

FALL 2017

ST. OLAF

M A G A Z I N E



THE GLOBAL ISSUE

ON THE COVER

Her Doorway. Photo by Emma Wellman '19

While visiting a kasbah in Marrakech to study intricate tiles and painted designs on wood during the *French Language and Culture in Morocco* Interim, Wellman photographed her classmate Anna Lutz '18 in the doorway. The door and Anna's hat and scarf, purchased in the Fez medina, exemplify the bright colors that weave their way through every [Moroccan] city," says Wellman. "Morocco is diverse, unified, colorful, and beautiful."

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26



34



6

THE SARI MAKER · CHENNAI, INDIA · ALEXANDRA MADSEN '18



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ST. OLAF

M A G A Z I N E

F A L L 2 0 1 7

2 Letter to Oles

From President David R. Anderson '74

4 Finding DeeDee

Ole Achiever Colin Scheibner '17 was part of the research team credited with the discovery of a new dwarf planet.

6 Globally Engaged

PHOTO ESSAY

The 34th annual Gimse International and Off-Campus Studies Photo Contest features images from around the world.



16 World Citizens

BY MARLA HILL HOLT '88

Global Semester, St. Olaf's longest-standing faculty-led study abroad program, celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2018. Since its inaugural study abroad program, nearly 1,200 students have participated in Global, creating life-changing memories.

26 Reaching Out

BY JOEL HOEKSTRA '92

Five students from Rwanda, their advocate Donna Wiederkehr, and Harvin Furman '89, a Chicago alumnus whose St. Olaf experience led to a bigger commitment in the world, exemplify the college's mission to provide a global perspective.

34 Mother Nature's Daughter

BY ERIN PETERSON

Anne Christianson '07, one of 76 women in science selected from around the world to participate in the Antarctica Homeward Bound expedition, takes a wide-ranging approach to environmental justice.



42 Why Martin Luther is Still Relevant

A conversation with religion professor and Luther scholar Anthony Bateza.

45 Class Notes and Milestones

52 Almanac: Sizing Up Roommates

BY JEFF SAUVE

Generations of first-year Oles often ponder how they are paired up with their roommate.

FROM THE DESK OF
PRESIDENT DAVID R. ANDERSON '74



Oles Can. Oles Will.

This is a phrase you will be seeing with increasing frequency as we tell the St. Olaf story. It affirms the capacity for positive action that Oles develop during their time on the Hill and announces the determination of Oles to apply that capacity to addressing the needs of the world.

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Global Semester, St. Olaf's longest-standing faculty-led study abroad program. Nearly 1,200 Oles have studied on Global over the last half-century. "World Citizens" in this issue captures the impact of that experience through stories of participants' experiences in places large and small, teeming and remote, developed and developing. The college leads the nation among institutions of our size in sending students to study off campus. The International and Off-Campus Studies program, built by Oles, led by our faculty, and embraced by our students, is one of the college's most distinctive features. Oles Can. Oles Will.

Harvin Furman '89 was out of a job when he went to a holiday party at a coworker's home. He heard there about a need for male volunteers at New Hope, a home in Rwanda for children orphaned by the genocide that nation had experienced. "I'm leaving for Rwanda in four days," his host told him. Can you go?" Harvin went. The engagement with children at New Hope Homes led to more visits to Rwanda and then to a visit to his alma mater to propose that the college establish a scholarship fund for students from Rwanda. That led to philanthropy to create such a fund, and to a pipeline of Rwandan students, the first of whom graduated last spring. Oles Can. Oles Will.

Anne Christianson '07 participated in an Interim study course to Ecuador during her time at St. Olaf. There she saw short-term economic concerns trumping environmental ones, and that set her on a career at the intersection of environmental concerns and politics. That, in turn, has led her to focus on the impact of climate change on women around the world and driven her to policy-related work for Minnesota Congressmen Tim Walz and Keith Ellison. Oles Can. Oles Will.

I hope that you take heart in these inspiring stories and that you take pleasure in the stunning photographs from the 2017 Gimse International and Off-Campus Photo Contest. Global engagement continues to be one of St. Olaf's defining characteristics. We have the largest class ever of international students joining us this fall, and we will again be sending students on study trips to the four corners of the globe over the course of the year. We live in a globally connected world, and the college must prepare its graduates not only to flourish personally in that environment but also to contribute to the flourishing of all peoples and communities. Oles Can. Oles Will.

David R. Anderson



UM! YAH! YAH!

“This is your moment to be bold, to lead.”

“The young people I know are hardworking and honest, committed and driven, innovative, collaborative, and bighearted. Your generation is more diverse, more inclusive, and more globally minded than those that have come before. St. Olaf has prepared you to help create a stronger global community. With your degree, you understand that we are all intertwined in this world — from Rwanda to Indonesia to Slovenia to Japan to Guatemala to Northfield, Minnesota. But mostly, this college has taught you to be respectful, to be civil, and to have empathy, assuming the best in everyone you meet. Be generous, be gracious, and let [your] generation be defined as a generation of good stewards for this country, for the value of learning, and for our democracy.”

— U.S. SENATOR AMY KLOBUCHAR, 2017 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar addresses the Class of 2017, the first St. Olaf class since 1957 to graduate from the top of Manitou Heights.
PHOTO BY FERNANDO SEVILLA

Colin Scheibner,
photographed in the
William Eckhardt
Research Center at the
University of Chicago
ANNE RYAN/POLARIS





Finding DeeDee

COLIN SCHEIBNER '17 REMEMBERS THE EXACT moment when he and his fellow researchers realized they had discovered a new dwarf planet. All they saw was a small smudge on their monitor, but they knew it represented a big find. “Suddenly, there was an intimate sense of connection between our circle of collaborators and this small icy world on the distant edge of our solar system,” says Scheibner, a Rossing Physics Scholar who majored in physics and math at St. Olaf.

Scheibner was part of an undergraduate research team headed by University of Michigan physics and astronomy professor David Gerdes, a member of an international group of scientists working on the Dark Energy Survey (DES) to better understand why the universe’s expansion is accelerating. The team analyzed countless images collected by the DES-built dark energy camera, a powerful digital camera on a four-meter telescope at Chile’s Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory.

Scheibner’s role in this research was the development of a web-based tool used to examine distant objects in the images. Using it enabled Scheibner to identify the earliest known observation of the new dwarf planet, officially named 2014 UZ224 and nicknamed DeeDee, short for “distant dwarf.” DeeDee is approximately 330 miles across and 8.5 billion miles from the sun — about half as big and twice as distant as Pluto.

The dwarf planet’s discovery received national news coverage, mainly focused on how it might impact future research. Scheibner explains, “If you look at the most distant objects in our solar system, like DeeDee, you notice that their orbits are aligned in such a way that suggests they are being pulled by a massive, distant, slow-moving body.”

This hypothetical body, known as Planet Nine, is thought to be about ten times more massive than Earth, but it has never been directly observed. “Such an object, if spotted,” says Scheibner, “would be the astronomical discovery of the century.”

This fall, Scheibner enters the physics Ph.D. program at the University of Chicago with a three-year graduate research fellowship from the National Science Foundation, which will support his doctoral work in theoretical physics. 🦄

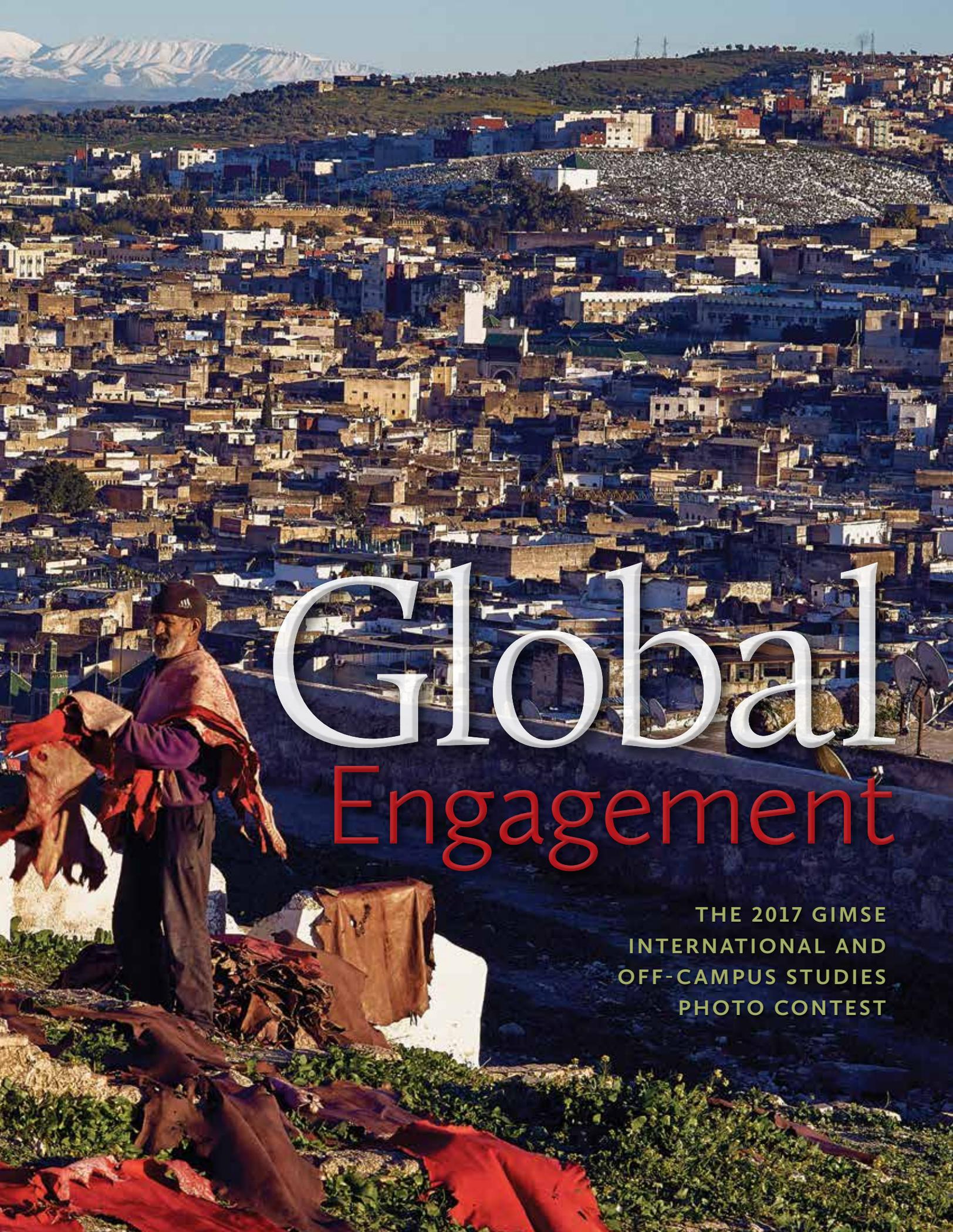
— SARAH GRUIDL '17

LEATHER TANNER ABOVE FEZ

Fez, Morocco · Mason Stilwell '17
Water in Morocco Interim

Leather is tanned in the ruins of Merenid Tombs overlooking the Fez medina. Ruins intersect and blend into daily life in this ancient city.





Global Engagement

THE 2017 GIMSE
INTERNATIONAL AND
OFF-CAMPUS STUDIES
PHOTO CONTEST

For more than a half century, St. Olaf students have taken advantage of the college's nationally renowned international and off-campus study programs. Living and studying abroad is fundamental to understanding other cultures and perspectives — and to becoming an educated citizen in a changing world. Each year, our students document these profound experiences of exploration and self-discovery through personal reflections and the art of photography.

WEB EXTRA · See more photos at stolaf.edu/magazine

SANCTUARY
Phuket Elephant
Sanctuary, Thailand
Sophia Buchda '18
Global Semester



WATCHING THE BOATS
Essaouira, Morocco
Mason Stilwell '17
Water in Morocco Interim

Hundreds of boats dock at the port of Essaouira, many painted the same distinctive blue that decorates the walls of the city.



PELICAN EYES

Victoria, Australia · Lindsey Kemp '18
Environmental Science in Australia

At noon every day, the pelicans flock to the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op for a feeding. Instead of joining the bird brawl over fish guts, this pelican was off to the side, staring me down.

“I was surprised by how much I learned about myself and by the people we met — shark biologists, wilderness guides, tour guides of aboriginal descent, and university professors, all clearly passionate about their work. I was also moved by the natural beauty of Australia, its scenery, and especially the animals. My biggest takeaway was the importance and need for taking action on environmental issues caused by climate change. My worldview changed in that I realized there are many different ways of thinking beyond the Western mindset I’m used to. Understanding this is key to building relationships and reaching international solutions for climate change.”

— LINDSEY KEMP '18 · ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE IN AUSTRALIA



IN THE NUD (IBRANCH)

Queensland, Australia
Lindsey Kemp '18
Environmental Science
in Australia

A Glaucus atlanticus, one of thousands of species of nudibranch [a shell-less mollusk], lies washed up in the surf, surrounded by its jellyfish prey. This is one example of the complex food chains we studied in Australia.

THE WAILING WALL

The Western Wall in Jerusalem · Nicole Kroschel '17
Bible in Context: Israel and Palestine Interim

“What impacted me most about my time in Israel and Palestine was witnessing the conflict. I found myself being moved less by the beautiful churches and cathedrals, and more by the people and their stories. There is deep hurt on all sides, and the way it manifests itself in religion and faith is fascinating to me. I was so moved that I changed my focus of study and career path entirely. I am now hoping to attend graduate school for the study of religion, to continue to be a part of the conversations of conflict and faith.”

— NICOLE KROSCHEL '17
ISRAEL AND PALESTINE INTERIM



FUNERAL

The Mount of Olives
Nicole Kroschel '17
Bible in Context: Israel and Palestine Interim

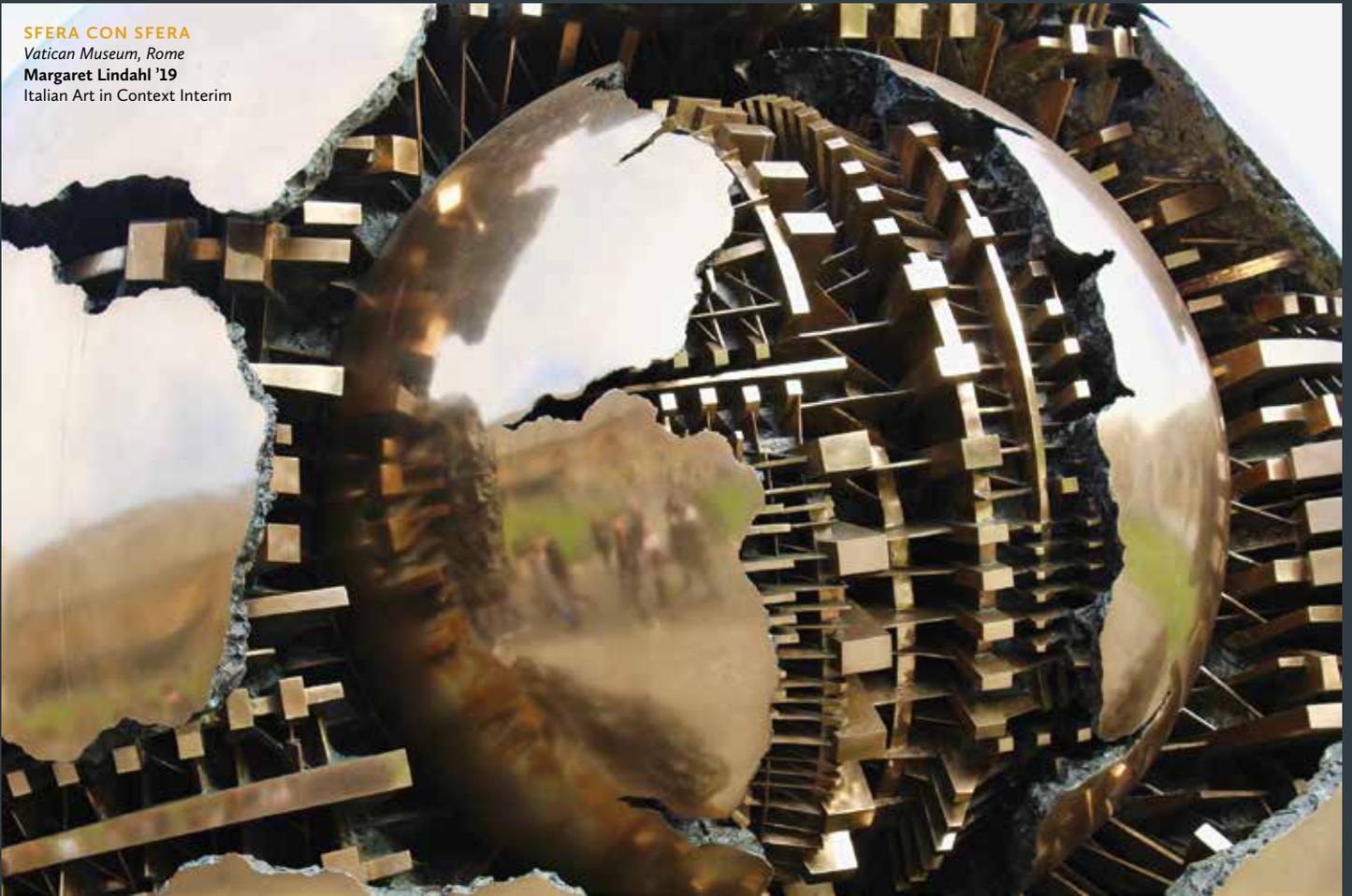


SFERA CON SFERA

Vatican Museum, Rome

Margaret Lindahl '19

Italian Art in Context Interim



Sfera con Sfera (Sphere within a Sphere) by Arnaldo Pomodoro sits in the middle of the Vatican Museum's courtyard. This modern piece of art in the midst of an ancient city came as a shock to us after seeing mostly ancient Greek and Roman art and architecture.

SUNSET SHADOWS

Castries Central Market, St. Lucia

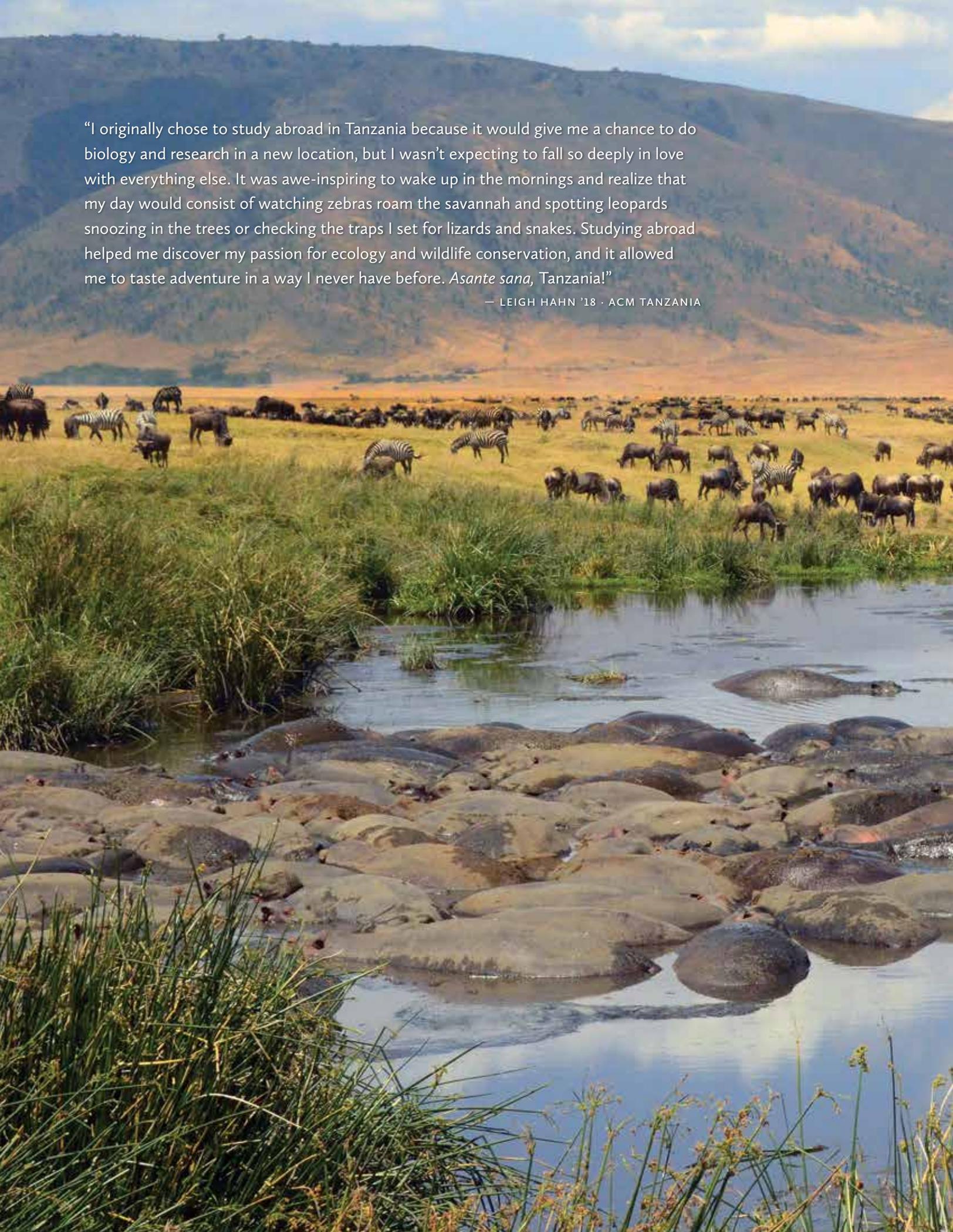
Sarah Fisco '18 · Literature of

the Eastern Caribbean Interim



“I originally chose to study abroad in Tanzania because it would give me a chance to do biology and research in a new location, but I wasn’t expecting to fall so deeply in love with everything else. It was awe-inspiring to wake up in the mornings and realize that my day would consist of watching zebras roam the savannah and spotting leopards snoozing in the trees or checking the traps I set for lizards and snakes. Studying abroad helped me discover my passion for ecology and wildlife conservation, and it allowed me to taste adventure in a way I never have before. *Asante sana*, Tanzania!”

— LEIGH HAHN '18 · ACM TANZANIA





AT HOME IN THE CRATER
Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania
Leigh Hahn '18 · ACM Tanzania

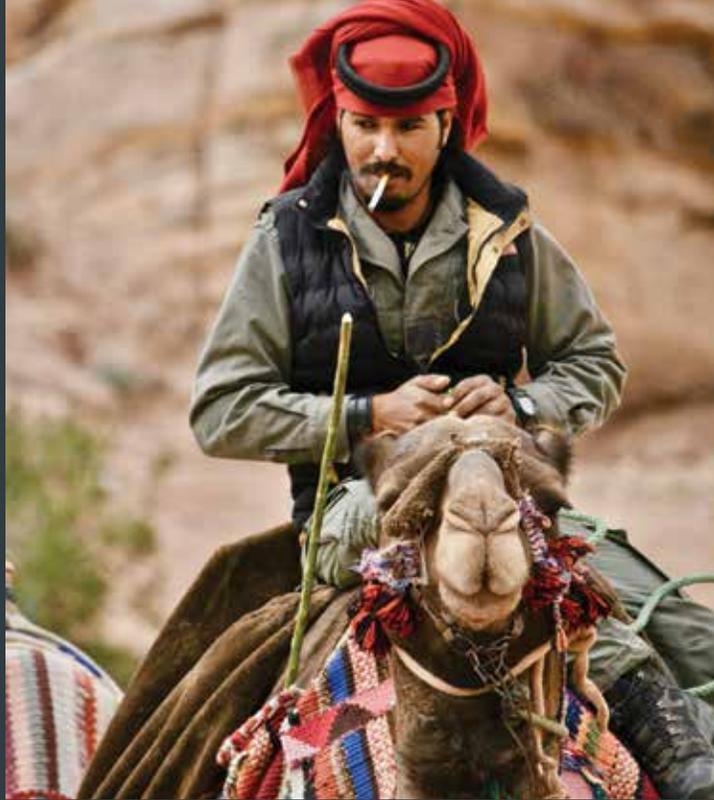
NINE-TO-FIVE

Petra, Jordan

Avery Ellfeldt '19

Bible in Context: Israel and Palestine Interim

This image captures the nine-to-five job of a Jordanian man who works at Petra, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. While this ancient city was awe-inspiring in regards to the history that has chiseled its rose-red walls, footprints of globalization and tourism were ubiquitous amidst the beauty.



LES OISEAUX · Versailles · **William Cipos '20** · French Studies in Paris Interim

The Hameau de la Reine was built for Marie Antoinette in 1783. This Norman-inspired hideaway served as a private location for the queen where she could hold parties and “eat cake.”



WINTER WALK · Veliky Novgorod, Russia
Anna Perkins '18 · Semester in Novgorod, Russia

Russian mothers take their children for stroller rides around the city's residential apartment complexes no matter the season, even if they have to replace the stroller's tires with tiny skis.

“I spent fall semester of 2016 studying at Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University in Veliky Novgorod, Russia, living with the kindest host family, taking classes taught entirely in Russian, participating in educational excursions, playing violin in two local orchestras, and traveling independently. Not only did my time in Russia greatly enhance my language ability, but it deepened my understanding of Russian life in ways that no American classroom experience could. My experiences studying Russian and living in Russia continue to perplex, inspire, and enrich me.”

— ANNA PERKINS '18



BOOK SALESMAN

Tangier, Morocco
Mason Stilwell '17
Water in Morocco Interim

Morocco's multicultural heritage permeates everyday life and culture. King Hassan II once said that Morocco was "a tree with its roots in Africa and its branches in Europe." In this medina, a book vendor sits beneath his mountain of books, reading from the Quran. The books represent a variety of literature from Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.



WORLD

Global Semester, St. Olaf
College's longest-standing
faculty-led study abroad
program, celebrates its
50th anniversary in 2018.

BY MARLA HILL HOLT '88

CITIZENS



IN THE SPRING OF 1968, the St. Olaf College campus was buzzing about a new around-the-world study abroad program that had just received faculty approval and was set to launch in the fall. Freshmen Doug Koons '71 and Jane Baker Koons '71, who were dating at the time, talked excitedly about it with their group of friends in the dining hall. No doubt, similar conversations were taking place elsewhere as students began to dream about the possibility of being among the inaugural group of travelers on this groundbreaking program called Global Semester.

"It was so out of proportion for our imaginations, but for those of us who were curious about the world, it seemed like an experience of a lifetime," Doug says.

At the time, he and Jane had little idea the impact Global Semester would have on them. "It changed the course of our lives," Jane says.

As freshmen, the couple wasn't initially eligible to apply, but because St. Olaf didn't quite have enough participants to fully fund Global (the cost was an additional \$1,100 per student in 1968), the college offered five seats to rising sophomores with parental approval, Doug says. "Our parents had to write a letter of support stating they understood the risks involved and considered their children mature enough for the program."

Their parents did so, and Doug Koons and Jane Baker became two of 22 participants on St. Olaf's first iteration of its signature study abroad program that has continued uninterrupted for 50 years, with one or two faculty leaders taking 25 to 30 students each fall semester and Interim to countries in Europe, the Middle East, South Asia, and East Asia.

That first group began its journey in Rome and Athens, traveling on to Israel, Jordan, Ethiopia, Kenya, India, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan over the course of five months. "Kyoto proved challenging as university students were participating in anti-American riots because of the Vietnam War," Doug says. The group relocated from Kyoto University to a mountain retreat center to avoid the violence and to study the arts of Japan.

A six-week stay in India captivated the couple, with Doug and Jane calling it the tie that bound the whole Global experience together. "In 1968, India was exotic to us: the heat, the bold colors, the flora and the fauna — everything was a marvel," Doug says. "We saw wrapped bodies floating in the Ganges River that had been delivered for eternity or rebirth. We spent three days on a houseboat in Kashmir. We just fell in love with it all."

The couple maintains strong bonds to India today, owning a home in Tamil Nadu, where in 2007, after retiring from careers in business and the arts, they established a library system for nearly 100 village and town schools. Jane also created an English language curriculum that benefits tens of thousands of Indian children each year.



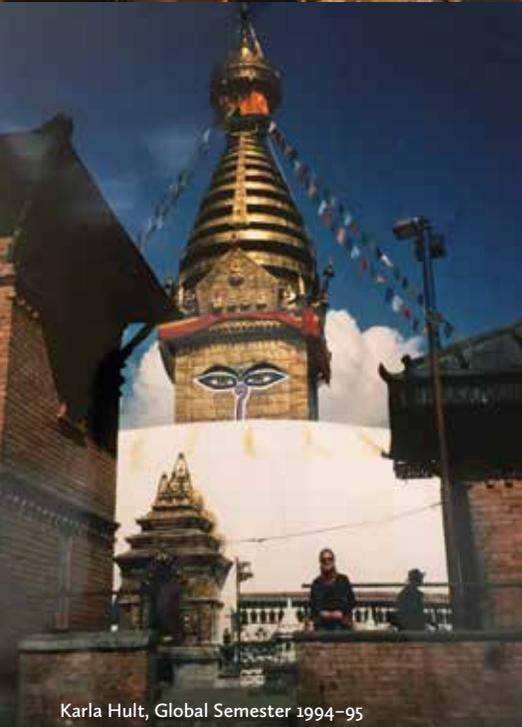
THE KOONS'S EXPERIENCE ON GLOBAL is just one of many. Nearly 1,200 students have participated in the program, and every group has its own stories that are testimonials to Global's impact, as well as proof of the lifelong bonds it creates among participants.

"Underlying all of the friendships and cultural encounters are the academic courses that are the substance of any term abroad," says Professor Emeritus of Art and Art History Mac Gimse '58, who, with either his wife, Jackie, or his daughter, Gracia Gimse McKinley '89, led Global four times. The program includes classes





The first Global Semester group began its journey in Rome in the fall of 1968.



Karla Hult, Global Semester 1994–95

“Mac and Jackie [Gimse] made sure we immersed ourselves in a culture, learned about it academically, and experienced it personally through interactions — sometimes heartrending — with those we met.”

— KARLA HULT '95 · GLOBAL 1994–95

taught by local experts at four academic stops, with a St. Olaf faculty member teaching a course tied to his or her scholarly interests and expertise.

“What makes the learning powerful is the environment in which it happens,” says Gimse, who taught the history of architecture on Global. “It’s not real until it’s personal, and what better way to learn architecture than standing in some of the world’s most important ruins, cathedrals, and temples?”

Karla Hult '95, a reporter for the NBC television affiliate KARE-11 in Minneapolis, was part of the Gimses’ second Global program in 1994–95. “Mac and Jackie were tremendously good leaders who truly enjoyed the adventure and academics alongside the students,” she says. “They made sure we immersed ourselves in a culture, learned about it academically, and experienced it personally through interactions — sometimes heartrending — with those we met.”

Academic rigor on Global was important for Professor Emeritus of Philosophy Walter Stromseth '50 and his wife, Betty Johnson Stromseth '53, retired director of international studies, who together led the 1988–89 program. Walt taught a course on the philosophy of religion as the group studied history in Egypt, developmental economics in India, art in Taiwan, and religion in Japan.

“We worried that Global might cause cultural indigestion by moving so fast through four very different cultures,” Walt says. “To counteract that, I assigned a book on the religious heritage of each culture to be read before we arrived in-country. It was a good academic balance to the more experiential and interactive aspects of the program.”

Occasionally, a world event brought unexpected clarity to Global’s academic programming. The 2001–02 group, led by Religion Professor John Barbour and Art Professor Meg Ojala, learned this firsthand on 9/11 in Cairo.

“One of our themes was looking at the ways different religions view each other,” Barbour says. “You can’t imagine a more compelling event than 9/11 in terms of the academic study of religion suddenly connecting to the real world.”

The group was sequestered in its Cairo hotel in the days immediately following the attack, having canceled field trips to the Sinai Desert and Alexandria. Barbour and Ojala were in regular contact with St. Olaf, and ultimately made the decision to keep the program going, even in the face of deep parental concern back in the United States.

“It was a very anxious time, and we were all wondering, ‘Are there going to be more attacks on Americans around the world?’” Barbour says. “I felt we were, in all likelihood, going to be safe.” The program went on, without incident, although a subsequent hijacking at the Mumbai Airport understandably made the group a bit jittery. “It’s a credit to the students, who were able to handle the stress while looking for meaning in these events.”

The group was buoyed by expressions of sympathy they received from Egyptians and Indians, says Barbour, recalling a non-English-speaking taxi driver in Cairo who mimed sadness with hand gestures. “He mimicked planes flying into towers, then placed his fingers on his face like tears rolling down his cheeks,” Barbour says. “It was genuinely moving.”

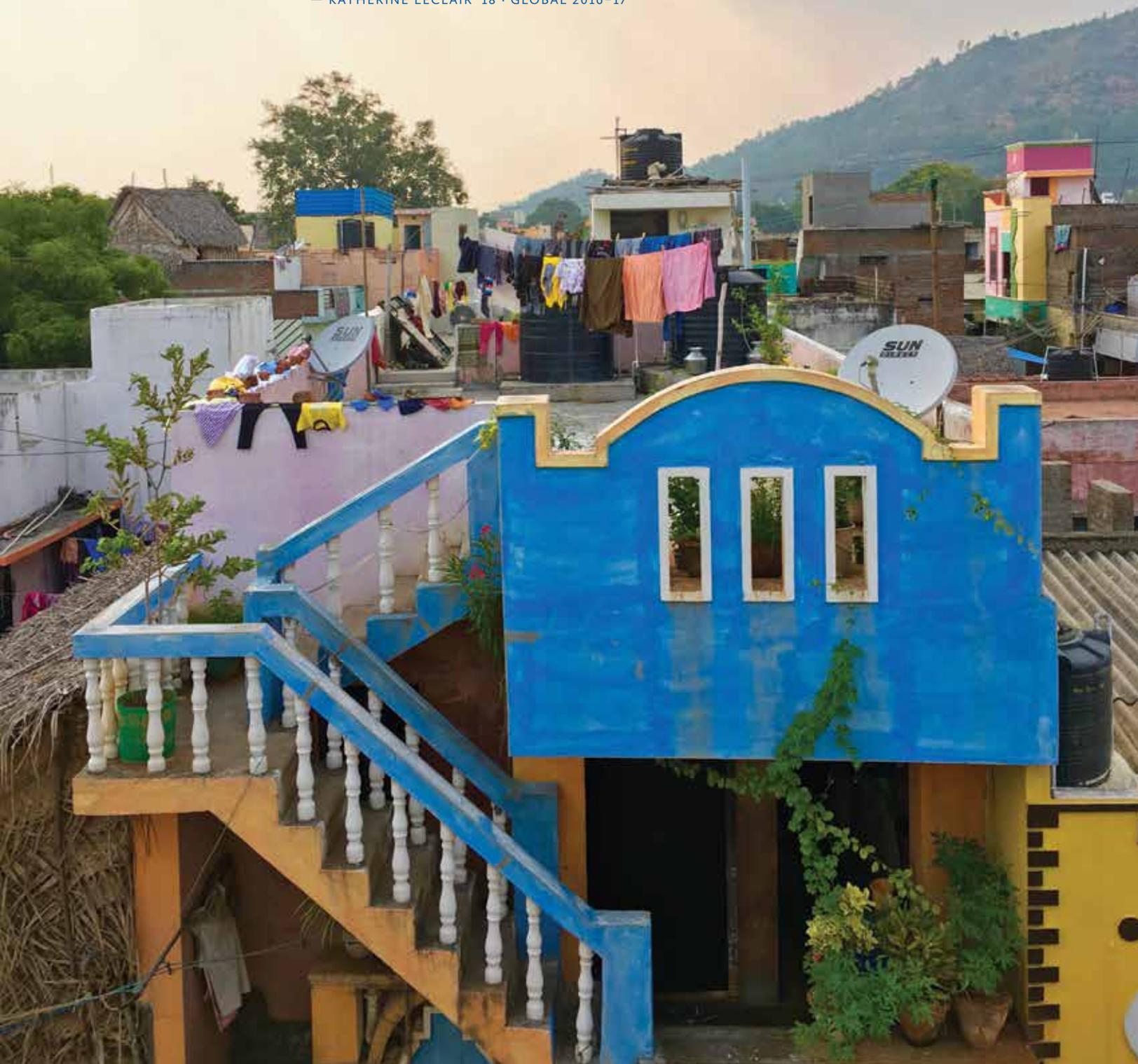


IT IS A TESTAMENT TO ST. OLAF that Global Semester has never been canceled or shortened due to catastrophic events, natural disasters, or other calamities. The program has become a well-greased machine in its 50 years, due in part to the efforts of Kathy Tuma, associate director of International and Off-Campus Studies. At St. Olaf since 1975, she has been responsible for keeping Global running smoothly for 42 years, coordinating its logistics while keeping communication lines open between faculty leaders and longtime institutional partners like the American University in Cairo, Kyoto University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the Ecumenical Christian Center outside Bangalore, India.

“We have wonderful relationships with our partners overseas,” Tuma says. “Many past participants will know the name John Swanson, an expat living in Cairo who for years would come to St. Olaf in the summer to meet with faculty leaders and bang out a

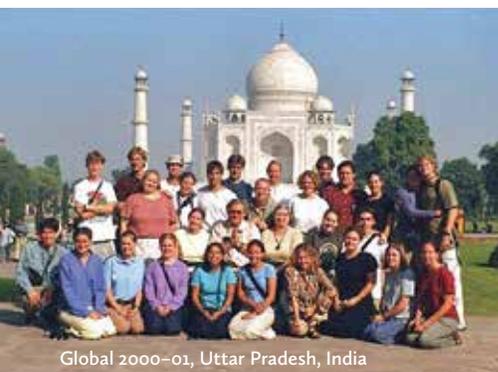
“The world we live in is full of endless surprises. Being able to take a semester traveling and experiencing these surprises have made me more appreciative and grateful for the world in which I live — from the peacefulness of Jerusalem, to the beautiful ruins of Egypt, the unforgettable color palette of India, the cherished memories of Thailand, the ancient arts of China, and finally the history of Korea. Our world holds adventure and surprises with every turn we take — we just have to be open to what may lie ahead.”

— KATHERINE LECLAIR '18 · GLOBAL 2016-17



“Everywhere we went, people were interested in us, and we were interested in them. They wanted to know our perspective on the world as Americans, and we learned how the world works from their view. We began to understand that our opinions aren’t the only opinions that matter.”

— RYAN PALMER '01
GLOBAL 2000-01



Global 2000-01, Uttar Pradesh, India



Global 2008-09, Seoul, South Korea

schedule. In Egypt, he'd take students out into the desert to Giza and other sites [with] the nonstop energy of a camel. The students would be completely exhilarated by one of his tours. It's because of these types of relationships that Global works, period."

Even with St. Olaf's meticulous planning, unforeseen circumstances — such as renewed concern for the safety of Americans traveling to certain regions — sometimes necessitated a change of itinerary, requiring the flexibility of every participant, particularly in the early days of the program, when professors and students had little to no communication with folks back home and needed to make in-the-moment decisions.

"We strive to keep students safe," says Tuma. "Anytime there is an incident in a location where our students are studying, or about to study, we contact a variety of sources — the State Department, the U.S. Embassy or Consulate, our on-site program partners, and the accompanying field supervisors. We take advice from all of these sources to make a decision on whether we need to get a group out of an area or make a decision not to send them to an area. There is no one plan, because no two incidents are alike."

Helene MacCallum '73, who recently retired as St. Olaf's coordinator of program advising and student activities in the Office of International and Off-Campus Studies, went on the fifth Global Semester in 1972-73.

"Back in those days, they just sent you off, with not a lot of direction," she says. "We were very autonomous. We called home once, and occasionally Gerry [Professor Emeritus of Psychology Gerald Ericksen] would send a cable back to the college."

The group began with sightseeing in Rome and Greece, then traveled to Israel, arriving on the same day as the bodies of the 11 Israeli athletes killed at the Munich Olympics. The students were instructed to set their passports in their laps and not move their hands while guards with machine guns searched the plane. "That was our first introduction to 'You're not in Minnesota anymore,'" MacCallum says. "It was a very tumultuous time in the world, but we felt invincible at age 21."

MacCallum shares other incredible adventures: rerouting to Sri Lanka for a month — where the arrival of 30-some Americans warranted a front-page news article — after being denied visas into India; eventually making it to the subcontinent minus their faculty leaders, the Ericksens (the Indians "thought U.S. teachers were CIA agents"), who flew on to Hong Kong without the students; a spontaneous three-day stop in Burma; hanging out with American GIs on leave from the Vietnam War in Bangkok; being trapped between two landslides on a Taiwanese mountainside and sleeping on the floor of a French priest's home in a nearby village.

"Once you've had these kinds of experiences, you can never go back to being the naïve person you were," MacCallum says.



THE LESSONS LEARNED ON GLOBAL SEMESTER are as varied as the participants, but a few seem to hold true for many, including a more nuanced understanding of the diversity of the human condition, an abiding appreciation for differing cultures, and an adaptability to new experiences.

Ryan Palmer '01, a franchise attorney in Minneapolis, says he had a black-and-white snapshot view of the world, and that "Global was the full-color, panoramic, wall-sized poster." While sites like the Taj Mahal, the Egyptian pyramids, and the Great Wall certainly were program highlights, his interactions with people — both with Oles and with those he met along the way — have stuck with him.

"Everywhere we went, people were interested in us, and we were interested in them," Palmer says. "They wanted to know our perspective on the world as Americans, and we learned how the world works from their view. We began to understand that our opinions aren't the only opinions that matter."

Palmer often left these encounters feeling powerless, especially when the people he met were living in abject poverty. So he and Bo Connelly '02 started a fundraising endeavor called Beyond Global. The nonprofit raised funds to pass on to future Global

groups to make donations to organizations at their discretion, such as buying books for an orphanage or providing clothing for a women's shelter. "We wanted to help others feel some connection to the people they met, and to leave feeling like they'd made a small difference," Palmer says.

Rachel Stranghoener '10 recalls living in Cairo during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan when Muslims fast, from dawn to dusk. "A lot of us tried to fast as well, partly out of a desire to assimilate and partly by default, because in an Islamic society you can't purchase food during the day in Ramadan. But it was 110 degrees and we were jetlagged, so it was not easy or comfortable," she says.

The experience allowed Stranghoener and her classmates to break away from what she called Global's "choreographed schedule" by asking to join local families who were eating dinner just outside their front doors after sundown. "We'd been given a lot of warnings about Egypt being a tough place for women to be at ease, so we came in with our defenses up," Stranghoener says. "We soon learned it was a wonderfully welcoming and friendly place."

Stranghoener, who works as a business strategist and management consultant at McKinsey & Company in Minneapolis, says that Global gave her the skills to embrace and adapt to new — and sometimes difficult — situations, but that she also gained a new appreciation for home.

"Global changed me in ways that I probably don't even realize yet," she says. "You see things that affect you and open your eyes, and so I am a different person with a broader worldview. But I also have this deep love for home and can empathize with people new to the United States who are pressured to assimilate, but often cling to the familiar. What you know becomes precious and wonderful when it's no longer your daily reality."

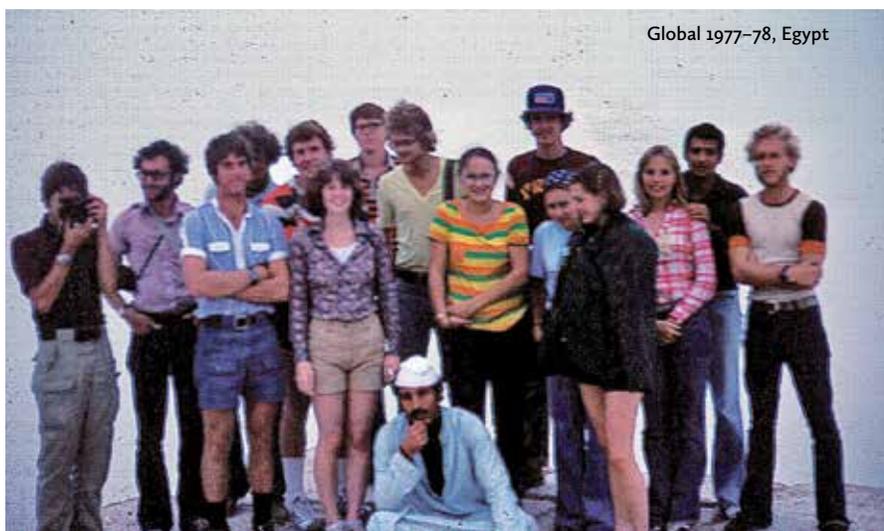
For Mike Ehrhardt '89, headmaster of Cary Academy in Raleigh, North Carolina, going on Global was an opportunity to travel to numerous countries and see what the world had to offer.

"Global was about opening my eyes to so many different perspectives," Ehrhardt says. "If you'd told me that I'd spend a month in museums in Taiwan, I would have thought that was the most boring use of my time, but it was so fascinating learning about the history of Chinese art," he says. "To be learning about cultures while being physically located in them made everything that much more real."

Ehrhardt had some fun as well, like motorcycling around Kathmandu, Nepal, and hiring Sherpas to go trekking in the foothills of Mt. Everest while on a break from the program. The whole of his experience on Global changed his life trajectory, he says.

"I was so naïve and Global was the universe saying, 'Ha-ha, Mike, we have a plan for you,'" he says. He and his wife, Krista Giddings '90, who was also on the 1988–89 program, have lived internationally, teaching at American schools in Cyprus, Brazil, and England, something Ehrhardt says they never would have considered without having gone on Global.

"We gained the confidence to navigate the world on our own," says Ehrhardt, who noted that Global also taught him to check his assumptions about other places and



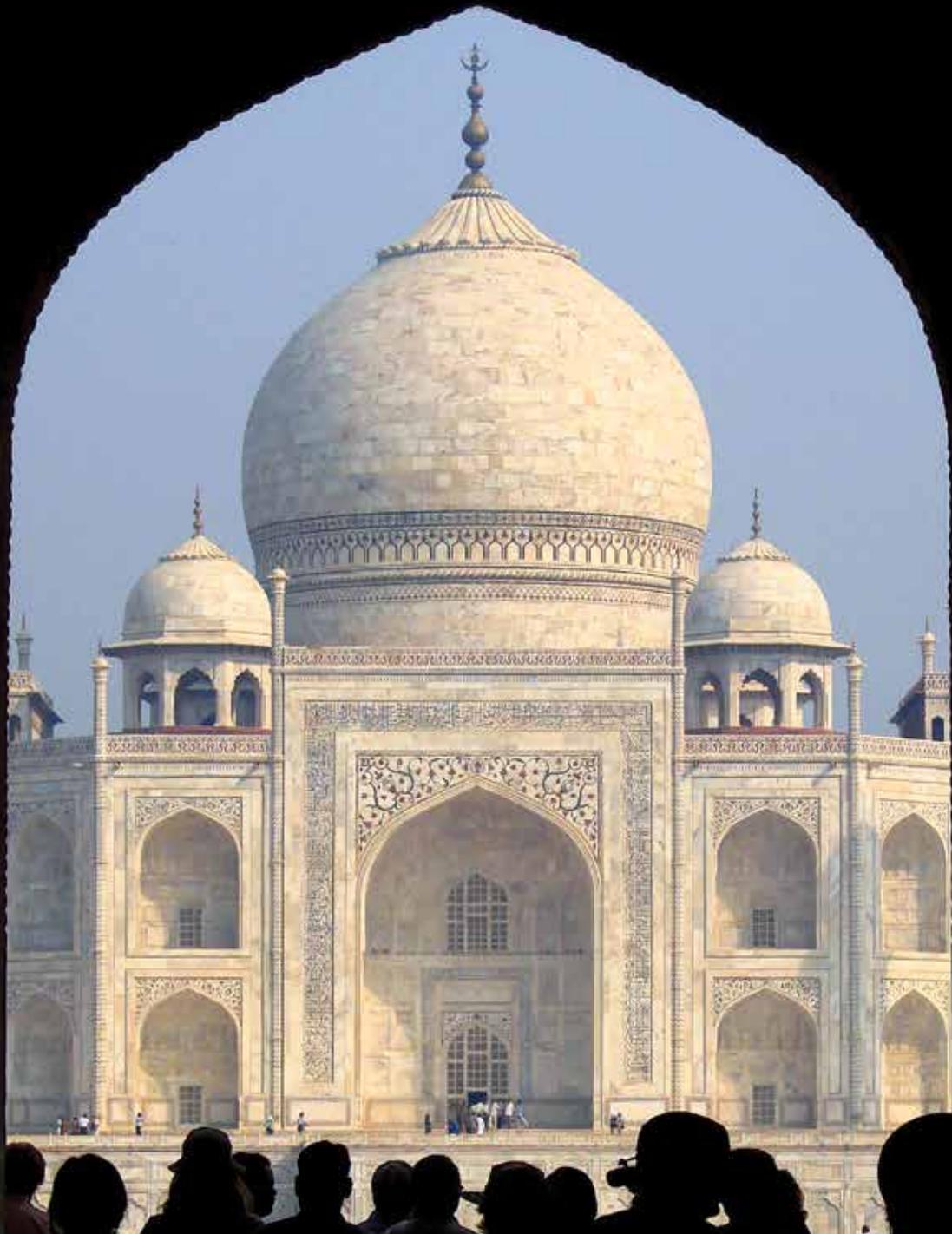
Global 1977–78, Egypt



Global 1977–78, 32nd reunion

"The reality of people's lives is much more nuanced than what we read in the news. An enduring lesson from Global is to resist making snap judgements."

— MIKE EHRHARDT '89
GLOBAL 1988–89



The Taj Mahal mausoleum,
viewed through the entrance
gate, Global 2000-01
PHOTO BY MAC GIMSE '58

cultures. “The reality of people’s lives is much more nuanced than what we read in the news,” he says. “An enduring lesson from Global is to resist making snap judgements.”



GLOBAL SEMESTER’S PARTICIPANT NUMBERS have been slipping lately, with the 2013 program taking as few as 14 students, a decrease likely due to the significant cost of the program. In recent years, total costs per student have ranged from \$10,000 to \$13,000 above St. Olaf’s comprehensive fee, putting the program out of reach for many students.

Thanks to a generous gift from Lynn and Larry Stranghoener, both Class of 1976, that financial barrier has been lifted. Inspired in part by their daughter Rachel’s experience on Global, the Stranghoeners established an endowed fund as part of St. Olaf’s *For the Hill and Beyond* capital campaign, which will cover the additional cost of Global for up to 20 participants beginning in fall 2017. The gift will sustain the program well into the future, making it accessible to all students, regardless of economic background.

Global also will soon have a new look, based on the results of a 2016 program review conducted by a committee of faculty and staff. Beginning in 2017, the program will end just before Christmas each year and, in 2018, will include month-long academic stays in Tanzania, Argentina, and China, as well as stops in Egypt and India.

“Global has changed over the years, but not as much as you might think. It’s become somewhat Asia heavy and needed freshening to sustain its around-the-world focus,” Tuma says. “We’re excited that Global will soon go to South America and sub-Saharan Africa.”

Students and Political Science Professor Kris Thalhammer will begin the 2018 program learning about sustainable development at the United Nations in New York City. In Tanzania, they’ll work on issues of public health; in China, they’ll study political economy; and in Argentina, they’ll examine the use of art in memorializing history, as well as how collective memory shapes identity.

“Now is such an interesting moment in time in terms of citizenship issues,” Thalhammer says. “I’m interested in exploring with students how different countries handle diversity of religion, race, ethnicity, language — all ideas of identity — and what makes someone truly feel like they belong to a society. Global is a great program for exploring these issues that are relevant domestically and internationally.”

Global Semester is here to stay, benefiting from St. Olaf’s longstanding relationships with institutions and academic partners around the world and taking advantage of faculty expertise and connections in new regions.

Gimse says he’s glad that Global will continue. He notes that he subscribes to the following quotation from Wade Davis, an anthropologist and ethnobiologist for the National Geographic Society, which Gimse shared with students who traveled with him on Global: “The world into which you were born is just one model of reality. Other cultures are not failed attempts at being you. They are unique manifestations of the human spirit.”

Global’s purpose is to build a “vision of ancient foundations to contemporary aspirations in architecture, religion, politics, social structures, and daily living habits” in each location the program visits, Gimse says. “It is a much more holistic experience than it’s given credit for, I believe,” he says. “St. Olaf’s commission — through programs like Global — is to help students engage with people of other cultures to understand their practices and beliefs. We want students to come home transformed, with a new perspective on the human condition around the globe.” 🐉

MARLA HILL HOLT '88 is a regular contributor to *St. Olaf Magazine*.

“Global changed me in ways that I probably don’t even realize yet. You see things that affect you and open your eyes, and so I am a different person with a broader worldview. But I also have this deep love for home and can empathize with people new to the United States who are pressured to assimilate, but often cling to the familiar. What you know becomes precious and wonderful when it’s no longer your daily reality.”

— RACHEL STRANGHOENER '10
GLOBAL 2008-09

A 50-Year Global Reunion is in the works for Reunion Weekend 2018 (June 1-3).

Whether it was Global Semester, Term in Asia or the Middle East, how valuable and influential was your experience studying abroad for five months? Come share your reflections of “then and now,” and watch for details at stolaf.edu/alumni.

ST. OLAF HAS BECOME
A SECOND HOME FOR
STUDENTS FROM THE SMALL
EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN
NATION OF RWANDA.

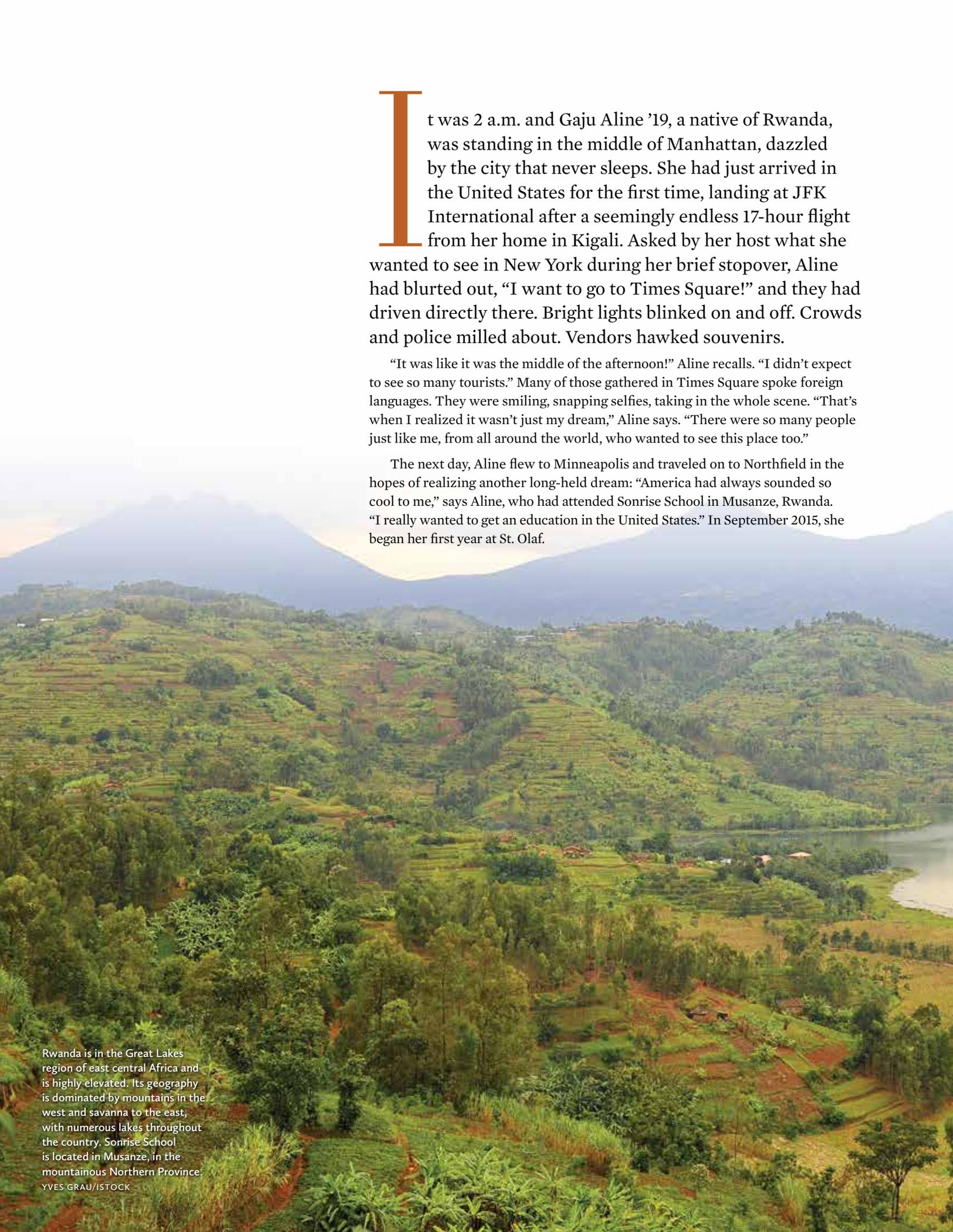


Reaching Out

By Joel Hoekstra



Gaju Aline '19, Halima Ingabire '18, and
Norbert Abayisenga '17 - PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER



It was 2 a.m. and Gaju Aline '19, a native of Rwanda, was standing in the middle of Manhattan, dazzled by the city that never sleeps. She had just arrived in the United States for the first time, landing at JFK International after a seemingly endless 17-hour flight from her home in Kigali. Asked by her host what she wanted to see in New York during her brief stopover, Aline had blurted out, "I want to go to Times Square!" and they had driven directly there. Bright lights blinked on and off. Crowds and police milled about. Vendors hawked souvenirs.

"It was like it was the middle of the afternoon!" Aline recalls. "I didn't expect to see so many tourists." Many of those gathered in Times Square spoke foreign languages. They were smiling, snapping selfies, taking in the whole scene. "That's when I realized it wasn't just my dream," Aline says. "There were so many people just like me, from all around the world, who wanted to see this place too."

The next day, Aline flew to Minneapolis and traveled on to Northfield in the hopes of realizing another long-held dream: "America had always sounded so cool to me," says Aline, who had attended Sunrise School in Musanze, Rwanda. "I really wanted to get an education in the United States." In September 2015, she began her first year at St. Olaf.

Rwanda is in the Great Lakes region of east central Africa and is highly elevated. Its geography is dominated by mountains in the west and savanna to the east, with numerous lakes throughout the country. Sunrise School is located in Musanze, in the mountainous Northern Province.

YVES GRAU/ISTOCK

The college seemed as otherworldly to her as Times Square when Aline arrived on the Hill. Few of her peers had ever heard of Rwanda, a tiny nation located in the center of Africa, infamous for the genocide that divided and ravaged its population in 1994 and left nearly 400,000 children orphaned or abandoned.

St. Olaf was nearly 8,000 miles from her home, but in Minnesota Aline discovered a community that was more than ready to assist her as she pursued her educational dream, majoring in political science with media studies and management studies concentrations. And she wasn't even the only Rwandan on campus: she joined a small but growing group of young Rwandans — all from Sunrise School and now, this fall, numbering five — whose St. Olaf education is made possible thanks to a dedicated American woman, St. Olaf alumni, and their families and friends.

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ROUGHLY A DECADE AGO, Donna Wiederkehr, a lifelong Catholic, felt a call from God to work with children in Africa. As an adult, she had traveled as a tourist to Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Namibia, and Egypt. But this was different: she sought to be more than a sightseer.

“I knew I was called to make a difference,” says Wiederkehr, an advertising executive who lived in Minnesota at the time but now resides in New York City. She contacted Compassion International, a Christian humanitarian aid organization dedicated to helping children living in poverty, and inquired about doing a mission trip. Eventually, she was given the name of a woman who had recently opened a home for orphans in Rwanda. Information was scarce and communication difficult, but shortly before Easter



“I ULTIMATELY WANT TO HELP PEOPLE LIKE I WAS HELPED. AND TO HELP PEOPLE, YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THEIR CULTURE, WHERE THEY’RE COMING FROM. SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY SEEMED LIKE THE BEST WAY TO REACH MY GOALS.”

— NORBERT ABAYISENGA ’17

in 2006, Wiederkehr booked a ticket to Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, and gathered up enough clothes and toys to fill five bags. Many of the items had been donated by friends, family, and coworkers at Campbell Mithun, the Minneapolis ad agency where Wiederkehr then worked. “The whole trip was a bit of a wing and a prayer,” she says.

In Kigali, Wiederkehr was greeted by Chantal Mbanda, director of New Hope Homes, a nonprofit founded in 2006 by Mbanda and her husband, Anglican bishop Laurent Mbanda, and dedicated to caring for Rwanda’s most vulnerable children — orphaned, abandoned, and disabled children from newborns to age five. New Hope Homes was not an orphanage; the children were not up for adoption. Rather, Mbanda’s vision was to provide a loving, stable, nurturing family environment for these children, meeting their spiritual, emotional, physical, and medical needs.

Roughly six feet tall, with a megawatt smile, Mbanda had an aura about her that was both welcoming and compelling. Wiederkehr felt an instant kinship, and her determination to help Mbanda was further cemented when she arrived at New Hope Homes and began to interact with the children there. They adored “Miss Donna.”

“I feel like everything in my life was getting me prepared to work in Rwanda,” Wiederkehr says. “I’m more at home there than any place in the world.”

Wiederkehr has been a partner to New Hope Homes ever since, traveling to its location in Musanze three times a year to help care for the children (“They are my heart,” she says) and managing its marketing and outreach efforts on a volunteer basis. In addition, she is a tireless fundraiser on behalf of the home, which today also includes older children and youth. Operational costs for the home are more than \$5,000 per month, but sources of revenue are few, and Wiederkehr regularly solicits donations from friends and family on behalf of the home.

In December 2011, shortly before she embarked on a return trip to Rwanda, Wiederkehr hosted her annual holiday party fundraiser at her home in Minneapolis. Among the guests at the gathering was her former Campbell Mithun colleague Harvin Furman ’89, who thought he would write a check and then call it a night.

“At the end of the evening, he came up and asked what we needed,” Wiederkehr recalls. “I told him, ‘We need people to come to Rwanda, and we don’t just need someone to come paint or build something. We need someone to come read to our kids, play with our kids, and be with our kids.’ ”

Two weeks later, Furman joined Wiederkehr in Musanze.

. . .

HARVIN FURMAN GREW UP in Northfield and majored in math and economics at St. Olaf. He eventually got a job in advertising and was climbing the ladder at Campbell Mithun, where he met Wiederkehr, when the Great Recession struck, resulting in layoffs. Furman was let go, but a generous severance alleviated his immediate worries. The situation also caused him to reflect. He needed to find a job, of course, but he had also begun to think about finding ways to give something back to world.

“I didn’t even really know Donna all that well,” says Furman, recalling the holiday party at her home. “I mostly went to network, but then I got to talking to a colleague whose son had gone over and spent time at New Hope. Donna told us that they needed male volunteers, so I said I’d be interested in learning more. She replied, ‘I’m leaving for Rwanda in four days. Can you go?’ ”

Furman booked a ticket and spent two weeks at New Hope Homes. The conditions were rough — clothing was washed in a bucket, meals cooked over an open fire outside — but he found he loved interacting with the kids. Furman’s own father had also passed when he was young, so he felt a kinship with the orphans. As the end of his trip loomed, Wiederkehr approached him and asked if he was going to return to Rwanda. “The kids have been asking, and you need to be honest,” she told him. “You can’t mislead them.” Furman replied that he wanted to come back, but he also needed to land a job.

Just before he departed, Furman got an email from a Chicago marketing firm inviting him to an interview. A job offer eventually followed, and within a year he had traveled to Rwanda four times. He returned again and again in the years that followed.

With each trip to Rwanda, Furman became more invested in the future of New Hope Home's kids. He knew their personal stories and kept tabs on their progress as they moved from New Hope Homes to Sonrise School, which also was in Masanze. Furman was impressed on his visits to Sonrise, a thriving private boarding school governed by the Shyira Diocese of the Anglican Church of Rwanda and founded as a primary school in 2001 by Bishop John Rucyahana to provide a Christian education and home environment to orphaned and abandoned children.

"Many of these kids were high [academic] performers, and I began wondering how I could support them in continuing their education," Furman says.

While visiting St. Olaf, he arranged a breakfast meeting with Michael Kyle '85, the college's vice president for enrollment and college relations. At the meeting, Furman floated the idea of arranging a scholarship for Rwandan students from Sonrise. "At that time, we were not actively recruiting students from Africa," Kyle recalls. "Most of our international students were from China or India. So the idea was appealing to me."

Kyle suggested that Furman, Wiederkehr, and their friends and family help establish a scholarship for students from Rwanda. Candidates from Sonrise could apply, and admitted applicants would be eligible for scholarship support, as well as the kind of financial aid package that St. Olaf offers to any applicant with demonstrated need.

Furman and Wiederkehr got to work, and with the help of philanthropic friends and family, and greatly aided by a designated gift from two Oles given in recognition of their 25th class reunion anniversaries, the St. Olaf College Fund for Rwandan Students was established.

"It seemed like a win-win for everyone involved," Kyle says. "We knew that there was philanthropic potential for supporting these students. And we knew the students would benefit from the education."

Celebrating Norbert's graduation and surrounding him with Rwandan pride were his close friends and St. Olaf family, from left: Halima Ingabire, Amani Munyarubega '20, Donna Wiederkehr, Gaju Aline, and Harvin Furman '89
PHOTO BY FERNANDO SEVILLA



What's more, Kyle says, the St. Olaf community would benefit. "You can't truly offer students an education with a global perspective if you're only sending students abroad," he says. "We want and need international students on campus too."

The college currently has 270 international students from roughly 70 countries. "I view that diversification as one of best things we've done at St. Olaf during my time here," Kyle says.

...
THIS PAST MAY, NORBERT ABAYISENGA strode across the stage at commencement and accepted his diploma. A sociology and anthropology major, he was the first student to arrive at the college on the newly established St. Olaf College Fund for Rwandan Students.

Abayisenga was born in Rwanda in 1992, but his parents fled the country with their three children during the 1994 genocide, taking shelter in a refugee camp in the Congo. A rebel attack on the camp one night left his mother dead when Abayisenga was two years old. He returned to Rwanda three years later with his father and older siblings; however, his father was killed in 1998, leaving him orphaned. After living with his older brother for several years, Abayisenga was sent to Sonrise School. The school community became his new family: "I'm used to sharing a room with lots of people," he says. "It was like a family in that way. We even called the women who stayed in the residence halls with us our 'aunties.'"

An excellent student, Abayisenga was number one in his class at Sonrise, earning straight A's in all but one class — physics — during his senior year. When Furman inquired about possible scholarship recipients at Sonrise School, Abayisenga was one of four students suggested as candidates. Ultimately, he was selected as the strongest of the four.

The transition from boarding school in Rwanda to college in America wasn't easy, Abayisenga says. Learning at Sonrise leaned heavily on rote memorization, while St. Olaf classes required more independent thinking. He also found that the nursing degree he had set his sights on didn't align with his interests. "At St. Olaf, I got to take my first class in the social sciences. I had to take courses in writing, the humanities, and other subjects I hadn't been exposed to," Abayisenga says. "I discovered there were many things I was interested in."

He abandoned his plans to become a nurse and focused on sociology and anthropology — two related subjects that were personal because they offered insight into Rwanda's period of genocide and its subsequent efforts to heal itself. "I ultimately want to help people like I was helped," says Abayisenga, who is now writing a book about his personal journey. "And to help people, you have to understand their culture, where they're coming from. Sociology and anthropology seemed like the best way to reach my goals."

This past spring, Abayisenga was accepted into a master's degree program at Hamline University in St. Paul, where he intends to continue his studies in nonprofit management. Financing that next step in his education will be a challenge, so he is grateful for the scholarship support he received for his bachelor's degree. "St. Olaf is an expensive school," he says, "so I'm definitely appreciative of that."



Senator Amy Klobuchar was delighted to meet Norbert, after first learning of him when he applied for a visa to come to the United States. "His application had been put on hold. I was thoroughly impressed with his record and worked with the State Department to get his visa approved," Klobuchar said in her commencement address, noting that he planned to continue building a nonprofit he started in Rwanda to connect homeless children with foster families. PHOTO BY FERNANDO SEVILLA

THIS FALL DERRICK SHEMA '21, the fifth Rwandan scholarship recipient, joined Sonrise alumni Amani Munyarubega '20, Gaju Aline, and Halima Ingabire, who recently received a 2017–18 Davis Projects for Peace grant (*see sidebar*). Shema intends to study biology and foreign languages and hopes to travel across America during his four years on the Hill.

“Studying outside Rwanda offers me the opportunity to expose myself to new cultures,” he says. “I believe the experience will open my mind to new ways of thinking. It will give me the chance to see things in a whole new light.”

“YOU CAN'T TRULY OFFER STUDENTS AN EDUCATION WITH A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE IF YOU'RE ONLY SENDING STUDENTS ABROAD. WE WANT AND NEED INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ON CAMPUS TOO.” – MICHAEL KYLE '85

New perspectives, other Sonrise scholarship recipients agree, are one of the chief benefits of a St. Olaf education.

“Rwanda is a very homogenous country. We all have the same culture, the same set of beliefs and values,” Abayisenga says. “In contrast, St. Olaf and America are very diverse environments. St. Olaf has a large population of international students, but you also have students who have never traveled outside the United States or even Minnesota. That diversity can be challenging at times, but I find it beneficial and educational. You learn something by trying to understand people from different backgrounds.”

Aline agrees, adding that such perspectives have contributed to her intellectual growth. “Before I came to St. Olaf, I never had to do my own research. Writing papers was not a big part of our education in Rwanda,” she says. “At home, the professor gives you your notes and everything you need to read. You read it, and hopefully you get something from it. Here, learning is much more on your own. St. Olaf has changed me a lot. It has made me a much more independent thinker.”

Our Rwandan students, their tireless advocate, and the Chicago alumna whose own St. Olaf experience led to a bigger commitment in the world, exemplify not only the college's mission to provide a global perspective, but more importantly, St. Olaf has become a valued thread in the lives of a remarkable group of students, says Kyle. “They're continuing to make their mark, in and out of the classroom, and in the minds and hearts of so many Oles.” 🦋

JOEL HOEKSTRA '92 wrote about Art Professor Mary Griep in the spring 2017 issue of *St. Olaf Magazine*.

A Project for PEACE

HALIMA INGABIRE '18 BELIEVES IN THE HEALING POWER OF ART. Thanks to a Davis Projects for Peace grant, she spent this past summer in eastern Rwanda, where she used traditional Rwandan art such as weaving, painting, and music — central to Rwanda's tradition and cultural pride — to promote peace and reconciliation among young people still grappling with the painful legacy of the country's infamous genocide.

One of the smallest and poorest countries in the world, Rwanda was devastated by the 1994 genocide that lasted 100 days and took the lives of more than one million innocent people. The genocide was due to the long-standing conflicts between two ethnic groups, the Hutus and the Tutsis.

Ingabire grew up in a small village in the Bugesera district of eastern Rwanda, one of the areas most affected by the genocide. There, she was exposed to the detrimental effects of the massacre, she says, noting that Bugesera has the highest number of orphaned children, widowed mothers, and those suffering from trauma and psychosocial problems in Rwanda.

“It is still very hard for the orphans, under the pressure of poverty and other problems that resulted from the genocide, to forgive the families of the perpetrators,” Ingabire says of today's youth. “I have witnessed threats between Rwandan high school students [that originated] from the hatred they inherited from their families.”

Partnering with Anglican Bishop John Rucyahana, president of the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission of Rwanda and founder of Sonrise School and the Inema Art Center, one of the leading art centers in Rwanda, Ingabire hopes that through art and community, youth will learn to forgive one another and not live with the past of their parents. She also hopes to create reconciliation ambassadors for the future generation of Rwanda.

Says Ingabire, “As a Rwandan youth and a social work major, I want to take the initiative to change the future of my country.”

— RENATA ERICKSON '19



ANNE CHRISTIANSON '07
TAKES A WIDE-RANGING APPROACH
TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.

Mother Nature's Daughter

BY ERIN PETERSON



Anne Christianson, photographed
at Minnehaha Park, Minneapolis
PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER

WHEN MINNESOTA NATIVE and environmental scientist Anne Christianson was selected in 2016 to be a part of Homeward Bound, a three-week expedition to Antarctica for women in science, she was more prepared than most of her colleagues for the trip to the frozen continent. But she admits that not even her home state's cold winters had sufficiently prepared her for the towering glaciers and subzero temperatures of the majestic, forbidding terrain.

“It's hard to find words to do it justice — it was such an otherworldly experience, beautiful and harsh,” says Christianson, a Ph.D. student who has done biology fieldwork globally and helped develop environmental policy for members of Congress in Washington, D.C. Seventy-six women from around the world — six of them American, including Christianson — were selected for the Homeward Bound expedition for both their scientific accomplishments and their potential as leaders.



Seventy-six women scientists chosen for the inaugural Homeward Bound expedition arrive on the glacier, December 2016.
PHOTO BY ANNE CHRISTIANSON

The expedition began at the southernmost tip of Argentina, where the women boarded a ship to Antarctica. Along the way, they encountered dozens of whales in the icy waters, and when they finally saw Antarctic shores — just crossing the Drake Passage took two days — they saw tens of thousands of gentoo, chinstrap, and Adelie penguins.

Once Christianson and her shipmates arrived, they visited several research stations on the continent, including the U.S. base, Palmer Station. They spoke with onsite scientists who were studying climate change, among many scientific phenomena. It was eye-opening in a way Christianson couldn't have anticipated. Hearing from scientists who had seen glaciers vanishing with their own eyes brought the theoretical metrics and models on climate change to life. "For example," she says, "they'd explain how there once was a glacier right out of the front steps of the base. Ten years later, that glacier was 300 yards up the hill."

For Christianson, it was a chance to find new ways to bring awareness to a topic she is passionate about: the often troubling effects of climate change on women around the world. It was an opportunity to build a powerful network of allies as she seeks to call attention to — and alleviate — the burden that many of the world's most vulnerable people face.



“The work that’s being done on climate change — and particularly in the relatively pristine, untouched wilderness I saw in Antarctica — is a reminder of how important it is for women to stay in our scientific fields despite the challenges facing us.”

IN A WAY, CHRISTIANSON HAD BEEN PREPARING for that Antarctica trip — including her work with and for women — her whole life. She’s a fierce feminist, a trait that runs in her family. “My grandmother and great-grandmother called themselves feminists when it was very much a dirty word,” she says.

Stepping onto St. Olaf’s campus helped Christianson layer in additional interests in politics and the natural world: she double majored in environmental studies and political science, with a concentration in women’s studies.

But it was an Interim study abroad experience in Ecuador that helped solidify what would end up driving Christianson’s future career: the intersection of environment and politics. In Ecuador, she saw up close how short-term economic concerns often trump environmental ones. For example, she studied rain forest ecosystems and native tribes who had little contact with the wider world. She saw how quickly these fragile systems and communities could be upended by companies that wanted to build roads and pipelines to extract resources beneath the earth’s surface.

Christianson became fascinated by the way that the environment and political reality interacted in nuanced ways, but she wanted to do more than just write a paper about it. “I wanted to figure out how to apply the lessons of politics and policy to actual problems,” she says.

She was willing to go to great lengths to do just that. Three months after graduation, she headed to the University of Oxford in England to get a master’s degree in biodiversity, conservation, and management.

Her friend Greg Bohrer ’07 says Christianson’s instinct to go big to pursue what’s important to her is both typical of her and awe-inspiring. “I think a lot of students stay nearby after graduation, but she left the country. It just felt like she was adventurous on a whole different level,” he says.

As it turned out, that was just the beginning. Christianson, who excelled at Oxford, began contemplating whether to pursue a doctorate degree. To help make her decision, she took several short-term positions to conduct biology field research. She found herself climbing mountains in St. Lucia to track parrots, living in a Cambodian floating village to study sustainable fishing, and observing the cooperative breeding behavior of meerkats in the middle of the Kalahari Desert in South Africa.



Christianson knows that it sounds exciting and dramatic — but she admits that she couldn't get passionate enough about a single species to offset the very real challenges of fieldwork. "It is a huge lifestyle choice," she says. "You are in the field for months and months of the year, and it is very physically demanding. It's often very lonely. At the same time, it's important to try a lot of things and gain unique experiences before you start planning your next steps — whether that's earning money, focusing your career, or having a family. Fieldwork also gave me an in-depth understanding of how scientific data is gathered, which has been instrumental to every one of my subsequent jobs."

As she was working out her feelings on fieldwork, the sudden death of a cousin in the 2010 Haiti earthquake led her to leave her work in Africa months before it finished. That devastating loss also caused her to rethink her priorities. She was ready for something new.

She decided that an environment-linked job designed for impact would be a better fit, so she opted to pursue a policy-related position in Washington, D.C. Christianson landed a position with Congressman Tim Walz, who represents Minnesota's First Congressional District (which includes Northfield). She then parlayed that work into a role with Congressman Keith Ellison (Minnesota's Fifth Congressional District, which includes Minneapolis), where she was working on an array of projects, including environmental and energy policy. One issue particularly drew her attention: mounting research showed that climate change was having a disproportionate impact on women around the world — both in developed nations such as the United States and, even more profoundly, in developing nations.

It's not necessarily an intuitive idea, Christianson admits. But a 2013 article published in *WIREs* (Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews) *Climate Change* addressing the uneven impacts of climate change on women suggested that the impact of climate change stems from a series of interconnected issues. Take for example the fact that women in the United States still have fewer economic resources than men. As a result, they're more likely to live in impoverished urban areas. These areas are subject to the "urban heat island" effect — extreme temperatures in cities due to steamy roof and pavement surfaces. This effect will likely grow stronger because of climate change, which will make already-hot city summers even more scorching, leading to more cases of heat stress and respiratory ailments among its poorest residents, who are primarily women. Women are

Rising temperatures are melting Antarctica, which is showing some of the fastest responses to climate change seen anywhere on earth.





also less likely to have the resources to combat the effects of extreme weather events linked to climate change: in one chilling statistic from Oxfam America, 83 percent of poor single mothers in New Orleans were displaced after Hurricane Katrina.

In countries where women rely more directly on natural resources to keep their households running, the effects of climate change can be even more dramatic. “If women are already walking three miles a day to gather water and fuel to clean and cook, which in many societies are gendered household tasks, climate events like wildfires and droughts can increase the amount of time spent on these tasks. Will this put women at physical risk? Will they be taken out of school to support their families? We know that lack of education leads to higher birth rates and higher income poverty, which further increases climate vulnerabilities. There are all sorts of cascading effects,” explains Christianson.

Following her work with Ellison, Christianson lobbied for the Ocean Conservancy, advocating for ocean policy — specifically involving marine spatial planning, arctic issues, and marine debris — in Congress, the Obama administration, and federal agencies. Today, she’s working toward a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota in natural resources science and management while still keeping her toes in the Washington, D.C., waters. Last summer, she took two short-term positions: one as a policy fellow on the Committee on Natural Resources for the U.S. House of Representatives and the second as an intern for the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

IT WAS WHILE SHE WAS WORKING for the Ocean Conservancy that Christianson landed a spot in the Homeward Bound expedition, which energized her to continue her own work linked to climate change while also supporting the efforts of other scientists doing related work.

Between the stunning scenery and talks from experts, the cohort of women covered significant career-linked ground and zeroed in on the ways that they could push their work in science and technology further. They also got coaching to help them become better leaders and strategists, and they learned the fundamentals of science communication so they could share their research more effectively with the media and the world. Just as valuable, the women connected with one another, finding ways to collaborate and support each other’s work in meaningful ways.

While such topics could have just as easily been taught in a conference room in Atlanta as they were in Antarctica, Christianson says that working in such an isolated environment made a real impact. “The experience forced us all to be present and appreciate what we were seeing,” she says. “It was challenging and personal, but it was also very powerful.” And it helped her see the enormous environmental diversity of the planet up close, and internalize why it’s worth taking big, if sometimes politically difficult, steps to preserve it.

While Christianson expects to have some sort of future in the political world, she is careful not to look too far ahead. The new presidential administration — which has taken a stand against national and global climate initiatives — makes funding for her work murkier than it would have been a year ago.

That said, Christianson believes that she and women like her are well positioned to lead the pursuit of important environmental policy as years of scientific research and consensus are being dismissed.

“The work that’s being done on climate change — and particularly in the relatively pristine, untouched wilderness I saw in Antarctica — is a reminder of how important it is for women to stay in our scientific fields despite the challenges facing us in STEM [science, technology, engineering, and math]. Women have always had to work harder to prove ourselves, so perhaps we are better prepared to lead the fight for science and climate change action. It’s worth it to find ways to protect our environment and prepare for future challenges.” 🐾

ERIN PETERSON is a regular contributor to *St. Olaf Magazine*.

ICE COLD SCIENCE

Learn more about Homeward Bound: head to homewardboundprojects.com.au, visit [@HomewardBound16](https://twitter.com/HomewardBound16) on Twitter, or read “Seventy-Six Women on a Glacier Are Changing the World” at nexusmedianews.com/seventy-six-women-on-a-glacier-are-changing-the-world-555840509913

GIVE IN GRATITUDE

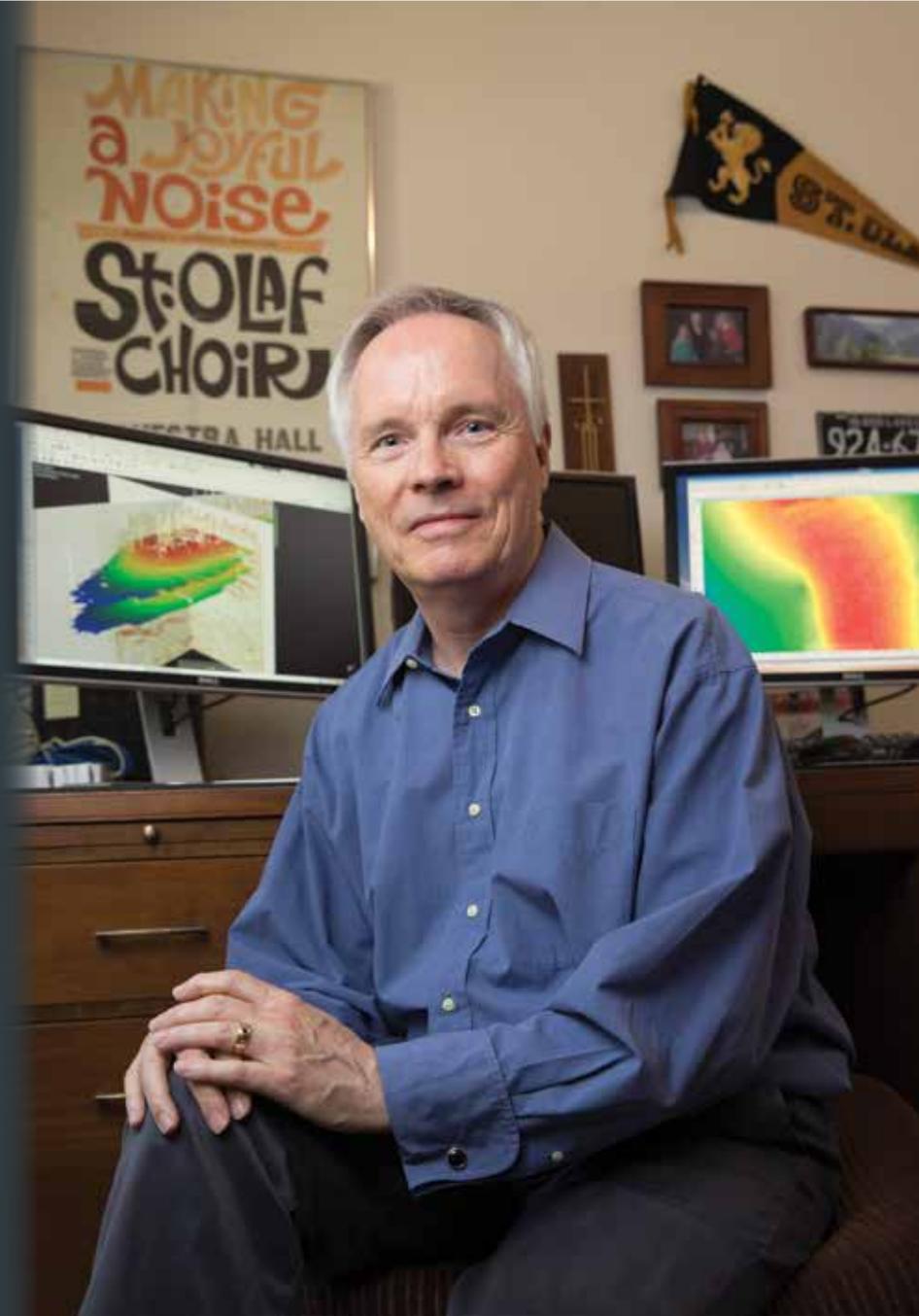
For the Hill and Beyond

St. Olaf College's \$200 million *For the Hill and Beyond* comprehensive campaign is advancing high-impact academics, residential learning, financial aid, and the mission of the college — all to keep helping Oles find their purpose and lead productive, fulfilling, and meaningful lives.

...

You can join John in supporting Oles by:

- Making an annual gift to the St. Olaf Fund
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To learn more about the campaign, its impact, and opportunities to make a gift, contact the St. Olaf College Development Office:

800-776-6523

development@stolaf.edu

stolaf.edu/campaign

"The education I received at St. Olaf helped me find success in different careers. My professors taught me how to think, to communicate, to interact with the bigger world, and to question. My bequest will create an endowed scholarship to help provide fellow math and physics majors a similar platform for success. There are students who deserve the opportunity I had, and this will help them access it."

— John Arenson '72 · San Antonio, Texas
Geophysicist, Project Manager, Trainer, Singer, Ole
St. Olaf Fund Loyalty Society · Manitou Heights Society Member

The stained glass window behind Anthony Bateza in Boe Memorial Chapel traces the history of the Reformation.
PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER



Why Martin Luther is Still Relevant

A CONVERSATION WITH ST. OLAF
RELIGION PROFESSOR AND LUTHER
SCHOLAR ANTHONY BATEZA

Interviewed by Gaju Aline '19

RELIGION PROFESSOR ANTHONY BATEZA has long been examining Martin Luther's understanding of the human agency and its relationship with the virtue tradition, which focuses on questions of character, ethics, faith, and moral formation. Earning his bachelor's degree at Iowa State University and masters of divinity at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Bateza — who joined the Lutheran church as a college student after being invited by friends — was ordained and served for four years as an ELCA pastor before receiving his Ph.D. at Princeton Theological Seminary. While working on his dissertation on Luther, Bateza himself struggled with questions of ethics and faith and what resources Lutheranism provided that would answer his questions.

He joined the St. Olaf Religion Department in 2015, teaching courses on Martin Luther as well as as well as Christian theology and ethics. Although he came late to the Lutheran tradition, Bateza says that Luther is always in the background of his classes and at the back of his mind, even as his students come from different faith traditions, or none at all. "I'm honest with my students on the first day [of class] that I am Lutheran and that my thinking is going to be shaped by that," he says. For example, in a course that focuses on race, ethnicity, and community in the Bible, Bateza challenges his students to think about how biblical figures were included or excluded, and how that speaks to us today. Luther, Bateza says, believed that words really matter, and that the spoken word can change someone's heart. "I take that in my classroom and encourage my students to think about what they say and how their words affect others around them," he says.

WE SPOKE WITH PROFESSOR BATEZA about Martin Luther (1483–1546) before his trip to Wittenberg, Germany, where he attended the International Congress for Luther Research, marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

UNDERSTANDING MARTIN LUTHER

Martin Luther was a passionate and intelligent man living in a complicated religious and political world. He came from an upwardly mobile family that sent him off to college for a promising and profitable career in law. But instead of becoming a lawyer, Luther joined an Augustinian monastic community and ended up launching a movement that reshaped the religious landscape.

Luther did not intend to shake up the Christian world in the way that he did. He began by observing, and criticizing, the church's understanding of grace and the practice of offering "indulgences" — certificates that would reduce or cancel out the time a person needed to spend paying for sins in purgatory after death. Luther drafted the 95 Theses, propositions for public dialogue and debate, which he did not expect to have much impact. But like many movements, what started as a localized criticism quickly gained momentum and spiraled out into larger issues. Luther found himself embroiled in debates about the Pope's authority, the role of monks and nuns, the proper use and interpretation of the Bible, and the structure of the worship service, to name but a few issues.

"We have seen debates about poverty, wage stagnation, and the ongoing inability of political systems to address these concerns. I believe that Luther's thinking here is sharp enough, and complicated enough, to provide us with rich resources for engaging these debates in Lutheran terms."

To really understand Luther, we need to pay attention to his brilliance and his blemishes. Luther was one who always believed that truth and honesty are expected from those who claim a relationship with the God who raised Jesus and liberated Israel. I hope that being honest about Luther encourages us to be just as honest about ourselves, celebrating our genuine accomplishments while confessing and repenting of our failures.

WHY LUTHER STILL MATTERS

When I think about Luther's relevance today, particularly for those of us connected to the larger St. Olaf family, three important topics come to mind.

First, there is the historical significance of Luther's life and work. Many people today have little to no understanding about the history of Christianity and how this history continues to shape our present world. Learning about Luther teaches us that the past is much more complicated and dynamic than we might realize. The different Protestant reformers who followed Luther built on his teaching, whether they looked to extend or reject his ideas.

Second, I would say that Luther's theological significance continues to be felt, particularly when we consider his understanding of God's grace. The idea that God gives Godself freely to people is just as radical today as it was in Luther's time. We know that the world can be a less than gifted and gracious place at times. We are constantly being evaluated, whether in the classroom or on our social media feeds. Luther's thinking looks to relativize this way of seeing ourselves and our world.

Third, Luther was an ambitious young man in the right place at the right time. He identified an important, concrete challenge and sought to address it in a way that fit with his identity as a Christian preacher and professor. I believe that this lesson remains essential today. When we look at people who have had a significant impact on the world, they have done this by honing their skills and focusing their attention on concrete problems they identified. I think that we do the same kind of work here on the Hill. We have students, faculty, staff, and alumni holding us accountable to our stated commitment to being a critical, inclusive, and engaged community. I would argue that these folks are, in their own way, taking on Luther's mantle, and I'm excited to see how our Lutheran tradition can nourish this work in ways that bear fruit.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THE REFORMATION

Remembrance is at the heart of the Reformation movement. Martin Luther and others saw themselves as reformers who were calling to mind Christian traditions from the past by, in part, calling out errors and abuses they recognized in the present, going into the treasury of the past and bringing out what was old and new. I believe that this sense of remembrance is at work in our [anniversary] commemorations this year.

From a historical perspective, I think that reminding ourselves about the Reformation is of value in and of itself. In a fast-paced media world, our minds are constantly buzzing about the latest

political, economic, and cultural events. Taking time to learn about history, to see how the lives of figures in the past were similar and different than our own and to gain a better understanding of the events that have shaped us, is vitally important.

LUTHER ON AUTHORITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Martin Luther blends a conservative view of authority — at least in the political realm — with a liberal dose of biting social criticism. He is a product of the late-medieval world and has no problem with taking up the pen as a form of resistance and excoriating malevolent princes and exploitative economic systems. He thinks that a good political leader is a "rare bird," and that most are more concerned with their own power instead of the plight of the common people. While the state has the right to use military and policing powers, Luther worries that corrupt leaders are abusing this authority and failing to show mercy when needed. He suspects that the banking and economic forces of his time are also oppressing the people. Indeed, one of his criticisms of the sale of "indulgence" was that the average family was being fleeced by wolves in clerical dress.

We have seen debates about poverty, wage stagnation, and the ongoing inability of political systems to address these concerns in recent months. I believe that Luther's thinking here is sharp enough, and complicated enough, to provide us with rich resources for engaging these debates in Lutheran terms. 🍷

GAJU ALINE '19 is majoring in political science, with a media studies concentration.

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1960s

Upon learning that 78-year-old senior Olympic sprinter **Lowell Thompson '61** had competed in a 10K race in North Korea, sports writer Mike Max interviewed Lowell for the Twin Cities CBS affiliate WCCO-TV. Lowell was part of a group that traveled to Pyongyang to participate in this annual event. "The people seem subdued. You don't see the bright clothes you'd see in the U.S.," Thompson told Max in the interview. "You don't see the spirit or the sparkle in the people." Nevertheless, Lowell came away from the experience with an appreciation for the thousands of people who watched the race and waved. "They're organized, they stand in lines and they dance. We never had anything negative," said Lowell, who lost his wife, Barbara, to cancer last fall. The race in North Korea was an adventure in a year of loss for Lowell. Friends advised him to stay busy and socialize. In his words, "Keep moving." ■ **Charlie Brandt '62**, director of a group called ReClam the Bay, writes, "Each year in nurseries all around Barnegat Bay in New Jersey, we raise over a million shellfish, clams, oysters, and bay scallops for distribution in the bay. The organization, developed by Rutgers [University], practices a bit of sleight of hand. The magic takes place when people visit the nurseries, hold a handful of baby clams, and realize that those little 'grains of stone' are alive. That gives us the opportunity to teach how important they are to the bay and what our visitors can do to help preserve the bay for future generations." ■ **Darlene (Darla) Johnson Thorland '62** continues to do some translating from Norwegian to English, specializing in old letters. "Writing my own poetry and singing the old traditional songs of Norway (*kveding*) are avocations." ■ The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies awarded **Philip W. Moeller '63** a bronze medal for 50 years of distinguished service to international economic and social development. He has co-authored over 20 books, advised governments, and managed development projects for agencies such as the State Department, USAID, the United Nations Development Program, the Asian Development Bank, and the World Bank. ■ **Jon Christianson '68** continues to work as a full-time professor at the University of Minnesota and is also vice chair of Congress's Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, about which he writes, "Our charge is to provide Congress with nonpartisan recommendations about provider payment and other aspects of the Medicare Program. No, it's not necessary to be a Medicare beneficiary to be a commissioner!"

Attention 1968 Oles! Your 50th Reunion is happening **June 1-3, 2018**, and your classmates want you to be up to date with this big milestone. Visit go.stolaf.edu/reunionupdate to make sure that we have your most current contact information. **Um! Yah! Yah!**

1970s

In 1977, **Mark Hollabaugh '71** visited the Big Horn Medicine Wheel, where he became interested in Native American astronomy. Since then, he's taught physics and astronomy at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, Minn., as well as at St. Olaf and Augsburg Colleges, the University of Minnesota, and the U.S. Air Force Academy. More recently, Mark consulted on the design of a Navajo-themed star ceiling in the new geosciences, physics, and engineering hall at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo. ■ **St. Olaf's Flaten Art Gallery** has acquired the stone lithograph print series *Thirty-Six Views of One World Trade Center* by **Brenda Berkman '73**. The series is also in the collection of New York City's September 11 Memorial and Museum, as well as in the collection of St. Olaf Regent and '77 alum Greg Buck's firm, Productivity Inc. Brenda writes, "On a different note, I was included in two episodes of the CNN series *Soundtracks* [and] honored to be included in the New York Historical Society's new exhibit on women." ■ **Tim Hermann '73** was selected by the Minnesota Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association as the Class AA Activities Director of the Year. ■ **Susan Porter Swartzen '74** has become a first-time grandmother to a future Ole! ■ **Mark Harbold '76**, a music professor at Elmhurst College, has received a Fulbright-Nehru U.S. Scholar Award, which will enable him to spend four months teaching and collaborating with faculty at Madras Christian College in Chennai, India. ■ **Kristin Grayson '76** continues to work as an education associate at IDRA, a nonprofit organization that works to improve public schools through the protection of all students' civil rights to an equitable education. ■ **Rolf Olson '76** writes, "Over the course of my 11 years as pastor at Richfield Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, we established partnerships with several other congregations [and] we have celebrated Pentecost with a multicultural, multilingual service. This picture [upper right], taken in June, is of Bishop James Griffin (Victory in Praise), Tito Fuentes (Mundo de Paz), Pastor Rolf Olson (Richfield Lutheran), and Pastor Thomas Bolden (New Faith Baptist)." ■ **Linda Campbell '77** was selected for the chaplain supervisor position at the St. Cloud Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Minn. ■ **James McDonald '77** was elected as president of the Council for Elementary Science International, which is affiliated with the National Science Teachers Association. ■ **Vanessa Seljeskog '78** has retired as associate director of athletics at Macalester



THOMPSON '61



BERKMAN '73



HERMANN '73



SCHWARTEN '74



OLSON '76



SCHAEFER '79 AND BARTLETT '79

College in St. Paul, Minn. ■ **Brad Jensen '78** presented a paper titled "Luther and the Jews: A Three Phase Journey in his Thinking" at the 2017 LCMC Augustana District's annual theological conference. The paper has been accepted for publication in the Reformation 2017 edition of *LOGIA: A Journal of Lutheran Theology*. ■ **Carrie Warder Bartlett '79** and **Greg Schaefer '79** broke into a spontaneous chorus of "Um! Yah! Yah!" after meeting for the first time at a cycling B and B in Coustellet, a village in Provence, France. Writes Carrie, "You never know when or where you may run into an Ole!" ■ **Paul K. Erbes '79** has been named Wartburg Theological Seminary's vice president for development. Paul has served as a major gift officer at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) since 2014.

NOVEMBER 30 &
DECEMBER 1-3 · 2017

St. Olaf Christmas Festival

The 2017 St. Olaf Christmas Festival ticket presale will happen in late October again this year. We will send login information via email to all eligible St. Olaf constituents — donors, parents, alumni, students, retired faculty and staff, and volunteers.

If you do not receive information by the middle of October, please contact us at christmas-festival@stolaf.edu.

1980s

Holly Owen '80 is the planning and economic development director for the city of Solvang, Calif., in Santa Barbara County. ■ **Cathy Hindman Reischl '80** was recently promoted to clinical professor of education at the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor. ■ **Louise Friday Wilson '80** has taken the position of state school nurse/health services consultant for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. ■ **Carl DeSanti '80** serves as music director, organist, and cantor at Saint Gabriel Catholic Church in Chicago. He writes, “I am ever grateful to Dr. Robert Thompson and Theo Wee for my liturgical music training. I may work in a Catholic church, but I play like a Lutheran!” ■ **Marsha Anderson Green '82** has retired from her career in internal communications at Duke University.

For the 2017–18 academic year, she and her husband, Mike, will serve as “Friends in Residence” for the Quaker Meeting in Auckland, New Zealand.

■ **Laura Brown '83** has been honored for her contribution to the nursing profession, receiving the National Certified School Nurse of the Year Award from the National Board for Certification of School Nurses and the National Association of School Nurses. Laura was also recognized by the Oregon School Nurses Association as the School Nurse of the Year. ■ Carnegie Corporation of New York has appointed **Julia Weede '83** as chief communications and digital strategies officer, responsible for overseeing the foundation’s internal and external communications. ■ **James Cookley '84**, who worked for Kimberly Clark Corp. for 23 years, was ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister, calling it “my next career — living proof of what a liberal arts education can do!” ■ **Jennifer Aronson Ford '84** has retired from IBM and has launched her new business, StrengthsWise, for executive coaching and team development. Jennifer and **Jim Ford '86** are the proud parents of **Noah Tyler Ford '17**. ■ **Allison Downing '84** can attest to the fact that her Spanish major has given her a lifetime of satisfaction. She has taught violin in Nicaragua, built a career in bilingual educational publishing, taught math in Spanish at the GED and community college levels, and worked as a professional interpreter. She recently passed a national exam for certification as a Spanish-language medical interpreter. ■ In June 2017, **Christine Hurney '87** was promoted to vice president of content management for Paradigm Education Solutions and JST Career Solutions, in St. Paul, Minn. ■ **Craig Upright '88** was named the 2016–17 Professor of the Year by the Winona State University student body in Winona, Minn. Craig has taught at WSU since 2011. ■ **Maren Aspaas '89** and her husband, John, have moved to an ecovillage in Portland, Ore., where Maren is working as a chaplain at Legacy Emanuel Hospital. “In our free time, we love to bike and hike this city!”

1990s

Scott Hed '90 is “inviting any Oles traveling to Nicaragua to pay us a visit in our new home! My wife, Nicki, and I just finished construction of our home on the outskirts of the colonial city of Granada. The world is a wonderful place when one has a very portable career and can work from anywhere with solid telecommunications infrastructure. No more blizzards for us. The photo [bottom center] is the view of Volcán Mombacho from our property.” ■ **Beth Tjaden Freschi '90** writes, “For the last seven or eight years, I have been enjoying my visits to the St. Olaf campus to provide relaxation training for the students. They found me on the alumni directory, and it’s a delight working with them!” ■ Metropolitan State University in Minn. has named **Kyle Swanson '91** as the new dean of the College of Sciences. ■ Attorney **Lousene Hoppe Schwarz '94** is among the 11 new board members named to the National LGBT Bar Association and Foundation, the country’s largest organizations of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allied legal professionals. Lousene will serve a two-year term. ■ **Andy Hageman '96** was granted tenure and is now an associate professor of English at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. ■ **Jon Yankey '96** and **Elizabeth Klingner Zahn '10** co-authored a paper published in the New England Journal of Medicine that detailed the results of the Childhood and Adolescent Migraine Prevention (CHAMP) study. Elizabeth and Jon are biostatisticians at the Clinical Trials Statistical and Data Management Center in the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Iowa. ■ **Matthew Knoester '96** and **Carrie Vance '96** recently relocated to Milwaukee, where Carrie is a federal civil rights attorney for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Matthew is an associate professor of educational studies at Ripon College. ■ **Kate Elliott '98** was awarded tenure at Luther College, Decorah Iowa, where she has served on the art and art history faculty since 2010. ■ **Travis Cross '99** was promoted to full professor at UCLA. This fall, he begins his fourth year as vice chair of UCLA’s music department after completing a one-year term as inaugural associate dean for academic mentoring and opportunity for the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music.



DOWNING '84



ASPAAS '89
HED '90



UPRIGHT '88



FRESCHI '90



ELLIOTT '98



CROSS '99



Last summer, six Oles and their families traveled together through Italy for two weeks, including in Tuscany, where this photo was taken. (Back row, L-R): Darren DeGennaro, Janell Forgy DeGennaro '98, Kristofer Olsen '98, Allison Wynhoff Olsen '98, Brent Kieke '99, Camie Keilen Kieke '98, Sara Hofstad Womack '98, Marcus Womack; (Front row): Madison, Hendrik, and Dennis DeGennaro, Sora Olsen, Caleb Kieke, Jack Womack, Maia Womack.

2000–2009

Jaclyn Sherman Stevens '00 completed her master's degree in educational psychology. ■ **Amy Stetzel Zylstra '01** was promoted to director of implementation and community engagement for the Minnesota Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, which staffs the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness. ■ **Kirstin Franklin '03** is co-artistic director of Akvavit Theatre, Chicago's premier Nordic theatre company. Kirstin joined Akvavit in 2011 after performing in the inaugural production of *Red and Green*. Since then, she has served the company as its director of development, casting director, and most recently, marketing director. ■ **Megan Thorvilson '03** completed her pediatric palliative care fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and is returning to Rochester, Minn., to practice as both a pediatric hospitalist and a palliative care physician at Mayo Clinic. ■ **Sarah Berke '03**, who has more than a decade of leadership experience in regional and national affordable housing and community development enterprises, began a new position as program officer for the Family Housing Fund in the Twin Cities. ■ **Aaron Olson-Reiners '04** earned an M.F.A. degree from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design in May. ■ **Julie Kelto Lillis '04** has received a Ph.D. in religion from Duke University. ■ **Andreas Hoeft '06** has recently been elected to the board of directors of VEAP, a basic needs and social services organization whose programs promote access to healthy foods, stable housing and transportation. ■ This fall, **Margie Thirlby '06** begins her third year as executive director of Reading Partners in Denver, a national children's literacy organization. ■ **Vanessa Holste '06** has produced the first online video for the Old Navy credit card. The "Retail Therapy" ad has run on Facebook and Hulu, and is living permanently on the Old Navy YouTube page. ■ **Jennifer Marsh Rhudy '07** has earned her M.B.A. from the Isenberg School of Management at the



FRANKLIN '03



THIRLBY '06



HOLSTE '06



HAGEN '09

University of Massachusetts Amherst. ■

Katie Henly '07 founded Yes Way! Travel, an online community of women-owned businesses in the travel sector, creating quick, go-to resources for travelers. ■ **Molly Boes '08** is excited to be back on the Hill working in admissions as the assistant dean for Fine Arts recruitment at St. Olaf. ■ **Michelle Howard Cunningham '09**, who completed her USAF flight medicine training after doing her residency in family medicine, is serving as the physician for the ISR (Intelligence) Group at Beale Air Force Base in northern California. ■ **April Wright '09** accepted a tenure-track biology assistant professor position at Southeastern Louisiana University. ■ **Angela Ulrich '09** has earned a Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of Washington in Seattle. ■ **Kate Hagen '09** received her M.B.A. from UC Berkeley, Haas School of Business. ■ This spring, **Luci Iverson Sessold '09** received her M.Div. degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary and was ordained.

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2017 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Each year, St. Olaf recognizes alumni whose service and leadership exemplify the ideals and mission of the college. In honoring these graduates for their exceptional achievements and professional contributions, they become an integral part of college history and a testament to St. Olaf's tradition of excellence. The college recognizes the 2017 recipients — **René Clausen '74**, **Siri Hustvedt '77**, **Ruth Christenson Sorenson '81** and **Arne Sorenson**, **Monthian Buntan '90**, and **Mary Reid Kelley '01** — during Homecoming and Family Weekend, October 6–8, 2017. stolaf.edu/magazine

On the Shelf

BOOKS BY ST. OLAF ALUMNI & FACULTY



Skipper, from the Prairies to the Mountains (Outskirts Press, 2014), by **Gilmore Tostengard '51**



Feed Sacks: The Colourful History of a Frugal Fabric (UPPERCASE Publishing, Inc., Nov. 2016), by **Linzee McCray '76**



The Open Road (Five Star, Gale/Cengage, 2017), by **Nancy Rucker Johnson '79** (writing as M. M. Holaday)



Women and Politics: Pathways to Power and Political Influence (Rowman and Littlefield, 2017), by **Julie Dolan '90**



Liberty and Laissez-Faire: A Primer on Freedom, Government, and Prosperity (Archway Publishing, April 2017), by **Steven Soderlind**, professor emeritus of economics at St. Olaf College



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Many more titles from Ole authors are available now, in the St. Olaf Bookstore and elsewhere. stolaf.edu/magazine



ST. OLAF
ORCHESTRA

STEVEN AMUNDSON · CONDUCTOR

FALL TOUR 2017
October 14–20

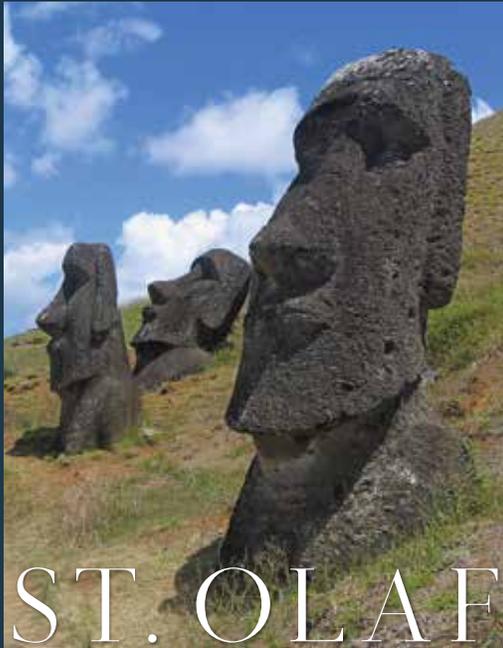
The St. Olaf Orchestra, under the direction of Steven Amundson, embarks on a tour through South Dakota, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona, performing in:

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Broomfield, Colorado
Colorado Springs, Colorado
Denver, Colorado
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Tempe, Arizona

An October 22 home concert will be streamed live at stolaf.edu/multimedia.

For performance details and ticket information, visit stolaf.edu/stolaf-orch.

If you believe that travel is fundamental to understanding other cultures and perspectives, and to being an educated citizen in our contemporary world, then we have the program for you.



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Baja California and the Sea of Cortez: Among the Great Whales | February 24–March 3, 2018 | Led by Ted Johnson, Professor Emeritus of Biology, and Michelle Johnson

Visions of Cuba: Exploring a Nation through Civil Society | June 8–20, 2018
Led by Jeane DeLaney, Associate Professor of History, and Gwen Barnes-Karol, Professor of Spanish

Switzerland: The Bernese Oberland
July 25–August 2, 2018 | Program Leader TBA

Exploring Chile, Easter Island, and Argentina's Wine Country | August 5–19, 2018
Led by Kris Cropsey, Instructor of Spanish

Active New Zealand Adventure
December 27, 2018–January 13, 2019 (tentative)
Led by Dave Van Wylen '80, Professor Emeritus of Biology and Dean for Natural and Applied Sciences at Hope College, and Pat Van Wylen '80

Jordan | 15 days in January 2019
Led by Ibtesam al Atiyat, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Women's and Gender Studies

View all the St. Olaf College Study Travel adventures and get details on all our international and domestic programs at stolaf.edu/studytravel



BROBY '10

2010–2017

Taylor Brorby '10 writes, "This year, I graduated from Iowa State University with an M.F.A. in creative writing and environment, had a collection of poetry, *Crude*, published, as well as a book-length essay, *Coming Alive: Action and Civil Disobedience*, that details my environmental activism and arrest over the DAPL [Dakota Access Pipeline]." He was also selected to be in the first cohort of Emerging Critics through the National Book Critics Circle as well as the Exchange Fellows at the Stone Barns Center for Agriculture and Education, and will begin teaching creative writing at Gettysburg College as the Emerging Writing Fellow. ■ **Clayton Smith Jelinek '10** and **Jared Jelinek '96** were married on a windy day this summer beneath the St. Olaf wind chime tower, with the music from the chimes making the ceremony all the more special. Their service was co-officiated by Rev. **Kristine Carlson '74** and Clayton's father, Rev. Gregory Smith. ■ **Chance Voigt '10** received his M.Div. degree from Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, Calif., with an emphasis in interfaith chaplaincy, while also earning the 2017 President's Award for Academic Excellence by a Master of Divinity Graduate. ■ **Nels Lind '10** has joined the Department of Economics at Emory University as an assistant professor. ■ **Scott Grandt '10** has graduated from the University of St. Thomas / St. Catherine University with a master's in social work. ■ **Brooke Reaser '12** is working as a senior chemist in the Research & Innovation Analytical Lab at L'Oreal USA in Clark, N.J. ■ **Andrew Rudd '13** is one of three Inamori Fellows for 2017. The Inamori Fellowship Program at UC San Diego supports graduate students who will ensure the future of humanity through a balance of the scientific process and human spirit. ■ **Madeline Severtson '13** is working toward a master's degree in comparative religion at the Graduate Theological Union in San Francisco. ■ **Mariah Johnston '14** is working on her masters of public health at Boston University, concentrating in global health and program management. ■ **Chloe Hennes Brezczinski '14** and her husband, William, have recently opened Faber Metalli, a jewelry store and repair shop in Sleepy Eye, Minn. It's the first jewelry store in Sleepy Eye in more than 20 years. Chloe is the bookkeeper, social media manager, and web designer all rolled into one. ■ **Chance Bonar '15** is working toward a Ph.D. in religion at Harvard University. While there, he hopes to continue research on forged antiquities and papyrology. ■ Former cross country and track letterwinner **Henry Burt '16** is keeping up the St. Olaf running legacy of excellence, placing third overall at the 2017 Long Island Marathon. ■ **Katharina Beirmann '17** was among the 18 emerging professionals to participate in the 2017 internship program at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.. The group, hailing from 12 states and four foreign countries, worked on projects directed by a department head or curator at the gallery. Previously, Katharina was a summer intern at the Met Cloisters and a collections intern at Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence, Italy. Katharina will begin coursework for an M.Litt. (research) at the University of Glasgow this fall. 🍷



SMITH '10 AND JELINEK '96



VOIGHT '10



BREZZINSKI '14



BURT '16



FUTURE OLE
Wally Eggert '38

Future Oles

Charles DeWald '87 and Hsin-Yi Lin, a son, Maximilian
 Robert and Kristi Olson Ball '94, a daughter, Annika
 Göran and Kristine Lund Aronsson '95, a daughter, Pernilla
 Kristin and Steve Loomis '97, a daughter, Vivian
 Rob and Jill Lynch Sauber '98, a daughter, Anika
 Matthew and Elizabeth Neils Nelson '00, a son, Anders
 Daniel and Janine Warner Johnson '00, a son, Joshua
 Shannon and John Branstad '00, a son, Kieran
 Anna Miller Wicks '01 and Andrew Wicks '00, a daughter, Annika
 Owen and Erin Scheiwe Rockwell '01, a daughter, Isabella
 Laura Loge '01 and Nels Peterson, a son, Einar
 Alicia Middleman Waeffler '02 and Tom Waeffler '02, a daughter, Olivia
 Emily Hestness '03 and Ben Frazell '03, a daughter, Elisa
 Andrew and Sarah Berke '03, a daughter, Vera
 Cristina and David Pelka '03, a son, Blake
 Wendy Brookman Anderson '03 and Nathan Anderson '03, a son, Logan
 Rob and Sarah Everhart Gilmor '04, a daughter, Mae
 David and Shelly Wipf Larson '04, a son, David
 Amy Jacobson Johnson '05 and Ted Johnson '04, a daughter, Elda Beth
 Dane and Kate Mabuice Jaster '05, a daughter, Evelyn
 Cori Peterson Patterson '05 and Matthew Patterson '04, a daughter, Lela
 David and Rachel Ring Fowkes '06, a daughter, Matilda
 Miles and Laura Barnard Crosskey '07, a daughter, Anne
 Donald and Christine Holmgren Whittemore '07, a daughter, Annika
 Krista and Alex Evans '07, a son, Graham
 Michael and Rebecca Huncosky Lloyd '08, a daughter, Catherine
 Kate Olson Penz '08 and Matt Penz '08, a daughter, Lucy
 Tiffani and Tyler Hart '08, a son, Henry
 Nicholas and Julia Smith Colwell '08, a son, Theodore
 Kerrie and Tyler Lantz '09, a daughter, Harper
 Lee and Diana Richardson '09, a daughter, Madeline
 Geoffrey and Amber Gilbertson Grochocinski '09, a daughter, Aurora
 Daniel and Elizabeth Boggess Bunn '09, a son, George
 Katelyn Duwell Eggert '09 and Peter Eggert '09, a son, Wallace (Wally)
 Joseph and Brenna Robinson Koehler '10, a daughter, Coralyn
 Stephanie Andren Monroe '10 and Daniel Monroe '10, a daughter, Maya

Christopher and Sarah Charleston Peterson '10, a son, Wyatt
 Benjamin Bayer '11 and Heather Eikenbary Bayer '12, a daughter, Rose
 Brawley and Erin Thieszen Blair '11, a daughter, Olivia
 Steven and Ellen Weaver King '11, a son, John
 Josh and Anna Koski Goodman '13, a daughter, Delilah

Weddings

Richard Munsen '68 and Deidra Wager, May 28, 2016
 Peter Smith '71 and Michelle Nadeau, May 20, 2016
 Amy Stetzel '01 and Joel Zylstra, Oct. 2, 2016
 Will Herr '07 and Sophie Dang, April 23, 2017
 Lindsey French '08 and Joshua Stewart, Aug. 20, 2016
 Tingting Yang '09 and Jordan Vitse '09, April 30, 2016
 Rebecca Grupe '10 and Daniel Burnett, March 28, 2015
 Kari McClintick '10 and Josh Roden, Aug. 27, 2016
 Kelsey Harr '10 and Charlie Stuckey '10, Sept. 16, 2017
 Jeanne Foels '10 and Ryan Anderson '10, Jan. 28, 2017
 Clayton Smith '10 and Jared Jelinek '96, June 10, 2017
 Emily Jones '11 and Erik Johnson, July 30, 2016
 Laura Carpenter '11 and William Braasch '11, Oct. 1, 2016
 Kateri Salk '12 and Knute Gundersen '12, Aug. 27, 2016
 Sarah Chao '12 and Matt Menzenski, June 3, 2017
 Lauren Bartelt '12 and Brandon Kostecka, Aug. 27, 2016
 Deanne Schmidt '12 and Jeffrey Harris '13, Oct. 1, 2016
 Katie Crider '13 and Adam Starr '12, May 27, 2017
 Caryn McKinney '13 and Ross Hammerer, July 9, 2016
 Megan Nelson '13 and Luke Murrell '11, Aug. 14, 2015
 Katie Westwood '13 and Alex Ticho '12, Sept. 24, 2016
 Kerry Auer '13 and George Fergus '13, June 18, 2016
 Samantha Zopfi '13 and Matt Job '14, July 8, 2017
 Christian Hall '14 and Alyssa Kaplan, Aug. 19, 2017
 Megan Davis '14 and Mickey Morstad '11, Sept. 2, 2017
 Connor Petersen '14 and Cianna Bedford, Sept. 24, 2016

Deaths

Kathrine "Kal" Larsen Kroll '36, Dallas, May 22, 2017
 Helen Lurndal Maland '38, Cottonwood, Minn., March 11, 2017
 *Arnold "Arne" Anderson '39, Minneapolis, May 8, 2017
 Esther Brenna Burmeister '39, Harmony, Minn., April 16, 2017
 Thelma Hanson Lee '41, Northfield, Minn., May 10, 2017
 Laura Ritland Tverberg '41, Northfield, Minn., June 10, 2017
 Marie Swanberg Cross '42, St. Louis Park, Minn., May 30, 2017
 Vi Sattre Christensen '43, Blue Earth, Minn., April 21, 2017
 *Robert Diercks '43, St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 29, 2016
 Ethel Swan Hascall '43, Minnetonka, Minn., Feb. 28, 2017
 Eileen "Winnifred" Larson Nelson '43, Alexandria, Minn., April 23, 2017
 *John Curry '44, Bloomington, Minn., July 25, 2016
 Jessamine "Maxine" Johnson Mueller '44, Middleton, Wis., May 10, 2017
 Marguerite "Marge" Bourret Lorentson '45, Ludington, Mich., May 24, 2017
 Elaine Hansen Maynard '45, Watertown, S.D., May 2, 2017
 Jeannette "Jay" Leding Deick '46, Lakeville, Minn., May 15, 2017
 Clare Solberg Gault '46, North Cape May, N.J., May 20, 2017
 *Robert Hadland '46, Northfield, Minn., June 3, 2017
 Marion Johnson Hayter '47, Puyallup, Wash., March 22, 2017
 *Roy Johnson '47, Verona, Wis., May 30, 2017
 Mary "Grace" Reinhardt Floyd '48, West Palm Beach, Fla., Feb. 11, 2016
 Alice Hammersland Hansen '48, Waverly, Iowa, Dec. 12, 2015
 *Philip Langehough '48, Manassas, Va., June 3, 2017
 Elaine Andersen Thurston '48, Morris, Minn., Feb. 26, 2017
 *Arne Carlson '49, Laporte, Minn., May 30, 2017
 Helen Jensen Aumiller '50, Boulder, Colo., May 28, 2017
 Richard Boehm '50, Newnan, Ga., March 30, 2017
 *Omar Jueland '50, South Holland, Ill., Dec. 29, 2016
 *Donald Morgenson '50, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, April 4, 2017
 Arthur "Marlin" Stene '50, Minneapolis, May 9, 2017
 *Winston Willmert '50, Bloomington, Minn., April 12, 2017

Betty Haugen Rice '51, Cold Spring, Minn., June 4, 2017
 *Loren Bruessel '52, Owatonna, Minn., March 3, 2017
 Erling Jorstad '52, Marana, Ariz., June 21, 2017
 *Quentin Karlsrud '52, Boulder, Colo., June 1, 2017
 Barbara Berkedal Krueger '52, Manitowoc, Wis., April 25, 2017
 Ruth Fevold Opem '52, Arlington Heights, Ill., June 1, 2017
 Robert Paulsen '52, Fountain Hills, Ariz., June 9, 2017
 Inez Haukvik Schmiesing '52, Lake Crystal, Minn., April 26, 2017
 Arlene Warner Schroeder '52, Minneapolis, Jan. 19, 2017
 Donna Sebo Beauchamp '53, Cody, Wyo., Feb. 26, 2017
 Adda Hammersland Boyce '53, Waterloo, Iowa, March 15, 2015
 Lorraine Rolandson Hotvet '54, Casa Grande, Ariz., June 13, 2017
 Carroll Hovland '54, Indian Wells, Calif., May 10, 2017
 *Donald Johnson '54, Sun City West, Ariz., May 6, 2017
 Gloria Dahle Himle '55, Hutchinson, Minn., May 11, 2017
 *Chester "Chet" Mathison '55, Bellingham, Wash., Feb. 28, 2017
 Ronald Olsen '55, Bellevue, Ohio, June 18, 2017
 *Frederick Radach '55, Des Moines, Iowa, June 12, 2017
 *John Scott '55, Avon Lake, Ohio, Jan. 7, 2017
 Carol Henninger Gilbertson '56, Cannon Falls, Minn., March 11, 2017
 *Oliver Hoffman '56, Richfield, Minn., March 28, 2017
 Robert Megard '56, St. Paul, Minn., May 25, 2017
 Nancy Peterson '56, Edina, Minn., March 18, 2017
 *Robert Warland '56, Fort Dodge, Iowa, May 23, 2017
 Susan Lerdahl Weiss '56, Madison, Wis., Feb. 22, 2017
 JoAnn Heil Cherry '57, Edina, Minn., June 22, 2017
 David Grande '57, Mankato, Minn., Feb. 23, 2017
 Carolyn Anderson Hampton '57, Waverly, Iowa, April 8, 2017
 Larry Prescott '57, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., March 27, 2017
 Larry Ashley '58, Austin, Minn., May 21, 2017
 David Dahl '58, Shorewood, Wis., Feb. 26, 2017
 Ruth Hoge Jameson '58, Earlville, Ill., March 27, 2017
 *Norman Knudsen '58, Waverly, Mo., March 25, 2017
 Lyle Larson '58, Amherst, Mass., April 20, 2017
 *Luther Rostvold '58, Philadelphia, March 16, 2017
 Barbara Wacker Berkeland '59, Willmar, Minn., Feb. 22, 2017
 Phyllis Jordahl Dexter '59, Indianapolis, May 30, 2017
 Lois Mogen Jorstad '59, Rochester, Minn., March 19, 2017
 Marjorie Bodamer Walter '59, Luana, Iowa, May 24, 2017
 Glennyce "Glenny" Harmon Jones '60, Menahga, Minn., April 21, 2017
 Emily Hagen Anderson '61, Minneapolis, June 16, 2017
 Rex Warland '61, Rocky River, Ohio, Jan. 29, 2017
 Sylvia Hensvik Mertens '62, St. Cloud, Minn., May 17, 2017
 Richard Olson '62, Amery, Wis., June 13, 2017
 Robert "Bob" Orwoll '62, Williamsburg, Va., May 26, 2017
 Joan Geiger Weber '62, Lake Barrington, Ill., March 31, 2017
 *Jack Brynildssen '63, Palatine, Ill., April 6, 2017
 Lynn Abraham '64, Hackensack, Minn., May 27, 2017
 David Biorn '64, Sioux City, Iowa, June 3, 2017
 Stephen Kurth '64, Neshkoro, Wis., March 22, 2017
 *Dennis Rike '65, Iowa City, Iowa, April 3, 2017
 Karen Kruse Cameron '66, San Bruno, Calif., June 11, 2017
 William Helz '66, Roswell, Ga., March 21, 2017
 *John Robinson '66, Colorado Springs, Colo., Feb. 3, 2017
 Barbara Bratschi Johnson '68, Minneapolis, June 11, 2017
 Patricia (PJ) Hepler Lambrecht '68, Stillwater, Minn., Dec. 21, 2016
 Karen Clark '70, Minneapolis, March 22, 2017
 Gary Iverson '70, Onalaska, Wis., May 8, 2017
 Stephen Ellerbusch '71, Baxter, Minn., June 5, 2017
 Mary Huemoeller '71, Medina, Wash., May 7, 2017
 Carol Njus Carlson '72, Brainerd, Minn., April 2, 2017
 Kathleen Rutherford '73, San Antonio, March 14, 2017
 Susan Northwall Calusic '75, Lancaster, Pa., May 9, 2017
 Pamela Anderson '78, Oxford, England, March 12, 2017
 Collin Dickey '79, Minneapolis, May 4, 2017
 Carl Feske '82, Franklin, Tenn., June 13, 2017
 Shelley Grimes '84, Minneapolis, March 20, 2017

Kelly Lozon Hafemeyer '85, Maple Grove, Minn., March 5, 2017
 Andrea Nelson '86, St. Paul, Minn., April 15, 2017
 Renata Formo Ledwick '96, Brunswick, Maine, March 18, 2017
 David Peterson '97, Steamboat Springs, Colo., Jan. 26, 2017
 Siri Thompson Raskob '12, Richfield, Minn., June 9, 2017
 Karan Patel '19, Chicago, July 3, 2017
 *VETERAN

In Remembrance



RUBEN HAUGEN

Professor of Music Ruben Haugen, a noted jazz musician, passed away on July 15, 2017, in Burnsville, Minnesota. He was 94 years old. He taught clarinet and saxophone at St. Olaf from 1957 to 1997. He also led the college's jazz band for many years.

Born into a musical family in 1922, Haugen was self-taught on the clarinet and at the age of 10 joined his father — a violinist — on

the Midwestern vaudeville circuit, beginning a nine-decades-long career as a professional musician. During World War II, Haugen flew reconnaissance with the U.S. Army as a camera operator over enemy territory in the Philippines. He carried a clarinet in his backpack and occasionally visited medical tents with other musicians to entertain wounded soldiers.

Haugen earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music from MacPhail School of Music in Minneapolis, which hired him to head up its woodwind department in 1951 upon graduation. At the time, Haugen was developing an interest in classical saxophone, an interest that led him in 1960 to become one of only three Americans who studied with Marcel Mule at the Paris Conservatory.

In addition to the many students he influenced at St. Olaf, Haugen taught hundreds more at MacPhail, the University of Minnesota, and the University of St. Thomas, as well as in private lessons and at band camps. He also served as executive director of Arrowhead Music Camp in Barnum, Minnesota.

Haugen is survived by his wife, Marie, and their children, Sharon, Robert Haugen '76 (Linda), and Julie Haugen '85 (Thomas), stepchildren Mark (Linda), Scott, and Todd (Wooldridge), and five grandchildren.

ERLING JORSTAD '52

Professor Emeritus of History and American Studies Erling Jorstad '52 passed away on June 21, 2017. He was 87 years old. Jorstad was born in Kenyon, Minnesota, in 1930, and joined his three siblings — Oscar, Curtis, and Elsie — in attending St. Olaf. He was an active student, serving on the honor council and as co-editor-in-chief of the *Manitou Messenger* and studying in England as a SPAN (Student Project for Amity among Nations) student during the summer of 1951.



Jorstad received a Danforth Foundation Graduate Fellowship and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1952. He went on to earn a master's degree from Harvard University in 1953 and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1957.

Jorstad began his 38-year teaching career at St. Olaf in 1956, where he found a home for his enthusiastic love of learning, and mentored and encouraged several generations of Oles to become history teachers. Jorstad's interests included America's intellectual and religious history, with his favorite teaching subjects being Alexis de Tocqueville, Thorstein Veblen, and Reinhold Niebuhr. He was well known for his three-point lecture outlines and wide-ranging, rapid delivery, and often stated as his guiding principle a description of Vice President Hubert Humphrey: "He talked too fast and didn't know when to quit."

Jorstad was especially interested in interdisciplinary studies and served on the founding committee for St. Olaf's Paracollege, as well as its Great Conversation and women's studies programs, and developed the college's first team-taught religious history course. In 1978-79, he led St. Olaf's Term in the Far East.

Jorstad's scholarly research grew out of his teaching. By the time he retired in 1994, he'd published 11 books on subjects such as the Protestant charismatic movement, evangelical popular culture, American religious history in the 1980s, and the leaders of the Christian right. He contributed articles to religion and American history encyclopedias and was an active book reviewer, publishing reviews in 25 scholarly journals.

Beyond St. Olaf, Jorstad taught courses for Elderhostel, Northfield's Elder Collegium, and Ole Hostels and Luther Hostels in Washington and Arizona. In addition, he led more than 30 adult forums for ELCA congregations, served two terms on the Grand Canyon Synodical Council in Arizona, and presented programs to several ELCA pastors' conferences and workshops. He presented research papers to the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the American Council of Church History, the Upper Midwest History Conferences, and several sociology of religion study groups. He also taught at several summer theological-musical conferences at St. Olaf and at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota.

In retirement, Jorstad enjoyed reading and riding his beloved bicycle in the countryside. His final book was *Twenty-Five Bicycle Tours in the Twin Cities and Southeastern Minnesota*. He is survived by his children, Eric Jorstad '78 and Laura Jorstad '82, and two grandchildren, Jessica and Krista.



OMAR OTTERNESS

Professor Emeritus of Religion Omar Otterness passed away on April 11, 2017, in Northfield. He was 98 years old. Otterness was born in 1918 in Brookings, South Dakota, and attended Augustana College. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Illinois. He met his wife, Margery, at a retreat in Estes Park, Colorado, a place that later became a favorite family vacation spot, and the pair married in 1944 after his graduation from Luther Seminary and subsequent ordination.

Otterness accepted a mission call to China, first studying Chinese at the University of California, Berkeley, and serving as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in San Francisco. In 1947, the Otternesses went to China to begin missionary work but were driven out in 1948 after the Communist takeover. Otterness continued his study of theology upon returning to the United States, earning a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago Divinity School. He also served pastoral calls at churches in Illinois, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

A lifelong learner and teacher, Otterness was known for his interest in and extensive knowledge of world religions, including how other world views and beliefs were formed and what Christians

might learn from other perspectives. He taught courses in theology, church history, and Asian religions at St. Olaf from 1960 to 1986. He helped design and teach in both the Paracollege and the Great Conversation program.

Otterness was deeply committed to immersion in the world's cultures through study abroad. In 1973, he taught a St. Olaf Interim course in Rome. He led Global Semester in 1973-74 and Term in the Middle East in 1977-78.

After retiring from St. Olaf, Otterness continued his commitment to lifelong learning as founder of the Cooperative Older Adult Ministry, an enrichment and community service program for seniors in south Minneapolis. He also was active in the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium. He is survived by his children, Rolf, Joann Espinosa, Mark (Kathryn), David, and Carol Spencer (Jerry), as well as five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



MYRON SOLID

Professor Emeritus of Education Myron Solid passed away on August 15, 2017, in Northfield. He was 77 years old. He was born in 1940 in Rushville, Nebraska, and grew up on his family's farm east of Rapid City, South Dakota. He earned both a B.S. in mathematics and physical science with professional education and an M.Ed. in mathematics education from Colorado State University, where he met his future wife, Carol. Solid earned a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Colorado.

Solid's first teaching position was in mathematics and physics at the Kamehameha School in Honolulu, Hawaii. He joined the St. Olaf faculty in 1971, beginning a 33-year-long career in shaping and mentoring scores of future teachers. He placed and visited many student teachers within the United States and in international schools throughout Asia. He served as chair of St. Olaf's Department of Education from 1986 to 1994 and was an adviser for many professional educational program evaluations, including St. Olaf's reaccreditation processes. He published several articles on the use of computers in education and consulted on technology use in the classroom with Northfield Public Schools, Kodaikanal International School in India, and the Aid Association for Lutherans Board of Lutheran High Schools. His committee work at St. Olaf touched every aspect of the college, from athletics and off-campus study to curriculum and the library. He led St. Olaf's Global Semester program in 1997-98.

Myron and Carol raised their family in Northfield and were active in the community. He was a longtime member of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of the Laura Baker School Association and had served as president and treasurer of St. John's Lutheran Church. He also was on the Parent Advisory Council and Strategic Planning Committee of Northfield Public Schools and on the board of the United Way. Myron and Carol believed in the power of education and established the Myron L. and Carol J. Solid Endowed Scholarship to provide financial assistance to students at St. Olaf.

After retiring from St. Olaf in 2004, Solid enjoyed traveling with Carol, his wife of 53 years, to such destinations as Spain, Africa, and Alaska. She survives him, as do their children, David (Robin) Solid, Kristin Solid '94 (Sam Easterson), and Craig Solid '97 (Emily), and five grandchildren.



ROOMMATES, ca. 1960

GERTRUDE HILLEBOE



Hilleboe added, “Of course I considered other things — their common interests and field of study — but the first thing I’d do would be to separate them according to height and weight then work from there.” She noted that in 1915, her first year on the job, she made the mistake of “putting a girl who was less than five feet tall with one who was almost seven feet tall,” a mismatch she never

would repeat again. As she recalled, from that point on, her roommate pairing system encountered “very few” failures.

In her early years as dean of women, the bigger issue for Hilleboe was addressing the inadequate housing for students. She said in the 1968 interview, “It got to the point that I had 100 girls living in the dorm [old Mohn] and 400 [living] off campus. And there were never enough homes for either boys or girls. I can remember walking the streets during the days right after World War I, asking people to open their homes.”

For most of her working life, Hilleboe resided in the women’s dormitories, first in Old Mohn Hall and then, in 1938, in the newly built Agnes Mellby Hall, where she had a private bath for the first time. She made it a point to have at least one conversation with each woman student on campus in order to get to know her charges a little better. After 1951, she built a house adjacent to campus on Lincoln Avenue, where she lived the remainder of her life.

Steed soon got to know her roommate better as well. At first she said the two of them were “the poster children for how not to pair people.” She recalled an indifferent comment from her roommate after slipping on the ice and getting her tights and tent dress wet. Returning to her Hoyme Hall dormitory room cold and wet, she fumed, “I hate this weather!” Her roommate “woke up just long enough to say, ‘It’s October.’”

The defining moment in their relationship, however, took place one day when Steed, who hadn’t read the material for her imminent first-year discussion group, was feeling pressed for time. Turning to her roommate for help, she inquired if the young woman knew anything about Ole E. Rølvaag’s novel *Giants in the Earth*. Her roommate responded, “Probably. My grandfather wrote it.” For the remainder of the year, Steed wrote, “Everything else the rest of the year was worth that moment — and the October comment.” 🍂

JEFF SAUVE is associate archivist at the Shaw-Olson Center for College History at St. Olaf College. Share your St. Olaf stories with him at sauve@stolaf.edu.

ALMANAC

Sizing Up Roommates

BY JEFF SAUVE

GENERATIONS OF FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS have asked the question, How did I get paired with this person for a roommate? St. Olaf College alumna Deborah D. Steed ’71 related her new roommate experiences in an August 2010 *New York Times* letter to the editor.

Steed, a self-proclaimed “small-time Texas debutante who specialized in tent dresses,” wrote that her first-year roommate in 1967, who hailed from northern Minnesota, presented quite a contrast to her Wichita Falls sensibilities when she arrived wearing “gender-bending dress. Baggy pants, no makeup, unruly hair.” She added, “My mother lined my dresser drawers with scented paper and placed my gilded mirror on top — after she hung my dresses in the closet, perfectly spaced.” In stark contrast, Steed’s roommate “stuck a pair of snowshoes and discarded art from a garbage bin on the wall.” According to Steed, the two mismatched roommates had been paired by height.

The peculiar practice of coed height matching had been perfected by long-time dean of women Gertrude M. Hilleboe, who served the college in this role from 1915 to 1958. In a 1968 *Minneapolis Star* interview, Hilleboe said her number one rule for matching roommates was simple: “Don’t put short girls with tall girls or heavy girls with skinny girls.” She believed that roommates who were physically opposite might tend to feel self-conscious with each other and perhaps not get along.



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PARTING SHOT



In 1947, a Friday night pep rally in the old gymnasium kicked off the Homecoming theme, "Manitou Ever Glorious," and popular senior Betty Hustad was crowned Homecoming Queen by the student body. Reigning over all Homecoming Weekend festivities, Queen Betty — and her four attendants, Dorothy Cole, Mable Heen, Phyllis Lawrence, and Avis Wahl — led the annual Saturday Homecoming parade in the traditional convertible, winding their way through downtown Northfield and back to the football field, where the St. Olaf Lions met the Augsburg Auggies for that afternoon's face-off. The prescient game slogan, "A Lion Ate Augsburg," resulted in the Oles beating their opponent 19–13. According to the *Manitou Messenger*, it was the last happy Homecoming game for many years.