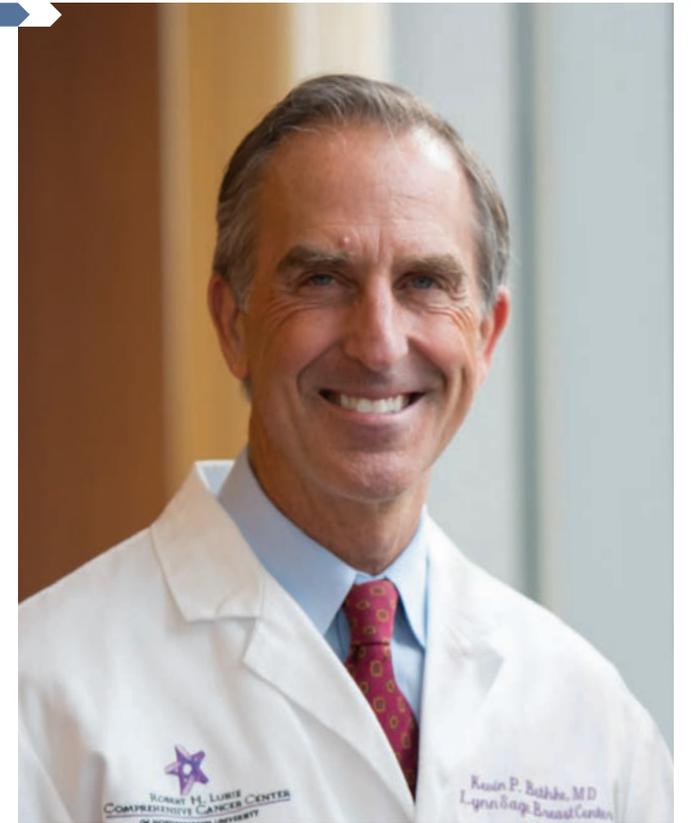
provide rich opportunities for experiential learning outside the classroom, as well as meaningful collaboration with faculty and peers. The impact of these practices provides students with distinct opportunities to succeed by developing career-critical 21st-century skills highly sought by employers.

## DONOR PROFILE

In addition to helping Oles access high-impact learning opportunities, Dr. Kevin Bethke '78, a St. Olaf regent, teamed up with his sister, Rhonda Brau P '12, to create the Bethke Brau Family Opportunity Fund to help students access meaningful extracurricular opportunities ranging from academic conferences to public health service trips.

A first-generation college student who grew up in rural Minnesota, St. Olaf readied Bethke for medical school and opened his eyes to being a citizen of the world. He now teaches clinical surgery at Northwestern University and is vice chief of staff of Northwestern Memorial Hospital and associate director of its Lynn Sage Comprehensive Breast Center.

"We were delighted to do it," says Bethke. "I've encouraged students to invest in experiences, not things," he says, "and hopefully the Bethke Brau Fund will provide students with inspiring and enriching opportunities."



## STUDENT PROFILE

### BARITE GUTAMA '17 Making a Career in Medicine a Reality

By the time Barite Gutama '17 arrived at St. Olaf College, she had already beaten the odds. Just two years earlier, she had immigrated to the United States from Ethiopia. She had no idea how to pursue her childhood dream of becoming a doctor, but she dug in at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis, taking advanced courses in subjects such as chemistry while learning English. Gutama got an internship at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, volunteered at food shelters, and tutored younger students. She graduated at the top of her high school class and received a spate of awards honoring her remarkable accomplishments.

Initially drawn to St. Olaf by its strong science and pre-med programs, Gutama was struck by the college's commitment to supporting students and providing them with high-impact educational experiences, ranging from research to study abroad.

She has made the most of those opportunities during her time on the Hill, balancing on-campus research and an internship at 3M with the coursework for her chemistry major and biomolecular science concentration. Once again, her hard work and determination are opening new doors. Gutama was one of just 12 college students nationwide selected to conduct hands-on research with top cancer experts like Dr. Kevin Bethke '78 last summer through the Northwestern University Continuing Umbrella of Research Experience (CURE) Program.

"In addition to the research experience, my summer at Northwestern has enabled me to interact with professionals and develop a vision for the kind of physician I aspire to become," Gutama says.

And while she might not know exactly what that looks like just yet, Gutama says one thing is certain: the opportunities she has received at St. Olaf, from conducting research alongside her organic chemistry professor to studying abroad on the Peruvian Medical Experience Interim, have prepared her exceptionally well for a career in medicine.

<b>Hometown</b>	Minneapolis
<b>Major</b>	Chemistry, Concentration in Biomolecular Science
<b>On Campus</b>	Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (president), Pre-Health Professionals Club, Junior Counselor, Peruvian Medical Experience, TRIO McNair Scholar, TRIO Student Support Services, NorthStar STEM Alliance Program (cohort leader)
<b>Scholarships</b>	Johanna Winger Memorial Endowed Scholarship, Billi and Vern Faillettaz Endowed Scholarship

*"My St. Olaf education has helped me view things from a broader perspective. My liberal arts education has prepared me to become a physician who cares for the person as a whole."*



# Strengthen Community

*The best communities help students understand who they are as individuals, and who they can be if they think bigger than themselves.*

Living and learning in community is at the core of what makes a St. Olaf education distinctive, and our community is enhanced by the many activities and resources available to students while residing on the Hill. Being part of a diverse residential culture encourages achievement, forms friendships around shared experiences, and promotes the

development of skills and habits of mind and heart that prepare students for life beyond college.

Expanding the extracurricular opportunities available to students will strengthen this essential element of the St. Olaf experience. This includes adding coaching and training, synthetic turf to Manitou Field, and an on-campus ice arena; building funds for student organizations and activities; and creating new interdisciplinary centers of thought to facilitate community-wide reflection and dialogue on complex issues about our role as citizens in a democracy, as well as questions about faith and values.



## STUDENT PROFILE

### EVAN LEBO '17 A Lifelong Community that Starts on Campus



Evan Lebo '17 grew up on a three-acre strawberry farm in a town of 4,000 people. "What I learned from growing up in this community is that I wanted to attend a college where I would be in courses with classmates whose names I would know," he says.

Lebo found himself drawn to St. Olaf College's academic rigor, its musical excellence, and its beautiful campus. But it was the "sense of lifelong community that comes with being an Ole," he says, that sealed the deal for him.

Since arriving at St. Olaf, Lebo has become extensively involved with this community himself, from singing in Cantorei Choir to leadership positions in the Board of Regents Student Committee and the Student Government Association.

These experiences have "really taught me what can be accomplished when a group of motivated Oles comes

together," Lebo says. "When I think about how much time is spent in the classroom compared to that spent in extracurricular involvement, I realize how much of my experience at St. Olaf is attributable to campus activities and organizations."

Even when Lebo spent a semester abroad studying in Copenhagen, he found a similar sense of community. "My experience abroad was made by my host family. I did not just have a place to stay; rather, I had a family who cared about me and welcomed me with open arms," he says.

Lebo expects that sense of community to continue after he leaves the Hill. "I am struck by how passionate and loyal alumni are," he says. "Even after graduation, they continue to show their Ole pride."

In fact, Lebo will soon join another Ole community after he leaves the St. Olaf campus: on the heels of a recent summer internship with UnitedHealth Group's Corporate Development team, which includes several St. Olaf alumni, he was offered a full-time position on the team.

<b>Hometown</b>	Baldwin, Wisconsin
<b>Majors</b>	Economics (Finance Emphasis), Statistics Concentration
<b>On Campus</b>	Cantorei Choir, Board of Regents Student Committee, Admissions Office, teaching assistant in the Economics Department, Student Government Association, Omicron Delta Epsilon, Blue Key Honor Society
<b>Scholarships</b>	Baucus and Company Endowed Scholarship, Jane and Edward Hoiness Endowed Scholarship, Oleson-Ellefson Scholarship

*"Much of my experience at St. Olaf is attributable to campus activities and organizations."*

# Enhance Affordability



The value of a St. Olaf degree depends not only on the immediate and long-term outcomes a St. Olaf education delivers but also on how affordable this education is for our students. The cost of college nationally — even after financial aid — has reached levels that strain the budgets of many exceptionally qualified students and their families. By keeping tuition and learning opportunities affordable, St. Olaf will continue helping students realize their aspirations and goals more readily, from the moment they consider the college as a prospective student.

## DONOR PROFILE

Kris '73 and Rob Johnson, with their daughters, Kelsey and Berit, established the Johnson Family Opportunity Fund, an internship scholarship program that helps first-generation and low-income students pursue academic enhancing experiences, pre-professional training, and graduate school preparatory opportunities.

“Many low-income students have difficulty accessing out-of-classroom educational experiences and internships, even though they are a very important part of student learning — the right internship can inform academic and career decisions and make classroom learning more relevant. We decided as a family that was an area where we could have a meaningful impact,” says Kris.



## STUDENT PROFILE

### VANESSA LÓPEZ '17

#### Singing in Spain, Spreading Music at St. Olaf

Last summer, Vanessa López '17 spent time in Barcelona studying alongside renowned Colombian-born soprano Patricia Caicedo and others, including highly acclaimed Brazilian tenor and musicologist Lenine Santos, thanks to funding López received from the Johnson Family Opportunity Fund. She was one of only four students from around the world selected to study with Caicedo in an intensive two-week program. In addition to taking a variety of classes designed to increase participants' overall musical knowledge, López worked with linguists to learn Brazilian Portuguese, Catalan, and Spanish.

“The most enjoyable experience of being in Barcelona was being able to collaborate and work with musicians from all over the globe,” she says.

She's now applying that knowledge on the Hill, working with St. Olaf Professor of Music Nancy Paddleford to

design a website that features Latin American music recordings, English translations, information about individual composers, and more.

López is creating the website as part of the college's TRIO McNair Scholars Program. The program, she says, has opened “endless doors of possibilities” to conduct research and participate in projects that have prepared her to pursue a graduate degree and eventually teach music.

López was drawn to the Hill by the opportunity to sing with the renowned St. Olaf Choir — which she has done since the spring of her first year on campus. But it was the warm sense of community she found on campus and the ability to pursue a wide array of interests in a liberal arts setting that sealed her decision.

*“I have always wanted to be involved in music where it is appreciated, to be in a community where professors care about their students, and feel at home with my peers. St. Olaf gave me all this and more.”*

- Hometown** Moorpark, California
- Majors** Vocal Music Education and Music Elective Studies
- On Campus** St. Olaf Choir, Gospel Choir, German Choir, Student Lab Choir, Early Music Singers, Ole Vocal Jazz, St. Olaf Student Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association (president), Lyric Theater, TRIO McNair Scholar, TRIO Student Support Services (Board of Leaders)
- Scholarships** Joseph and Gladys Gunderson Scholarship, Gerhardt and Lyla (Pederson) Paulsrud Endowed Scholarship, Nicki Hanson '54 Endowed Scholarship in Choral Music



# Sustain Our Mission

*By increasing non-tuition revenue, donors can help the college secure its future and respond to opportunities without compromising the affordability of a St. Olaf degree.*

Everything we do to sustain our mission, now and in the future, rests on generous and ongoing support for the St. Olaf Fund, our most critical and flexible source of funding. The St. Olaf Fund provides annual operating support to help bridge the gap between collected tuition and related fees and the actual cost of educating and housing St. Olaf students. The St. Olaf Fund works in

tandem with earnings from the college's endowed funds to provide immediate support for the college's daily needs. The fund now provides \$4.6 million yearly on average in current spending for financial aid, academics, and life on the Hill.

### The Role of the St. Olaf Fund

- Provide crucial support for existing programs and operations that are vital to the college's mission.
- Help the college weather challenges and make the most of unexpected opportunities.
- Underwrite important enhancements to the academic program, facilities, and campus activities, providing the margin of excellence that distinguishes and sets the St. Olaf experience apart from its top-ranked peers across the nation.



An invitation from the Cuban Ministry of Culture for the St. Olaf Jazz I ensemble to perform a series of concerts in Havana resulted in 20 undergraduate musicians spending their 2016 Spring Break working with Cuban jazz artists and playing alongside local ensembles. It was the first time a St. Olaf music ensemble performed in Cuba.

This exciting opportunity required quick preparation. With support from the St. Olaf Fund, the St. Olaf Music Department purchased new instrument cases for the jazz ensemble, as well as cases for the St. Olaf Orchestra's 2016 summer tour of Argentina. "This was critical help," says Associate Professor of Music Alison Feldt. "Our instruments came safely back, and our students had wonderful, life-changing experiences learning from other musicians and sharing their talent with the world."

## STUDENT PROFILE

### Siriana "Siri" Lundgren '19 Calling on You

You may have heard sophomore Siri Lundgren's voice. She's not only a performance major and mezzo-soprano who sings in the St. Olaf Cantorei but is also a participant in the St. Olaf Fund's annual phonathon, where she calls on alumni to renew their support to the college. It's a job that helps support her education and connects her with alumni who enjoy sharing their favorite memories from the Hill.

Lundgren enjoys these alumni reminiscences, which have included "just a little mischief — like secretly stringing Christmas lights on the water tower," she says, "or remembering their favorite professors or former dorms." Christmas Festival memories are particularly cherished, something Lundgren, the daughter of a Lutheran pastor, can relate to. "I grew up listening to Christmas Festival CDs with my family," she says. "That's how I first learned about St. Olaf."

Now Siri has varied opportunities to explore her growing interest in music history and ethnomusicology. She's part of the Great Conversation, Political Awareness Committee, and the Lyric Theater. She's completed internships in her hometown and is setting her sights on another at the Smithsonian Institution, along with mentored music research and an opera "boot camp" in Italy.

Lundgren's phonathon work also drives her. She sees how Oles help each other, and considers how she can one day give back. "Financial aid is definitely a go-to for my calls," she says, "and it's important to students like me. I am grateful for the support that others and St. Olaf have provided me; it truly motivates me to make the most of my time here, to be the best I can."

Ultimately her St. Olaf education has given Lundgren the chance to find herself. She plans to pursue a graduate degree in music, perform, and perhaps teach.

<b>Hometown</b>	Billings, Montana
<b>Major</b>	Music Performance
<b>On Campus</b>	Great Conversation, Lyric Theater, St. Olaf Cantorei, Political Awareness Committee, St. Olaf Fund Phonathon
<b>Scholarship</b>	F. Melius and Olaf Christiansen Scholarship, Presidential Scholarship, James R. Hexem Scholarship

*"I am grateful for the support that others and St. Olaf have provided me; it truly motivates me to make the most of my time here."*





St. Olaf College  
1520 St. Olaf Avenue  
Northfield, MN 55057

*Development Office*

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 4444  
TWIN CITIES, MN



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

More than 17,870 alumni, students, faculty, staff, parents, and friends of St. Olaf College have already contributed \$133.9 million toward our campaign goal of \$200 million. This includes an unprecedented \$747,749 contributed by 2,184 donors for our second annual All in for the Hill, the St. Olaf Fund's annual 24-hour online giving event.

If you have given to *For the Hill and Beyond*, the St. Olaf Fund, endowed scholarships or other funds, planned gifts, bequests, or charitable annuities, thank you for your support! If you have yet to make your first gift, please consider making a gift today!