

Lives of Worth and Service

The strength of the St. Olaf College community is reaffirmed once again in the outstanding accomplishments of the 2010 alumni award recipients. During the Founders Day celebration on Friday, November 5, seven alumni will receive recognition for their lifelong achievements and professional contributions that embody the values of a St. Olaf education turned into action.

By Alyssa Anne Lynne '12

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Russell A. Anderson '64

Hopkins, Minnesota | Retired Chief Justice
Minnesota Supreme Court

DURING A FOUR-DECADE LONG LEGAL CAREER, Russell A. Anderson attained an exceptional reputation not only as a gifted and ethical attorney, but also as a fair-minded and intellectually talented judge. Anderson epitomizes many of the values of St. Olaf College: competence, integrity, and compassion.

He credits St. Olaf's emphasis on liberal arts in preparing him for his career. "I believe in liberal arts education. It prepares you for a richness of life beyond any occupation. I've carried St. Olaf's emphasis on service with me throughout my life," says Anderson.

After earning his Juris Doctor from the University of Minnesota in 1968, Anderson served in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) during the Vietnam War, rising to the position of base legal officer in Sasebo, Japan, during a three-year tour of duty. Later, while working in Washington, D.C., Anderson earned a Master of Laws in international law at George Washington University. Returning home to Bemidji, Minnesota, Anderson added private practice to his experience, as well as service as a Beltrami County attorney from 1978 to 1982. He was subsequently appointed as a district court judge in Minnesota's Ninth Judicial District, a position he held with distinction until 1998, when he was appointed an associate justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court by Governor Arnie Carlson. In 2006 Anderson's career reached its apex when Governor Tim

Pawlenty named him chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Anderson's dedication to improving the judicial system is evidenced by his work with former Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz on restructuring the trial and appellate courts into a single, state-funded third branch of Minnesota government. Anderson continues to promote multicultural diversity and fairness in the courts and has long had a special interest in addressing and preventing domestic violence.

Anderson has supported the college in numerous



ways, from being an active participant in his class reunions to his financial support of the college as well as an important networking resource for St. Olaf graduates. He has been an active member of the Lutheran Church throughout his life and has a deep and abiding love for both St. Olaf and his family, all Oles – his wife, Kristin Ostby Anderson '66, Rebecca '90, John '91, and Sarah Anderson Harriss '98 – who have been an integral part of his life and career.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Linda Olson Keller '74

Eagan, Minnesota | Clinical Associate Professor
University of Minnesota School of Nursing

LINDA OLSON KELLER HAS BEEN A CLEAR, CONSISTENT VOICE for public health over the past three decades, serving in both practice and educational sectors. She is nationally recognized for her unique ability to translate research and theory into practice. Currently a clinical associate professor at the University of Minnesota, Olson Keller spent twenty years of her career at the Office of Public Health Practice at the Minnesota Department of Health, where she focused on redefining popu-



lation-based public health practice in an era of health care reform. Her model, known as the Public Health Intervention Wheel, can be found in nursing textbooks and nursing education programs (including St. Olaf's nursing program) and is often utilized as a framework for organizing services provided by public health departments.

Olson Keller's exemplary reputation stems from her years of practical work improving the health of communities through public health nursing initiatives. She has received

more than \$2.7 million in grants in the past decade to enhance public health nursing practice, education, and leadership development. Olson Keller has also published a significant body of work and frequently presents to state, national, and international audiences, often drawing on St. Olaf experiences to make her point. "My years at St. Olaf developed my critical-thinking skills and commitment to social justice," she says. "I discovered my passion for public health nursing during my senior Interim experience working in Cary, Mississippi, at the height of the civil rights movement.

She was inducted as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing in 2007, a select honor given to only a small number of American nurses in recognition of their outstanding achievements in the profession. Olson Keller was also selected for the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Leadership Fellowship and continues to serve as a board member and treasurer of that organization's alumni association. She currently serves as chair of both the American Public Health Association's Section of Public Health Nursing and the Minnesota Public Health Association Leadership Committee.

Olson Keller contributes her professional expertise to local projects committed to improving public health, such as the Henry Street Consortium and the Elderberry Institute Living at Home Block Nurse Program. As a member of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Nursing Consortium Advisory Committee, Olson Keller served as a consultant in the recent revision of the St. Olaf nursing curriculum and regularly offers professional opportunities to St. Olaf College faculty. Olson Keller is married to an Ole, David Keller '74, and their two sons are also Oles, Matthew '02 and Peter '12.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Helen Piwnica-Worms '79

St. Louis, Missouri | Professor, Research Scientist
Washington University School of Medicine

HELLEN PIWNICA-WORMS'S RESEARCH HAS REVOLUTIONIZED the tenets of molecular biology for advancing cancer treatment and established her as a top cancer cell cycle researcher. Her many contributions at higher educational institutions cement her status as an innovative cancer researcher and a superb teacher.

Piwnica-Worms earned her Ph.D. at Duke University in 1984. While completing her postdoctoral fellowship at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, her discoveries on how certain mutations cause cancers led to her position as an assistant professor of physiology at Tufts University Medical School. During her time at Tufts, Piwnica-Worms uncovered crucial mechanisms of cell cycle regulation, prompting Harvard Medical School to recruit her in 1992.



Following her time at Harvard Medical School and the Beth Israel Hospital, Piwnica-Worms joined the Washington University School of Medicine faculty in 1994 as an associate and then full professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Physiology. She has played an instrumental role in building

the Molecular Oncology Program at Washington University, which promotes basic-to-clinical translational studies in cancer research and provides training for graduate students, M.D./Ph.D. students, physician scientists, and postdoctoral research fellows.

In 1996, Piwnica-Worms began her efforts at Washington University to establish the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center, a research center now considered one of the country's foremost comprehensive cancer centers. She works tirelessly on behalf of the center where she is now associate director of Basic Science. She leads the Siteman Cell Proliferation Program. She also is a member of the Siteman Cancer Center Executive Committee and the Cancer Biology Pathway Selection Committee.

Piwnica-Worms was a Damon Runyon Fellow and Pew Scholar of the Biomedical Sciences and earned the American Cancer Society Junior Faculty Research Award and the American Heart Established Investigator Award. In 1994, she became an associate of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and in 1998 was named a full investigator. In 2001 she received the Spirit of Health Award for cancer research from the American Cancer Society and was elected a fellow of the Academy of Science of St. Louis. She is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She recently completed a three-year term on the board of directors of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Her work has the potential to improve the lives of cancer patients, and her mentorship of young and future scientists has set her apart as an exemplary professional. Piwnica-Worms is truly among the elite investigating the biochemical and cell biological complexities of cancer cell research.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Charles W. Bates '52

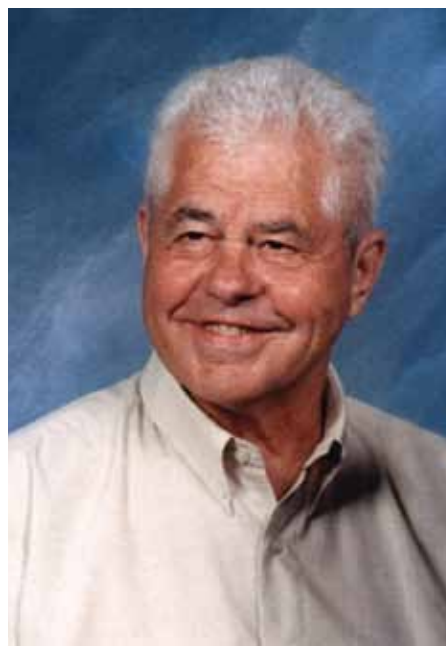
Waconia, Minnesota | Retired Commissioner of Social Services
Westchester County, New York

CHARLES W. BATES HAS A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER as a social worker in both the private and public sectors. After graduating from high school in his native Willmar, Minnesota, Bates enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Korea. This overseas military service brought him a keen awareness of cultural and racial differences. After returning to the states, he used the opportunity and resources provided by the G.I. Bill to enroll at St. Olaf College.

A hitchhiking trip to New York City's Harlem neighborhood the summer after his junior year at St. Olaf deepened his interest in service. Housed in a settlement facility, Bates worked with African American children in a day camp operated by the Red Shield, a branch of the Salvation Army. These weeks spent in the inner city helped define his vocation. Interest in child welfare led Bates to a position in Baudette, Minnesota, near the Canadian border. Close daily contact with the young and elderly in Baudette shaped the caring style he would later use at large private agencies as well as state welfare departments.

After earning his master's degree in social work at Louisiana State University, Bates returned to Minnesota and spent the next four years as a child welfare consultant and field representative before being named director of case work for a private children's home in Cincinnati. In 1964, he became executive director of Milwaukee Child Care Centers, where he excelled at bringing together small day-care providers into a more efficient organization and greatly expanded the center's programs.

The Child Welfare League of America recognized his creativity and talents, which led to a move to New England and a new position as executive director for Boston Children's Service, one of the oldest and most prestigious voluntary child welfare agencies in the nation. In 1972, Bates accepted a position as director of the Ohio Department of Public Welfare



and was one of only two or three people in the country who headed a state welfare department having a graduate degree in social work.

His work in Ohio prepared Bates for his next position as commissioner of social services in the County of Westchester (just north of New York City). There he encouraged his employees to enroll in graduate coursework, a program that many other counties in New York State began to imitate. By 1985, nearly 300 county employ-

ees had participated in the program through Pace University and earned a Master of Public Administration degree, Commissioner Charles W. Bates among them.

In retirement, Bates moved back to Minnesota and found time to teach evening classes at Winona State University as well as serve on both the local Lutheran Social Service Board and the Zumbro Lutheran Church Council in Rochester. Throughout his life he has held fast to the conviction that "I am my brother's keeper."

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Robert M. Fossum '59

Champaign, Illinois | Professor Emeritus of Mathematics
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

ROBERT FOSSUM HAS EXEMPLIFIED THE BENEFITS of a liberal arts education throughout his academic career, contributing not only to his field of algebra but also to interdisciplinary areas of the natural sciences. His most recent collaborative research resulted in new algorithms for real-time face recognition in a new area of mathematical research associated with computer vision and face recognition. Fossum's expertise in algebra and algebraic geometry helped solve some of the most challenging engineering problems and has allowed him to make contributions far beyond pure mathematics.

Fossum, who was raised in Northfield, majored in mathematics and physics. With his father managing the St. Olaf Bookstore, his mother teaching mathematics in Farmington, and many family friends who were members of the St. Olaf faculty, the college campus was his second home. "I spent a lot of time on weekends and in the summer exploring the [St. Olaf] library," says Fossum. "I believe I read every book in the children's section."



Fossum earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Michigan and began his career as a mathematician in 1964

when, prior to completing his Ph.D. thesis, he was hired as an instructor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He became a full professor in 1972.

In 1968, Fossum was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Oslo. His international work has informed his research, teaching, and mentoring of graduate students at the University of Illinois. Fossum's contributions to the field of mathematics led to his election to the sciences section of the Royal Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters and the Center for Advanced Study at the University of Illinois and becoming a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He also served from 1989 to 1999 as secretary of the American Mathematical Society, an organization devoted to advancing mathematical research, and oversaw its expansion into an international organization of more than 30,000 members.

Outside of his mathematical endeavors, Fossum has served as chair of the University Faculty Senate, chair of the University of Illinois Charitable Fund Drive, sat on the board of directors for Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois, and served as treasurer of the Spurlock Museum Guild.

He is currently president of Trønderlag of America, an organization of immigrants and their descendants from the Trønderlag region of Norway, and has retired to Chetek, Wisconsin, with his wife Robin. They have four children: Karen '86, Kristin Fossum Griffith '89, Jonathan, and Erik.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Rev. Charles D. Anderson '56

Shirley Wilson Anderson '56

Red Wing, Minnesota | Retired Pastor and Bishop; Retired Nurse

CHARLES AND SHIRLEY WILSON ANDERSON, who met at St. Olaf on a blind date fifty-eight years ago, show their deep commitment to the college with Grandparent Ministry, a scholarship fund that frequently brings them back to the Hill. With fifty-three "adopted St. Olaf grandkids" on campus during the 2009-10 academic year and an estimated 400 to 500 Ole grandkids adopted since their scholarship fund began, Chuck and Shirley are busy "grandparents."

They began their Grandparent Ministry after their three children graduated in the 1980s, explaining, "The main goal of the scholarship was to give back all the direct and indirect aid our family received while at St. Olaf. Education-wise, it's hard for us to imagine anything better than St. Olaf."

Their goal — to have the Charles and Shirley Anderson Endowed Scholarship reach \$75,000 by their 75th birthdays — was accomplished, and the scholarship's current value is more than \$100,000. A recent decision to deed a major portion of their lake property to St. Olaf College will increase the size of their scholarship threefold and serve even more students who have financial need.

While the Andersons have contributed so much to St. Olaf College, their gifts as adoptive grandparents have been among the most unique the college has ever seen. This commitment includes making the thirty-eight-mile trip to Northfield to support students in events big and small, from speaking in chapel or performing in a concert to meeting the new boyfriend or having lunch in the Kings Room. This past July, the Andersons even went to Norway to attend the wedding of two of their Ole grandchildren.

"Connecting with past, present, and future St. Olaf students is the main engine driving our hope for the future," they say. In 2006, they also reached out to former classmates through their volunteer work, helping to make their 50th class reunion a success. They are also active at Holden Village, Gustavus Adolphus College, and Luther Seminary. The Andersons have represented Holden Village on many college campuses and given presentations about its ministry for numerous congregations. Both have extensively served the ELCA, especially the Southwestern Minnesota and Saint Paul area synods.

The Andersons are steadfast in their enthusiasm and willingness to help society, their community, and the alma mater they love so dearly. 🦁



St. Olaf grants three distinct awards each year. For information and nomination forms, visit stolaf.edu/alumni/awards or call 888-865-6537.

A Letter to Jackie

PRIOR TO THEIR 45TH CLASS REUNION, OLES from the Class of '65 were asked to answer survey questions for their reunion booklet. In response to the question "What were the significant events that happened during your time at St. Olaf," nearly everyone said "the Kennedy assassination."

Campus Pastor Clifford Swanson's sermon from that Sunday following the assassination was printed in the January 1964 issue of the *St. Olaf Alumnus*. Swanson wrote, "We crowded into the chapel because we knew of no place else to go. Throughout our country the picture was the same. Millions of people made their way, silently, to churches of every size and description, and each person prayed in his own feeble way... we all shared the grief of our nation's first family. We were caught up in an historic moment of community in suffering. We couldn't talk much about it, but we knew."

Condolence letters to President Kennedy's young widow and family poured into the White House. A letter written by Gretchen Lundstrom Farwell '65 was among them. Last November, out of the blue, Gretchen received a phone call from researcher, Sarah Thorson Little, who was working for historian/author Ellen Fitzpatrick.

"She asked if I was the Gretchen Lundstrom who attended St. Olaf College in November 1963," says Gretchen. "She asked me if I remembered writing a letter to Jacqueline Kennedy."

She did remember:

"It was a cloudy day, not too cold. On Friday, our American history class with Henry Fritz in Holland Hall had let out around 12:15 p.m., and most of us hurried across campus to the Union for lunch. I was joining my roommate and fellow Mellby junior counselor Ginny Hall. As I ascended the west staircase, Dave Minge (who graduated in 1964 and who would later become a U.S. Congressman from Minnesota), came running down and said as he passed, "Kennedy's been shot!" My initial response was "Kennedy who?" Meanwhile, Ginny was already inside the cafeteria when the loudspeaker came on to announce: "The president has been shot, and he is not expected to live." Everyone at her table assumed that the new president of St. Olaf, Sidney Rand, was the victim

ST. OLAF COLLEGE
Northfield, Minnesota
November 26, 1963

Dear Mrs. Kennedy and the Kennedy family,

In your moment of supreme sorrow, I would like to express my sincere sympathy and, unofficially, that of the students of St. Olaf. Just as the tragic news reverberated around the world, it sharply penetrated into the indifference and apathy so often found on college campuses. For most of us, news of President Kennedy's death was a personal tragedy, one that shook us to the very roots of our being. As the campus community gathered in the Chapel on Friday night to pray for comfort for your family, for our own sustenance, and for strength to face the uncertain future, we found some consolation in the beautiful poetry of the One Hundred and Twenty-First Psalm, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."

I only saw the President once -- as he descended from his airplane in Rockford, Illinois during the 1960 campaign. But even though I had only this brief personal contact, his assassination destroyed part of me as well as part of most of us. I suppose we, as students, identified ourselves with the exuberance, the love of living, the ambition, the liberal philosophy, and the belief in the goodness of mankind of our youngest chief executive. We were born during the war that tempered your generation, grew up during the harsh and bitter peace of the bipolar Cold War, and still have not achieved full maturity. We identified ourselves because his ideals were ours, and we admired the man who displayed so much courage, conviction, and faith in man. Our idealism has once again been shattered in the face of human depravity, and it has left an emptiness which will not soon diminish. But we have also been left with an inspiration in the life of your husband, father, brother and son.

This probably sounds insincere or eulogistic, but this letter is not meant to be so. Through this tragedy we as students may have found what we are forever searching -- direction for our lives. We hope that President Kennedy's faith in America will be justified in the future, and that eventually, it will be our generation that upholds the trust without flinching. In his death he became a martyr for the cause of peace, justice, freedom and brotherhood. May God bless you all.

Sincerely yours,

Gretchen Lundstrom
Gretchen Lundstrom

and the wonderment over who would shoot a college president is one of Ginny's sharpest memories of the day. Ginny and I headed back to Mellby, where the only dorm television set was tuned to Walter Cronkite and the continuous coverage of what was happening in Dallas and the reverberations around the world.

That night it seemed like the entire campus gathered for a memorial service at Boe Chapel. Classes were cancelled, and for the next four days, we, like

most students on campus, spent interminable hours watching repetitive black and white images — the first round-the-clock televised coverage of a national tragedy. After the memorial service I called home sobbing to my mother — crying for the dead JFK and his family and upset that the unknown (to me) Texan, Lyndon Johnson, would now be the president of the United States.



Gretchen Lundstrom Farwell
in 1963 (above) and 2010.



When Jack Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald on Sunday, our Mellby TV set was still tuned to CBS, which soon was playing endless loops of the second assassination. Monday was declared a national day of mourning. We sat with the rest of the nation to watch the funeral procession, service at St. Matthew's Cathedral, and burial at Arlington, which etched enduring visual memories of our national loss.

By Tuesday, November 26, I felt compelled to put my pen to paper and write to Jackie and the Kennedy family, wanting them

to know of the grief being expressed in a small Minnesota college town. I naively believed that Mrs. Kennedy would actually see my letter, not realizing that 800,000 cards and letters arrived at the White House that first week, and the outpouring would eventually become more than a million personal expressions of condolence."

...

GRETCHEN RECEIVED A THANK YOU note from Jackie Kennedy's secretary, a keepsake that she tucked away. Forty-six years later, Sarah Thorson Little re-read Gretchen's eloquent condolence letter. Of the 1.5 million letters and notes sent to Mrs. Kennedy, 20,000 letters were re-read, and 250 were selected to be included in Ellen Fitzpatrick's book *Letters to Jackie: Condolences from a Grieving Nation* (Harper Collins, 2010).

Gretchen's letter is one of them. 🦋

Project for Peace



Grassroots organizer Monica Southworth '10

The small fishing village of Saadani, located north of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, depends on water for its revenue and survival. But the village is struggling. The fishermen don't catch enough fish, the agricultural workers cannot effectively access water, and polluted water has contributed to malnutrition.

Monica Southworth '10 came up with an idea to help the people of Saadani. A political science major with concentrations in Middle Eastern studies and statistics, Monica applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from Projects for Peace, an initiative inspired and funded by Kathryn W. Davis that supports undergraduates who create grassroots projects that promote peace. This summer she has been working with Logan Stuck '09 to implement her idea, the Saadani Water Project, by installing wells and micro-irrigation pumps as well as two 5,000-liter reservoir tanks that will provide

the village with clean water.

"Something I learned from grassroots organizing is that the idea and the solution need to come from within the community, and it needs to be something that everyone wants and will strive for," said Monica, who is also writing a pump maintenance manual for the villagers and teaching English at a local school. "We can't just swoop into [Saadani] and throw money at the problem. We need to work with them to make their village a better place."

Monica, who plans to establish a letter exchange program between Saadani schoolchildren and schoolchildren in her hometown of Dutch Harbor, Alaska, is optimistic about the long-term effects of the Saadani Water Project, noting the improvements are not only in water quality, accessibility, and sustainability but, ultimately, in overall health and education. "The benefits are endless," she said.

Living the Sustainable Life

By Elizabeth Braaten Palmieri '04

It was an early September evening in 2007 when I first visited the farm of Robbi Bannen '81 and her husband Ted Fisher '82. We drove along the bluffs of the Mississippi River, through quaint towns and down dirt roads toward Stockholm, Wisconsin. There were no signs pointing to our destination. We parked off the gravel road behind dozens of other cars that had made the same journey. What did we all have in common? Pizza. Not just any pizza — pizza that is made almost completely from ingredients grown on their farm.

Inspired by the hardworking farmers with whom he had grown up in Iowa, Ted never forgot the childhood stories told by his parents and grandparents about the importance of community and how families and neighbors worked together in the fields. "I felt a longing, almost an ache for the experience of old-time farming, even though I never imagined I would actually do it. There is something satisfying about knowing where your food comes from," says Ted.

Robbi and Ted work the farm every day, gardening, milling, baking, and preparing for one quality evening of pizza madness. The pizza

"There is something satisfying about knowing where your food comes from."

TED FISHER '82

crust is made from wheat milled on their land, the sauce is made from their home-grown tomatoes, garlic, and herbs. They also raise their own pigs and smoke their own meat. The only imports are some of the cheeses and olives but little else.

They have created both a business and a simple lifestyle they enjoy sharing with their three children, family, friends, and customers. "Sustainable living is thoughtful, resilient living," Robbi says.

Ted and Robbi's farm, A to Z Produce & Bakery, is open on Tuesdays from 4 to 8 o'clock in the evening and can be found off a dirt road on N2956 Anker Lane, between Maiden Rock and Stockholm. Although they do not have a Web site, information can be found online under "A to Z Produce."

ELIZABETH BRAATEN PALMIERI '04 is a pizza farm enthusiast and freelance writer who is teaching at the Twin Cities Stages Children's Theatre.



Pizza farmers Robbi Bannen '81 and Ted Fisher '82

Learning from the Laureates

This summer, when Nobel Laureates met in Lindau, Germany, with more than 650 young researchers selected from around the world, Michael Marty '10 was among them. The annual Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings has been held each summer since 1951 and provides a globally recognized forum for the "transfer of knowledge" among generations of scientists, and also provides an opportunity for young scientists to participate in cross-cultural dialogue with their future peers in the sciences.

"While the focus is generally on one specific area — chemistry, physiology, or physics — this year's conference [brought] in scientists from all three disciplines," says Michael, a chemistry and math major from Monticello, Ill. After a January internship at the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Chemistry Program, Michael realized the importance of chemistry in shaping public policy.

"I hope the conference gives me a broader perspective of the relationship between science and society, and helps direct my research in the future to relevant and exciting areas," says Michael, who is pursuing his master's degree in analytical chemistry at the University of Illinois and hopes either to teach at the university level or work in government. "There is a lot of interesting research going on in the national labs, and good chemists are needed to make policy at all levels of government."



Michael Marty '10

Composition Honors

Matthew Peterson '06 has received his second BMI Student Composer Award, which is given to young composers in recognition of outstanding creative talent. Winning the BMI award once is an honor. Winning it twice is rare. But Peterson says the recognition is special for more important reasons.

"The winning piece, *Reflections on the Death of the Beloved*, was my most personal, emotional, and adventurous work. It is also a work for band, and band works have rarely, if ever, been awarded," says Peterson, who lives near Stockholm, Sweden.

Reflections was created on commission from the Miles Johnson Endowment for the St. Olaf Band in 2007 and was premiered during the Celebration Weekend band concert this past May. "I'm very proud and grateful to be a small part of the band's legacy, and I hope to write again for this truly special ensemble," he says.

Peterson, who graduated from St. Olaf with B.M. degrees in double bass performance and music composition, served as principal bassist with the St. Olaf Orchestra and toured as bassist with the St. Olaf Choir. He began composing music during his second year at St. Olaf and was a student of Timothy Mahr '78, Justin Merritt, and Mary Ellen Childs. He received a Fulbright fellowship to Sweden in 2008 and has studied composition with Swedish composers Per Mårtensson, Henrik Strindberg, and Sven-David Sandström. He's currently teaching at the Gotland Composer School in Visby and his new chamber opera *Voir Dire* will be premiered in Sweden in early 2011.

"I received a BMI student composer award in 2007 for *The Binding of Isaac*, a chamber opera that was written with librettist Jason Zencka '06 and performed during my senior year at St. Olaf College," says Peterson. "It's only fitting that my second award was for a work that I wrote on commission for the St. Olaf Band in 2008. I should keep writing for St. Olaf musicians. Good things seem to happen."



Matthew Peterson '06 (second from left) traveled to New York City in May to receive his award from Pulitzer Prize winning composer and Chair of the BMI Student Composer Awards Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, President and CEO of BMI Del Bryant, and Ralph Jackson, President of the BMI Foundation.

Ole Fulbrights

Seven St. Olaf alumni have been named Fulbright Fellows for 2010-11: Shoshana Blank '10, Sarah Dorman '09, Sarah Jacobson '10, Caitlin Marine '10, Alex Schmidt '10, Katherine Henly '07, and Maija Witte '10.

Their projects are diverse and will take them to Austria, China, Egypt, Germany, India, Norway, and South Africa. Blank will work with a nongovernmental organization in India to reduce health and environmental problems. Dorman plans to study Arabic for nine months at the Arabic Language Institute of the American University in Cairo. Sarah Jacobson will study gender and sexual health in Cape Town, South Africa, where she will work with the Hospice and Palliative Care Association.

Caitlin Marine will combine scientific research, outdoor education, and conservation by studying grouse populations in Norway. Alex Schmidt will return to Xining, a city in China's Qinghai Province, where last year he studied the societal effects of environmental change. His Fulbright research will look at the factors that push members of minority groups to attend college and influence their post-graduate decisions. Maija Witte plans to teach English at a *gymnasium* in Elsbethen, Austria. Katherine Henly's Fulbright project will take her to Germany.

The seven young alumni bring the college's Fulbright total to 70 since 1995.

CLASS REUNION NEWS

TRADITIONALLY, class reunion anniversaries have been held over two special college weekends: Homecoming & Family Weekend in the fall -- when the 5-, 10-, 15-, and 20-year reunions are celebrated, and Celebration Weekend in the spring -- when the 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, and 70th reunions are celebrated.

ALL OF THAT IS ABOUT TO CHANGE!

Beginning in 2011, St. Olaf alumni can enjoy ONE ALL-REUNION WEEKEND rather than the two reunion anniversary events. The inaugural 2011 "Reunion Weekend" will take place **JUNE 3-5, 2011** (the weekend following graduation), and will include special reunion anniversary celebrations for the Classes of 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006.

Anticipated events are all centered on campus, including special class gatherings, an all-alumni worship service, an alumni convocation, a 5K run through the natural lands, a few rounds of campus golf, a Kids Camp for children of returning alumni, an "Alumni College" day, and -- special to Reunion Weekend 2011 -- the 100th anniversary of the St. Olaf Choir.

FOLLOW REUNION WEEKEND PLANS AT stolaf.edu/alumni AND SAVE THE DATES NOW!