Correspondent
Carolyn Flittie Lystig ’59

Events
From Boston to Northfield to San Francisco to London, Oles gather all the time. Be sure to take part in one of these gatherings. With events as diverse as faculty presentations, ethnic dinners, happy hours, or lefse making events, we work to provide something of interest to everyone. Check out the events page for other Alumni and Parent events around the country: stolaf.edu/alumni/events

Online Directory
Connect with a network of 30,000 Oles!
- Update your records
- Find old roommates, classmates and friends
- Search for Oles in your same profession or geographical location
- Submit news of your life
- Define your own username and password
- Go to: stolaf.edu/alumni (and click on “online directory”)

St. Olaf on the Web
Did you know that you can participate in the life of St. Olaf, even when you aren’t able to make it back to “the Hill?”

Brought to you by the St. Olaf Broadcast Media Department, our multimedia website offers many events in streaming media form. Just follow the “Video On Demand” link on the St. Olaf home page at stolaf.edu. There you will find a variety of St. Olaf events for viewing at any time. Chapel services, concerts, recitals, athletic events and academic presentations...all can be found on our multimedia website. Did you miss the live streaming broadcast of an event? -- You are even able to search for and view archived presentations.

With new service upgrades that include two additional cameras in Boe Chapel, along with enhanced audio/video quality in live and archived streams, St. Olaf strives to offer the best experience possible for online visitors.

Take advantage of our streaming services today. It’s the next best thing to being there.
Dear Classmates,
Yes, we are still in Peachtree City, Georgia, and have been here since December 2010. Thought we would continue living in our great apartment but discovered that rent goes up and a mortgage does not. So we are now the owners of a condo here on a lake and we just love it! We hope to spend winters here and take our motorhome to Minnesota for the summers. Our mail forwarding service is still Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Appreciated hearing from many of you. Thank you!
First, I will share news from Saint Olaf and then the news you sent to share.

News from Saint Olaf

Larry Erickson writes: Greetings to my 1959 classmates. I’m, sorry I couldn't make it to our 50th reunion. My wife Valerie and I recently celebrated our 31st wedding anniversary. I’m still practicing dermatology full time in Vero Beach, Florida, and have no plans to retire for at least three more years. My six children are doing well and we are up to 15 grandchildren so far (no great grandchildren yet). I admit I’m addicted to exercise (five days a week at my health club and 40 mile bike rides on Saturdays), but it seems to agree with me and I continue to enjoy excellent health. I’ve developed a desire to try to write a novella or even a novel (action/adventure genre) in what little spare time I have. I also enjoy reading updates about what you all are up to these days and hope you’ll continue.


There is a Sprenger Scholarship named for Dee Idstrom Sprenger and Gordy Sprenger from Chanhassen, Minn., because of their long-standing service to Abbott Northwestern Hospital and the surrounding
Minneapolis community. In May 2012, Lindsay Hench Snyder ’06 was awarded the Sprenger Scholarship at the Abbott Northwestern Hospital’s Annual Nurse Week Celebration. The scholarship will allow Lindsay to pursue a doctorate in nursing.

News of Deaths

Saint Olaf only sent us two deaths to report this year, Caroline Blomberg Cannon, who died in June 2011 and John Martin Mason III, who died in June 2012.

**Caroline Blomberg Cannon** passed away June 23, 2011, at her home in Vancouver, Wash. Caroline was born December 26, 1937, to Arthur and Beda (Holmen) Blomberg in Albert City, Iowa. At a young age the family moved to Minnesota. Caroline attended grade school at Priam school and graduated from Willmar high school in 1955. She was confirmed in the Lutheran faith at Bethel Lutheran Church in Willmar. She attended St. Olaf College. She was an excellent singer and was a member of the St. Olaf College Choir which toured the United States and Scandinavian countries.

On June 7, 1959, Caroline received her Bachelor’s degree in Home Economics from St. Olaf. After graduation her first job took her to the Pacific Northwest. As a county extension agent for the states of Oregon and Washington, Caroline was recognized for her dedication and excellent job performance. In 1993, she received an award from the National Association of Extension Home Economists for her work in helping people of all income levels. Through her grant writing skills, she helped many migrant workers better their living conditions and economic status. Caroline constantly worked to help others achieve their goals and improve their lives. Caroline continued her work with the Oregon State University Extension Service until her retirement.

Caroline will be remembered for her generosity and caring spirit and will be greatly missed by all her family and a host of friends. Surviving her are her daughter, Jael Thompson; her three grandchildren, who brought her great pride and joy: Kayla and Katherine, and grandson Jack; her step-mother Phyllis Blomberg, aunts Ingeborg Blomberg and Vivian Wilbur, uncle Richard Blomberg and many cousins, friends, and former colleagues. Caroline was united in marriage to Wayne in 1967, who died in 1974. She was also preceded in death by her parents Arthur and Beda Blomberg and infant brother Lyle.

**John Martin Mason III**, of Vancouver, Wash, completed his life on May 12, 2012. He was born to John and Mertrice (Herfindahl) Mason on March 16, 1937, and was baptized by his father in Drake, North Dakota. He was confirmed in the Lutheran faith on October 26, 1952, at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Stanley, Wisconsin. He attended high schools at Stanley and Minneapolis, Minnesota, before enrolling at St. Olaf College.

Majoring in philosophy and classical languages, he graduated magna cum laude from St. Olaf in June 1959 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. That fall, he realized his long-standing intention, beginning studies at Luther Theological Seminary. He spent his year of internship at Wahpeton, North Dakota, under the wonderful guidance of Pastor Loyal Golf, and graduated from Luther in 1963 with a Bachelor of Divinity degree.

John delivered his first sermon in his junior year at Luther Seminary, and the class sat silent for several long moments when he finished. Then the legendary homiletics teacher, Professor Arndt Halvorson, spoke up. “John, you’ve cast a spell over us. The ability to do this cannot be taught. It’s a gift. Continue to preach grace via stories through the years ahead.” This John did throughout his ministry. Over thirty-seven years of parish ministry, John served parishes in Beaver Dam and Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Vancouver, Washington.

John said his call to serve did not come by a blinding light or a heavenly voice. He was a third generation Lutheran minister who received the call through the example of his parents. As a child in Brandon, S.D., he would stand leaning against his father’s leg on Sunday morning, watching him greet his people after service. His dad would welcome each by name, from infants in arms to elderly folks, and John would sense how much their pastor meant to them. Afternoons, he would return from school to find homeless men who were riding the rails in search of work, sitting at the kitchen table. As famished men devoured soup and homemade bread and thick wedges of rhubarb pie, his mother would introduce them, calling each by name. From his parents, he learned the ministry of sharing God’s love with each
and every person he met. Whether it was a cashier at the grocery store, or a busy busboy scurrying to clear tables, no one escaped John’s beaming smile and positive affirmations that were the hallmark of his ministry inside and outside of the church.

John was entirely devoted to his family. His beloved wife Sallie became a partner in his ministries, with all the public duties of the pastor’s wife including, in Sallie’s case, singing solos on Sunday mornings. She was the partner who supported a husband who could be called out at any time of day or night to attend a sick parishioner, a difficult birth or a death. In John’s last years, Sallie, a veteran nurse, was her husband’s loving caretaker.

Recalling her father, daughter Melanie writes: I think everyone in our high school knew who our dad was—he was the one kneeling on the sidelines, with a giant telephoto Nikon firmly affixed to his face. As a teenager it could be embarrassing at times, but we also knew what an enormous display of love it was. Whether it was cheering, baseball, or a band concert, he was there. John was a legendary hunter and fisherman. His children, nieces and nephews all hold wonderful memories of how skilled he was at fishing, how intensely he concentrated on the task, and his passion for teaching them. Nephew Peder Kjeseth writes: Uncle John, I want to thank you for passing on to me the love of the outdoors. The love of fishing, and the love of all God’s creatures great and small. When I wade my beloved trout streams, rod in hand and hope in heart, I know I am there surrounded by the beauty of this natural world because of you. Son John writes: A more exciting and magical fisherman I will never meet again!!! John leaves us as one who made a difference in all our lives, whether we are one of his family or one of the great, great many of those to whom he ministered, right up until his last days.

John is survived by his wife Sallie (Wittkopp) Mason, son John Martin Mason IV, daughter Melanie Lou (Ben) Webster, and grandsons Owen and Travis Webster; sister Solveig ’60 (Peter ’50) Kjeseth, brother Daniel ’64 (Caroline) Mason, brother Timothy ’72 (Leo Geter) Mason; cousins, nieces and nephews, and a host of loving parishioners beyond number. He was preceded in death by his sister, Martha, who died in infancy, and his parents. Memorial contributions are suggested to: Trinity Lutheran Church, 309 W. 39th Street, Vancouver, WA 98660 (360-695-1221) and/or Clark County Food Bank, PO Box 61833, Vancouver, WA 98666 (360-693-0939)

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**News via Email**

Dee & Gordy Sprenger sent news via Smilebox last May of another grandchild. Their daughter and her husband (Kris & Matt Anderson ’88) have four sons and went to China to adopt their daughter. How exciting!

**News of the Nurses**

The nurses meet together every month, usually at the Mall of America; and their husbands meet together also. In the fall they meet at St. Olaf, in the winter some meet in Arizona, in the summer nurses and their spouses meet at the Sprengers, and that is where these photos were taken.

![Marcia Thompson Lowell, Sonja Lien Swanson, Jan Dreyer Nelson, Miriam Bergh Waddington ~ some intense conversation!](image1)

![Wes and Sonja Swanson, Art and Marcia Lowell, Jan and Art Nelson. All celebrated August wedding anniversaries!](image2)
More News via Email

Ron Flugum writes from Alaska: Hi Flittie: For your interest I'm forwarding recent email I've had with classmate Al Solmonson, Olympia, Washington, about the death of classmate John Mason. It appears John died last Friday May 11. Al's commentary is quite descriptive.

I [Ron] was dismayed about the death of Mary Otteson Blake. I hardly knew her at St. Olaf, but ran into her and Don on a group trip to Russia (still the Soviet Union at the time) in Sept '88 to observe the millennium of the Russian Orthodox Church. We had kept in touch at Christmas since that time.


Friday, my life took a blow. My life-long, college classmate, seminary roommate, colleague in ministry, mentor, fishing/hunter partner, listener, and Best Friend, John Martin Mason III transitioned from his mortal life to await his promised resurrection into immortality — eternal life, God's gift of Grace.

I'm pretty sad. Thanks be to God for John Mason. Well done thou good and faithful servant!

Peace, Al Solmonson (and Mary Ann)

Other classmates who were aware of John's illness and suffering and were praying for him along with Al and Ron included Duane & Willamae Campbell '60 Swenson, Paul & Mary Ellen Beckman Berge.

Alan Solmonson wrote more when I emailed him for permission to share what he had written earlier. He added: Yup . . . you have both my permission and blessing to honor John in our class newsletter with any thing I have written about him. I miss him dearly. My sadness continues. We were brothers!
Alan Solmonson continues: Over the years Ron Flugum and I have maintained our friendship which began at Olaf. In the 70s I was the founding pastor of Amazing Grace in Anchorage...a neighboring church to Central where Ron belonged. A few years back I served as interim pastor at Central, becoming Ron's pastor. My many trips to Alaska fishing for umpteen years usually included “a time” with Ron. It was a great tribute to John that Ron made the trip to Vancouver for his funeral.

Wedding News

Perry Hanson married Judie Moseman on Sunday, May 20, 2012, at 2 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. Their primary home will be in Florida; in the summer they will be in an apartment near Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Tractors are Fun!

Jean Heyerholm Undem writes: [Son] Steve is so happy with his new tractor. He said it drives better than the car he drives back and forth to work each day! Plus, he can load a huge bale of hay on the front without balancing another on the back. His old tractor had narrow front wheels, and I did not dare to think of all that might happen. But I had always to remember that I am the one that sent him to Motocross racing schools, so I just had to relax into these other things! He has always been immensely responsible, and totally capable. So, you see who he is training up! Zac will be six in October.

Downsizing

Larry & Bobbi Sradtman Gates downsized in July. Yes, we are downsizing to a twin home on the east side of Willmar, next to Valley Golf Course. All the living is on one level, including a four-season glassed room facing the golf course. It was built in 1991 and has had one owner, a widow who passed away last fall. This purchase had been in process since early June. We are having the master bedroom and bathroom painted, then recarpeting all the rooms, before we move into our new home around the middle of July. Then we will list our present home for sale where we have been for 31 years!! We will be packrats no more!

Wedding Anniversary

Amare Gizaw and I (Dorothy Dahlk Amare) are celebrating our 10th wedding anniversary Oct. 19. Since I hit Amare with a snowball on campus he fell in love with Minnesota snow and me.

More Snow!

Ione Bolstad Olson emails from Duluth, Minn: Hi! Not much is new—just hanging in there with day to day things—health is good—wealth is not enough!! Enjoyed a nice summer. Getting cool now. Soon we’ll have snow—to ski or snowshoe—shoveling is not fun!!

Maine

Alyss Roeber Becker emails: Thanks, I’ll send something, nothing fancy in next couple of days. I just read Alumni magazine and saw the nice
article about Gordy & Dee Sprenger and the scholarship award they give. Might be nice to remind our classmates about that in case they don’t read the magazine. I know I miss it once in a while or read it six months late.

I’ll be writing again in a few days. Hope you are doing well.

**Minnesota**

Mike & Dorothy ‘60 Simpson are living in downtown Minneapolis—in an apartment on Marquette Ave.—when they aren't at their cottage north of Alexandria or in Bucerias, Mexico (Jan. and Feb.).

Dorothy Syverson Satre emails greetings from Rochester, Minn.: For three weeks in July, Roy and I went to Holden Village by train, volunteered (in the laundry) for two full weeks, relaxed as guests for a couple of days, then rode the rails back home. Keeping the tradition of spending special time with grandchildren at age 7, we took Sophia to Colonial Williamsburg, VA, the first week in September. When I am home I spend a lot of time with tasks as the SE MN Synodical Women's Organization president.

**California**

David Hertsgaard emails from Palm Desert, CA: Hello, Carolyn and fellow wanderers from the class of ’59 (I always have to specify that that’s 1959 these days). As some of you might know, I was always involved in music on The Hill. Our dance band, The Saints, even had the distinction of playing for the first dance on the campus, in the Den, for the class of ’58, decidedly non-PC, and interrupted by Miss Hilleboe after someone ratted us out.

Anyway, I have continued in choral singing and bands, and took up the guitar in 1972. I think I’ve finally found the group I was searching for. My wife, Rebecca, and a friend of ours, Rick, have had a folk trio out here in the Coachella Valley for about six years. We’re dedicated to preserving those wonderful songs from the late ’50s into the mid-'70s, though we do music from groups and singers all the way through the last of the Eagles’ albums.

Our name is an amalgam of our own names: Ol’ Doc Rickenbeck; I think you can figure out the alteration, as well as who is Ol’Doc! In any event, we have been more and more active out here, have made two "semi-professional" CDs, and have just put up a website. So, if anyone is interested, you can pull us up at www.oldocrickenbeck.com. Be sure you only use one "d." There's a home page with some info, some pictures, a video of us at an Open Call event at the local theater in Palm Desert, and an audio sampling of a number of our songs from the CDs. We work out our own harmonies, and frequently switch parts, even in the middle of songs, so you may not be able to figure out who’s who—but we like it like that!

So, that’s my two cents after a number of decades of silence.

**Illinois**

Kenneth Knops emails from LaGrange, Illinois: I am sending you some repeat news that I sent a while back but never got into the last news letter. Hopefully it will this time. In 2011 Kathryn and I visited Egypt with Buzz Berg and his sister-in-law Mona. It was one of many trips Kathryn ’56 and Buzz and I have taken together over the years since we are only 60 miles apart and get together very often. We did a National Parks tour together several years ago and do the Chicago event scene every few months when the Field Museum or Art Institute have special events. Buzz has now retired after 48 years teaching at Valparaiso University and we just came back, the 3 of us, from the Albuquerque Balloon Festival and visit to Santa Fe. Life is good. Blessings to you for the work you do to keep classmates informed.

**Maine**

Arlyss Roeber Becker sent this from her iphone: Coming home to Maine from NYC after special event to benefit International Rescue Committee. Amazing organization! Also special drama and musical events, museum visits, and connections with friends. Trip to Guatemala was another exceptional trip this year. Art work continues to keep me focused and (mostly centered).

**California**

Wendy Withers writes: “Free at last!” That’s how I felt upon retiring June 1st as Coordinator of the San Francisco Institute on Aging's Medication Oversight Project. I thoroughly enjoyed the work, which involved
developing a process to help San Francisco Seniors to remember to take their prescribed medications and supervising Social Work Interns. However, I had increasingly violent feelings toward my alarm clock, so I retired before anything terrible happened.

Two 1959 Oles came to visit this year: Arlyss Roebber Becker in early March—we drove to Pt. Reyes National Seashore for the weekend. In July, Bob Yock, in town for a judicial conference, and I had “the works” at a local Chinese Restaurant and, of course, I took half of it home.

I’m also now free of the limitations following successful foot surgery so am going to the SF Symphony, Opera, eating out with friends, etc. I’m restoring my strength and stamina by therapeutic swims and physical therapy so that I can take a trip to Russia in July, 2013.

I and one million other San Franciscans have just finished celebrating the SF Giants World Series victory —Woo Hoo!

Montana

Robeta Johnson Prange writes: We have already had our first snowfall in Montana. Seems like we skipped from summer to winter. Our second great grandchild will be born around Christmas. This is a girl. The first is a delightful boy, Kannan, age 3. They live in Henderson, Nevada. Our daughter, Shari, is the grandmother. Our family had a reunion in Kalispell, Montana in August this summer.

Montana

Ron Lee also writes from Montana: Thanks for continuing to work on our class news, Carolyn. Some nuisance health issues are keeping me on a program of reduced activity, which is frustrating for someone whose major commitments in retirement are to putter in the yard and garden and at our lake cabin, and to enjoy the outdoor activities of hiking, cross-country skiing, and rowing in my sculling boat.

I am looking forward to getting back to more of that in a few months. In the meantime I find great pleasure in the company of my new grandson, who with his mom and dad lives in town, only a few minutes away from us. He began walking at 12 months and his regular visits to our house give me probably more exercise than I am supposed to have. My two older granddaughters are now seniors, one in high school in Norfolk and one at the College of William and Mary. Life is very good here in the northern Rocky Mountains of Montana. I would not have it otherwise.

All the best to you and to everyone.

Montana

Ione Bolstad Olson writes from Duluth: Hi—not much is new—just hanging in there with day-to-day things. Health is good; wealth is not enough!! Enjoyed a nice summer. Getting cool now—soon we’ll have snow—to ski or snowshoe—shoveling is not fun!!

Oregon

Kristin Anderson lives in Roseville, Minn., but writes this from Oregon: I’m in Hood River, Oregon at the moment, ready to hit the sack and get up early to go swim across the Columbia River with 499 other people. I’m so glad when you keep in touch!
**More Minnesota**

Lois Mogen Jorstad writes about Larry & Roberta Straitman Gates, Amy Bergh Koehn, and John & Joanne Landers Dalin: Last Friday the Gates came from Willmar for lunch and dessert at my house in order to celebrate Amy’s forthcoming birthday. They joined Jo & John and me. Larry suggested that I send you a copy of the picture so here it is—Happy Thanksgiving.

Paul & Mary Ellen Beckman Berge taught vacation Bible school again this summer with elementary students in Martin, Slovakia. Paul is professor emeritus of New Testament at Luther Seminary and continues to serve as director of Vision Slovakia, a partnership ministry of St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, Minn., with the Center for Christian Education in Martin. Paul presented a paper on Christian education at the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences World Congress at the University of Zilina in Slovakia.

The above is based on a paragraph in the Luther Seminary magazine, “The Story.” I called the Berges to get their permission and to ask for a photo. They emailed the photo and wrote: Here is the photo from our anniversary dinner with John, Kari, and JP Kilbride. Thank you for all your work and keeping us up-to-date with our class. Both of us say hi to the “Cobber” you live with! Great to hear about your condo in Peachtree City. Enjoy the warmth of winter in the south.

Adeline Theis sends her greetings to you. She does not use a computer so she was the one whose opinion I sought when St. Olaf was thinking of eliminating the paper edition of our class newsletter and just having an online edition. Her response counted! Classes from 1930 to 1959 will receive paper copies of their class newsletter. Classes 1960 and younger will receive online versions via email and can request a paper copy. If you want to email me or send me a snail mail with comments, that would be great!

Until next year, love and blessings to you all and Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas and Happy Easter!!

Carolyn Flittie Lystig
Class of 1959