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]
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.
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, Propheys 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 Garnaas ’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  
**Ward M. Klein ’77**, CEO, Energizer Holdings, Clayton, Mo.  
**William Kloon ’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  
**Jerrol 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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MARC HEQUET is a Twin Cities–based writer.