

For the *Hill* and Beyond

THE CAMPAIGN FOR ST. OLAF

A Report on the Campaign for St. Olaf
SUMMER 2018

**Oles in the Peruvian Medical Experience
at Machu Picchu**

Photo credit: John Mittelsteadt '81

THANK YOU for making
a world of difference

Through your leadership and your
generosity, you are changing lives at
St. Olaf College.

Through *For the Hill and Beyond* — our \$200 million comprehensive campaign — you are giving Oles opportunities to deepen their learning, to better access and afford an education on the Hill, and to daily experience the lasting impact of St. Olaf's mission.

This report shares how you help Oles access high-impact learning opportunities through international and off-campus study, a critical funding priority of this campaign. From lowering costs for students, to supporting the ongoing leadership and development of our programs, you empower Oles to thrive as members of our global community.

WHAT YOU MAKE POSSIBLE in international and off-campus study

75.4%

Percent of
Class of 2018
that studied
off-campus;
32.5% did at
least twice

9

Consecutive
years St. Olaf
has been #1 by
number of
students who
study abroad

\$10.96 million

Given to
date (66%)
towards \$16.5
million goal for
off-campus study

496

Oles aided in
2017-18 (\$1,193
average award)
by gifts for
off-campus study

192

Additional Oles
receiving aid
annually when
endowment gifts
are fully funded



GLOBAL THEN/GLOBAL NOW

Global Semester started 50 years ago. Thanks to the Stranghoener Family Endowed Fund for Global Semester, and the Larry Carlson Global Semester Endowed Scholarship Fund, Oles now pay no more than the cost of studying on campus to explore sites like the shrines to Imhotep in Luxor, Egypt.

Photo credit: Will Cipos '19

ADDING IMPACT – THE ST. OLAF FUND

For Max Wolfram '15, international study is an essential part of being an Ole. It is why he keeps giving through the St. Olaf Fund since his senior gift.

"I ultimately chose St. Olaf because of its study abroad programs," says Max. "I studied in Ecuador, then in New Zealand – I also made friends for life."

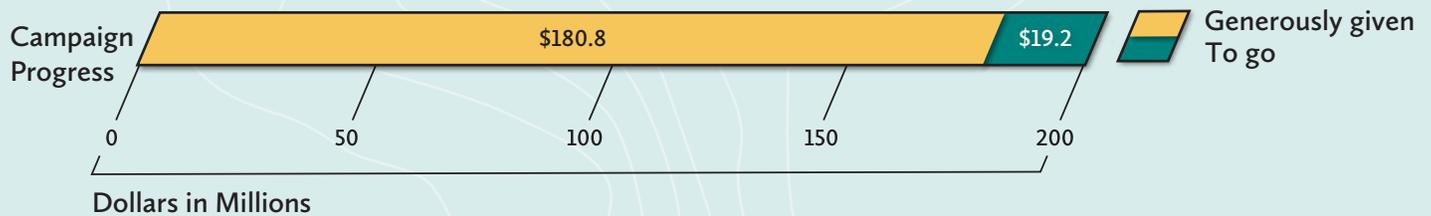
Following graduation, Max earned a Master's in International Relations from Australian National University in Canberra. Now in Seattle, he works full time for an international money transfer startup and part time for a brewing company owned by his friend David Skiba '13.

"Experiencing life outside of the U.S. helped me gain a global perspective – it's why I give back."

Photo credit: Max Wolfram '15



CAMPAIGN PROGRESS (July 31, 2018)



Recent Commitments and Impact

- **\$1 million** from two anonymous gifts to install artificial turf at Rolf Mellby Field; the first soccer match on the new pitch will be the varsity women's opener this fall
- **\$500,000** to the Padula Family Endowed Fund to advance and expand services provided by St. Olaf's Academic Support Center
- **\$250,000** from St. Olaf Regent John Grotting '71 and Jim Grotting '73 matching contributions to create new locker rooms for Ole varsity baseball, soccer, softball, and volleyball teams
- **\$4.85 million** to the St. Olaf Fund in 2017–18 to support academics, financial aid, and campus life

INTERNATIONAL AND OFF-CAMPUS STUDY – CHANGING LIVES

Mists closed in as nursing major Erin Nemetz '19 made her way to Machu Picchu. Quietly she thought about the millions who walked the same trail — it made her think about home.

“For me, being in Peru affirmed I want to work as a nurse,” says Erin. “There is also so much I can do on the way.”

Erin and 17 of her fellow Oles were part of St. Olaf’s *Peruvian Medical Experience*. Over Interim, they worked with local and volunteer or nonprofit providers — many whom are alumni — to set up and work in clinics in municipal orphanages and Andean mountain communities.

The program is one of 123 St. Olaf offers in 43 countries worldwide. Combining academic and experiential learning with self-reflection, Oles gain life-changing experiences that last far beyond the Hill.

“These opportunities are transformational,” says Jodi Malmgren '92, St. Olaf’s International and Off-Campus Studies Director. “They foster academic engagement, vocational discernment, intercultural development, and personal growth. Oles come back seeing themselves and the world in a different way.”



Neetij Krishnan '20 (red jacket, center) with fellow Oles outside the Plaza de Armas in Cusco.

This potential for impact drives St. Olaf’s leadership — it outpaces every other baccalaureate college in the U.S. by the number of students who study abroad. Yet the opportunity cost is high. In 2017–18 it averaged \$2,312 to \$4,043 more than studying on campus, with Interim programs averaging highest.

Through *For the Hill and Beyond*, donors like you are helping to lower student costs, create new program models, and increase equity in participation — you’ve generously given \$10.96 million to date.

Biology major Neetij Krishnan '20 learned more about patients he supported as a Spanish translator. He plans to be a pediatric oncologist.

“Some of the orphans had heartbreaking stories but also wishes, joys, and bright personalities, like any child,” says Neetij. “Their happiness was inspiring. Our work wasn’t just about diagnoses, but creating genuine relationships that support effective care.”

Doug Tate '70 launched the program in 2005 with Professor Emeritus of Biology Ted Johnson — alumni providers return every year. Their continued work is one of many impacts Oles have made globally.

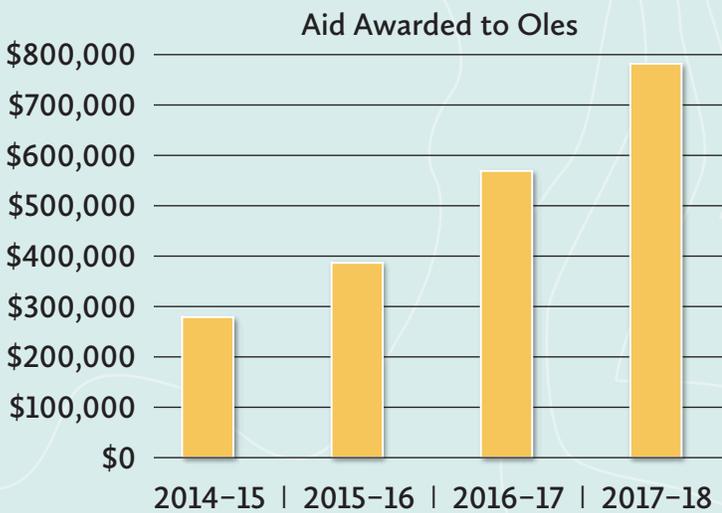
“I see myself going back too,” says Erin.

SOCIEDAD DE BENEFICENCIA PUBLICA DEL CUSCO
CASA ACOGIDA "VIRGEN NATIVIDAD"
Ayudanos a ayudar



These Oles assisted young Peruvian women at this shelter in Cusco.

INCREASED SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL AND OFF-CAMPUS STUDY





Cookie Sales Imperial '19 shoots footage of Vatnajökull glacier.

Photo credit: Johnny Goodson '20

SEEING SUMMER IN ICELAND

Your gifts support the development of new study programs, like *Media and the Environment* that uses documentary filmmaking to help Oles explore a land in transition.

Iceland's dramatic landscape draws filmmakers and sightseers alike. Tourists now outnumber Icelanders six to one — a recent, striking shift. Yet its iconic glaciers are melting rapidly due to global warming. People are changing Iceland.

Last summer, 16 Oles documented the impact of climate change across Iceland, led by film studies faculty Linda Mokdad and Björn Nordfjörd. Prior to departure students learned about environmental media and documentary film production supported by St. Olaf's Digital Scholarship Center — a process that also engaged them in discovering the country of Iceland.

"Film deals with time in a way that other media can't," says Mokdad. *"It has a special capacity to capture change and pathos — something science can't necessarily get at."*

Nordfjörd, an Icelander, helped Oles access key artistic, industrial, and natural sites. *"Iceland is very welcoming,"* says Nordfjörd, *"and its smaller size also helped students gather different viewpoints."*

"A farmer showed us how water was receding, an outcome of glacier loss," says Cookie Sales Imperial '19. *"I've seen the impact of climate change at home, but this made the problem very global, very real. This — and seeing how Iceland's advances in sustainability could be adopted worldwide — changed my perspective."*

"We don't have other filmmaking courses quite like this," says Kierra Lopac '19. *"Shooting a documentary in Iceland, then screening it on campus to a full house in Tomson Hall, meant a lot. Real people live in Iceland facing profound change — it was a way we could share their story."*

You can see Oles' documentaries at elevator.stolaf.edu/filmstudies.



Samantha Roback '19 and Kelsey Halverson '20 take in the scenery at Kirkjufell Waterfall.

Photo credit: Johnny Goodson '20

DONOR PROFILE

Diana Edelman Johnson '80 and Murray R. Johnson '85

The Endowment for International Studies, established by Diana and Murray Johnson, supports the development, innovation, and leadership driving St. Olaf's off-campus study programs.

"There aren't many bridges today connecting people across countries, customs, cultures, and religions," says Murray. *"It's why these programs are so important. They had a huge impact on our lives."*

Murray participated in *Term in the Middle East*. Diana completed an Interim in Greece and research in South Africa exploring anti-apartheid theater. After graduation, both had travel careers that supported their family's deep commitment to global learning. The Johnsons adopted four children from India — they have also hosted 23 foreign exchange students each for a year.

"As a student, you are open and dedicated to learning," says Diana. *"We want to help St. Olaf focus on what makes it unique and special, and for off-campus study to be a leading part of the St. Olaf experience for years to come."*

The Johnsons: Diana and Murray with their children Troy, Megan, Maren, and Trent

Photo credit: The Johnson Family



MAKING CONNECTIONS DOWN UNDER

Environmental Science in Australia and New Zealand leads Oles on a scientific odyssey through Australasia. Travel, lodging, and exchange rates make it one of St. Olaf's most expensive programs, yet your gifts help defray costs for students.



Ella Doud '20 (left) with Mitch Taylor '19, Henry Henson '20, Dillon Kelly '20, Hannah Chapman-Dutton '20, DeeDee Vargas '19, Noah Gustilo '19, and Sergius Hannan '20, atop Ben Lomond mountain in Queenstown, New Zealand.

Photo credit: Sergius Hannan '20

Great journeys start with enduring questions.

“For us,” says Paul Jackson '92, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Studies Chair, *“those questions are ‘What don’t I know about the places I inhabit? How can I know if they are functioning appropriately?’”*

Oles explore answers through the biennial *Environmental Science in Australia and New Zealand*. The semester takes Oles through coral reefs, remnant Antarctic forests, mangroves, mountains, and rain forests — as well as farms, legislative chambers, and power stations — to study interdependencies among organisms and their landscapes, and environmental policy, cultures, and practice.

Extensive field experiences and research projects complement classroom learning in terrestrial ecology, marine biology, cultural anthropology, and environmental policy. An important part of the program is learning how European colonization impacts Māori and Aborigine cultures and continuing cultural challenges in environmental and social domains.

“Diversity matters, in all things,” says Jackson. *“Understanding that is important to envisioning solutions.”*

Oles spend half of their time in the field — they continually present the research they gather to their peers, local practitioners, and faculty. Through their study, they come away knowing how to see systems, measure change, engage cultural complexities, and conceive of different outcomes by changing behavior.

“I have definitely started thinking about the world differently and thoroughly consider my place within it,” says Ella Doud '20. *“Seeing these ecosystems, and meeting a range of people who support them, has been very inspiring. What has also made this great are all of the amazing folks I get to do this with.”*

DONOR PROFILE

Olseth Family Foundation

The International and Off-Campus Opportunity Fund, established by the Olseth Family Foundation, helps low- and middle-income students study abroad. Uniquely, it awards funds before students select programs to keep costs from restricting opportunities. This year their grant helped 20 Oles.

“[Professor Emeriti of Music] Charles Forsberg ’72 encouraged me to go on Global Semester,” shares Jon Olseth ’90, who directs the foundation’s giving with his sisters Karen ’87 and Cheryl ’84. *“I was nervous — there was a risk in going abroad. But that invitation, and that incredible experience, changed my life. I came back to campus a better person.”*

Jon's parents, Nancy and Dale Olseth (a former St. Olaf Regent), established the foundation before they died to support causes and organizations important to their family, including St. Olaf.

“Global study helps students reshape their worldview and be locally involved citizens,” says Jon. *“For us, the question was how do we help more students participate?”*

The Olseth Family

Photo credit: Jon Olseth ’90



GAINING A NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

Many Oles (70% of those who study off-campus) participate in Interim programs. The *New York Art Interim* helps Oles discern vocations in the visual arts.

At some point, an arts career seems focused on one question: Do I have what it takes? Yet, as Oles found, there are many ways to work it out.

The *New York Art Interim* provides Oles an in-depth look at diverse paths creative professionals have taken to establish successful careers in New York City. Working from a home base in SoHo, Oles visit over 80 galleries and museums, and 26 artist studios, to connect and learn from practitioners — including alumni — in varied media, roles, and life stages.

“It was overwhelming at first,” says David Morrison '19, a studio art major. *“But seeing all the art and the artists earning a living at different phases – it was very real. It was important to see.”*

John Saurer, Art and Art History Department Vice Chair and Professor, tailors the visits for students' interests. Peter Eide '93, a New York artist for nearly 20 years, provides extensive support to make contacts and help shape the program.

“People envision artists work alone,” says Saurer. *“New York is a great example of how artists actually create opportunities for each other, and how connections are important.”*

Brenda Berkman '73 often connects with Oles on the Interim. A visual artist, she served New York City for 25 years as its first female firefighter, rising to captain, and was among those first responding on 9/11.

“New York has a lot of distractions,” says Berkman. *“But seeing people succeed at very different things is inspiring. Really it's about working hard — you just have to persist.”*



Oles with photo artist Ryan Foerster (bottom left) inside Foerster's studio

Photo credit: John Saurer

Oles explore Michael Heizer's *North, East, South, West, 1967/2002* at Dia:Beacon

Photo credit: John Saurer



DONOR PROFILE

Steven Fox '77

Growing up in Wisconsin, Steven Fox rarely met someone with a background different from his own.

At St. Olaf, international study changed his world. An Interim, *Theater in London*, was his first time outside the U.S. Then there was *Term in the Middle East*.

"It was amazing," says Steven. "Everyone was gearing up for the U.S. Bicentennial — but in Jerusalem, 200 years was a drop in the bucket. A professor from Hebrew University lectured on Judaism in the morning, and a professor from Birzeit University taught Islam in the afternoon. No one system of meaning had a monopoly on truth — that was freeing. It changed my whole perspective."

The Steven Fox International Studies Fund benefitted 45 Oles this year, including six in the *New York Art Interim*. This number will grow to 150 as the fund builds.

"Often our culture swings to fear others. International study is really an opportunity to embrace difference."



Steven Fox '77 in Jerusalem



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Christian Avalos '19, Meredith Moore '20, Emily Johnson '20, Kelvin Nguyen '19, and Thomas Olson '19 — some of the Oles in India for the *Human Development in the Cross-Cultural Context Interim*. “It was an amazing month of growth, exploration, personal and social discovery, and thoughtfulness,” shares Meredith. “We were studying human development while also developing ourselves. I am so thankful for this opportunity!”

Photo credit: Grace Fogland '19

THANK YOU!

Alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends like you are making a tremendous difference at St. Olaf. *For the Hill and Beyond* — our \$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.

To learn more visit stolaf.edu/campaign.