

### You are making a difference.

"St. Olaf College challenges students to excel in the liberal arts, examine faith and values, and explore meaningful vocation in an inclusive, globally engaged community nourished by Lutheran tradition."

In October 2016, St. Olaf launched the public phase of For the Hill and Beyond, our \$200 million comprehensive campaign to help students deepen their academic engagement, find additional ways to learn in community outside the classroom, better access and afford an education on the Hill, and experience the lasting impact of the St. Olaf mission.

As of May 31, 2017, alumni, families, and friends of the college have driven this campaign for St. Olaf beyond 75 percent of our goal. Thank you for your generosity and for the opportunities you are providing students.

Expanding funding for scholarships and for opportunity funds is a critical part of this campaign. In this report you will see how your contributions are helping Oles like David Antwi '19, Emily Schlieff '17, Hannie McGarity '19, and Noemi Guzman '19. From gifts to the St. Olaf Fund that immediately benefit students and endowed funds that provide financial aid year after year, to planned gifts that add to our future, every dollar given strengthens the value and impact of a St. Olaf education.

Early Impact

New endowed scholarship funds

New awards made annually from endowed scholarship funds

\$1.5 million+

St. Olaf Fund dollars given annually for financial aid

Additional opportunities such as internships and international study

#### On the Cover

Kari Hanson '17, a Norwegian and biology major with a neuroscience concentration, came to St. Olaf from Iowa Falls, Iowa. A flutist in the St. Olaf Band, she was also a member of the St. Olaf Chapel Choir and St. Olaf Handbell Choir. She had several student-faculty research opportunities at St. Olaf, and she attended the University of Oslo International Summer School. She will be working as a neurobiology researcher at the Mayo Clinic. "I am excited to follow my passions to find where I can make a difference in the world," she says.

Student Profile | David Antwi '19

### Better Together: The St. Olaf Fund

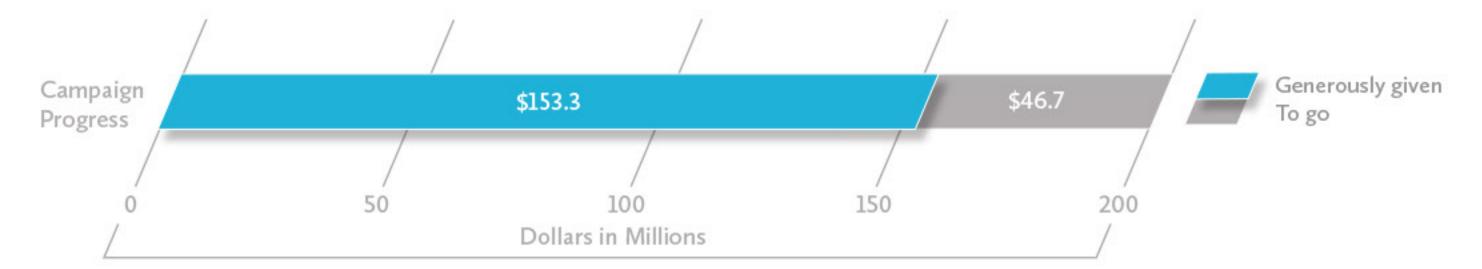
Collectively, your St. Olaf Fund gifts direct more than \$1.5 million to financial aid each year, helping students access and excel in St. Olaf's liberal arts learning community.

"College is expensive and is getting more so," says David Antwi '19. "Increasing financial aid expands the viewpoints St. Olaf can bring to campus, giving us all opportunities to see and discover more."

As a junior counselor in Ellingson Hall, Antwi works to ensure his residents, all first-year students, feel welcome and comfortable in their St. Olaf home.

"We're known as the social floor because so many hang out here," says Antwi. Karaoke nights help make connections and many, like Antwi, are also in The Great Conversation Program. "There's this whole air of friendship," he says. "You value your classmates because of their varied perspectives."

# Progress to Date as of May 31, 2017



#### Commitments and Impact: Highlights

**\$1 million** from Carol and Ward Klein '77 for instructional technology in Holland Hall and campus-wide, to aid student engagement in active learning

\$2.85 million to build the St. Olaf Ice Arena, adding athletic and recreational opportunities to our residential campus

**\$800,000** from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, funding curricular and instructional innovation to advance academic excellence for all St. Olaf students

\$1.40 million from the Davis United World College Scholars Program for international student leaders

**\$1.41 million** to date for faculty-mentored chemistry research and pre-professional health care career opportunities, in honor of Professor Emeritus of Chemistry Wesley Pearson '54

**\$500,000** from an anonymous donor to provide unrestricted financial aid and support for international travel for St. Olaf music ensembles

**\$4.94 million** to the St. Olaf Fund in 2016-17 to support academics, financial aid, and campus life — the most ever given in a single year



# Meeting the Financial Need of **Every Admitted Student**

Nearly every Ole — approximately 90 percent — receives some kind of financial aid, which can include a mix of student employment, need-based grants, merit-based gift aid, and federal or college loans.



St. Olaf's Director of Financial Aid Carly Eichhorst explains how this aid and your gifts are helping Oles and their families today.

# What is unique about St. Olaf's approach to providing financial aid?

St. Olaf is one of only 70 baccalaureate institutions to meet the full demonstrated need of every student, and one of only three in Minnesota.

There is a wide range of family incomes within the student body at St. Olaf, but the fundamental principle of need-based aid is that the more financial need a student has, the larger the need-based grant. Over the past several years St. Olaf has increased the financial aid it provides — funded and otherwise — to keep the portion students and families pay on average nearly level. Our graduates also have much lower debt and loan default rates (0.7 percent) than our state (3 percent) and national (7 percent) private nonprofit peers, indicating that the debt our graduates have is manageable.

Gifts from the St. Olaf community ensure these trends will last and make a tremendous difference.

#### Why is support needed now? What has changed?

The past decade was the first time in 30 years that household incomes have not increased across all levels, and for many families, incomes are stagnant. Nationally, government support for federal programs like the Pell Grant isn't keeping pace with inflation, and other federal programs such as the subsidized Perkins loan program are even being eliminated. Out of necessity, St. Olaf has taken on a greater share of need to keep family responsibility of college expenses nearly stable over the past several years. We have also worked to restrict cost while providing the highest caliber student experience.

#### How is this campaign helping?

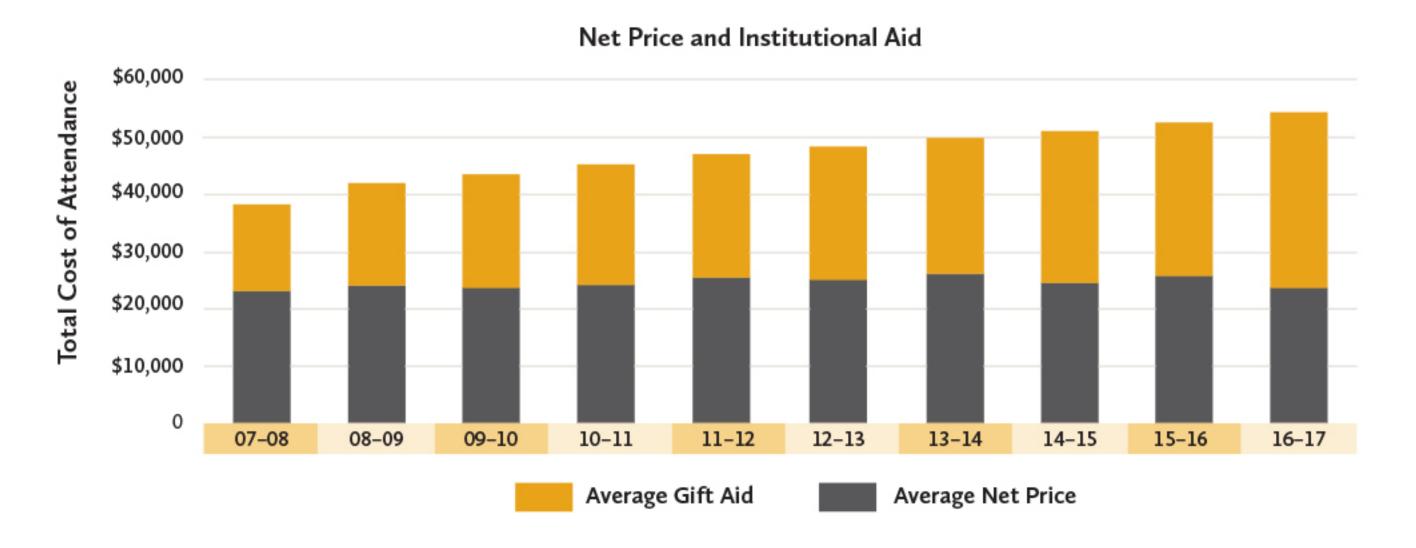
Donors have established hundreds of new endowed scholarships that now individually yield \$400 to \$25,150 for each awardee. More people are directing their St. Olaf Fund gifts to financial aid each year. Planned gifts will add to this impact when they are realized. Increased support allows us to meet the financial need of Oles by using less in student loans — we have reduced loans by \$2,000 annually for each domestic student.

Even if students study abroad with added cost, endowed funding allows us to award more grant aid so students don't necessarily have to increase borrowing to participate in this life-changing experience.

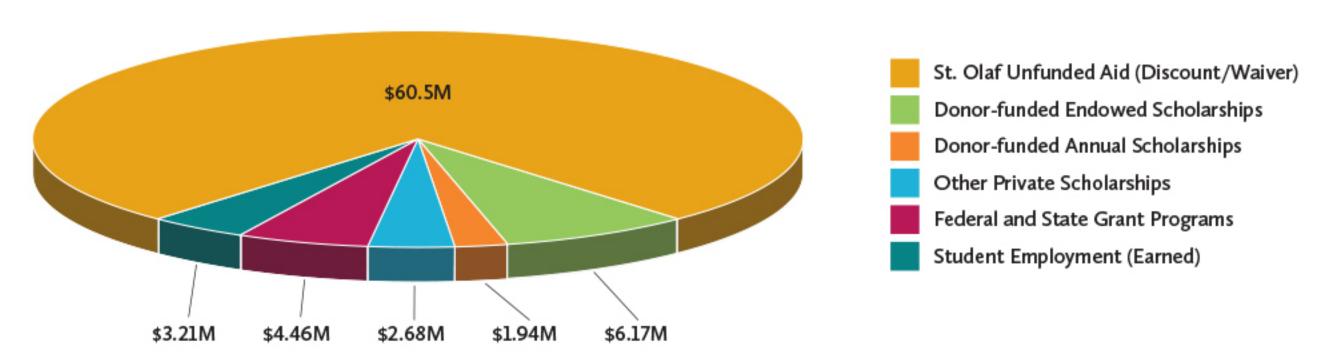
#### What does financial aid mean to our students?

For most families, receiving financial aid is necessary to attend St. Olaf College. A college education is among the most significant investments Oles will make in their lifetime. We believe a St. Olaf education enables Oles to secure meaningful, purposeful vocations and lives that return dividends long after they leave the Hill.

I believe our work is very much about hope and promise; our investment is worth the extraordinary potential that every Ole has to make a meaningful, lasting difference in the world.

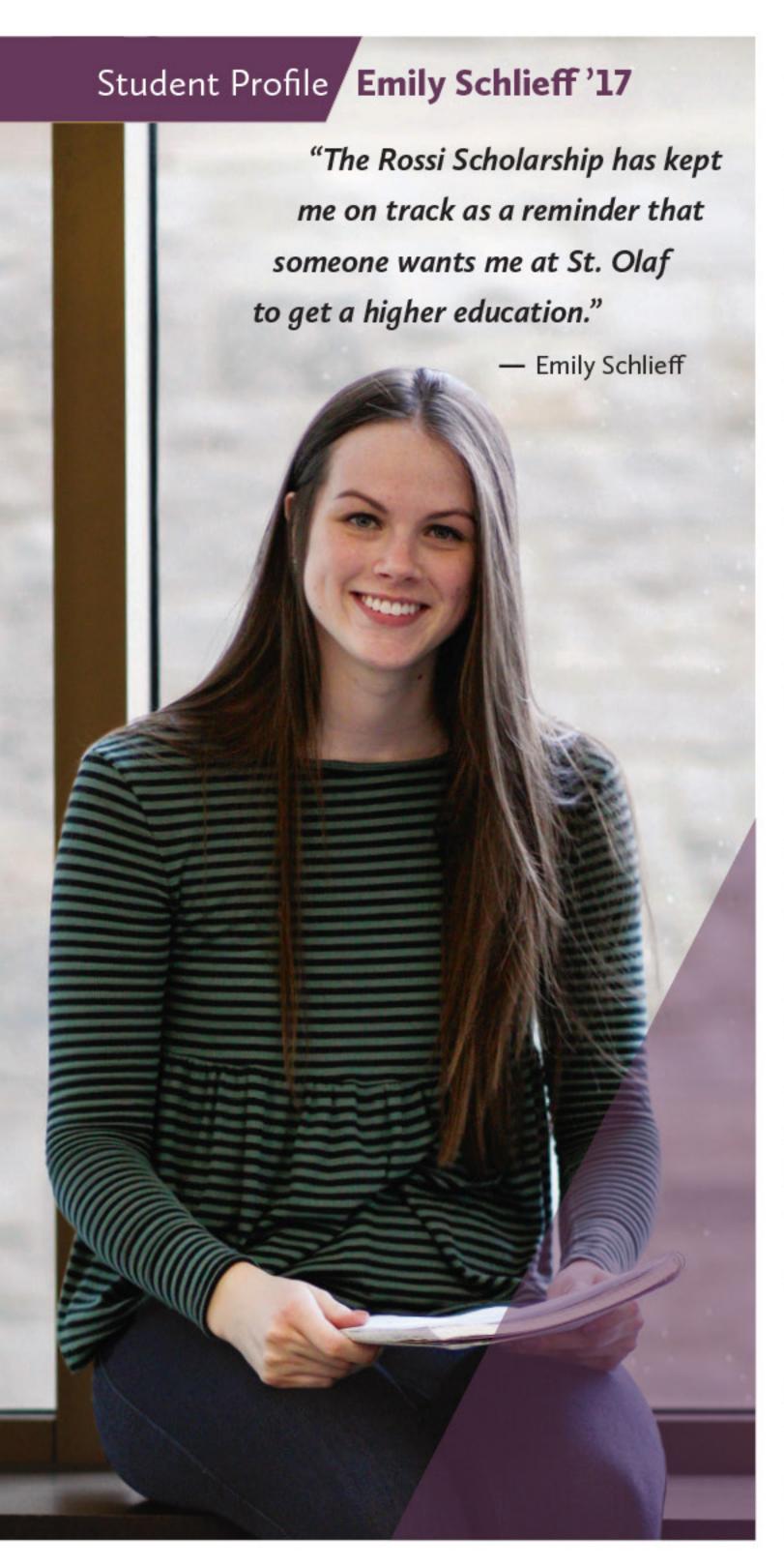






## Restricted Scholarships

Restricted scholarships encourage individual passions while helping Oles access the broad benefits of a St. Olaf education. The Robert A. Rossi Endowed Scholarship supports qualifying students majoring in mathematics.



Emily Schlieff '17, a math major, plans to attend graduate school to further her study of applied mathematics.

"My ultimate dream would be helping improve human space exploration at NASA," she says.

With those ambitions, it might be hard to believe that Schlieff came to St. Olaf without any idea of what she wanted to study. During Interim as a first-year student, she decided to complete a requirement in abstract and quantitative reasoning by taking a linear algebra course.

"I ended up loving it, and I decided to major in math because of it," says Schlieff.

Schlieff, a recipient of the Robert A. Rossi Endowed Scholarship, credits the financial aid she received as one of the most important factors in her ability to pursue her initial interest in math.

"To be quite honest, my final deciding factor in choosing St. Olaf was the affordability, all thanks to my scholarship," says Schlieff. "Having the Rossi Scholarship has definitely kept me on track in my math degree because I am reminded that someone wants me to be here working to get a higher education. St. Olaf has given me a wonderful education and many lifelong friends," she says. "But most importantly, it's given me four great years of memories," she says.

Schlieff has been involved with Science Alliance and Alpha Phi Omega on campus, and she says that the most memorable experiences that she has had during her time at St. Olaf are her study abroad opportunities. She spent one semester in Milan, Italy, where she studied business, and another learning Russian in St. Petersburg.

But at the end of the day, the class that has had the biggest impact on Schlieff was an abstract algebra course with Associate Professor of Mathematics Ryota Matsuura.

"I struggled to learn such a new subject, but he was there for me every step of the way!"

### Donor Profile Robert A. Rossi '68

Technologist Bob Rossi '68 knows he's been lucky. One morning nearly two years ago, he realized that this luck had a lot to do with the financial support and education he received at St. Olaf. In gratitude, Rossi generously established an endowed scholarship for qualifying mathematics majors on the Hill.

The scholarship honors Otonas E. Stanaitis, a St. Olaf mathematics professor (1949-72) who inspired Rossi when he was an undergraduate.

"I was always interested in math, but Professor Stanaitis taught me how to think. His lectures were beautiful. They opened another world for me. Although my primary major was physics, I ended up adding mathematics simply because of Stanaitis and the other fabulous instructors at St. Olaf."

Growing up in Red Wing, Minnesota, Rossi first came to the Hill for a grant-supported summer math and science course while still in high school. He worked alongside chemistry professor Allen Hanson, who encouraged Rossi to apply to St. Olaf and helped him secure financial aid; Professor Hanson later became his advisor. "That \$600 scholarship doesn't seem much now, but it made the difference whether I could attend St. Olaf or not."

Rossi used his St. Olaf education throughout a fulfilling career in computer science — first running a large computer system as a naval officer, and then providing onsite support for a major computer company. This led to software development, including an intense project at the Kennedy Space Center for the space shuttle. Rossi later worked in management at Intel until he retired after 18 years with the company. He still builds a computer every other year, from scratch, to keep up with new technology.

"I thought about all of this and realized I could afford to start paying it forward," says Rossi, who now lives in Vancouver, Washington. "Maybe years from now, someone else will wake up some morning and realize how fortunate they have been."



### Unrestricted Scholarships

Unrestricted scholarships support Oles wherever their education on the Hill leads. The Paul '55 and Lois Wold Christenson '55 and Dorothy Sorenson '50 Endowed Scholarship helps Oles no matter their hometown or major.

### Donor Profile Ruth Christenson Sorenson '81 and Arne Sorenson P '10, '11, '14

Ruth Christenson and Arne Sorenson had a lot in common before they met just prior to when Ruth came to St. Olaf College as a first-year student. Their parents were active Lutheran church leaders and volunteers who deeply engaged their families in faith, learning, and service, and they had attended St. Olaf. Yet it was Paul and Lois Christenson's college funding plan that brought Ruth and Arne together.

"Just days before I started on the Hill, I met Arne at the Whippy Dip my parents owned in Decorah, Iowa and I served him a cone," says Ruth. The Christenson's Whippy Dip ice cream parlor brought in additional funds that helped all six of their children attend St. Olaf in just over 10 years. "At some point, three of us were studying on the Hill at once."

In addition to summer work, Ruth and Arne also relied on financial aid to afford college. "We couldn't have attended without help," says Arne. In gratitude, they established an endowed scholarship honoring their Ole parents and doubled its value in this campaign to increase its impact.

The unrestricted scholarship gives St. Olaf the flexibility it needs to support any deserving student. Such flexible funding was important to Ruth who added education to her major late in her undergraduate career. She was able to teach in India the next summer to complete her new core requirements. "That was unbelievably life changing," she says. "I had never been to a developing country. It opened my eyes."

Now in Washington, D.C., Ruth has worked for 29 years as a music and movement educator, while Arne leads Marriott International as its president and CEO, focusing strongly on growth as well as inclusion, sustainability, and social responsibility. They, too, are active volunteer and philanthropic leaders, just like their parents. They also sent three of their children to the Hill.

"We love St. Olaf. It invites you to embrace great opportunities in and outside your comfort zone. You learn and grow surrounded by a loving community."

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- Ruth and Arne Sorenson

### Student Profile | Hannie McGarity '19

Hanlon "Hannie" McGarity '19 may be passionate about music performance, but that hasn't stopped her from exploring the greater world outside her practice room.

McGarity, who is majoring in violin performance, has already traveled to three countries during her time at St. Olaf and she will visit at least one more country before she graduates. McGarity has studied French in Morocco during Interim of her first year, and she toured with the St. Olaf Orchestra in Argentina and Uruguay the following summer. Next spring, she will study music in Vienna, Austria.

For McGarity, these experiences have been among her most memorable at St. Olaf. "The most valuable thing about my liberal arts education has been the opportunity to study abroad," she says.

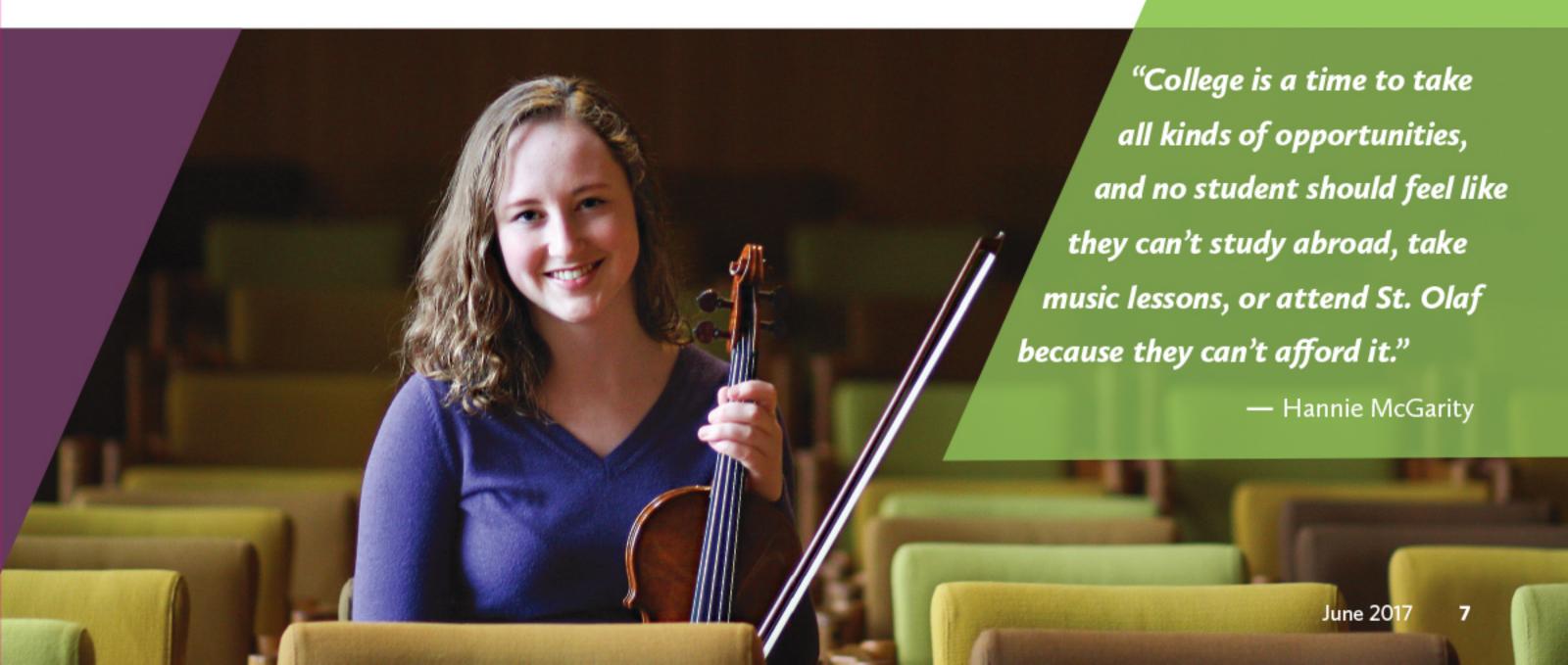
It was because of this opportunity and others that McGarity, a Washington native, decided not to study at a conservatory. And when she and her family attended a St. Olaf Band concert in Seattle, she knew that she had found the school for her.

"I wanted to study music in college; St. Olaf has such a well-known music program, and it seemed like a good fit for me," she says.

The program at St. Olaf has certainly not disappointed McGarity, who plays first violin in the St. Olaf Orchestra. "Playing in the orchestra has been amazing," she says. In addition to strengthening her performance skills, she also enjoys a special camaraderie with her fellow musicians. "The orchestra has so many traditions, like the autumn hayride and spring early-morning softball."

Without her financial aid package, though, McGarity would have never been able to participate in these traditions. "My scholarships are the reason I was able to choose St. Olaf," she says. "The college offered me the best financial aid package out of all the schools I applied to."

"College is a time to take all kinds of opportunities, and no student should feel like they can't study abroad, take music lessons, or attend St. Olaf because they can't afford it," says McGarity.



### Opportunity **Funds**

Opportunity funds help Oles access high-impact learning experiences and resources on the Hill. The Raitt Family Opportunity Fund especially helps first-generation students from Chicago to succeed at St. Olaf.

Student Profile Noemi Guzman '19

Noemi Guzman '19 felt like she belonged at St. Olaf as soon as she stepped foot on campus.

"What drew me to St. Olaf was how I felt when I got here. It felt like I could learn and grow here," says Guzman.

What Guzman wasn't expecting was the sense of belonging that she's felt from her involvement in student organizations — student-initiated and student-run organizations and clubs that include not only diversity celebration programs and academic, religious, athletic, and multicultural groups, but also dozens of special interest groups. The groups are always evolving.

"What drew me to St. Olaf was how I felt when I got here. It felt like I could learn and grow here." - Noemi Guzman

"The most surprising thing about St. Olaf is the variety of different clubs and organizations that the school has to offer," she says. "There are clubs that fit the needs of everyone."

Guzman has contributed to several of the more than 250 student organizations at St. Olaf, including Presente, Vietnamese Organization: Inspiring Cultural Engagement, and Hmong Culture Outreach. Recently Guzman served as co-coordinator of the Latinx Festival, "a festival that was created by Latinx Oles to represent the variety of different Latin American cultures on campus," she says.

Not only has Guzman found her place on campus through these organizations, but she's also learned about other St. Olaf students with backgrounds distinct from her own.

"I've gotten to know a lot of people from different races, religions, and sexualities, which has led me to become more open-minded in the things that I experience," says Guzman, who hails from Chicago.

This open-mindedness makes Guzman even more excited about the opportunity to study abroad. "Along with my involvement in clubs on campus, I plan on studying in either London or Ecuador next year," she says.

For Guzman, who is majoring in English and sociology/anthropology, with a race and ethnic studies concentration, the growth that she's experienced during her time on the Hill wouldn't have been possible without the financial aid package that she received.

"If it wasn't for the financial aid that St. Olaf gave me, I would not be here," she says. "For me, when it came to deciding where I would attend school, financial aid was the deciding factor."

After graduating from St. Olaf, Guzman plans to pursue a master's degree in English or Chicano studies.

### Donor Profile John Raitt P'12

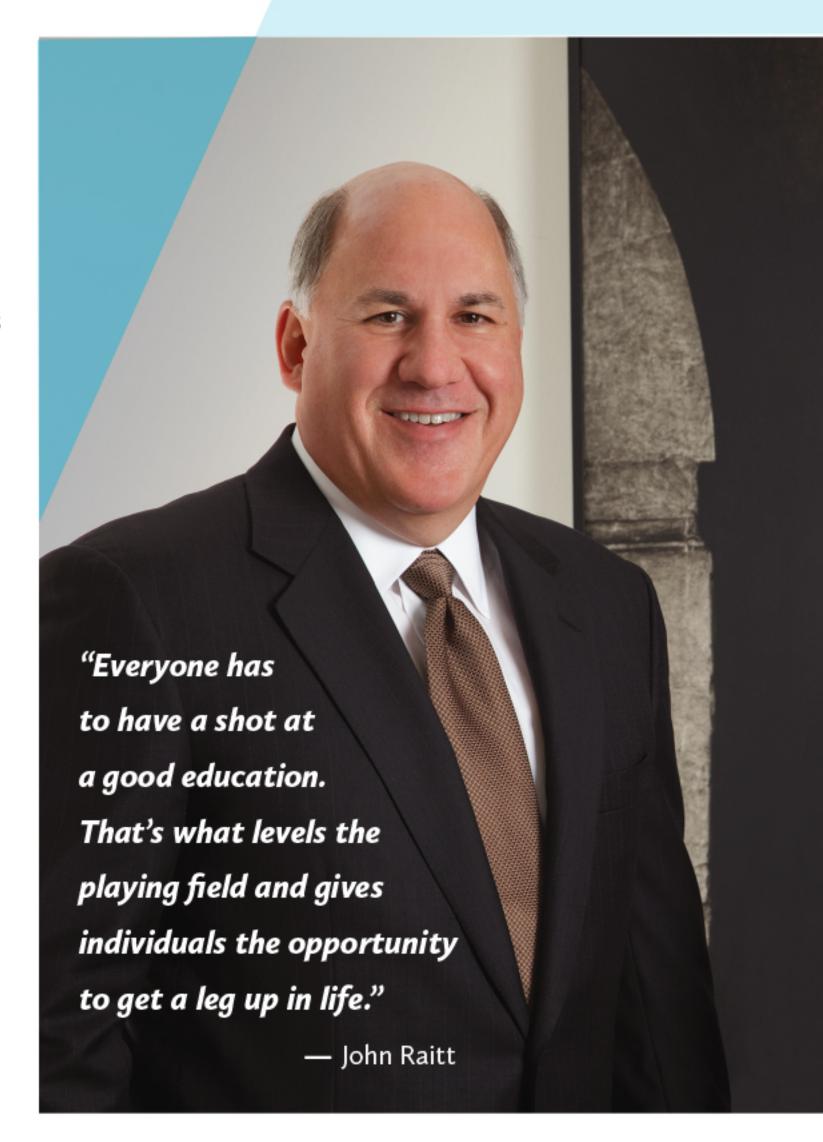
A retired partner, president, and CEO of the Chicago investment firm Harris Associates L.P., St. Olaf Regent John Raitt is acutely aware that not everyone has the same advantages that he did growing up in Minnesota.

It's one of the reasons why John and his family established the Raitt Family Opportunity Fund, an endowed fund that helps Chicago students from under-resourced communities successfully transition to college and access opportunities for personal and professional development on the Hill.

"I went to a strong high school; my parents sent me to a very good college," Raitt says. "My education gave me the tools to have a very successful career. In order to have a fair economic system — and I'm trained in economics — everyone has to have a shot at a good education. That's what levels the playing field and gives individuals the opportunity to get a leg up in life."

Yet when Raitt moved to Chicago in the mid-1980s, he saw a broad opportunity gap. The city's public school system was failing to help kids in some of the poorest neighborhoods doubly disadvantaged by under-resourced schools. Determined to help, Raitt first worked in the public school system before joining the board at Holy Trinity High School, a private West Side school with a 100 percent graduation and college acceptance rate, and a population that is 84 percent African American and Latino. He also supported a recruiting effort — working with nonprofits such as the Posse Foundation — to help first-generation Chicago students get into good schools, including St. Olaf College.

"I have a real strong interest in seeing the college continue to grow," Raitt says. A number of his friends and cousins



are Oles, and his daughter, Carolyn, graduated in 2012. 
"Part of the reason St. Olaf has been so successful is its welcoming nature. It helped me to see how enthusiastically the college has gone into recruiting a diverse group of kids. It will be a stronger college longer term because of this focus."



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Development Office



**ADD YOUR IMPACT** 

Alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends are making a tremendous difference at St. Olaf. For the Hill and Beyond — St. Olaf's \$200 million comprehensive campaign — is enhancing the affordability and impact of a St. Olaf education. Explore how gifts from Oles and friends are helping students now and in decades to come in this report from the Hill.