

In hindsight, Anderson sees that her liberal arts education at St. Olaf allowed her to study what she loved while she figured out her eventual direction. “The great breadth of inquiry and experience that you get at St. Olaf is a wonderful foundation,” she says. “You never know when your love of English or math or theater will come back and encourage you in some career decision.”

She sees many parallels between the business world and the liberal arts. “Business is about understanding what your customers, industry partners and employees need,” Anderson says. “The liberal arts is about understanding history and people and why things happen the way they do. At some level you’re answering the same questions: What are people’s expectations? Why do they behave the way they do? How can you help them meet their needs?”

## THE GREAT ADVENTURE

STUDENT-FACULTY PARTNERSHIPS are a hallmark of a St. Olaf education. Faculty members invite groups of students to their homes. In the sciences and mathematics, they collaborate with students on research. And many Ole graduates maintain lifelong connections with professors who had an influence on their lives.

“We get to know these people pretty well,” says Economics Professor Mary Emery.

Such was the case with Emery and her student Mark Yost ’86, who launched his own investment business, Intrinsic Capital Partners of Chicago and Boulder, Colorado, after 10 years of experience in banking and finance. He still credits her for planting the idea of an entrepreneurial venture early in his career. “Mary Emery understands what kids are learning,” says Yost, who earned an MBA from the University of Chicago, “but she also understands young adults. I didn’t realize she knew me as well as she did — and she was more right about what I should be doing than I was.”

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 50]

“Our students get an excellent, broad-based education that allows them to take a look at the world from many different angles. This is the best preparation for business in a world that’s changing all the time.”

— PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS MARY EMERY

SARAH HONSVALL '08  
MANAGEMENT STUDIES  
AND BIOLOGY MAJORS

TOM ROSTER

# Minding OUR Business

DEAN '55 AND ROSEMARIE BUNTROCK HAVE SHAPED THE ST. OLAF CAMPUS AND CULTURE WITH THEIR GIFTS OF MONEY, TIME AND BUSINESS EXPERTISE. THE COLLEGE HONORED THEIR SERVICE AND GENEROSITY IN NOVEMBER BY GIVING THE BUNTROCKS THE PRESTIGIOUS REGENTS' AWARD.

By Amy Gage

WALK THROUGH BUNTROCK COMMONS, the elegant and spacious student center on campus, and you might imagine its benefactor to be a gregarious, even outsized man. In fact, Dean Buntrock '55 — patriarch of the Chicago-based Buntrock family that donated \$26 million to St. Olaf College in 1997 for the commons building — is soft-spoken and small in stature.

Buntrock chooses his words with care — especially when he is describing the joy and humble pride that he feels over being given the Regents' Award, along with his wife and helpmeet, Rosemarie, by his beloved alma mater. “I believe that the honor was for the experience and talents as well as the financial resources that we’ve shared with the college,” says Buntrock, a retired executive and a senior regent of the St. Olaf Board of Regents, which he chaired for nine years.

On November 30, the Buntrocks and their extended family were guests of honor at a dinner and presentation of the distinguished award. Created in 1959 to honor couples and individuals who have made “significant contributions” to the college, the Regents' Award is bestowed only a handful of times each decade. The most recent recipients, in November 1998, were Professor of Philosophy Howard Hong '34 and his wife, Edna Hatlestad Hong '38.

Dean Buntrock shares the Regents' Award, gratefully, with Rosemarie, a vivacious woman who holds strong opinions about the importance of giving back to society. “I’m very pleased that both of us were included,” said Buntrock on the day the award officially was presented. And, as the founder and chairman emeritus of Waste Management, he is happy that the college is honoring a businessman.

“Academia and colleges recognize leadership and success in academics, and rightfully so,” Buntrock says. “But the experience and talents that businesspeople can bring to the board and use for the benefit of the college were part of the recognition.”

## Building a Campus Culture

DEAN BUNTROCK BEGAN his 23-year service to the St. Olaf Board of Regents in 1972; he served as chairman from 1986 to 1995, a time of rapid growth and change



DAVID GONNERMAN '90

At St. Olaf, the influence of Dean '55 and Rosemarie Buntrock extends far beyond the building that bears their name.

at the college. Among the signature achievements of his years as board chair was the completion of the \$73.5 million *VISION* campaign in 1990, an effort that then-President Mel George termed "a remarkable affirmation of the college's mission and a vote of confidence in its future." Buntrock's leadership and matching gifts pushed the campaign to exceed its goal by 50 percent.

The *VISION* campaign pumped \$27.5 million into the college's endowment, which then stood at only \$39.5 million, and also funded scholarships (\$9.1 million), the academic program (\$6.9 million) and capital projects such as the Ditmanson Wing of the library (\$11 million).

Under Buntrock's guidance as board chair, the college also constructed the new Ytterboe Hall and made significant improvements to Manitou Field and Old Main. Still, despite the importance and necessity of those projects, he never lost sight of his dream for a state-of-the-art student center at St. Olaf.

"I felt that without having a really workable student center, it was going to be difficult to continue to showcase the college," Buntrock says. "You can have excellent facilities and a strong culture. But high school juniors and seniors need to identify where they're going to fit in. On a campus visit, they want to see student life."

Rosemarie holds especially fond memories of the day that Buntrock Commons opened in 1999 when students burst into an impromptu chorus of "Um! Yah! Yah!" as they entered the building. "After the ribbon cutting students ran through the

door, threw their coats on the floor and went to eat," she recalls. "That says it all."

The Buntrocks have benefited students directly in other ways as well. Since 1992, when the college renamed its Presidential Scholarship program for the Buntrocks, between 50 and 60 incoming students have been named Buntrock Academic Scholars each year. "These are simply the best of the best in the first-year class," Vice President and Dean of Enrollment Michael Kyle '85 says. "It's about more than outstanding GPAs and high test scores. Buntrock Scholars are people who have shown energy and initiative, independence, originality, a sense of humor, concern for others and a sense of responsibility."

Here, as elsewhere, Rosemarie Buntrock played a key role in orchestrating how the Buntrocks' philanthropy took shape. "I recall conversations with Rosemarie regarding the Buntrock Scholarships," said President Emeritus Mark U. Edwards at the awards banquet in November. "Rosemarie rightly insisted that we be mindful especially of those students for whom college can seem a financial impossibility."

## Changing Lives

DEAN BUNTROCK HAS SPOKEN often of his humble beginnings in Columbia, South Dakota, where he was born in 1931. He learned his work ethic and received a hands-on "business school education" from his father, who ran a farm equipment dealership and served as mayor of the small town for 25 years. Young Dean began sweeping floors at age 9 and gradually took on more challenging responsibilities such as waiting on customers. At 16, he tried becoming a salesman for his dad.

Dean's mother had wanted to attend St. Olaf but lacked the means. She sent her three children there instead. Dean graduated in 1955, getting an education that "would forever change my life," he once told the *Northfield News*. His younger brother, Clayton, graduated in 1957, and their sister, Joyce, attended St. Olaf but died tragically in an automobile accident in 1953.

Both of his parents instilled in Buntrock the importance of giving back to church and community and of "using all your God-given talents to pursue excellence." He shares those values with Rosemarie. The Buntrocks' philanthropic pursuits focus on education, the environment, healthcare and the arts. In addition to St. Olaf, their priorities include the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (which named a rehearsal hall after the couple), Ducks Unlimited (Dean has been an avid hunter throughout the years) and the Young Women's Leadership Charter School of Chicago.

Last fall the Buntrocks created an endowment for the upkeep of Buntrock Commons, in keeping with Dean's insistence that the college focus on maintaining its buildings and grounds, not only on developing new facilities. He and Rosemarie already have given generously to *Beyond Imagination*, the campaign for a new Science Complex.

St. Olaf Board of Regents Chair O. Jay Tomson '58 praised the Buntrocks during a recent gathering of administrators and regents, citing their generosity during the *Fram! Fram! Forward St. Olaf* campaign, which was completed in 2002, and the unprecedented gift that allowed for Buntrock Commons. "That really broke the sound barrier in giving here," Tomson said. "What they have done should be an inspiration to the rest of us." 🦁

**AMY GAGE** is director of marketing-communications at St. Olaf College.

Mentoring happens between alumni and current students, too, and those relationships are essential for prospective businesspeople, Haugen says. He advises students to take advantage of the Ole network of about 12,500 alumni in the Twin Cities, less than an hour's drive away, and to explore opportunities they may not have considered. "Not every biology major is pre-med and not every political science major is going to run for office or become an attorney," Haugen says.

When Jay Grinney was on campus last October, Kelly Zaspel grabbed the opportunity to meet with him. They commiserated over their mutual dislike of tests. "Do the best job you can," Grinney told her. "In college you tend to feel like the ability to take tests is going to define you for the rest of your life. It's not. It helps shape you, but it's not going to define you.

"I've hired a lot of people in my career," he said to Zaspel. "I would much rather have someone like you who has the ability to communicate — who obviously is very intelligent, with good organizational skills — than someone who aced every single exam and has no communication skills."

St. Olaf professors and alumni encourage students to allow themselves time to explore and find their place in the world. "Really understand the types of things you want to do," Haugen advises students. "The exact direction your life takes in terms of achieving that vision, that's what the great adventure is all about." 🦄

MARC HEQUET is a Twin Cities-based writer.

## WE'RE IN BUSINESS

Oles are known for their work in the helping professions, such as teaching, social work and ministry, but the college produces a number of business leaders as well, including:

**Minhajul Abedin '89**, managing director and CEO, Prophecy IT, Dhaka, Bangladesh

**David T. Anderson '87**, chairman, James Page Brewing Co., Minneapolis

**Lynn M. Anderson '75**, executive vice president and general counsel, Holiday Cos., Bloomington, Minn.

**Thomas J. Boldt '74**, CEO, The Boldt Co., Appleton, Wis.

**Kathleen Althoff Brekken '71**, president and CEO (retired), Midwest of Cannon Falls, Cannon Falls, Minn.

**Janet Olson Estep '78**, executive vice president, U.S. Bancorp, St. Paul

**Jon Garnas '72**, president and owner, Ladco Development, Des Moines

**Eric S. Hanson '76**, senior vice president, Lazard Freres & Co. LLC, New York City

**Jane Hecht '88**, director of operations and partner, Hoover Investment Management Co. LLC, San Francisco

**Tom Heckler '73**, CEO, Oregon Health Sciences University Medical Group, Portland, Ore.

**William Hoeft '79**, president, CEO and chairman, Ziegler Inc., Bloomington, Minn.

**Mark D. Johnson '82**, CEO, Four51, Eden Prairie, Minn.

**Marilyn Rand Kemme '70**, portfolio manager-private client services, Wells Fargo, Minneapolis

**Neil A. Kjos '53**, chairman and president, Neil A. Kjos Music Co., San Diego

**Ward M. Klein '77**, CEO, Energizer Holdings, Clayton, Mo.

**William Kloehn '83**, managing director, Citigroup Global Markets, New York City

**Karl O. Lee '58**, executive vice president, K. O. Lee Co., Aberdeen, S.D.

**Stanley R. Nelson '48**, chairman and founder, The Scottsdale Institute, Scottsdale, Ariz.

**Richard Pakonen '90**, real estate developer, PAK Properties, White Bear Lake, Minn.

**Roslyn Paterson '87**, CEO and founder, Additional Testing, Roseville, Minn.

**Dwight M. Peterson '79**, president and CEO, OncoPharmacia, Bozeman, Mont.

**Douglas N. Smith '85**, vice president of sales, HealthPartners, Bloomington, Minn.

**Charles H. Solem '50**, chairman and owner, P&R Enterprises, Falls Church, Va.

**Larry Stranghoener '76**, executive vice president and CFO, The Mosaic Co., Plymouth, Minn.

**Robert C. Tengdin '52**, chairman, Allison-Williams Co., Minneapolis

**Jerrold Tostrud '60**, executive vice president (retired), West Group, Eagan, Minn.

**Karen Buchwald Wright '74**, CEO, president and owner, Ariel Corp., Mount Vernon, Ohio

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