

# ST. OLAF

WINTER 2013



GLOBAL CITIZENS    GOING TO EXTREMES    OLE INNOVATORS

ON THE COVER:  
Vanessa Trice Peter '93 in the  
Los Angeles studio of paper  
artist Anna Bondoc. PHOTO BY  
NANCY PASTOR / POLARIS

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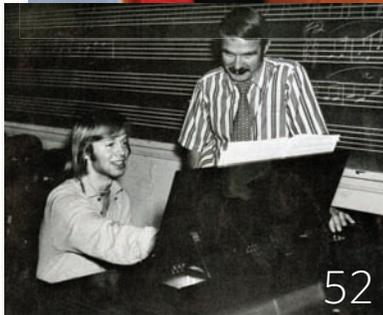
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# ST. OLAF

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“We believe in the power of talent, creativity, hard work, and sound values to produce success and to create good.”

*Dear Oles,*

This issue of *St. Olaf Magazine* features inputs and outputs.

What are the hallmarks of a fine college? One is its ability to gather remarkable students to learn together. Another is the ability of faculty and staff to provide a transformational experience for those students. A third is the ability of those students to translate the results of that experience into a postgraduate life characterized by financial independence, professional accomplishment, and personal fulfillment.

The forty-six Oles who are Davis United World College Scholars exemplify the kind of remarkable students the College brings together on the Hill to form a community of learners. This is the input side of the formula. The stories of Sophie Dekker, Mirwais Wakil, Pumla Maswanganyi, Preben Bay, and Kagan Sen paint a portrait of the rich diversity of experiences, interests, abilities, and aspirations that students bring to St. Olaf. That diversity and quality of input into the learning environment is a core element of our ability to offer a transformational experience to our students.

Transformed into what? St. Olaf has 36,000 alumni all over the world engaged in every imaginable activity, so it's hard to generalize. But the articles that feature Ole entrepreneurs on the one hand and extreme adventurer Eric Larsen '93 on the other tell some compelling stories. This is the output side of the formula: a biology major who creates best-selling videogames, a St. Olaf grad who is the founder of a nationally-known jazz club, a physics and art major who found a way to use technology to ensure that people take their medication, a graduate of the Paracollege who is CEO of a paper art company, an Ole who, as a student, changed his major five times and whose company manufactures robots, four current students who are running a business while in college, a biology and environmental studies major who in one year summited Mt. Everest and traveled to both poles to dramatize the effects of climate change.

What experiences at the College led to these results? Analytical skills developed in the classroom, values formed at the hands of Emeritus Professor of Religion Vern Failletaz, a student work assignment to develop language-learning software, study travel on the Term in the Middle East, problem-solving to complete group class assignments.

St. Olaf is a fundamentally optimistic place. We believe in the power of talent, creativity, hard work, and sound values to produce success and to create good. The beginning of a new year renews hope for our collective future, and that hope is reinforced by these stories of what Oles are preparing to do and what they have already done.

*David R. Anderson*

# A Natural Connection

Their work space spans more than 350 acres of restored habitat, their tasks include conservation and ecological research, and they share a passion for environmental education. They are the St. Olaf College student naturalists.

The St. Olaf Student Naturalist Program employs up to four students each year who are responsible for conducting long-term research, furthering conservation efforts, and providing environmental education opportunities. This year's student naturalists, all seniors, are Rozlyn Anderson, Emma Cornwell, Andrew Kaul, and Kirsten Maier.

The student naturalists help maintain St. Olaf's Natural Lands — restored native tallgrass prairie, wetlands, and woodlands bordering the campus — including the Bluebird Trail, a path with 64 nest boxes that offer habitat and protection for native birds threatened by increasing urbanization. Throughout the year, the students also host community events ranging from prairie seed collections and buckthorn pulls in the fall to snowshoe hikes through the Natural Lands in the winter to weekly phenology walks through the prairie and woods in the spring.

"The events are a way to educate students about the ongoing work involved in conservation," says Cornwell, whose academic research involves investigating the optimum input of nitrogen fertilizer on St. Olaf farmland.

Other responsibilities include writing articles for the biology department's monthly publication, *Biomass*, providing monthly instruction on

basic ecology, and leading field trips to the Natural Lands for schoolchildren attending Northfield's Open Door Nursery and Greenvale Elementary School.

To facilitate self-guided tours of the Natural Lands, this year's student naturalists plan to create informational signposts for the walking paths that will combine modern technology with ecological education. "The signs will have QR codes [Quick Response barcodes] people can scan with their phones to bring up further information on the Natural Lands website," says Cornwell.

## FUTURE PLANS

Following his graduation in May, Kaul hopes to apply his experience in preserving an endangered biome to a career in conservation work. "The skills that I develop through the Student Naturalist Program, such as organizing events, communicating scientific ideas to a general audience, and carrying out land maintenance duties, will make me qualified for a naturalist position after I graduate," he says.

Both Maier and Anderson likewise plan to apply their naturalist experience to careers in environmental and outdoor education. While Cornwell is unsure of her specific plans for the future, she recognizes the value of the skills the Student Naturalist Program provides.

She adds, "The program will give me knowledge and leadership skills that will be applicable no matter what I decide to do."

—Lara Palmquist '13



Professor of Biology and Curator of the Natural Lands Kathy Shea (left) oversees the St. Olaf Student Naturalist Program, which this year employs seniors (from left) Emma Cornwell, Rozlyn Anderson, Kirsten Maier, and Andrew Kaul.

# THE ST·OLAF CHOIR

ANTON ARMSTRONG · CONDUCTOR

## Winter TOUR 2013

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30**

Seattle, Washington  
Benaroya Hall

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

Eugene, Oregon  
The Hult Center

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

Portland, Oregon  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

Salem, Oregon  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

Sacramento, California  
Fremont Presbyterian Church

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

San Francisco, California  
St. Ignatius Church

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

San Luis Obispo, California  
Performing Arts Center

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

Santa Barbara, California  
First Presbyterian Church

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

Pasadena, California  
First United Methodist Church

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

Phoenix, Arizona  
Mesa Arts Center

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

Tucson, Arizona  
University of Arizona

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

Stillwater, Minnesota  
Trinity Lutheran Church

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

Home Concert  
Boe Memorial Chapel

[stolaftickets.com](http://stolaftickets.com)

[stolaf.edu/music](http://stolaf.edu/music)

## Northern Explorer

In 2010, Norwegian marine explorers Thorleif Thorleifsson and Børge Ousland became the first to sail around the North Pole in a single short season. Their voyage — which took them through the Northern Sea Route in Russia, the Northwest Passage in Canada, and across the North Atlantic — covered

10,000 nautical miles in a record-breaking 80 days. Thorleifsson (above) recently visited the St. Olaf campus to discuss with students not only the challenges of his unprecedented voyage but also the history of Norwegian Arctic exploration and the explorers of the past. His lecture, "A Voyage Around the North Pole: Modern Exploration and Climate Change," is available at [stolaf.edu/multimedia](http://stolaf.edu/multimedia).



URD MILBURY/NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

## CSI:ST.OLAF

A new grant from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is enabling St. Olaf students to dig deeper into forensic research. Associate Professor of Chemistry Doug Beussman '92



will work with six students over the next three years on research involving the analysis of trace forensic evidence using isotope ratio mass spectrometry. The research aims to develop new ways to analyze fibers found in crime scene investigations.

Currently, when fiber or thread is found at a crime scene, only the color and the kind of fabric can be determined — neither of which is

specific enough to identify the fiber as coming from a given piece of clothing, explains Beussman. However, the atoms in the molecules of the clothing's fabric can relate to where the material originates — which brand or where it was made — because the environment affects the pattern of isotopes. Connecting the clothing fibers found at the scene of a crime to the clothing of a suspect brings investigators one step closer to justice.

"A connection between the fibers would count as circumstantial evidence, and often-times in court cases, enough circumstantial evidence leads to a verdict in the case," Beussman says.

St. Olaf was one of eleven schools — and the only liberal arts college — to earn this grant from the NIJ.

## Athletic Hall of Fame Honorees

During Homecoming last fall, seven alumni were honored by the college and welcomed into the 2012 St. Olaf Athletic Hall of Fame by the St. Olaf Department of Athletics.



Pictured, from left: Gabe Kortuem '02 (Diving), Kyle Ness '84 (Golf and Hockey), Roger Forystek '86 (Football and Wrestling), Maggie Cope Niska '99 (Volleyball), Bob Carlson '91 (Baseball), and Brian Sprout '02 (Baseball and Football). Not pictured: Rob Glover '95 (Track).



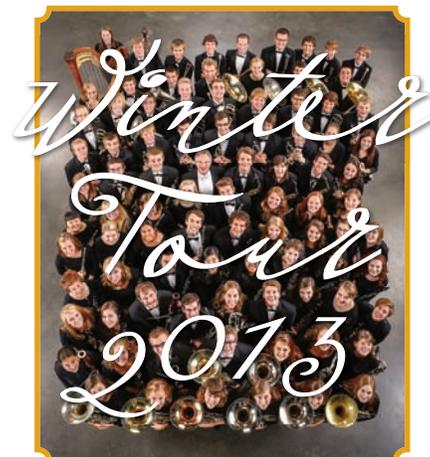
## Career High

Head volleyball coach Cindy Book reached 700 career wins this fall, becoming the third active coach in NCAA Division III women's volleyball history to reach this milestone. Book is ranked eighth overall in total wins by NCAA Division III coaches and ranked 17th in total wins across all NCAA divisions (active coaches). Book, an associate professor of exercise science and chair of the exercise science department, is in her 20th season as head volleyball coach at St. Olaf.



## THE ST · OLAF BAND

TIMOTHY MAHR · CONDUCTOR



**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30**  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Ankeny High School Auditorium

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 31**  
Overland Park, Kansas  
Atonement Lutheran Church

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1**  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Owasso High School

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2**  
Dallas, Texas  
McKinney North High School

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3**  
Houston, Texas  
DeKaney High School

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4**  
Bartlesville, Oklahoma  
Bartlesville High School

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5**  
Omaha, Nebraska  
Holland Center

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6**  
Mankato, Minnesota  
Mankato West High School

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10**  
Home Concert  
Skoglund Center Auditorium

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[stolaf.edu/music](http://stolaf.edu/music)

BLACK AND GOLD

## Winter Gala

AN EVENING FOR CONNECTION AND CELEBRATION

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2013**

6 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT · HILTON MINNEAPOLIS

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

*Black tie encouraged; Norwegian sweaters optional*

*Registration and auction details are available*

*at [stolaf.edu/alumni/events/gala](http://stolaf.edu/alumni/events/gala) or*

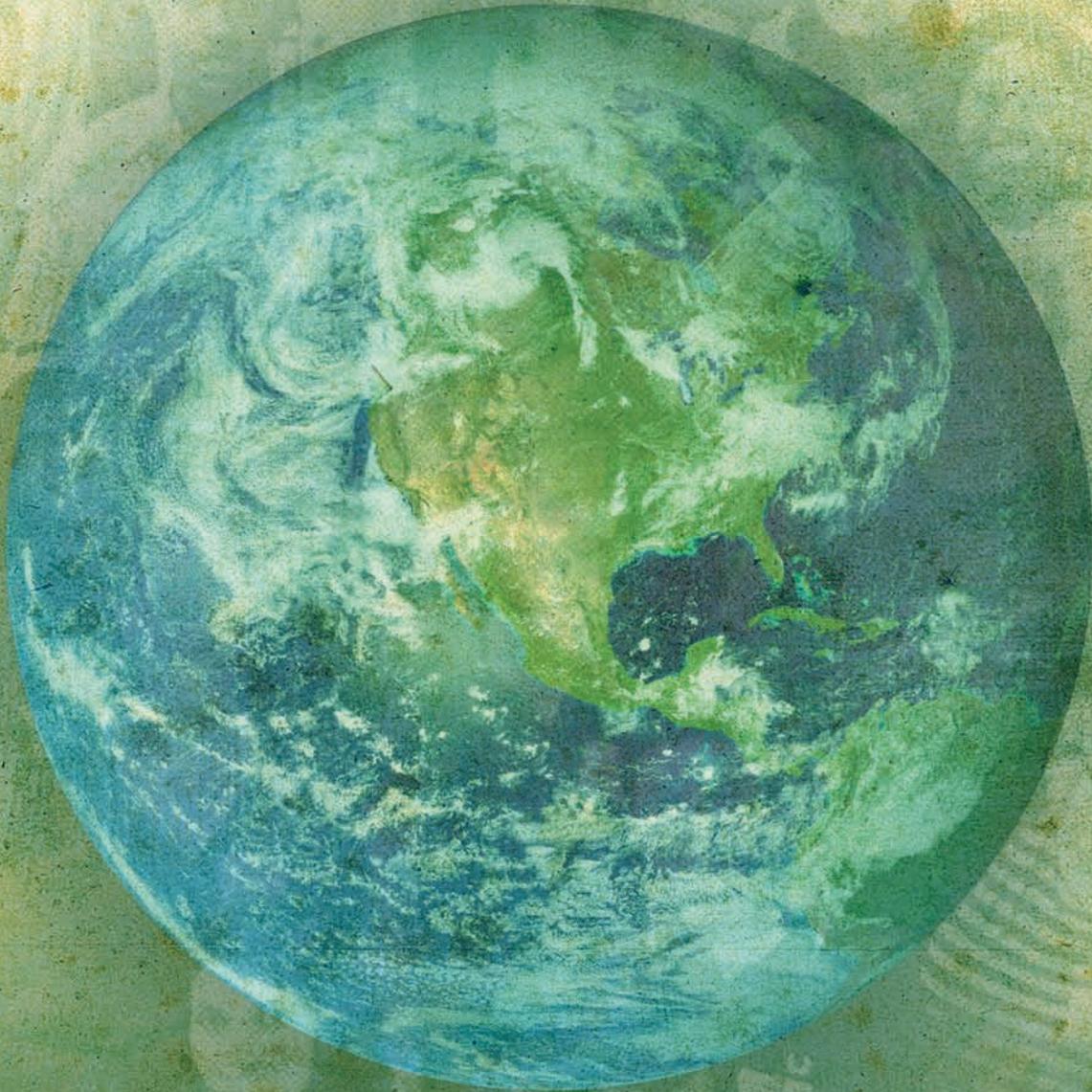
*by calling 888-865-6537.*



# GLOBAL CITIZENS

*St. Olaf's Davis United World College Scholars hail from around the world, bringing an international perspective to the Hill.*

BY MARLA HILL HOLT '88 | PHOTOS BY KYLE OBERMANN '14



**M**irwais Wakil '15 was only nine years old when his parents had to flee Afghanistan, leaving Wakil and his sister behind until they were reunited with their mother in Austria six years later. Preben Bay '14 played soccer as a child growing up outside Oslo, Norway. Pumla Maswanganyi '16 grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa, with her mother and a much older sister, who was responsible for earning money to pay for Maswanganyi's education. Sophie Dekker '15 learned English, French, German, Greek, and Latin at her public school in the Netherlands. Kagan Sen '14 comes from a Greek immigrant family in Turkey and is currently spending the year at the London School of Economics.

Wakil, Bay, Maswanganyi, Dekker, and Sen hail from different countries and cultures, have experienced diverse upbringings, and come from a variety of family backgrounds, but they possess in common the desire to share their lives and perspectives with others. Talented and energetic, these students developed strong leadership skills as high school students at United World Colleges around the globe. Now, as Davis United World College (UWC) Scholars at St. Olaf, they are enriching the St. Olaf learning community through their commitment to open-mindedness and global awareness.

United World Colleges are international baccalaureate high schools that educate students in an environment of shared learning, collaboration, and international understanding to promote positive social action and build a more equitable and peaceful world.

And that’s a good thing. Students of all backgrounds and life experiences — living and studying together on a small residential college campus — benefit from the friendships formed in the dorms and the open, honest exchanges that happen in the classroom, says Katherine Tegtmeier Pak, associate professor of Asian studies and political science at St. Olaf.

“Our perspectives and the kinds of information we know from our childhoods — just the things we absorb by growing up somewhere — affect the way we approach our intellectual life,” says Tegtmeier Pak. “Historically at St. Olaf, we have been lucky to have many students who have traveled quite a bit, with their families or through study abroad programs. But it’s not the same as really, truly coming from different places. It’s delightful to have international students as partners in the learning process. They enrich our conversations wonderfully.”

St. Olaf became a member college in the Davis UWC Scholars program — the world’s largest privately-funded international scholarship program — in the fall of 2008. Forty-six of St. Olaf’s



UWC is a British-based foundation with high schools and colleges in Canada, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Norway, Singapore, Swaziland, the United States, the United Kingdom, Costa Rica, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Netherlands. Davis UWC Scholars (L-R) Theresia Kinanti Dewi '16, from Indonesia, and Pumla Maswanganyi '16, from South Africa, attended the UWC in the Netherlands. Nadya Pramudita '16, from Indonesia, attended the UWC in Wales.

158 international students, who represent 57 countries, currently are Davis UWC Scholars.

Philanthropist Shelby Davis launched the program in 2000 to advance international understanding through education and to increase the number of international students on American college campuses. Davis worked with international educator Philip Geier to partner with twelve UWCs throughout the world and ninety-four select colleges and universities in the United States. UWCs are international baccalaureate high schools that educate students in an environment of shared learning, collaboration, and international understanding to promote positive social action to build a more equitable and peaceful world. Students are not given a choice of which UWC to attend, but rather are placed at a specific UWC by national committees that consider their applications.

Each UWC graduate who gains admittance to the member colleges or universities in the Davis UWC Scholars program is awarded a need-based scholarship from the Davis Foundation, with the student’s additional financial need being met by the admitting college. Currently, there are more than 2,500 undergraduates from 146 nations in the program. ▶



From left, Sophie Dekker '15, from the Netherlands, attended the UWC in Flekke, Norway; Gabriel Trejos '14, from Costa Rica, and Dea Jessica '15, from Indonesia, both attended the UWC in Costa Rica.



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The Davis UWC Scholars program is an ideal way for St. Olaf to connect with interesting, well-qualified international students, says Jenny Howenstine '98, associate dean of admissions and director of international recruitment. "These students are the best of the best from their countries, and they've already had a very interesting two-year UWC experience, living abroad with people from all over the world, which prepares them very well to succeed at whatever they do," Howenstine says.

President David Anderson '74 notes the importance of having Davis UWC Scholars on campus. "We aim to incorporate a global perspective into a St. Olaf education, and the presence of international students helps us to achieve that goal," he says. "They enrich our classroom conversations and our campus life with ideas, experiences, and perspectives that help our American students prepare to live in a global society."

St. Olaf welcomed its first four Davis Scholars in the fall of 2009. Of that first class, one student will graduate in 2013, two have taken a year off and will graduate in 2014, and one has since left St. Olaf. The program has grown each year, with six scholars entering in 2010, fourteen in 2011, and twenty-three in 2012. Howenstine hopes the program will continue to grow at a sustainable rate. "There is just such great energy and momentum around international student recruitment right now," she says. "All that these students bring to campus is so exciting."

"Davis Scholars are particularly poised and willing to take risks to disagree or present a different perspective because of their experiences at the United World Colleges, where cross-cultural perspectives are the norm."

— **CHRISTY HALL-HOLT**, INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISOR



Mirwais Wakil '15 (left), from Austria and Afghanistan, and Stipe Cavar '14, from Croatia, attended the UWC in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Tea Dejanovic '15 (center), from Bosnia-Herzegovina, attended the UWC in Flekke, Norway.



From left, Rigsar Wangchuk '16, from Bhutan, attended the UWC in the U.S.; Irham Yunardi '16, from Indonesia, attended the UWC in Singapore; Damene Woldemariam '16, from Ethiopia, attended the UWC in Swaziland.

St. Olaf's Davis UWC Scholars come from nearly every continent, hailing from such countries as Venezuela, Denmark, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Palestine, the Bahamas, and Kenya. The program has allowed St. Olaf to broaden the diversity among its student body, bringing the number of countries represented to seventy.

The Davis UWC Scholars are enriching interactions both inside and outside the classroom through their willingness to reflect more broadly on the ideological, political, and cultural issues of the day. "One of the most important aspects of having international students at St. Olaf is the perspectives they bring. They help all of us to see that there is more than one way to do something, or understand an issue, or approach a problem," says Christy Hall-Holt, St. Olaf's international student advisor. "Davis UWC Scholars are particularly poised and willing to take risks to disagree or present a different perspective because of their experiences at the United World Colleges, an environment where cross-cultural perspectives are the norm."

Given their collaborative, intercultural experiences at UWC, Davis UWC Scholars often are eager to take on leadership roles, helping other international students have a voice on campus by encouraging participation in International Night and activities sponsored by International Awareness House. "These students are like all St. Olaf students," says President Anderson. "They're smart, funny, ambitious, and passionate about making a difference in the world."

Howenstine anticipates even greater leadership among the Davis UWC Scholars as more of them become upperclassmen. Many of the students have expressed interest in applying for a Davis Projects for Peace Grant, a separate Davis Foundation program — administered through St. Olaf's Piper Center for Vocation and Career — that supports and encourages young people to create and try out their ideas for building peace. "I'm sure St. Olaf's Davis UWC Scholars will be successful, considering their connections to other parts of the world and the creativity and determination they bring to everything they do," Howenstine says.

# A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

*Five Davis UWC Scholars reflect on their journeys from home to United World College to St. Olaf.*

BY MARLA HILL HOLT '88

## SOPHIE DEKKER '15

**HOMETOWN:** Haarlem, the Netherlands

**UNITED WORLD COLLEGE:** Red Cross Nordic, Flekke, Norway

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER

**A**s a high school student, Sophie Dekker biked thirty minutes from her home outside Amsterdam to her school, where she studied social sciences and developed a love of languages. “I had to take Dutch and English, of course, and then I was allowed French, German, Greek, and Latin,” she says. She worked as a tutor after school and taught swimming lessons on Sundays. She was a lifeguard, a dancer, and a sailor. “I was very busy at home,” she says.

Dekker dreamed of studying abroad after high school. “I really wanted to see the world and to be in a different environment,” Dekker says. UWC fit the bill, albeit earlier than she expected to leave home. Throughout the process of applying to UWC, Dekker’s mother remained supportive and positive, though she worried a bit — as mothers so often do — that her daughter would be sent to a faraway country. Ultimately, she attended the UWC in Flekke, Norway, much to “my mother’s relief,” she says.

Dekker was surprised at the topographical differences between Norway and the Netherlands. “Our school was on the edge of a fjord, isolated and very beautiful, with a lot of mountains, which we don’t have in the Netherlands,” she says. The academics and personal relationships were “very intense” at first, but as time went on, Dekker says she became more broadly aware of the world. “I was no longer just reading about a country or a conflict in a book but actually hearing about it from people with firsthand experience. I gained insight into many cultures, and that was very special to me,” she says. “I also had to represent my own culture, which made me very aware of how it has shaped me.”

Dekker chose St. Olaf because of its “strong sense of community,” she says. “People really want to get to know you — you’re not just a number in a system.” As co-chair of the International Student Organization, Dekker helps to coordinate International Night, a popular annual event that raises awareness about the countries and cultures of St. Olaf’s international students. She also is a peer advisor in St. Olaf’s Piper Center for Vocation and Career.

With her affinity for languages, it’s not surprising that Dekker has excelled at learning Spanish and plans to study in Ecuador next year. She is majoring in sociology/anthropology and Hispanic studies, with a concentration in Middle Eastern studies. Dekker hopes to work someday with immigrant populations or in international development, particularly in a job that requires “lots of travel and good language skills.”

“I’m very grateful for the opportunity that Davis has given me,” she says. “After all, without this scholarship I would not have been able to attend St. Olaf, or any other college in the United States!” ▶



## PREBEN BAY '14

**HOMETOWN:** Asker, Norway

**UNITED WORLD COLLEGE:**

Li Po Chun, Hong Kong SAR, China

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER

Preben Bay grew up playing soccer and living with his three siblings and parents in Asker, a town just outside Oslo, Norway. He attended public school through tenth grade. “I had a very normal home life,” he says. One of his ninth-grade teachers mentioned UWC to him, and “it was very tempting to me as a fifteen-year-old,” Bay says. “UWC appealed to my adventurous side. The education in Norway is very good, but I felt like something was missing. I had a feeling I was looking for something, I just didn’t know what it was.”

At UWC in Hong Kong, Bay was one of 240 students of 90 nationalities. “My time in Hong Kong was amazing,” he says. “It was incredible meeting so many people from so many places. I loved it from the first second.” He had two roommates from Hong Kong and one from Israel. “These are people and cultures I knew nothing about,” Bay says. “I had to kick every stereotype and every idea I thought I had about other cultures out the window and start learning from scratch. I learned to find similarities, and it didn’t take long to see past my cultural assumptions.”

Bay came to St. Olaf in the fall of 2009 as a member of the first class of Davis Scholars. After his first year, he left the college to fulfill an obligatory year of military service in Norway, returning to campus this past fall. “As a Norwegian in Hong Kong, I felt like a fish on land,” Bay says. “There was nothing about Hong Kong that reminded me of home. You can imagine that a Norwegian at St. Olaf feels a little less out of place.” Majoring in physics and environmental studies, he has continued his passion for soccer, playing goal keeper on the men’s varsity team. He also works as a language tutor and translator for the Norwegian Department.

Bay says he shares his viewpoint on issues — particularly those in politics — when he’s comfortable doing so. Discussions during the recent election cycle were “very interesting,” he says. “I come

from a system that’s based on socialism, really, with heavy taxation and a lot of public welfare good. Here in the United States, socialism is often viewed as taboo,” Bay says. “My perceptions are challenged all the time, and I hope that I can challenge some of the American students’ perceptions and assumptions as well.”

Bay’s future plans include working on the development of clean energy sources to reduce oil dependency. “I’d like to have a part in solving the global energy crisis,” he says.



## PUMLA MASWANGANYI '16

**HOMETOWN:** Johannesburg, South Africa

**UNITED WORLD COLLEGE:** Maastricht, the Netherlands

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER

**P**umla Maswanganyi was fifteen when she first learned about UWC from a friend who happened upon an advertisement for UWC on a social networking site. Maswanganyi thought it sounded too good to be true. South Africa was hosting the FIFA Soccer World Cup at the time, and “there were a lot of scams with people trying to take kids and

I thought ‘this school can’t be real,’” Maswanganyi says. But the idea of it stuck with her, and she eventually applied, seeing UWC not only as an opportunity for herself but also as a way to release her sister, older by sixteen years, from the responsibility of paying for her education at a Roman Catholic school in Johannesburg, something her sister began doing after Maswanganyi’s father died when she was fourteen.

Maswanganyi was accepted to the UWC in Maastricht. “I was overjoyed because I’d never gotten the chance to travel,” she says. “I was also the awkward child in school, and I was most eager to join other kids who were likely just as awkward.” Her experience

at UWC did not disappoint her. “At Maastricht, the emphasis was on learning more outside of class, and so we hopped from Belgium to Germany to France and other countries close by,” she says. “I realized South Africans are limited by our lack of a traveling spirit. We are often cooped up in our own little space.”

Like others before her, Maswanganyi benefited from opportunities to learn from people of other cultures. “It’s amazing how one organization can bring all these students together from different parts of the world to find common ideals,” she says. “Especially from cultures that seem to be polar opposites.” While at UWC, Maswanganyi attended a Global Issues Network conference on equality in Luxembourg, meeting with leaders from the United Nations and the World Bank.

When she first arrived at St. Olaf, Maswanganyi worried about the college’s acceptance of students outside the Lutheran tradition. “I expected the college to be one-minded in terms of religion because being a Lutheran school is always highlighted,” she says. She has found that the topic of religion at St. Olaf is treated with the same spirit of open-mindedness she learned at UWC. “It’s not exclusive. If you are not comfortable with it, it’s not rubbed in your face. If you would like to know more about it, it’s there for you to learn from.”

Maswanganyi plans to major in studio art, with an Africa and the Americas concentration. She hopes to someday work with the African Union, assisting her home continent in developing sustainable business practices. ▶





## MIRWAIS WAKIL '15

**HOMETOWNS:** Ghazni, Afghanistan, and Vienna, Austria

**UNITED WORLD COLLEGE:**

Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER

When Mirwais Wakil was nine years old, his parents fled the Taliban regime in his native Afghanistan. “My sister and I lost connection with our parents,” he says. “We were left behind because we were children.” Wakil had four years of schooling until age nine, and then was forced to study Arabic and Islam at a school run by the Taliban. At age fifteen, six years after his parents’ departure, Wakil learned his mother was alive and living in Austria, and the siblings were reunited with her. His father, however, is still lost.

In Austria, Wakil pushed himself to do well in school because he wanted to do something better with his life than “just work without education,” he says. He was older than his classmates and, given his self-imposed work ethic, he was bored with schoolwork and looking for more. “The way I had lived life by that time had affected me,” he says. One of his teachers recommended UWC, and Wakil soon was convinced the UWC experience was for him.

“In Afghanistan, there are three different ethnic groups having a civil war,” Wakil says. “In Bosnia, Serbs, Croats, and Bosnians had a civil war fifteen years ago, and there is still a lot of hate between different groups in the city of Mostar. I think I was chosen to go there because the environment was very fitting to my background.”

Wakil’s UWC roommates included a Dane, a Serb, and a Bosnian at a time when tensions throughout the world were high due to the publication of caricatures of the prophet Mohammed in a Danish newspaper. “My Danish roommate was afraid of what I might do to him in the night and so on, which showed how generalizations were being made about Muslim people at that time,” Wakil says.

He now counts that Danish roommate as one of his best friends, along with others from the United States, Israel, and Norway, a development he credits to his time at UWC. “I learned that every person, country, religion, and tradition has its own values and that our stereotypes don’t fit,” he says. “We can live



with each other and respect each other as human beings.”

Wakil’s transition to St. Olaf was eased by the fact that two of his friends from UWC were already attending the college. He and six other students formed International Awareness House to engage the St. Olaf and Northfield communities in shared activities and discussions around issues of international interest. “Mostly, I try to share a new perspective,” Wakil says. “Due to my background, I may have contradicting or difficult-to-understand views.”

Wakil is majoring in studio art, political science, and economics. He is very interested in human rights and hopes to work someday for a non-governmental organization in international development.

## KAGAN SEN '14

**HOMETOWN:** Bursa, Turkey

**UNITED WORLD COLLEGE:** Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina

PHOTOGRAPHED IN LONDON BY CHRIS WELSCH

**K**agan Sen's grandparents emigrated from Greece to Turkey in 1958, "when they were really old," he says. His father's many hardships en route to earning a university education motivated Sen to educate himself, but he was frustrated with the Turkish educational system, which relied on a series of "silly tests" and assigned him to a high school where students were required to specialize in cognitive sciences and math. Sen wanted something different for himself, he says. "I know no one from that school who is not studying medicine or engineering now."

Sen first heard of UWC in seventh grade, when he read about it in a children's novel. The idea that a school existed for the purpose of bringing students together from many different countries to promote a more peaceful world intrigued Sen. But waiting two-and-a-half-years until he was old enough to apply was excruciating. "I wanted to go there so badly," he says.

At just sixteen, Sen was chosen to attend the UWC in Mostar,

and he found his life was "full of pleasures and constant learning," he says. "Imagine your education is not assessed by the grades you obtain but by the number of coffees you grabbed with amazing people from all over the world. Just by speaking to these diverse people, you can comprehend so much more than any textbook could ever contain."

St. Olaf's exchange program with the London School of Economics (LSE) was a major factor in Sen's decision to attend the college. As an economics major, he is spending his junior year at LSE being "utterly amazed by the school and how much it feeds me intellectually," he says. "I am treating myself to the most fantastic of reading lists and lectures." Sen is curious about the dynamics of regional development, particularly in agriculture-dependent economies, and how these economies transform and integrate themselves into "the global trend of industrialization," he says. "I'm interested in developing policies that might address the social and economic problems that industrialization carried along in Turkey." Ultimately, Sen would like to pursue communal farming in western Turkey, creating an agricultural surplus in exchange, he says, for "arts, music, sailing, and joy." 🐾

MARLA HILL HOLT '88 is a freelance writer living in Owatonna, Minnesota



GOING TO

# Extremes



IN THE SPAN OF A SINGLE YEAR, ERIC LARSEN '93 TRAVELED TO BOTH OF EARTH'S  
POLES AND SUMMITTED MOUNT EVEREST IN AN EFFORT TO BRING ATTENTION  
TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. HERE ARE SIX VITAL  
LESSONS HE LEARNED ABOUT COLD, ICE, STAMINA, AND PERSEVERANCE.

By Joel Hoekstra '92

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF ERIC LARSEN



**I**t began as a lark. What kind of stunt, Eric Larsen wondered, would make people take notice of climate change and its effect on Planet Earth? Explorers had already gone to the North and South poles to blog about how the ice caps were melting. Other adventurers had summited Everest — sometimes called the “third pole” — to draw attention the world’s environmental problems. But no one, it dawned on him, had done all three things in the span of 365 days.

“To visit all three places in one year would be pretty over the top,” says Larsen, recalling the moment he hatched his ambitious plan.

It was 2009, and Larsen had already amassed some serious credentials as an adventurer traveler. He’d practically grown up outside — banding birds, making maple syrup, and collecting prairie seeds at the nature center that his father ran in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. He’d majored in biology and environmental studies at St. Olaf and spent his summers canoeing in the Boundary Waters and crisscrossing the Midwest on his bicycle. Post-college, he had worked as a ranger in Alaska, captained whitewater-rafting trips in Colorado, and led dog-sled junkets in northern Minnesota. In 2006, he had joined veteran explorer Lonnie Dupre on a trek to the North Pole. Two years later, he’d guided four clients to the South Pole and, in 2009, climbed to the top of Denali in Alaska.

“Early on, I learned that if you were willing to accept the consequences that came with opportunities — like lack of health insurance and instability in your career — there’s some really cool experiences that you can have,” Larsen says.

But Larsen also felt that his amazing adventures came with a serious obligation. If the world’s wild places were to be preserved, the public needed to understand how human behavior impacted these far-flung places. Larsen set up a website and developed educational components to go along with his adventures. He blogged about his voyages and sought out speaking engagements.

“All my trips are advocacy-based,” Larsen says. He hopes they’re also empowering. If he can ride a bike all the way across Antarctica (his most recent venture), then surely everyday Americans can cycle to work or the store, reducing their use of fossil fuels and improving their health. “Over time, I’ve shifted away from hardcore political activism to just storytelling,” Larsen says. “And that’s what this poles expedition evolved into. I call it ‘telling the story of the last great frozen places on the planet.’”





## LESSON 1: HOW TO BATTLE BOREDOM IN ANTARCTICA

The route to the South Pole that Larsen chose amounted to some six hundred miles. When Larsen and two other men filled up their sleds with food and equipment, strapped on their skis and goggles, and took their first steps toward the center of Antarctica in late November 2009, they had no idea how long the trip would take them. But given his previous experience on the southernmost continent, Larsen was sure of one thing: the biggest challenges they'd face would not be physical, but mental.

"Traveling across Antarctica isn't like being dropped on a mountainside in Valdez, Alaska, with a Red Bull crew filming you," Larsen says. "It's like watching paint dry." Whiteout conditions can make it impossible for a traveler to see the tips of his skis. Even if skies are clear, the landscape is blindingly bright and almost featureless. The mind wanders. "The best hour on an expedition is one that goes by quickly," Larsen says. "There's a lot of stress."

Larsen weathers the long hours by listening to music, podcasts, and audio books on his iPod (*This American Life* and *60 Minutes* are two favorite distractions). He thinks about how to take photographs of the expedition that will interest folks back home, and he crafts stories in his head that he can upload

**"TRAVELING ACROSS ANTARCTICA ISN'T LIKE BEING DROPPED ON A MOUNTAIN SIDE IN ALASKA WITH A RED BULL CREW FILMING YOU. IT'S LIKE WATCHING PAINT DRY."**

via satellite phone to his blog (*EricLarsenExplore.com*). He tries not to think about foods he misses or the comforts of home. "At some point, you start to dwell on all the things you may never see again," Larsen says. It's easy to slide into a state of worry.

Unlike adventurers of old, who risked possible encounters with dangerous

animals and hostile peoples, polar explorers face a fairly predictable set of challenges: cold, snow, and fatigue. But that doesn't mean getting to the South Pole is a walk in the park.



"I call polar travel 'death by 1,000 cuts,'" Larsen says. "You start out with limited resources, both physical and mental, and each day you lose just a little bit of that energy. You're never going to get that energy back, so efficiency is a critical factor in success."

On January 2, 2010, Larsen and his expedition mates reached the bottom of the world. It had taken them forty-eight days.

## LESSON 2: HOW TO RAISE \$150,000

Within days of reaching the South Pole, Larsen was back in Boulder, Colorado, where he now lives.

He had successfully completed the first leg of his three-part journey. But he was out of money, and his best chance for reaching the North Pole was approaching quickly. He needed to raise \$150,000 for food, supplies, and flights by early March.

"The budget for these trips is prohibitively expensive," Larsen says. "We're talking about \$500,000 [for all three trips] that I was trying to raise through the biggest financial crisis this country has had in recent memory."

He immediately began phoning potential sponsors, courting companies ranging from outdoor-gear maker MSR to the search engine Bing. Larsen's involvement in previous expeditions had given him media contacts at CNN and elsewhere, allowing him to publicize his efforts. And it helped that Maria Hennessey, his girlfriend (now fiancée), worked in public relations.



"Planking" with local Emperor Penguins helped to break the monotony during Larsen's 600-mile trek across Antarctica. Top: The expedition team reaches the South Pole.

But the money was still hard to come by. Even as the departure date for the flight to Ellesmere Island — the jumping-off point for the trip — loomed, Larsen was scrambling to secure dollars.

“It was very stressful,” Larsen says. “But one thing that polar travel has taught me is that if you put yourself in a situation where you don’t really have a choice, you’re more than likely to overcome the situation. I had stated to the media and my friends that I was going to do these three trips. So even though I had no money, it gave me a lot of focus.”

### LESSON 3: HOW TO SWIM IN THE ARCTIC

Unlike the South Pole, which today is marked with a small sign and a stake in the ice pack, the northern end of Earth’s spindle is unmarked. The North Pole lies in an ever-shifting landscape of ice floes and salt water. Flags planted at the pole quickly slide off their geographic mark, like an unmoored boat.

The Arctic is in motion, and climate change has only increased the volatility, Larsen says. Twentieth century explorers encountered intensely cold temperatures and spent days traversing huge spans of ice. Their biggest challenge was surmounting the pressure ridges that rose up — some as tall as thirty feet — where plates of ice collided. Such obstacles still existed when Larsen first paid a visit to the pole in 2006, but warming temperatures had shrunk the size of the ice sheets by the time he set out again in early March, 2010, and the pressure ridges were smaller. Open water was more prevalent. “On the Arctic Ocean, you never get to relax,” Larsen says, “because there’s always something coming up: open water, thin ice, pressure ridges.”

To cross the channels between ice sheets, Larsen and his companions, a Canadian and an Englishman, changed into dry suits and swam, pulling their gear in sleds that bobbed along behind them. The icy water was not only an impediment, it was also a potential danger. When the Canadian, Darcy St-Laurent of Winnipeg, plunged through some thin ice one afternoon, Larsen rushed to his aid but remained calm. “Eric never lost his cool,” says St-Laurent. “He knew just what to do.” But all three men were well aware that drying St-Laurent’s gear in the group’s small tent would require a considerable amount of the team’s all-too-precious fuel supply.

Each morning and evening, Larsen would check the group’s coordinates with his GPS. Some days, their camp had drifted closer to the pole. Other days, they found themselves making up for lost yardage. All told, the men traveled 550 miles to cover a distance that, as the crow flies, amounted to 490 miles. “I’m more of a journey than a destination guy,” Larsen says. “And in

THE NORTH POLE LIES  
IN AN EVER-SHIFTING  
LANDSCAPE OF ICE  
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polar travel, I think you have to be because the end point is so completely arbitrary. You pull out your GPS, step a little to the north, then a little to the south, and you’re there. But it’s short-lived because the ice is drifting so fast. We woke up the next morning, and we were two miles away from the pole.”



On the North Pole expedition, Larsen and his two companions sometimes had to swim in the Arctic Ocean while towing their gear — and each other.

#### LESSON 4: HOW TO HAVE A (REALLY) LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP

In 2008, Larsen met Maria Hennessey at a trade show. She was living in Colorado, working as the national sales manager for an outdoor-gear company. He had an address in Grand Marais, Minnesota, where he spent his days leading dogsled trips. Six months later, they encountered each other again, and the attraction was palpable. “I said, ‘Hey, I’m leaving for Greenland in a few days, but I’ll be back in three weeks. Maybe we could get together,’” Larsen recalls. To his surprise, Hennessey accepted.

Larsen eventually moved to Colorado and, in February 2011, the couple got engaged. Then, this past October, Hennessey gave birth to a baby boy. Larsen likes to joke that raising a newborn is similar to mushing dogs. “In a dogsled race, you run your dogs for about six hours on and then six hours off,” he explains. “But in that six hours off, you usually have about four hours of dog care and less than two hours of sleep.”

It’s not easy to maintain a relationship when you’re apart for weeks at a time, Larsen admits. But he and Hennessey talk every-day via satellite phone, and Larsen says he gets considerable strength from just knowing that someone is thinking about him.



Larsen allowed himself a quick pose at the summit of Mount Everest in October, 2010, before beginning the long, treacherous descent (below).





“Ofentimes, when expeditions have fallen apart,” Larsen says, referring to some of the grimmer tales of polar exploration, “the people that survive are the people who have a reason to live.”

#### LESSON 5: HOW TO SUMMIT EVEREST IN A SNOWSTORM

In May 2010, Larsen returned from the North Pole. He was financially broke again but eager to tackle his third and final challenge, a trek to the top of Mount Everest. Typically, mountaineers choose to ascend the peak in the spring, when weather conditions are most favorable. But Larsen had learned that a “fall season” for climbers existed as well. After raising the money he needed to fund the trip, he flew to Nepal.

In Katmandu, however, when Larsen met with the guide he’d hired, he learned that no one had successfully climbed the mountain in the fall in four years. “My guide said, ‘I think we have a 20 percent chance of being successful,’” Larsen recalls. “I thought to myself, *I’m the biggest idiot in the world.*” Even so, he pushed ahead with his plans.

Once on the mountain, Larsen and his team of climbers encountered few others — a Czech team, and a Japanese solo climber — leaving them to break much of the trail themselves, fixing ropes in deep snow. As they reached the summit, their rope supply dwindled and, as they approached the Hillary Steps — a narrow and dangerous ridge named after British explorer Sir Edmund Hillary that leads to the summit — a storm blew in. “I’ve been in enough whiteouts to know you can’t see, let alone climb,” Larsen says. Already dehydrated

and fatigued, he knew the slightest misstep could result in death. “I just about called it quits right there.”

But then the weather cleared a bit and a teammate found a piece of old but usable rope. Larsen scrambled up the steps to the summit, uttered a cheer of victory, and peered into the foggy gloom that blocked his view of the world below. Minutes later, his team began their descent to base camp.

#### LESSON 6: HOW TO SAVE A PLANET

“One of the things that these trips have taught me is that you don’t need much,” Larsen says. “Everything that I need to survive is in my backpack or my sled. And even though it’s an extreme environment, I’m pretty comfortable.”

It’s a point he tries to bring home to those who follow his adventures, read his blog, or hear him speak. “The decisions we make about what resources we use and how we use them have a big impact. What will we use? How much will we use? Are the resources renewable?”

On expedition mornings when Larsen has awoken to strong winds or blizzard conditions, he avoids thinking about how far his team needs to travel. Instead, he says, he concentrates on breaking camp and just taking the first few steps. It’s a mindset that anyone can apply, he says.

“We look at global warming and people wonder, ‘What possible impact could my individual actions have? Aren’t we screwed anyway?’ But I would say, ‘Just take that first step.’” 🐾

JOEL HOEKSTRA '92 is a Twin Cities writer and editor.

NINE OLES FROM FIVE DECADES

THE

SHARE THEIR UNIQUE PATHS TO

ROAD

SUCCESS, AND THE WAYS ST. OLAF

LESS

HELPED LEAD THEM THERE.

TRAVELED

BY ERIN PETERSON





Lowell Pickett in his acclaimed  
downtown Minneapolis venue, the  
Dakota Jazz Club & Restaurant  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER

**W**hen times are tough, often it's people thinking outside the box who

surge to the forefront, utilizing their creativity and skills to develop new businesses, new jobs, and new ideas. Oles are especially positioned to lead such innovative ventures. Receiving an excellent liberal arts education and encouraged to pursue what interests them, they learn to think critically and ask the right questions in order to discover what they're good at and determine how they can contribute to the larger world. The result is financial independence, professional success, and personal fulfillment.

It isn't easy. Many of us have come up with a million-dollar idea — an ingenious gadget, a useful service, a passion project we'd like to spin into a business. For most of us, those ideas remain exactly that: ideas. But for the Ole entrepreneurs in the following pages, daydreaming wasn't enough. They were determined to turn their dreams into reality.

The ventures of these Oles have required sacrifice: long hours, financial risk, and frequent failures. But they've also led to incredible joys and successes, from worldwide product rollouts to congressional commendations. From the student developers of JonnyPops innovative frozen treats to St. Olaf alum David Rose's life-saving GlowCaps medicine caps, Oles are working in ways both small and large to change people's lives for the better.

## ALL that JAZZ

LOWELL PICKETT '71 HAS MADE SENSATIONAL MEALS AND MUSIC THE HALLMARKS OF THE DAKOTA JAZZ CLUB & RESTAURANT.

It would be difficult to overstate the love that the Dakota Jazz Club & Restaurant has generated from critics, music lovers, and foodies since its inception twenty-seven years ago. It's been heralded by national publications as diverse as the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *Playboy*. That's not to mention the annual accolades from local publications, including the *Star Tribune*, *Minnesota Monthly*, and *City Pages*. And this past September, the *Congressional Record* (the official publication of the United States Congress) included a commendation for the club for its contributions to the music industry. In typical Minnesota understatement, the club's founder, Lowell Pickett, says the honors that have been heaped on his club "are nice."

The Twin Cities institution started out as little more than a list. A dozen years removed from St. Olaf, Pickett had spent many of his early working years in the restaurant business, from prep cook to bartender, waiter to manager. He was considering starting up his own restaurant, and when he took a look at the newly-developed Bandana Square, an off-the-beaten-path shopping center that had been converted from nineteenth century railroad buildings, he was convinced it was the perfect site.

"It was stunning," Pickett recalls. "But because it was out of the way for most people, I tried to list all of the elements that



would lead me to go to a place like that.” His list was short but unimpeachable: good food, a good list of wines by the glass, live music, and outdoor dining. This list, it turns out, was a four-part blueprint for massive, long-term success.

The restaurant, which opened in 1985, started out with a bang: rave critical reviews followed a smashing grand opening. The restaurant chugged along with talented local jazz acts and four-star food until 1988, when McCoy Tyner, a friend of Pickett’s and an internationally renowned jazz pianist, agreed to play at the club as a personal favor. Tyner was impressed by the venue, and he spread the word among his musician friends. Within eight months, the club had attracted some of jazz’s biggest legends — Ahmad Jamal, Betty Carter, Carmen McRae, and Shirley Horn. “Suddenly,” Pickett says, “we were a national jazz venue.” Other national acts, including Harry Connick and Chick Corea, followed.

In 2003, the restaurant moved to its current location in downtown Minneapolis, which has attracted an even broader audience. Pickett credits his business partner of ten years, Richard Erickson — whose involvement was significant in the Dakota’s move to downtown Minneapolis — with being an integral part of the club’s growth since then. They also have had a vital business advisor over that same course of time in Lynn Anderson ’75, general counsel of Holiday Companies, “who has been more valuable than we could say,” says Pickett.

While Pickett’s experience at St. Olaf may not have shaped his business strategy, it did shape his approach to leadership: he never forgot that his employees were his restaurant’s most important asset. “I always appreciated how St. Olaf tried to

teach and show certain values about what’s right and what’s wrong,” he says, citing the influence of professors, including religion professor Vern Faillettaz, who taught him always to keep an open mind.

Pickett’s drive and his approach have led to long-term success, but he admits that it hasn’t come without challenges. His relentlessly high standards led him to

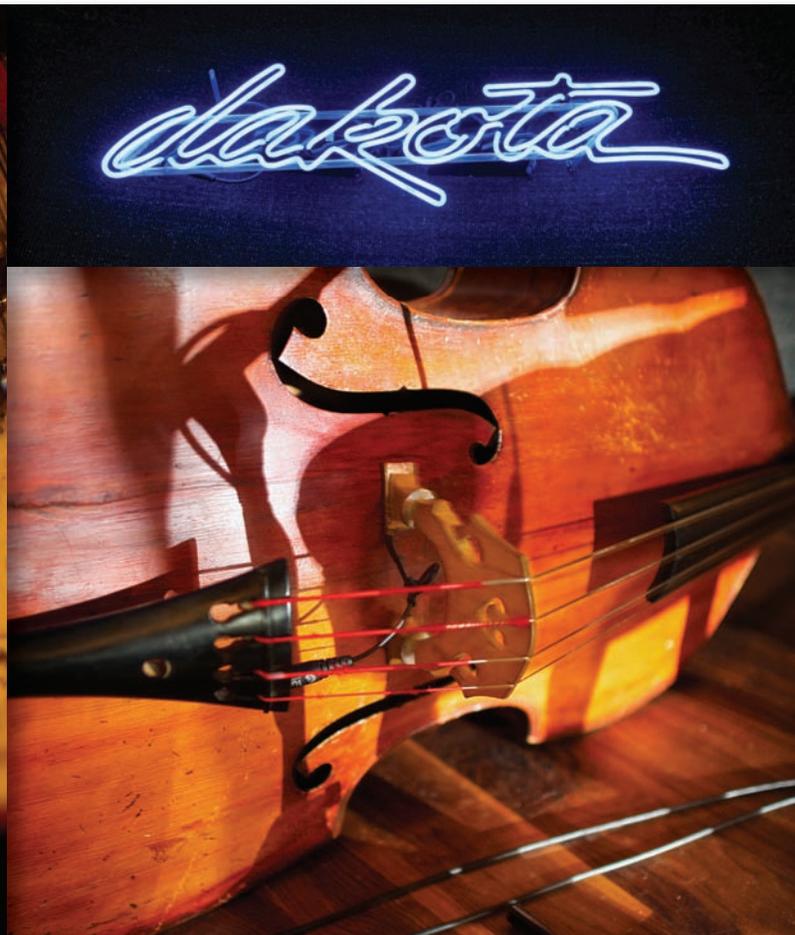
spend enormous amounts of time at the restaurant. During one ten-year stretch, he estimates that he took just one weekend off. “I don’t want to paint a picture of laboring in the salt mines,” he jokes, “because it’s great food and great music. But I don’t know that I would recommend [a path] like this because it does take away from other elements in life. I don’t have family. I don’t have kids. And I think that’s something I would have enjoyed.”

But in a way, his clients are a bit like family. He has a solid core of loyal clients, and many have chosen his restaurant to propose marriage and to celebrate their most important milestones, from anniversaries to promotions. “People tell us that the Dakota is a special place,” he says. “That, to me, is significant.” ▶

## WEB EXTRAS

Read the congressional proclamation honoring the Dakota Jazz Club: [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CREC-2012-09-21/pdf/CREC-2012-09-21-pt1-PgE1612-4.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CREC-2012-09-21/pdf/CREC-2012-09-21-pt1-PgE1612-4.pdf)

What led one of the nation’s top food critics to say “Holy moley, there’s some great food at the Dakota right now”? Check out the review: [www.minnesotamonthly.com/media/Blogs/Twin-Cities-Taste/January-2012/The-Best-Downtown-Minneapolis-Restaurant-No-One-Knows-About](http://www.minnesotamonthly.com/media/Blogs/Twin-Cities-Taste/January-2012/The-Best-Downtown-Minneapolis-Restaurant-No-One-Knows-About)



# TOP OF HER GAME

DRAWING ON HER PASSIONS BOTH INSIDE THE CLASSROOM AND OUT HAS HELPED LISA STEVENS '85 BUILD BUSINESSES FROM THE GROUND UP.

Growing up, Lisa Stevens was a voracious reader of comics, science fiction, and fantasy novels. But when she arrived at St. Olaf, she learned that she could take those stories to a new level. “One of the guys in charge of the freshman dorms asked me if I wanted to play [the role-playing game] *Dungeons & Dragons*,” she says. “And it seemed pretty cool. It wasn’t just playing a game. It was creating a story with people. That collaborative aspect was huge.”

She was hooked. Although her biology major kept her busy with classes and labs, she spent her leisure time playing *Dungeons & Dragons*, where she actively experienced — and shaped — stories, instead of just reading them in books.

Following graduation, Stevens was still living in Northfield and considering her career options when she met Oles Jonathan Tweet '87, Mark Rein-Hagen '89, and Darin “Woody” Eblom '87, who shared her passion for role-playing games. Together they founded their own game company, Lion Rampant, a nod to St. Olaf’s heraldic symbol. After merging with another company in Atlanta, Georgia, they developed a popular and award-winning role-playing game called *Vampire: The Masquerade*.

Despite that early success, Stevens admits it could be lonely as a woman in her field. She estimates that just 3 percent of participants in role-playing games were women when she started, a number mirrored by the tiny percentage of women in the industry itself. “I remember sitting on panels at conventions, talking about being a woman in the game industry,” she says. “In those days, you could get all the women in the game industry in one room.” Today, though the percentages remain small, they’re climbing.

Thanks to her strong early work, Stevens was courted by a startup in Seattle called Wizards of the Coast in 1991. As vice president — and the group’s first employee — she helped chart a course for the company. On the shoulders of massively successful trading card games like *Magic: The Gathering* as well as the *Pokémon Trading Card Game*, the company was bringing in a billion dollars per year within a decade.

In 1999, Hasbro bought the company and nudged out many early employees, including Stevens. Though she was disappointed, there was an upside. “I had enough money from the sale to retire at forty,” she marvels.

Within a year Stevens and her significant other and partner, Vic Wertz, began looking for new opportunities. Eventually, they founded Paizo Publishing (derived from the Greek word meaning “to play”). Initially best known for publishing *Dragon* and *Dungeon* magazines, they’ve since built their reputation on a role-playing game called *Pathfinder*, which has surpassed *Dungeons & Dragons* in sales and will soon have a videogame spinoff.

In its decade of existence, Paizo Publishing, like any business, has had its ups and downs. To build a bigger and better company, Stevens says she’s constantly drawing on the analytical skills she developed as a biology major at St. Olaf. “There’s a lot in the scientific method that can benefit a business person,” she says. “It requires you to think beyond [your passion for a project] to look at the numbers, to do analysis, and to test your ideas.”

And as she looks ahead, Stevens sees nothing but opportunity. While there used to be a stigma surrounding role-playing games, that’s disappearing, thanks to the popularity of fantasy worlds developed in popular series, including *Harry Potter*, *Game of Thrones*, and *The Hunger Games*. “Kids are growing up with this. They’re so much more open to it, and it’s what makes this a great time to be in this business.” ▶

## WEB EXTRA

Over the past year, Stevens has posted a full account of her years at Paizo with a series of in-depth blog postings that discuss the highlights and challenges of an entrepreneurial venture: [paizo.com/paizo/blog/tags/paizo/auntielisasStoryHour](http://paizo.com/paizo/blog/tags/paizo/auntielisasStoryHour)





Lisa Stevens in her *Star Wars*-themed home theater in Redmond, Washington  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY STUART ISETT/POLARIS

# Looks Good on Paper

VANESSA TRICE PETER '93 SHAPES THE PATH FORWARD FOR A PROMISING ARTIST.

In the age of text messages, Twitter, and LinkedIn, business cards might seem like little more than a relic. But Vanessa Trice Peter, CEO of the paper art company Anna Bondoc LLC, has found a way to keep that tiny piece of cardboard relevant even to the most electronically networked people: she and her business partner, paper artist Anna Bondoc, turned it into art.

On one side is a traditional business card, complete with a logo and contact information; the other is a gorgeous abstract design, created by three laser-cut layers of green and coffee-colored cardstock. "It's the perfect size," Peter says of the card. "It's art you can put in your hand and carry with you." For many recipients, it's too beautiful to keep tucked in a wallet or desk drawer. Instead, they frame it and put it on the wall.

"IT'S A SHOCK TO REALIZE THAT YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO GET ONE 'YES' FOR A HUNDRED — OR EVEN A THOUSAND — 'NO'S.' AND THE 'NO' CAN COME EVEN IF YOU'VE DONE EVERYTHING PERFECTLY."

In a way, the business card perfectly captures their venture. It is small but ambitious, and a seamless blend of beautiful design and savvy pragmatism.

It all began in 2008. Both Peter and Bondoc had young, biracial daughters in the same preschool class who liked to dress in wacky outfits. The moms became fast friends. Later, it became clear that their complementary skills — Bondoc's artistic gifts and Peter's business acumen — could lead to a successful business venture. And, in 2010, Anna Bondoc LLC became a reality.

Bondoc specializes in creating bold, whimsical graphic designs with layered, hand-cut paper, with results that have both visual and tactile appeal. She's translated the designs to everything from wall art and note cards to nameplates and wine tags.

Peter's job is to help bring Bondoc's work to the world in ways that bring a higher profile to the company while doing justice to her careful work. That means spending long hours chatting with licensors at trade shows, sending smart pitches to top media outlets, digging into dense contract legalese, and finding new ways to think about the company's long-term goals.

So far, Peter's work is paying off. In addition to establishing an inviting website and online store, she has persuaded four brick-and-mortar stores to carry Anna Bondoc products. Bondoc's book, *Simply Paper Cutting: Hand-Cut Paper Projects for Home Décor, Stationery & Gifts*, was recently published by Fox Chapel Publishing. The company also has earned rave reviews in publications including *People.com*, *Daily Candy Kids*, *Apartment Therapy*, *Urban Baby*, and *Traditional Home*. In a recent issue of *Stitch* magazine, three of the magazine's artists created pillows using Anna Bondoc fabric.

Yet for all the praise that the venture has received, Peter says she and Bondoc have had to weather an almost unimaginable amount of rejection. "It's a shock to realize that you're only going to get one 'yes' for a hundred — or even a thousand — 'no's,'" she says. "And the 'no' can come even if you've done everything perfectly."

Fortunately, she says, tenacity is one of her singular strengths, and a skill she sharpened while in St. Olaf's Paracollege. She designed her own program called the Art of Communication, and she consistently worked to overcome obstacles, both small and large, to build something from scratch that she could be proud of.

Peter's Term in the Middle East also gave her invaluable experience. During the trip, Art History Professor Mac Gimse '58 often reminded his students of the importance of being flexible when things didn't go as planned. "I felt so

bendy at that point that it was ridiculous," she laughs. "But the same [obstacles] happen in business. You'll pitch something you think is a sure thing, and the company will come back with something you never would have expected," she says. Adapting to change while maintaining a larger vision for the company, she says, has helped her stay on the right track.

Though the venture remains a side business for Peter (she has a full-time job as an account supervisor at Bent Media), she has much larger visions for Anna Bondoc. Among the licensing deals they're considering are those for wallpaper and fabrics. "But right now, if we could take over the world of paper, we'd be very happy," she says. "It's a modest goal."

One business card at a time, they're on their way. ►



## WEB EXTRAS

Visit the site of Anna Bondoc: [annabondoc.com](http://annabondoc.com)

Take a virtual tour of Anna Bondoc's studio: [apartmenttherapy.com/studio-visit-anna-bondoc-126226](http://apartmenttherapy.com/studio-visit-anna-bondoc-126226)

Create holiday place cards: [latimes.com/features/home/la-lh-anna-bondoc-photos-20121116,0,765790.photogallery](http://latimes.com/features/home/la-lh-anna-bondoc-photos-20121116,0,765790.photogallery)

Vanessa Trice Peter in  
the Los Angeles studio of  
paper artist Anna Bondoc  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY  
NANCY PASTOR/POLARIS





Adam Gettings in his Palo Alto, California, robot manufacturing factory  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JESSICA BRANDI LIFLAND/POLARIS

# RISE OF THE MACHINES

ADAM GETTINGS '04 IS HELPING MAKE THE WORLD SAFER WITH ROBOTS.

If you ask Adam Gettings, there's almost nothing in the world that isn't improved with an engine attached. When he was a kid helping out on his family's farm in southern Illinois, he constantly harvested the spare parts that were lying around to build engines. He attached an engine to his bike and tried to put one on an old go-cart frame. If something could already travel under its own power, he figured out ways to make it faster or more powerful. "It sounds corny," he says. "But it was fun."

Gettings mostly set aside those interests once he arrived at St. Olaf, where he discovered a dizzying array of new fields to explore. "I liked so many different things," he recalls. "I must have changed my major five times." He settled on a double major in economics and American studies.

Two years after graduating, Gettings was working in Minneapolis and had plans to pursue a Ph.D. in economics when he got a life-changing call from his brother, Nathan, an early PayPal employee who was living in Silicon Valley.

The future, Nathan believed, was in robotics, and he wanted to combine his software experience with Adam's mechanical know-how. With the help of two other partners, the brothers had the opportunity and expertise to create a successful startup. Was Adam up for the challenge?

Gettings decided they had nothing to lose. On a shoestring budget, the brothers founded RoboteX and began to learn the ins and outs of every aspect of the robot business — from mechanical design to manufacturing. They were interested in building robots for security purposes and, on a lark, decided to put a machine gun on top of their prototype. It was a gimmick, Gettings admits, but it worked. "It got us an article in *Fortune* magazine in a matter of months," he says. "We were literally still working out of a garage." RoboteX was off and running.

The media attention and physical product gave the Gettings brothers credibility as pros who could get things done. Their work also helped investors see the vision they'd always had: to give the most dangerous jobs to robots, not people. RoboteX garnered excitement from top Silicon Valley investors — including early founders of Facebook, YouTube, PayPal, and Quora — who provided an infusion of cash to help build the company.

Once the Gettings brothers had attracted investor significant attention, they were able to sell investors on their personal safety "Avatar" robots — machines that could move around in the most

dangerous areas while humans controlled them from a distance.

They snared their first customer in 2010, the Oakland, California, city police force, and have continued to sell robots to other police forces and high-risk organizations around the country. Their work is making a real difference: In Fort Worth, Texas, officers sent a robot into a situation with a dangerous suspect. The suspect destroyed the robot with an AK-47 assault weapon, but no officers were hurt.

"Before robots, a person served the role of point man," says Gettings. "The team in Fort Worth believes that this robot saved an officer's life." Gettings says there are dozens of similar examples of their robots filling critical roles and keeping humans out of harm's way.

Since making their first sale, RoboteX has sold robots to more than two hundred clients in the United States as well as in Asia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. The robots have performed a variety of tasks, including searching for dangerous suspects for police departments, tracking chemical leaks for hazardous materials teams, and monitoring protected spaces for security units.



Gettings's company is also working on a consumer model that could be purchased for security purposes — or simply, says Gettings, "because it's cool." Eventually, such robots could perform tasks ranging from walking your dog to picking up your stuff from the floor.

Though his robotics expertise predates his years at St. Olaf, Gettings says his experience at the college gave him the framework to make good decisions and pursue constant improvement. "A broad base of education, like the one I got at St. Olaf, enables you to think deeply about a lot of topics that can help you understand yourself and what you value in life," he says. "It can help you be critical of yourself when you need to be critical, and encouraging, too. Those are things you just can't get in an engineering department."

For now, he sees the work that he's doing with robots as merely scratching the surface.

"I don't think we'll ever be able to replace everything that a human can do. But the more we can automate the mundane tasks that we do, the more we'll be able to use our human brains to their fullest extent," he says. "That's the vision." ►

## WEB EXTRAS

Check out all of RoboteX's projects: [www.robotex.com](http://www.robotex.com)

Read the *Fortune* profile of Gettings that put RoboteX on the map: [money.cnn.com/2007/12/03/technology/robotex.fortune/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2007/12/03/technology/robotex.fortune/index.htm)

# The Sorcerer

DAVID ROSE '89 SHOWS THAT WHEN SMART TECHNOLOGY IS COMBINED WITH EVERYDAY OBJECTS, THE RESULTS ARE NOTHING SHORT OF MAGIC.

Ask most experts about the future of technology, and they'll tell you it's all about thinner slabs of metal and glass — tablets and smartphones. They'll point to the huge investment poured into such technology, the massive growth in app development, and the increasing amount of time we spend on our electronic devices.

Entrepreneur David Rose begs to differ. To see the real future of technology, he insists, we need to stop looking ahead with tunnel vision to the next generation of iStuff and instead think about how technology can become embedded everywhere. This future may seem unfamiliar to us now, but examples of magical objects are everywhere in fiction.

"The aspirations we have for seamless technology are revealed through Grimm's Fairy Tales, Harry Potter, James Bond, and *Star Trek*," says Rose. In these tales, ordinary physical objects possess magical capabilities. Consider, for example, the stone basin known as the pensieve in the Harry Potter series, which allows wizards to observe memories that are not their own, or Frodo's short sword in *The Hobbit*, which glows blue when villainous orcs are nearby.

You don't see those characters tapping away on smartphones, and years from now, you won't find us doing so either, says Rose. "Most of the world believes that future interfaces will converge into iThings," he says. "But this is just a transitional moment. The future we want is when a little bit of intelligence is sprinkled into hundreds of ordinary things. I call these enchanted objects." ▶

Rose created the Ambient Orb, a frosted-glass ball that glows any color to indicate real-time stock market trends, energy consumption, and more. Studies by behavioral economists show a 40 percent decrease in energy use among people living with a glance-able ambient display.  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY FRED FIELD



Rose isn't simply a prognosticator; he's helping create the future he believes is inevitable. As a faculty member at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Media Lab, he works on ways to elegantly embed technology into objects we use every day — a Pandora chair that plays different music based on your angle of repose, an Amazon trashcan that reorders supplies by recognizing items we've tossed, a Facebook coffee table that shows photos based on the topic of conversation nearby.

While Rose's enchanted objects evoke a "wow" response, they often have a more serious purpose. Take, for instance, the GlowCaps, which he helped create in 2009 as the founder and CEO of Vitality, a wireless health care company. The invention solves one of the most significant and seemingly simple problems in medicine: getting people to take the medications that doctors prescribe. If you've ever skipped your last few doses of antibiotics because you felt better and simply forgot, you're familiar with this situation.

To tackle the issue, Rose helped develop a new type of cap for prescription bottles. When it's time to take a pill, the cap glows until it is removed. If the cap isn't removed within a few hours, it starts to sing arpeggios (inspired by Viking Chorus and St. Olaf Choir warm-ups). People also may receive a reminder via text message or phone call. The reminder message will ask if you're not taking the medication because you forgot, feel fine, are experiencing side effects, or ran out. "We just added a tiny bit of

intelligence," Rose says. "We're helping people take medication through a simple change in the packaging."

It was an idea that worked: trials by Harvard Medical School found that GlowCaps helped boost adherence rates by 27 percent. The media — including *Good Morning America*, the *New York Times*, and the *Economist* — reported the clever and potentially lifesaving breakthrough. And it wasn't just the press that saw big potential. Vitality formed partnerships with big pharmaceuticals like Novartis, pharmacies like Express Scripts, and telecommunications giant AT&T to help bring the technology to more people.

#### WEB EXTRAS

Read more about Rose and click on links to his many ventures: [about.me/davidlrose](http://about.me/davidlrose)

Ambient Devices: [ambientdevices.com](http://ambientdevices.com)

Listen to Rose's TEDxBerkeley talk about enchanted objects: [youtube.com/watch?v=weTyZDNsOJo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weTyZDNsOJo)

Watch a short video about GlowCaps: [vitality.net/glowcaps.html](http://vitality.net/glowcaps.html)

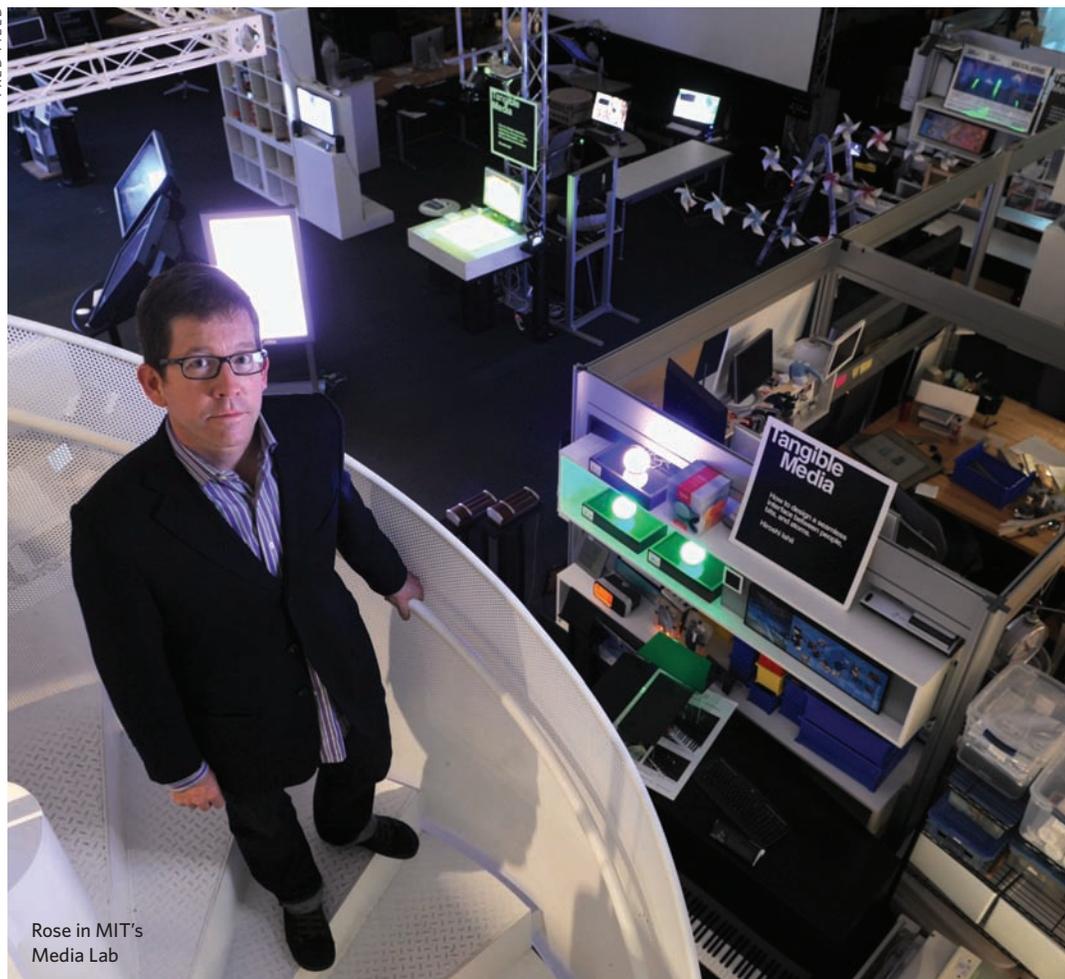
Rose admits his real interest isn't focusing on a single project for years until he can perfect it. Rather, he says, he prefers to work on many ideas, leaving much of the execution to others. It's an approach that's allowed him to take on many roles. In addition to his work at the MIT Media Lab, he also heads up a new image recognition company called Ditto and consults at Gensler, a global architecture firm, to implement his enchanted furniture.

It sounds like quite a juggling act, but Rose got plenty of practice at St. Olaf. Not only

did he double major in physics and art, he also found time to sing in the St. Olaf Choir and serve as the photo editor of the student newspaper, the *Manitou Messenger*. "St. Olaf was an awesome sandbox," he says. "It was such a rich experience to be able to nurture so many interests in parallel."

Rose also points to St. Olaf as the source of his earliest entrepreneurial project. In his senior year, Norwegian language professor Louis Janus tapped him to develop software that would help people learn the language. Rose created games and interactive dialogues and built a program that allowed people to record themselves and compare their intonation to that of a native speaker.

FRED FIELD



Rose in MIT's Media Lab

# Choose Your Own Venture

The Harry C. Piper Center for Vocation and Career is helping students with unique talents find the right career path.

Inherently curious and multi-talented, Oles dream big. Some follow a traditional career path in keeping with their academic major; others, interested in trying new things, take a more adventurous path. But turning the spark of an idea into a viable career or lifelong vocation can be a daunting task. To help make that process easier, students at St. Olaf can — and do — turn to the Piper Center for Vocation and Career, which offers assistance from faculty and staff, coursework and internships, and even startup funding to help students bring their plans to life.

While the center has a broader goal of helping students pursue their passions and find their vocations, Piper Center Director Branden Grimmett '03 says it's a mission that encompasses the work of student entrepreneurs as well. "We want all students at St. Olaf to think about how they can incorporate what they're good at, what they like to do, and what their values are into whatever they do after graduation," he says. "We want to help those students who have a creative spirit to think about how they might pursue something entrepreneurial in nature."

In fact, St. Olaf's Entrepreneur-in-Residence, Sian Muir, says that the college's core principles make it an ideal incubator for new businesses. "There's a lot of consistency between the skill set you develop in the liberal arts and the skill set you need as an entrepreneur," she says. "Things like critical thinking, creativity, and innovation are inherent in what a liberal arts education does, and what good entrepreneurs need."

Few liberal arts colleges have embraced the connection between vocation, entrepreneurship, and the liberal arts as strongly as St. Olaf. The Estenson Entrepreneurial Internship, for example, has helped more than eighty startup-minded students since its inception in 1996. Developed and funded by Mark Johnson '80 and Paul Estenson '82, the internship gives hands-on summer experience to students who want to experience working in entrepreneurial companies.

For Estenson, it made good sense to give students a sense of entrepreneurship before they graduated. "These internships help speed up the process for students who want to pursue entrepreneurial



The Piper Center's staff and Peer Advisors

or business careers," he says. "They begin to learn how things work in the real world, they meet people, they create a network, and they get to be part of an environment that will provide opportunities for them down the road. Providing that direction can be really valuable for them."

Internships are just one of many resources that the college offers to innovators and entrepreneurs. The Finstad Program, for example, offers two academic courses on entrepreneurial topics. In addition, students can apply for a \$3,000 Finstad Entrepreneurial Grant to launch their businesses, and they can join Ole Ventures, a student group that promotes innovation and entrepreneurship on campus.

Soon, the Piper Center's offerings for entrepreneurial Oles will grow even more robust. In the coming year, the number of Finstad Grants will double from five to ten, and a new "Ole Cup" will give recipients of Finstad Grants the chance to compete for an even more significant cash award to scale up their work — along with guidance from Piper Center staff and successful alumni entrepreneurs. "We want to make sure they have the best resources to manage any hurdles they have going forward," says Grimmett.

In some ways, starting a new venture is easier than ever. Students can develop smartphone apps with little more than a laptop, and spread their ideas to the world through ubiquitous social networks. But getting a bit of a boost, whether it's a crucial piece of advice from an expert or modest startup funding, can speed the process.

The ability to take an idea and run with it can have far-reaching effects, regardless of a student's ultimate career path. Those who bring innovative approaches to their lives see long-term benefits, says Muir. "You can take that mindset anywhere, whether that's how to do your job or how you educate your children," she says. "When you've got a problem, you can think creatively about ways to solve it."

It easily could have stayed within the confines of the St. Olaf campus, but Janus wrote an academic paper and asked Rose to present with him at a conference in Toronto, Canada.

"I remember schlepping a Macintosh there in my old VW Rabbit and setting up a little table to show off the software," Rose says. "I got three job offers that day. I then realized I could produce valuable multimedia software for language learning and more."

With unending ideas and vast curiosity, it's likely that Rose will develop even more fascinating projects in the future. And in the end, he says, he can trace much of his success back to St. Olaf. "A liberal arts background gave me a lot of thinking tools," he says. "But maybe even more important, coming from a nurturing school like St. Olaf gave me the confidence that I could learn new things quickly. Nothing seems difficult compared to quantum mechanics." ►

# A Taste of Success

FOR THESE YOUNG OLES, COOL ANALYSIS LED TO A HOT BUSINESS IN FROZEN DESSERTS.

Plenty of entrepreneurs have gone into business to pursue a passion. But for the founders of JonnyPops, a company that makes frozen fruit bars, the underpinning for the business was the cold, hard numbers in addition to producing a high quality, all-natural product they could feel good about and that they would eat themselves.

For Erik Brust '14, the eye-opening moment came while interning at a boutique investment bank during high school. "It was entry-level work, but I had access to ridiculous software," he says. "In my spare time, I decided to research some of my ideas."

His investigation yielded some surprising insights, including the fact that there was plenty of room for a new product in the frozen dessert market, a \$20-billion-per-year industry. It was a staid industry, and, to Brust's mind, ready for a shake-up. "There weren't new kids on the block," he says. "[It made sense] to revamp this thing, put a young face on it, put a social cause behind it, and send it out to the nation."

By the time Brust arrived at St. Olaf, he and his cousin, Duke University student Jonathan Jeffrey, had crafted a business plan. When Jeffrey died of a drug overdose a few months later, Brust was even more motivated to launch the company — and to remember Jonathan, both through the company's name, JonnyPops, and through donations to Hazelden, an addiction treatment center in Minnesota.

At the time of Jonathon's death, Brust was part of a four-person investment club at St. Olaf. When he pitched the idea of developing a frozen fruit bar — including some of the eye-popping revenue possibilities — the excitement was palpable. Connor Wray '14, Andrew Sather '14, and Kilian Wald '14 were immediately persuaded to become co-founders. They also

## WEB EXTRAS

Visit the JonnyPops website: [jonnypops.com](http://jonnypops.com)

Read about JonnyPops at the *TC Daily Planet*: [tcdailyplanet.net/news/2012/08/07/mission-im-popsicle-jonnypops-trying-change-world-one-frozen-treat-time](http://tcdailyplanet.net/news/2012/08/07/mission-im-popsicle-jonnypops-trying-change-world-one-frozen-treat-time)

snared a \$3,000 Finstad Entrepreneurial Grant.

Their first efforts to concoct the frozen treat were anything but scientific. "Basically, we threw a bunch of stuff in a blender in the basement of Mohn," says Brust. "We didn't have anything that great." They did, however, come

up with a few flavor profiles, and they convinced a Twin Cities chef to donate his time to help refine the recipes. The creamy, all natural bars have real fruit and local ingredients.

But a business plan and a tasty dessert were only the beginning. They had to figure out how to mass-produce the bars, package them, distribute them, and sell them — all while navigating the nearly endless red tape. "You would be amazed at the number of government agencies that get involved," says Wray, ticking off offices on his fingers. "There's the Health Department, the Department of Agriculture, and the FDA. [There's] even the subsection of Homeland security in bioterrorism prevention."



But they knocked down every problem that popped up — in no small part, says Wray, because of their St. Olaf education. "The liberal arts approach to learning, where they teach you how to learn and problem-solve, has been invaluable," he says. "Would it be helpful to have a technical skill, like accounting? Yes, but it was one of a hundred problems we had to solve. Knowing how to solve those other ninety-nine problems was much more important than having the technical skill to solve one."

By April 2012, the JonnyPops crew was ready to take their work to their first market: the Cage. They'd sunk their own

JonnyPops founders (L-R) Andrew Sather, Connor Wray, Kilian Wald, and Erik Brust currently offer consumers three flavors: Coconut Pineapple Paradise, Summer Strawberry, and Merry Mountain Berry  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER



money — as well as funds from outside investors — into the venture, and this was their early proving ground. Their success was immediate: they sold 90 percent of their stock of 300 bars in just 6 hours.

From there, the business has grown steadily, and buyers can find JonnyPops in more than fifty Minnesota locations, ranging from farmer's markets and ice cream trucks to the Science Museum of Minnesota and the Minnesota Zoo.

Their plans for market domination are going better than even they could have anticipated. The Minnesota Zoo, for example,

sold both an Edy's strawberry bar and a JonnyPops strawberry bar this past summer. And though Edy's has stronger name recognition and a lower price, the JonnyPops offering sold nearly twice as many as its competitor.

Next up on their to-do list is rolling the product out nationally. The team has started shipping JonnyPops to southern California, and they hope to add Florida to their list soon. "We've already learned to start a business," says Sather. "Now we're learning to grow a business." 🍷

ERIN PETERSON is a Twin Cities writer and editor.

# Your Alumni Board: Engaged and Dedicated

By Kyle Schut '13 | PHOTOS BY STEVEN WETT '15

Oles are engaged with each other and St. Olaf in a variety of ways — from Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and other social and professional networks to class reunions, regional events, and galas — where they can reconnect and discover what's happening with each other and at the college.

The St. Olaf Alumni Board strives to deepen this engagement in meaningful ways while preserving special traditions and involving alumni and parents in the life of the college. They bring a fresh perspective, enthusiasm, and passion for the college.

The Alumni Board welcomed four new members this fall, each of whom values their St. Olaf experience: Ron Pechauer '59, Amy Gillespie '88, Ben Baker '09, and Kari Swanson '13. The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations acknowledges and thanks departing board members who have completed their terms of dedicated service: Mildred "Mickey" R. Mosen '49, Brenda Berkman '73, Bruce N. Wahl '87, and Andrea G. Dittmann '12.

## RON PECHAUER '59

Immediately after graduating from St. Olaf College in 1959, Pastor Ron Pechauer enrolled at Luther Seminary.

"I suppose it would be accurate to say that it was the seminary that helped me prepare for my present occupation," he says. "But St. Olaf also played a role in providing the liberal arts education and other academic background necessary for theological study."



Pechauer looks forward to contributing the perspective of a not-so-recent graduate to the St. Olaf Alumni Board. Drawing from his experience coordinating alumni events with his wife, Rachel Mandsager Pechauer '61, in the Sun City, Arizona, area where they have lived for the past fifteen years, he specifically hopes to make it easier for other older alumni to connect with the college. He believes that Oles are Oles, not just for four years but for the entirety of their lives.

"One might think that older alumni are already engaged in some way with the college," says Pechauer, who was co-chair of the program committee for the Class of 1959's 50th reunion. "That is true for many, but not for all. I will enjoy sharing ideas with the board that will help more of our older alumni engage in the life of St. Olaf."

In addition to serving as pastor in parishes in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Arizona, Pechauer was director of church relations at

St. Olaf for eight years, from 1985 to 1993, a position that he says enabled him and his wife to be involved in alumni events on and off campus. In 1991 they established the Ronald and Rachel Mandsager Pechauer Family Endowed Scholarship as a way to "thank St. Olaf for our education and making it possible for others to have a similar St. Olaf experience."

Looking back on the years since he graduated, Pechauer says "St. Olaf is part of me and how I view the world. Perhaps, fifty-five years after graduation, one does not consciously reflect during a day's activities and think how St. Olaf impacts one's life," he says. "One simply *is* what a St. Olaf education has helped make you *become*."

## AMY GILLESPIE '88

As an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division, Amy Gillespie needs to know her way around scientific facts.

"There are many days this humanities



**2013 St. Olaf Alumni Board** (L-R, bottom row): Randy Betcher '79, Shorewood, Minn.; Mitch Lehn '92, Denver; Amy Gillespie '88, Washington, D.C.; Maggie Wells '08, Minneapolis; (second row): Jennifer Rajala Sawyer '94, Northfield; Sam Dotzler '00, Chicago; Kate Sands Johnson '95, Dallas; Gary Perkins '80, Edina, Minn.; (third row): Rebecca Schmidt Taibl '70, St. Paul; Brock Metzger '03, Minneapolis; Katherine Kroeger '99, Seattle; Ben Baker '09, New York City; (top row): Ronald Pechauer '59, Sun City, Ariz.; Paul Finley '99, Mission Viejo, Calif.; Sandy Skustad Jerstad '66, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Kate Bollman Pearce '01 (board chair), St. Paul. (Not pictured: Nikki Brock-Maruska '95, Pearland, Texas; Vijay Mehrotra '86, Oakland, Calif.; Kari Swanson '13, Menasha, Wis.)

major is grateful for having had one course of college chemistry — which I took only because St. Olaf required it," she says.

It's just one of the many ways she says St. Olaf helped her get to her current position as a trial attorney in Washington, D.C. Equally influential were the college's emphasis on writing, which taught her to present her ideas in a clear and organized fashion; the opportunity to join an intercollegiate forensics team, where she developed the ability to present ideas cogently, quickly, and confidently; and a Paracollege program that enabled her to design her own major, which helped her become a self-starter.

"Instead of relying on a professor to give me

a syllabus, I had to figure out for myself what to do and when," says Gillespie, who served as an environmental protection attorney in the Office of the Attorney General of North Carolina before joining the U.S. Department of Justice, where she enforces environmental law through litigation and settlements.

As a member of the St. Olaf Alumni Board, Gillespie is hoping to be a conduit between the college and the sizeable number of Oles in Washington, D.C. She also hopes to encourage more alumni to participate in local events and plans to keep D.C. Oles abreast of what's happening at the college.

"Thanks to the support of the St. Olaf Alumni and Parent Relations Office, our alumni community here is welcoming, connected, and multigenerational," she says. "This is particularly meaningful because very few of us are originally from the D.C. area."

**BEN BAKER '09**

It's not unusual for Ben Baker to run into other Oles in New York City. And when he does, he almost always walks away having made a



lasting connection.

"I liken meeting an Ole in New York City to being abroad and meeting someone who speaks English — your shared bond makes you instant friends," he says. "Oles every-

where are eager to form connections, provide opportunities, and help each other succeed. Even in my short time out of college, I've already benefitted significantly from the alumni connections I've developed."

After graduating from St. Olaf, Baker moved to New York to obtain a master's degree in jazz piano from New York University (NYU). Today, Baker is an adjunct music instructor at NYU. In addition to directing music classes and coaching vocalists, he serves as the assistant musical director for

**"I liken meeting an Ole in New York City to being abroad and meeting someone who speaks English — your shared bond makes you instant friends"**

NYU theater productions. Baker also performs jazz and pop gigs regularly throughout the city and both sings professionally and is a choral accompanist with the Manhattan Concert Chorale, directed by Craig Arnold '76.

Baker sees personal truth in the assertion that liberal arts schools teach students how to learn for a lifetime. "I've been able to draw on the skills I already have while quickly acquiring new abilities to meet challenges," he says. He adds that St. Olaf's belief in the idea that life is more than a livelihood helped him to pursue his passion for music and transform it into a vocation.

Baker has high hopes for his tenure on the St. Olaf Alumni Board. He wants to increase alumni engagement in his region and foster connections among alumni, both to each other and to St. Olaf. His goal is to bring new eyes to the alumni board so as to help the college remain true to its roots while keeping up with the demands of a changing world.

"I look forward to helping the college leverage the breadth and depth of its alumni population to enrich the experience of current Oles, both while they're students and as they transition into the working world," he says.

**KARI SWANSON '13**

As a three-year member of the St. Olaf Board of Regents Student Committee, making connections with alumni and friends of the college is nothing new to Kari Swanson '13.

"Through that experience, I learned how much I care about fostering that vital connection," she says, adding that she soon found herself attending alumni events such as the Black and Gold Gala and Ole Night Out.

A biology major with an American racial and multicultural studies concentration, Swanson has been active in the Student Government Association and is currently the coordinator of the Student Alumni Association.

"The Student Alumni Association seemed to fit into my experiences and interests perfectly," says Swanson, who serves as the board's student liaison, providing board members with updates on life at St. Olaf.



Though she will graduate this spring, Swanson's position as liaison has given her reason to believe she'll be back soon enough.

"Witnessing the board members come back from all across the country to help maintain the St. Olaf community proves how much of an impact this college has on its students," says Swanson. "It is quite impressive, and really puts my last year on the Hill into perspective."

KYLE SCHUT '13 is majoring in music and Asian studies at St. Olaf.

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The St. Olaf Board of Regents welcomed three new members this fall: **Gretchen Morgenson '76**, **Jay Lund '81**, and **Tim Maudlin '73**.

By **Suzy Frisch**

## Meet St. Olaf Regent **Gretchen Morgenson '76**

**G**retchen Morgenson graduated from St. Olaf intending to become an investigative reporter like *Washington Post* journalists Woodward and Bernstein, whose reporting helped bring down President Richard M. Nixon and earned them a Pulitzer Prize.

After years of covering the business world, exposing corporate malfeasance, and tracking the latest financial meltdown, she was named “The Most Important Financial Journalist of Her Generation” by the *Nation* in 2009. Morgenson also earned a Pulitzer Prize of her own for beat reporting in 2002.

At the *New York Times* since 1998, Morgenson writes the Fair Game column. In addition to investigative pieces, she covers Wall Street and world markets, with a recent focus on the subprime mortgage and foreclosure crises. Morgenson started her career at *Vogue*, then spent time as a stockbroker before returning to journalism at *Money* and *Forbes* magazines. She also has written several books, including *Reckless Endangerment*, a 2011 exposé she co-authored about the financial crisis.

Morgenson, who grew up in Ontario and Ohio, comes from a long line of Oles. Her parents met as students on the Hill; several aunts, uncles, and cousins graduated from St. Olaf; and her grandfather was a chemistry professor. Today, Morgenson lives in Manhattan with her husband, Paul Devlin, and son, Conor, a high school senior. Morgenson hopes he continues her family’s Ole tradition.

“I’m proud of St. Olaf, and even though it’s not as well-known on the East Coast, I think it should be,” she says. “It has so much to offer on so many levels. It’s a goal of mine to help get the word out on all that it has to offer.”

### **What was your time like at St. Olaf?**

I think I had a pretty typical experience. I was in the Paracollege, which no longer exists. It was based on Oxford University’s tutorial system, and it allowed you to design your own degree. I went on a partial year abroad program to Oxford as well. I had wonderful friends at St. Olaf, and I felt a sense of belonging.

### **How did St. Olaf prepare you for journalism?**

The single thing that really prepared me for my later years was my freshman English professor, David Wee. He taught me how to write a sentence. I discovered later that he only taught one freshman English class in his forty years at St. Olaf, and I hit the jackpot having him as my teacher. The other thing was the work ethic — that’s obviously something you have to have in the real world.



FRED R. CONRAD ©THE NEW YORK TIMES

### **Is a liberal arts education still important?**

It’s a huge benefit to get a liberal arts education. Today, more and more kids have a narrow focus on what they want to achieve, and they go after that. They don’t look at the big picture and open themselves up to something else, like philosophy or literature. A liberal arts education is a great opportunity to find areas of interest you didn’t know you had. Having this tunnel vision really limits the college experience.

### **Why did you decide to be a regent?**

It seemed like something I could do to pay St. Olaf back. It’s a super challenging time for colleges because of the high cost of education, and maybe that is something I can help with given my business background. I don’t know what I’ll be able to contribute other than my two cents, but it’s a terrific honor and it’s really very exciting for me.

### **What is St. Olaf doing well, and what could it improve?**

It’s hard to see areas to improve. The rising early decision numbers indicate that more kids are determined to attend St. Olaf. I think St. Olaf is really working on diversity issues. When I was there, it was a blue-eyed, blond kind of a place. It’s much more diverse now, which is great. And look at the outcomes. One of the most fascinating things [St. Olaf President] David Anderson has done is publicize the outcomes of what St. Olaf students do after graduation. I think that’s really smart.

### **What do you want to work on as a regent?**

I would like to help St. Olaf spread the word along the East Coast that it’s a wonderful education and a great place to go to college. It’s far better known than it was when I got out in 1976. I would like to proselytize about the benefits of a St. Olaf education.

### **What do you do in your free time?**

We have a house in Rhode Island that we go to in the summer, and we go to Utah to ski every winter. We also try to take one really big trip as a family each year. We’ve gone to Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, South America, and Africa twice. My son and I also work in a soup kitchen every Monday serving hungry New Yorkers — that’s a great experience.

## Meet St. Olaf Regent **Jay Lund '81**

A passion for building teams — and an integral part of every home — drove Jay Lund up the ranks to the helm of Andersen Windows. The largest window and door manufacturer in North America, Andersen has been Lund's workplace home since 1985. He was named president in 2009 and CEO in 2011.

Lund has spent his career working for Andersen's of one kind or another — starting out as a management consultant at Arthur Andersen. Andersen Windows was a client, and the Bayport, Minnesota, company eventually recruited him to their information technology department.

It's been a labor of love for Lund, who enjoys steering his company through the challenges and opportunities of business. One of his biggest tests involved guiding Andersen during the housing crash and recession, adjusting to a rapidly changing economic environment and reinventing the company along the way.

"I feel like I've made a difference throughout my career," says Lund, of Hudson, Wisconsin. "I have had the good fortune to work with a great team of people and lead a variety of initiatives that helped reshape the company and broadened my knowledge and experience."

Lund and his wife, Gail, have five children — Jessica, who attended Colorado State, Jake, who attended Middlebury College, and their three youngest children, who are Oles: Maxwell '12, Mackenzie '14 and Nicholas '14. Lund is a member of the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Policy Advisory Board and the Greater Minneapolis–St. Paul Regional Economic Development Board.

### How did you choose to attend St. Olaf?

I wanted to play baseball, and I was a competitive ski racer, so I went to the University of Wyoming with the aspiration to do that. After a semester, I decided I wanted to be closer to home. I fell in love with the St. Olaf campus. It was probably one of the best decisions of my life. It was a great environment to learn how to learn, and to get really serious about my studies and what I was going to do with the rest of my life.

### How valuable was the liberal arts education?

I like the opportunity to learn about a lot of things and build a broad base of knowledge and good communication skills. The ability to listen and communicate and motivate is a big part of leadership. The other critical attribute is getting grounded in the right thing to do and staying true to your principles.

### What was your experience like at St. Olaf?

I got a lot of energy from being a political science major. I loved to read then and now, so I took a lot of English literature courses. Ironically, while I had more acumen for math and the physical sciences, I always seemed to gravitate toward classes that were more creative and expressive. Having gone to Wyoming, I found that the bigger the campus, the smaller the circle of friends you have; and the smaller the campus, the more you feel part of a community. That environment suited me very well.



### Why did you want to be a regent?

I got reconnected to St. Olaf when my kids started going to college, and I've been involved with the Itasca Higher Education Task Force with President Eric Kaler of the University of Minnesota and other business and education leaders. It focuses on how to strengthen our higher education system in Minnesota and foster stronger collaboration between business and higher education. I want to give back to St. Olaf because the school has been such an important part of my life, and it has provided such a great experience for my kids.

### How has the college changed between your era and your sons'?

It's more the same than it's different. There are some fabulous new facilities, and the college has resources it didn't have before. The curriculum has changed a bit, and ethnically it's more diverse. I think that's very healthy. One of the enduring things about St. Olaf is they've stayed true to the Lutheran, liberal arts mission of the college. That makes it a great environment for kids to learn in and take that next big step in their life.

### What do you want to improve at St. Olaf?

I've been intrigued by the collaboration between Carleton and St. Olaf. Just as businesses look for synergies and partnerships, you have two fabulous colleges in a small river town. If you can share resources and collaborate, it can enhance the experience for kids on both sides of the river and make the institutions stronger and more efficient. Colleges have to find ways to deliver a high-quality education more efficiently than they ever have.

### What do you like to do outside of work?

I like to read and I'm an eclectic reader at night, when everything slows down. We have a lake home in Hayward, Wisconsin, and it's a great gathering place for the family to do all kinds of stuff — cross-country ski and snowmobile and water ski and swim. We've always been very close as a family, and we like to do things together.

## Meet St. Olaf Regent **Tim Maudlin '73**

**T**im Maudlin devoted his career to working with medical technology innovators and entrepreneurs, serving as a venture capitalist who helped bring numerous medical products to market. Founding and leading several companies during a career in accounting, finance, and business, Maudlin continues to serve in leadership roles as a director of many organizations.

"I delight in working with leaders who have the vision and passion to advance their creative ideas, help them fund those ideas, and together change people's lives," says Maudlin of Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

A native of Webster City, Iowa, Maudlin was the first in his family to go to college. After visiting St. Olaf with a friend, he knew he found a match. He majored in economics before going on to earn a master's degree in management from Northwestern University. Maudlin then spent seven years in public accounting for Arthur Andersen.

Shifting to venture capital for a former client, Maudlin worked for twenty years in medical technology, helping to fund and lead several companies. Today, Maudlin serves on many corporate and nonprofit boards, including ExactTarget, Luther Seminary, WEB.com, and Augsburg Fortress.

Maudlin and his wife, Jan Waterman Maudlin '72, have a son, Eric Maudlin '99, and a daughter, Laurie Maudlin Bensen '02.

### **How did going to St. Olaf shape your life?**

After growing up in the Methodist church, I was struck by the Lutheran experience of Christian faith, the reality of grace, and the importance of vocation. That was a profound crossing point for me, thinking of life as one of service, where each of us uses our gifts to make a difference in the world.

### **What was your experience like on the Hill?**

I went on the first Theater in London Interim with [Professor Emeritus of Theater] Pat Quade. Having traveled little outside of the Midwest, being outside the United States was impactful. An even more important experience at St. Olaf was that I met my wife!

### **How did St. Olaf prepare you for your career?**

The academic excellence of St. Olaf is well-known and was excellent preparation for a lifelong commitment to learning. The liberal arts education and economics major was a great springboard for me into graduate school. There continues to be a terrific return on investment from my St. Olaf experience and liberal arts education.

### **Why is a liberal arts education still important?**

The St. Olaf experience develops skills that are beneficial on a lifelong basis, including writing and communicating effectively in an increasingly complex world. Teamwork and community — particularly in the multicultural environment of the United States and on a global basis — are important aspects of a liberal arts and St. Olaf education. I also loved the arts at St. Olaf, whether it's the renowned music program or the other performing arts.

### **What has made you proud in your career?**

It goes back to part of the St. Olaf mission statement: preparing students to be seekers of truth who lead lives of unselfish service to others. I am thankful for opportunities to help other people, whether in a Lutheran



TOM ROSTER

volunteer leadership role or working with accomplished innovators and entrepreneurs who develop products that save or improve people's lives.

### **Why become a regent?**

I appreciate being involved with accomplished leaders and cutting-edge organizations. St. Olaf is a leading liberal arts college on a national basis. As a college of the church, St. Olaf is claiming its Lutheran identity and Christian heritage at a time when many colleges nationally have abandoned their Christian roots. St. Olaf prepares students to be the bridge builders of organizations and peacemakers in communities around the world.

### **What is St. Olaf doing well?**

President Anderson makes a strong case about the return on investment from a liberal arts education and the St. Olaf experience, including experiential learning. The Piper Center for Vocation and Career helps students understand vocational pathways in preparation for life after college. St. Olaf recently published information about students who graduated one year ago. With a 92 percent response rate, 98 percent were gainfully employed, earning advanced degrees, or living lives of service. How awesome is that?

### **What do you want to work on as a regent?**

I'd like to help deliver the message of affordability and the return on investment of St. Olaf. I will emphasize St. Olaf's Lutheran identity, which equips students for lives of service, and highlight cooperation and collaboration with other institutions, including Luther Seminary. I'm also serving as chair of the board's audit committee.

### **When you're not working or volunteering, how do you spend your time?**

Faith, family, and friends are places of passion and interest for me. My wife and I enjoy travel, and we've been fortunate to travel to many different places. We are grateful that our son and his wife also live in Eden Prairie. Becoming grandparents for the first time in July, we are also frequently with our daughter, her husband, and their daughter in Colorado.

# A Group Effort

Six Ole women from the Class of 1962 give the gift of an endowed scholarship

By Suzy Frisch | PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER

When Becca Hotchkiss '14 graduates from St. Olaf with a degree in social work, she'll be considering several fields that have sparked her interest: helping patients in hospice, assisting homeless populations, or working with child survivors of sexual abuse. Though these vocations are quite disparate, they share the same goal — improving the lives of others. It's a goal Hotchkiss aims to dedicate her career to.

"There are so many things you can do with a social work degree," says Hotchkiss, a native of Indianapolis. "There is so much need, and so many wonderful people who my degree is preparing me to help."

She recently got some assistance of her own from a group of women who also went to St. Olaf with the intention of helping others. Seeking to honor their departed classmates, six home economics majors came together to create the 1962 Endowed Home Economics Scholarship, just in time for their 50th class reunion.

After the unexpected death of a home economics classmate more than two years ago, the long-time friends started small: they sought to raise money for a memorial tree or bench on the Hill. But when they learned of the need for scholarships, they shifted their focus to raise what was then the minimum \$25,000 required for an endowment. They reached out to home economics alums, husbands of deceased classmates, and other 1962 Oles, raising more than \$50,000 — far beyond their wildest expectations.

*"The scholarship will help students achieve their goals. This gift is our way of giving back, of saying 'mange tak' for the opportunities that we received."* — CAROLYN TANDE '62

"We were so thrilled. We couldn't believe it," says Yvonne Janning of Redwood Falls, Minnesota, who taught home economics and music, and later helped develop and direct Early Childhood Family Education programs in her community. The fact that her former classmates came together to create the endowment still amazes her.

"Who would have thought?" she asks. "Some of us came from farm backgrounds and had to pay our own way through college. Some were the first in our families to go to college. We feel we are blessed to help someone each year get a degree from St. Olaf."

St. Olaf has not offered a home economics degree since 1986. Instead, today's students can major in family studies, social work, or sociology. By building the endowment, the women intend to honor their multifaceted major, which propelled them into diverse fields. They also seek to support students who focus their studies and careers on the home and family, whether that entails teaching, social work, caregiving, nutrition, or design.

"No matter what the degree is called today, focusing on the health of individuals and families is the core of a democracy, and it's the core of a healthy community," says Joan Matthees Fredeen of Anoka, Minnesota, a retired home economics teacher who also taught family and consumer science at the University of Minnesota.

In establishing the endowment, Fredeen, Janning, Naomi Fruechte, Harriet Plotz, Rosalie Rusovick, and Carolyn Tande also want to show



Alumnae (L-R) Naomi Fruechte, Yvonne Janning, Joan Matthees Fredeen, and Carolyn Tande are impacting the lives of Oles like Becca Hotchkiss '14 (center)

other St. Olaf alumni that they too can unite to make a difference. If a group of educators, extension specialists, guidance counselors, and teachers of disabled adults and young children — not exactly lucrative fields — can raise \$50,000 for scholarships, anyone can.

"We don't have the big bucks, but we did it," notes Plotz, a former home economics teacher, adjunct professor at Minnesota State University in Mankato, and now teacher of disabled adults at the Mankato Rehabilitation Center.

The missions of the home economics alumnae align well with Hotchkiss's goal to help others. She followed her sister Kimberly to St. Olaf, drawn to the faith-based school with a challenging academic environment. She planned to major in sociology until an Interim social work class about racism and sexism in the American family ignited her passion for the social work major. After getting her feet wet in hands-on work post-graduation, she aims to earn a master's degree in social work. Like so many students, paying for college is a struggle, and Hotchkiss is thankful to the women who created the scholarship.

"I'm very grateful for the gift they've given me, that I can come here and learn," says Hotchkiss.

For the six friends, it's their way of paying forward their invaluable experience at St. Olaf. As they daily call on the skills and knowledge they learned from their home economics majors — in food safety, human development, science, creative arts, and more — they are constantly reminded of the college's impact on the entirety of their lives, says Rusovick of Rochester, Minnesota. Through the scholarship, recipients will also gain an understanding of home economics and how it ties into their current field of study, notes Fruechte.

"This scholarship not only is in memory and honor of the home ec majors, but it will keep the ideals of the major alive," says Tande of Medford, Minnesota. "The scholarship will help students achieve their goals in a related study of this major. This gift is our way of giving back, of saying 'mange tak' for the opportunities that we received. I hope that this gift will open many new doors for recipients as they follow their dreams."

SUZY FRISCH is a Twin Cities writer and a regular contributor to *St. Olaf Magazine*.

To support or establish student scholarships and endowments, call 800-776-6523 or visit [stolaf.edu/giving](http://stolaf.edu/giving).

# class notes

A message from Alumni and Parent Relations:  
**We're going green!** In order to save paper and mailing costs, the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations will be posting class newsletters online for the classes of 1960 through 2011. Older classes will still receive a paper copy. Don't have email or a computer? No problem! Call our office at 888-865-6537 and we will be happy to send you a paper copy.

## 1937

**Violet Carlson Jacobson** shares these memories of her time on the Hill: "Enrollment was less than 1,000 students. The entire cost of a year was \$600. There were only three dorms and most of us lived off campus. Dating was a joyous form of recreation. It cost little to nothing — a stroll through Norway Valley, a blanket party at the Heath Creek, a soda (15 cents) or a movie (35 cents) downtown, a lecture or a concert on campus, or a sports event. The greatest event of my college career was that I met, fell in love, and married **J. Woodrow Jacobson '36**. He became a Lutheran pastor and I became a biology teacher. We had three children and adopted one, and all four are Ole grads. In our retirement we saw much of our world. Woodrow's interests were airports, being a pilot and having his own plane, and mine were wildlife sanctuaries; what a life! The best friends we had were and are the ones we made in college."



## 1941

**Robert Mueller**, celebrating his birthday this fall, was decked out in his Minnesota Vikings sports attire and ready to begin watching his favorite football team begin their season.

## 1952

**Bob Tengdin** and **Dick Kleber '55** defended their No. 1 ranking in the United States Tennis Association Northern Division in 75-over doubles. To defend their top ranking from last year, they had to defeat two teams of former Big Ten players. Although Bob and Dick did not play doubles together while at St. Olaf, they were on the same team when Bob was a senior and Dick a freshman — just imagine!



1961 classmates (L-R) **Rex Warland**, **Lowell Thompson**, and **Dennis Devine** stand beneath an ancient oak that is the namesake of Devine's Witness Tree Vineyard near Salem, Oregon. At right, **Frankie Heller '11** and winemaker **Steve Westby '83** take a break in the winery's processing building.



## 1961

**Lowell Thompson** writes, "Nine Oles from five different classes came together in early October to help with the wine harvest at Witness Tree Vineyard near Salem, Ore. Owners **Dennis Devine** and **Carolyn Hanson Devine '60**, winemaker **Steven Westby '83**, and harvest workers **Nelson Westby '09** and **Frankie Heller '11** were joined by observers (and tasters) **Carol** and **Rex Warland** and **Barbara** and **Lowell Thompson** (yes, they sang "Um! Yah! Yah!"). Witness Tree is a small producer of premium quality Pinot Noir and Chardonnay made entirely from grapes grown on the property. The Devines provided the wine for the Class of 1961's 50th Reunion.

## 1969



The Nursing Class of 1969 had a mini-reunion in the Twin Cities last October (Top row): **Carol Hintzman Schefers**, **Jeanne Scherbert Mikkelsen**, **Nancy Brome Rude**, **Carrie Sowles Struve**, **Ginny Stone McMillan**; (Front row): **Letty Hibben Lie**, **Sue Barger Turner**, **Deb Allison Adams**, and **Ann Nodland Schrader**.

## 1970

**Cynthia Foss Bowman**, medical director of Enzo Clinical Labs, Inc., in Farmingdale, N.Y., has received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the College of American Pathologists. ■

**Charles "Chip" Peterson** received the Dieperink Prize, awarded by the Minnesota Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, for his essay "Short-Term Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy: A Construction Zone," which appeared in the *American Journal of Psychotherapy*.

### St. Olaf Choir 1930 Norway Tour Memories

In 1930, the late **Ruth Magdalen Knudstad Stewart '30** sang in the St. Olaf Choir under the direction of F. Melius Christiansen and toured with the choir to Norway and Germany. It was the choir's second Norway tour, further solidifying a musical connection that remains strong to this day: the 100th anniversary of the first St. Olaf Choir Norway tour will be celebrated in June 2013.



When the St. Olaf Choir performed in Chicago last January, **Don Hoganson '52** arranged for Ruth's nieces — **Helene Pizzi** of Rome, Italy, and **Jorunn Scheiderich** of Chicago — to attend the concert, after which they presented St. Olaf Choir Director **Anton Armstrong '78** with Ruth's scrapbook filled with memories of the 1930 Norway tour. Oles who would like to see the scrapbook can visit the Shaw-Olson Center for College History when on campus.

## 1973

**Charlene Behrend Torkelson** writes, "In addition to my position with the Minnesota Professional Firefighters, I am an author and ballroom dance instructor. I teach writing classes for Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie [Minn.] community education programs, as well as dance classes in my own studio."

## 1977

**Gail Abendroth Bishop** was elected president of the American Association of Immunologists.

■ **Karen Anderson** continues to work in Chile as part of the Global Mission personnel of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. ■ In October, **Jane Hokanson Hawks** was inducted as a Fellow into the American Academy of Nursing, one of the most esteemed honors in nursing. Jane also was awarded the Distinguished Nurse Award for Nebraska and Southwest Iowa.



■ **Jim McDonald** established a science partnership with a school in Tema, Ghana, that is run by the international charity S.O.S.

## 1978

**Ann Astrup** has retired after 33 years of teaching high school math. ■ **Joanne Swenson** is serving as the senior associate minister at the Congregational Church, founded in 1733, in New Canaan, Conn.

## 1981

A book review by **Jeffrey Johnson**, a Lutheran pastor in Wayland, Mass., recently appeared in the *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*. In reviewing Sari Nusseibeh's book *What is a Palestinian State Worth?*, Jeffrey says he reflected on his Term in the Middle East in 1979-80, noting that his son, **Matthew Johnson '14**, is currently on Term in the Middle East, living and studying in Morocco.

## 1982

**Mark Danielson** is a development officer with the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation and is responsible for asset development and promotional strategies.

## 1984

**Richard Kyle, Jr.**, a shareholder at Fredrikson & Byron PA in Minneapolis, was elected treasurer of the Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA) and is on track to become the MSBA president during the 2014-15 bar year.

## 1988

**Kristin Swenson**, a visiting associate professor of religious studies at the University of Virginia, is writing full-time these days and working on a historical novel about ancient Babylon and Persia. ■ **Elizabeth Thompson** joined the Focal Point, LLC, as director of jury consulting, and will work out of the Oakland, Calif., and New York City offices.

## 1990

**Sarah Halvorson** was promoted to full professor at the University of Montana's Department of Geography. She has served as department chair since 2009 and recently was asked to be co-director of the Montana Geographic Alliance. Sarah lives in Missoula with her husband, three children, and a giant schnauzer named Thor.

## 1991

**Troy Morgan**, a minister with the Presbyterian Church of Ireland who serves four churches — Ballyhobridge Presbyterian Church in Northern Ireland and three churches in the Republic of Ireland (Newbliss, Stonebridge, and Clones) — was among the choristers who sang for Queen Elizabeth II as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration in the Church of Ireland Cathedral.

## 1992

**Matt Newland**, who is earning an M.B.A. at George Washington University while working in the HIV/AIDS bureau of the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration in Washington, D.C., was featured in the *Washington Post* in a section titled "Fixing Healthcare."

## 1997

**Denver Brunsmann** is an assistant professor of history in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. ■ **Eric Harstad** is interim director for the 2012-13 season for the Minnesota Valley Chorale of Mankato, Minn. Eric is a D.M.A. candidate in choral conducting at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and a choir teacher at Hutchinson (Minn.) High School.

## 2002

**David Durand** completed a transitional year residency in medicine at the University of North Dakota and has begun his diagnostic radiology residency at the Yale School of Medicine.

## 2003

**Jocelyn Hagen Takach** was commissioned by the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra in Minneapolis and composed a piece, "Solar," which was performed alongside composer Carl Nielsen's *Helios Overture* during the orchestra's "Here Comes the Sun!" concert.

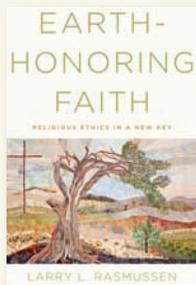
## 2004

**Elizabeth Braaten Palmieri** founded GreenHouse Theatre Project, where she is co-artistic director with her creative partner, Emily Adams. Check them out at [greenhousetheatre.wix.com/columbia-arts](http://greenhousetheatre.wix.com/columbia-arts) or on Facebook. ■ **Nathan Soland** attended the 2002-03 Global Semester 10-year reunion (see photo, below), in which 19 of the 28 Global Oles were able to share the weekend at the Heartwood Resort and Conference Center near Trego, Wis. Nathan recently has begun a new job with Target Corporation in Minneapolis, where he is a senior specialist for in-store marketing.



Alumni and advisors who attended the 2002-03 Global Semester 10-year reunion included: (Third row, L-R): **David Truesdale '04**, **Eric Palmer '04**, and Nolan Beron (with Nora Beron in hands); (Second row, L-R): **Mike Luke '04**, **Lauren Gloede '04**, **Hope Solarz '02**, **Katie Bonander Morgan '03**, **Kelly Quirk '04**, **Nicole Herther-Spiro '04**, **Sarah Steingas Beron '04**, **Michelle Crottier '04**, **Grete Christenson Willis '03**, **Keith Laubhan**, **Calyppo Grubb '04**, **Nathan Soland '04**, **Sarah Larson Moldenhauer '03**, **Shane Moldenhauer**, **Bill Carlson**, **Scott Donnelly**; (First row, L-R): **Sara Boelman '03**, **Michelle Morse-Wendt**, **Lauren Morse-Wendt '04** (with Luke Morse-Wendt), **Andy Willis '03** (with Trygve Willis), **Lindsey Nelson Donnelly '02** (with Marin Donnelly), and **Char Carlson**.

NEW BOOKS BY ST. OLAF ALUMNI AND FACULTY



**Coya Come Home: A Congresswoman's Journey** (Pomegranate Press, 1993; The Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights U.S. Foundation, 2nd edition, 2012), by **Gretchen Urnes Beito '57** ([amazon.com](#))

**Earth Honoring Faith: Religious Ethics in a New Key** (Oxford University Press, 2012), by **Larry Rasmussen '61** ([amazon.com](#))

**Worship as Repentance** (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2012), by **Walter Sundberg '69** ([amazon.com](#))

**Carla's Cancer Chronicles** (Word Association Publishers, 2012), a collection of letters by the late **Carla Beth Howery '72** ([wordassociation.com](#))

**Alive in the Storm** (Beaver's Pond Press, 2012), by **Sylvia Gravrock '76** ([aliveinthestorm.com](#), [BeaversPondBooks.com](#))

**Curiosity Killed the Sphinx and Other Stories** (Press Americana, 2012), by **Katherine Holmes '76** ([amazon.com](#))

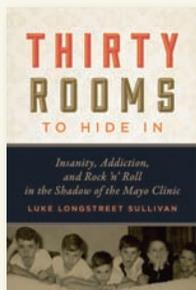
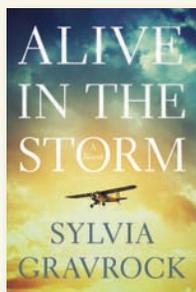
**Thirty Rooms to Hide In: Insanity, Addiction, and Rock 'n' Roll in the Shadow of the Mayo Clinic** (University of Minnesota Press, 2012), by **Luke Longstreet Sullivan '76** ([upress.umn.edu](#), [amazon.com](#))

**The Bondservant's Life** (Doulos Books, 2012), by **Kathy Chandler Taylor '82**, writing under the pseudonym John Brenner Chandler ([amazon.com](#))

**Medals and Plaquettes in the Ulrich Middeldorf Collection at the Indiana University Art Museum: 15th to 20th Centuries** (Indiana University Art Museum, 2012), by **Arne R. Flaten '89** ([iupress.indiana.edu](#))

**Democratic Education in Practice: Inside the Mission Hill School** (Teachers College Press, 2012), by **Matthew Knoester '96** ([store.tcpres.com](#), [amazon.com](#))

**Editor's Note:** St. Olaf Magazine does not review books written by alumni and faculty, nor does it promote any publication. The publication of books written by alumni will be included in "On the Shelf" as information to be shared with classmates and to encourage interested Ole readers to learn more. Books by Ole authors also may be available in the St. Olaf Bookstore ([stolafbookstore.com](#)).



2005

**Lindsey Beal** writes, "After graduating from the University of Iowa with an M.F.A. in photography and a graduate certificate in Book Arts from the University of Iowa Center for the Book, I moved to Providence, R.I., where I teach workshops for a nonprofit and am a full-time artist. I am now represented by Boston's Panopticon Gallery and have work in private and public collections throughout the U.S." ■ **Christopher Messinger** (below, second from right) graduated with a B.S.N. from Washington State University School of Nursing last spring and passed the nursing board to receive his R.N. license.



2006

**Andrew Jacobson** has co-authored an article that appeared in the journal *Biodiversity and Conservation* documenting the decline of African lion habitat. The article was picked up by NBC News, NPR, BBC World News, and the *Washington Post*, among others. Oles can read more at [msnbc.msn.com](#) or [washingtonpost.com](#).

■ **Emily Moen** is director of public relations and marketing for Thresholds, the oldest and largest provider of recovery services for persons with severe mental illness in Illinois. ■ **Ruth Nervig** is serving in the Peace Corps in Senegal, West Africa, where her focus is sustainable agriculture. She also was selected as one of two Peace Corps Volunteers in Senegal to serve on a multi-country committee addressing food security issues in West Africa. ■ **Rebecca Trombly** was nominated for the Teach for America Alumni Award, and out of 7,000 Teach for America alumni, she was one of 31 finalists.

2007

**Amber Collett**, who serves on the Hennepin County Soil and Water board in the Twin Cities, is a project manager with Fourth Sector Consulting. A recent article by Amber that



focuses on taking environmental action "from extracurricular to career," was published in *Minnesota 2020* ([mn2020.org](#)). ■ **Michael Reading**, as a Fulbright Scholar, conducted independent research in Toronto, Canada, on best practices in government-NGO relations. Today, Michael is pursuing a master's degree in international business at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Michael also serves as co-president of the Fletcher School chapter of Net Impact and as chair of the Fulbright Canada Advisory Committee on Alumni Activities. ■ **Michelle Vigen** is a research analyst at the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy in Washington, D.C.

2008

**Matt Nelson-Abell** (below, left), **Leslie Nelson-Abell '08** (far right), and **Molly McCarty '12** joined 30 volunteers at the CreateathonDC event to build new websites for three local nonprofit organizations within 72 hours. The event, hosted by the Web Development Group



based in Alexandria, Va., where both Matt and Molly work, was a huge success. Molly writes, "It is great to continue to work close to Oles even after graduation!" ■ **Laura Wilde** has been accepted into the prestigious opera program at the Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Lyric Opera Center of Chicago beginning in April 2013.

2009

**Katherine Chatelaine** has received her M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary. ■ **Elizabeth Linn** is a Ph.D. student in the political science department at Northwestern University. ■ **Sommer Wild** and **Alyssa Frazee '10** are Sommer Scholars at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the largest,

oldest, and most renowned school of public health in the world. Sommer is working toward a master's degree in public health; Alyssa is a Ph.D. candidate in biostatistics.

## 2010

**D.J. Erickson** completed two terms of AmeriCorps service with the St. Paul-based nonprofit College Possible. ■ **Andrea Henkel Huth** is attending medical school at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. ■ **Sarah Jacobson** completed a post-Fulbright Fellowship to UNESCO in Paris, France, in the division for gender equality. ■ **Gabriel Rholl** writes, "Following a two-year commitment with Teach For America, I've moved to Washington, D.C., to take a job with the National Head Start Association [NHSA] in their IT department. NHSA is the voice of Head Start in the nation's capital and advocates for Head Start families and schools while providing professional development to make Head Start a leader in early childhood education. I continue to maintain an intense interest in the potential of educational technology." ■ **Lauren Shively Fisher** earned a master's degree in church music with an emphasis on voice performance from Baylor University, where she was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student in Church Music Award and inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda. Last summer Lauren married **Jared Fisher '10**, who is a deputy sheriff for the Osceola County (Florida) sheriff's office. ■ **Hannah Sorenson**, a third year M.F.A. acting candidate at the Yale School of Drama, spent the summer of 2012 acting at the Yale Summer Cabaret Theater and now is completing her training with final showcases in New York and Los Angeles, where she hopes a whole new stage of her acting career will begin. ■ **Mari Valverde**, who graduated last

spring with her master's degree in composition from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, was awarded a grant by the Swedish Women's Education Association in San Francisco to research Swedish choral music. ■ **Cody Venzke** completed a two-year tenure with Teach For America in Houston, Texas, and has enrolled at Stanford Law School in Palo Alto, Calif.

## 2011

**Anna Klenke** had an essay published in August by Seal Press in an anthology called *Drinking Diaries: Women Serve Their Stories Straight Up*. Anna writes, "The editors of the anthology approached me about writing an essay about drinking in college after I had another essay published in the *New York Times* column Modern Love." ■ **Catherine Stalock**, after a year of service living with and caring for adults with developmental disabilities, now assists residents in daily living and a variety of programs through Camphill ([camphill.org](http://camphill.org)). Camphill communities offer a therapeutic way of life for people with significant cognitive disabilities. Catherine's community program includes organic farming, weavery, biodynamic gardening, and an herb workshop.

## 2012

**Amy Chatelaine** is interning with Joseph's House, a hospice for homeless men and women in the final stages of AIDS or cancer as part of a year-long service program through the Church of the Saviour community in the Adams Morgan neighborhood of Washington, D.C. ■ **Sadie Swehla Otte** is working toward her Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Minnesota.

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## future oles

Jeremy and Mary Edeal Reimers '92, a daughter, Grace  
Mike and Alyssa Biorn Quiggle '93, a daughter, Natalie  
Mike and Margaret Fang Laughton '97, a daughter, Harper  
Vince and Taunya Schueler Kobernick '97, a daughter, Kinsley  
Tom and Megan Gordon Myers '99, a daughter, Zoey  
James and Amber Kidder McCreath '99, a son, Henry  
Katherine Syverud Sullivan '99 and Christopher Sullivan '99, a son, Dane  
Kate Fisher '00 and Dan Swanson, a daughter, Willow  
Michael and Sara Daymont Schwartz '01, a son, Zachary  
Peter and Kelly Jacobs Borchers '01, a son, Samuel  
Brian and Jennifer Jokela Oleson '01, a son, Eli  
Cameo Haaksma Elzinga '04 and Matthew Haaksma Elzinga '04,  
a daughter, Linnea  
Peter and Sarah Larson Kyalo '04, a son, Isaac  
Chaz and Emily Klamm Mailey '05, a daughter, Jayda  
James and Anne Martino Hougas '05, a daughter, Estelle  
Jenna Arotta Carter '06 and Matthew Carter '06, a son, Callen  
Erin Boulay Zobel '06 and Derek Zobel '06, a son, Calvin  
Siri Knutsen-Larson '06 and Kyle Larson '07, a daughter, Solvei  
Jerome and Anna Stevens Bergquist '10, a daughter, Lilja

## weddings

Julie Stotesbery Jankowski '80 and Gregg Waylander '80, June 9, 2012  
Julieta Palmisciano '96 and Holger Beuschlein, April 30, 2011  
Kate McCall '97 and Eric Beazley, Sept. 24, 2011  
Lisa Rindal '97 and Howie Kittleson, June 16, 2012  
Manda Helmick '98 and Bradley Herzing, July 7, 2012  
Amy Moberly '98 and Jeff Collins, Oct. 15, 2011  
Kate Fisher '00 and Dan Swanson, Aug. 5, 2011  
Mary Clementi '04 and Danny Lanzetta, May 12, 2012  
Frances Emberley '04 and Christopher Cocchiarella, June 10, 2012  
Ania Urban '04 and Mike Erickson '04, May 26, 2012  
Sarah Billington '05 and Matthew Norman '08, Sept. 8, 2012  
Rachel Hunsinger '05 and Joe Schmeltzer, June 16, 2012  
Sarah Podenski '05 and Jacob Sinderbrand, Aug. 4, 2012  
Jenna Barke '06 and Adam Van Proosdy, July 14, 2012  
Margaret Johnston '06 and Aaron Mathison, May 26, 2012  
Annie Lindquist '06 and Jason Payseur, June 24, 2011  
Britta Aadland '07 and Trevor Keyler '07, Aug. 25, 2012  
Jenna Landsom '07 and Joey Paulsen '07, July 14, 2012  
Kristina Muehl '07 and Tyson Gern '08, July 7, 2012  
Kelsey Anderson '08 and Dan McCarthy, July 21, 2012  
Tessa Brolin '08 and Daniel Pierce, August 11, 2012  
Sarah Frank '08 and Stephen Lindley '08, July 14, 2012  
Abby Lane '08 and Adam Gerber, June 24, 2012  
Sally McClintock '08 and Paul Scheierl, July 9, 2011  
Leslie Abell '08 and Matt Nelson '08, June 16, 2012  
Katherine Chatelaine '09 and Chris Samsen, Oct. 6, 2012  
Amber Gilbertson '09 and Geoffrey Grochocinski, June 15, 2012  
Elizabeth Linn '09 and Oruj Gadimov, June 29, 2012

Sarah Schmidt '09 and Glen Johnson, Aug. 11, 2012  
Stephanie Andren '10 and Daniel Monroe '10, Aug. 11, 2012  
Emma Dudzik '10 and Michael Lenz '10, Aug. 17, 2012  
Amie Fillmore '10 and Dean Chamberlain, Aug. 4, 2012  
Michaela Gansen '10 and David Sandness '10, June 30, 2012  
Maren Gelle '10 and Paul Henderson '11, July 28, 2012  
Andrea Henkel '10 and Jesse Huth, July 14, 2012  
Holly Samuelson '10 and Cody Venzke '10, July 9, 2011  
Lauren Shively '10 and Jared Fisher '10, Aug. 18, 2012  
Leslie Williams '10 and Aaron Hursh, June 23, 2012  
Rachel Darling '11 and Eli Ketchum, June 16, 2012  
Sara Fischer '11 and Anthony Pluth '10, June 23, 2011  
Megan Gnazzo '11 and Matthew Friedrichsen '11, July 14, 2012  
Greta Morgenthaler '11 and Pierce Devol '11, July 5, 2012  
Ashley Severson '11 and Peter Olsen, May 19, 2012  
Ellen Weaver '11 and Steven King, July 28, 2012  
Britta Anderson '12 and John Maddox, Aug. 11, 2012  
Kayla Gronli '12 and Andrew Knutson '12, Aug. 4, 2012  
Jennifer Nygren '12 and Carl McBurney '12, Aug. 11, 2012  
Sadie Swehla '12 and Kellen Otte, June 16, 2012

## deaths

Angeline Jacobson '31, Decorah, Iowa, Dec. 1, 2011  
Thora Brekken Kinseth '35, Story City, Iowa, Sept. 6, 2012  
Signe Hovick Austin '35, Eagan, Minn., July 14, 2012  
Lylah Sanders '36, Leavenworth, Wash., June 2, 2012  
Norman Bjornnes '38, Clearwater, Fla., May 14, 2012  
Mary Jane Hansen Thompson '39, Madrid, Iowa, Aug. 5, 2012  
\*Winfield Johnson '39, St. Paul, Minn., June 13, 2012  
Jean Nelson Sorensen '39, Bellevue, Wash., Sept. 10, 2012  
Lorraine Oppegard Maxted '39, Montrose, Colo., June 20, 2012  
Eunice Thorn Wichmann '39, Timonium, Md., Aug. 17, 2012  
Margaret Lunder Sloane '40, Westport, Conn., June 12, 2012  
Hazel Baker Tudor '41, Nashville, Tenn., July 2, 2012  
Esther Haugen Murrell '41, Waco, Texas, Sept. 6, 2009  
Rosanna Johnson Goebel '41, Farmington Hills, Mich., June 11, 2012  
Ruth Kunkel Petersen '41, Sheridan, Mont., Aug. 23, 2012  
Leah Miller Ostrem '41, Edina, Minn., July 12, 2012  
Marguerite Reetz Knox '41, Madison, Wis., July 17, 2012  
Delores Johnson Fastle '42, Rochester, Minn., May 5, 2012  
Richard Michel '42, Chaska, Minn., June 16, 2012  
\*Marcelle Peterson '42, Marshall, Minn., Aug. 29, 2012  
\*Franklin Philipp '42, Waseca, Minn., Aug. 8, 2012  
Beryl Rossow Blumeyer '42, Ankeny, Iowa, Aug. 25, 2012  
Doris Skindlov Hollimon '42, Green Bay, Wis., Aug. 22, 2012  
\*James Musolf '43, Hendersonville, N.C., Sept. 5, 2012  
\*L. Winston Hagen '44, Excelsior, Minn., May 4, 2012  
Avis Hasbargen White '44, Orono, Minn., May 24, 2012  
Eugene Nilsen '44, Henderson, Nev., Aug. 27, 2012  
Mildred Salmi Stinson '44, Denver, June 16, 2012  
Glen Fors '45, King City, Ore., Aug. 9, 2012

- Lorraine Gaarder Hanneman '45, Mount Horeb, Wis., Aug. 12, 2012  
 Damaris Thompson Copperud '45, Oakland, Calif., July 19, 2012  
 Betty Kircher Pederson '46, Bloomington, Minn., Sept. 4, 2012  
 Naomi Lund Craig '46, Fernandina Beach, Fla., Sept. 1, 2012  
 Ethelyn Halverson St. Vincent '48, Barron, Wis., June 21, 2012  
 \*Joseph Kleven '48, Sun City West, Ariz., June 17, 2012  
 \*H. Eugene Mason '48, St. Paul, Minn., June 13, 2012  
 Stanley Nelson '48, Edina, Minn., Aug. 3, 2012  
 Patricia Bailey Wutschke '49, Maple Grove, Minn., April 8, 2010  
 Emily Docken Brimmer '49, Cheyenne, Wyo., March 28, 2012  
 Marian Miller Roisen '49, Wichita, Kan., Aug. 15, 2012  
 Nathalie Peterson Ensrud '49, Glen Arbor, Mich., Aug. 24, 2012  
 \*Albert Anderson '50, La Crosse, Wis., Aug. 19, 2012  
 Barbara Bitting Jurgensen '50, Columbus, Ohio, July 1, 2012  
 \*Maynard Mellang '50, Rochester, Minn., Aug. 29, 2012  
 Lorence Voehl '50, Worthington, Minn., Aug. 4, 2012  
 \*Gordon Jacobson '51, Escondido, Calif., Sept. 3, 2012  
 Marjorie Lysne Swanson '51, Medford, Ore., August 22, 2012  
 Harold Lunde '52, Bowling Green, Ohio, Jan. 27, 2012  
 Willard Axness '53, Redmond, Wash., July 7, 2012  
 William Johnson Jr. '53, New York, N.Y., June 21, 2012  
 Kathryn Mattill Strom '53, Bozeman, Mont., June 25, 2012  
 James Stradtman '53, Glenwood, Minn., Aug. 13, 2012  
 Carl Ulrich '53, Ashby, Minn., June 22, 2012  
 Lois Johnson Miller '54, Boise, Idaho, July 28, 2012  
 Dolores Sotherlund Knudsen '54, Bogart, Ga., July 12, 2012  
 Nels Olson '55, Ann Arbor, Mich., Sept. 17, 2012  
 \*Charles Hillstrom '56, Sioux Falls, S.D., June 29, 2012  
 \*Arnold Long '56, Spooner, Wis., Aug. 15, 2012  
 Helen Thompson '56, Visalia, Calif., Sept. 18, 2012  
 \*Robert Kalass '57, Zumbrota, Minn., July 16, 2012  
 Sylvia Leiseth Frantz '57, Portland, Ore., June 28, 2012  
 Paul Fransén '58, Pataskala, Ohio, Aug. 15, 2012  
 Robert Hokeness '58, Northfield, Minn., Aug. 16, 2012  
 James Peterson '58, Des Moines, Iowa, July 15, 2012  
 David Hamre '60, Winter Haven, Fla., July 4, 2012  
 James Solheim '61, Trenton, N.J., Aug. 8, 2012  
 Joanne Untinen Brace '61, Rocklin, Calif., Aug. 21, 2012  
 \*Dawn Anderson '63, Minneapolis, July 8, 2012  
 Barbara Anfinson Eichler '64, Glen Ellyn, Ill., July 1, 2012  
 Ronald Sell '66, Northfield, Minn., July 10, 2012  
 Frederick Ress '71, Minneapolis, July 18, 2012  
 Jon Ahlberg '74, St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 12, 2012  
 Jane Stamstad '74, Bayfield, Wis., June 26, 2012  
 Dianne Lukes Brundage '75, St. Paul, Minn., July 22, 2012  
 Lisa Gulbrandson Drake '80, Grand Ledge, Mich., June 16, 2012  
 Suzanne Solem Wildenradt '80, San Francisco, July 8, 2012  
 Karen Erickson McKenzie '81, Libertyville, Ill., Aug. 5, 2012  
 Mark Henke '81, Lakeville, Minn., Aug. 31, 2012

\* Veteran

## IN REMEMBRANCE



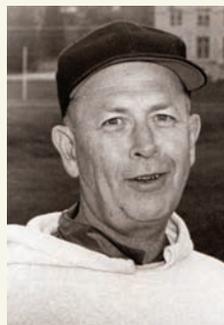
### Edlo Solum

Associate Professor of Physical Education Edlo Solum died in Northfield on Sept. 27, 2012, at the age of ninety-eight. A native of northern California, Edlo graduated from the University of California in Berkeley and, in 1937, received an invitation to teach physical education at St. Olaf for just one year. But one year turned into two, and lifelong friendships were made — among them, a St. Olaf mathematics professor named Arthur Solum.

Edlo returned to Berkeley to earn a master's degree in physical education and then taught high school for three years in Mountain View, California, all the while corresponding with Art Solum. In 1943, Art and Edlo were married in Northfield, where they lived and taught for the rest of their lives. Edlo resumed teaching physical education at St. Olaf until her retirement in 1976. She also served for many years as associate chair and chair of the women's physical education department.

Edlo treasured her friendships with St. Olaf colleagues and former students and was dedicated to advancing physical education. She remained active in many professional associations at the national, state, and local levels and served as an officer in the American Association of University Women. After her retirement, St. Olaf asked Edlo to serve as the college's Title IX equal opportunity coordinator, a position she held until 1980. In 2001, she was inducted into the St. Olaf College Athletics Hall of Fame.

Edlo was preceded in death by her husband, who died in 1998. She is survived by their children, Patricia Solum Shaver '67 and Stephen Solum '70, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



### Charles "Chuck" Lunder

Professor of Physical Education Chuck Lunder died August 19 in Northfield. He was ninety-eight. A 1937 graduate of Carleton College (where he helped his football team beat the Oles to capture three annual "Goat" trophies), Chuck earned degrees in psychology and education. He then joined the U.S. Navy in 1943, serving in the Pacific and receiving an honorable discharge two years later.

Chuck and his wife, Lorraine, moved to Two Harbors, Minnesota, where he taught while earning his master's degree from the University of Minnesota in Duluth. In 1952, Chuck and Lorraine moved to Northfield so Chuck could join the St. Olaf physical education faculty. There he served as head coach of wrestling, men's tennis, and baseball, and assisted with men's basketball and football. In total, these teams won fourteen conference championships during his career, and his 1972 wrestlers won the Midwest conference title. After twenty-five years of teaching and coaching at St. Olaf, Chuck retired in 1977.

"Coach Lunder helped to mold the foundation of the Recreation, Exercise Science, and Athletics Program at St. Olaf," says Matt McDonald '89, director of athletics and head baseball coach at the college. "He was a kind, encouraging, positive force for everyone he encountered in the St. Olaf community, including thousands of students."

In 1982, Chuck was inducted into the Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame. He was also a member of both the St. Olaf College and Carleton College Athletic Halls of Fame. Survivors include his son Leon Lunder '71, a grandson, and a great-grandson.

# A Musical Prayer for Peace

On May 26, 1972, tucked in amongst Minneapolis *Tribune* newspaper headlines about Vietnam, *Apollo 16*, and Watergate, appeared a small headline about a nearly forgotten event: “St. Olaf Students Sing War Protest in Capital.” | BY JEFF SAUVE

**I**N THE SPRING OF 1970, two tragic events occurred that impacted college and university students across America: On May 4, National Guardsmen opened fire on students at Kent State University, killing four and wounding nine others. Eleven days later, police opened fire on Jackson State University students, killing two and wounding twelve. In both cases, the students were protesting the American invasion of Cambodia during the Vietnam War.

These events led to an outcry against the unreasonable use of force on anti-war student protesters. Among those taking a stand against the violence was Kurt Westerberg '72, a St. Olaf music and performance major. Westerberg, then a second-year student, was inspired to create an original composition titled *De Profundis*.

Based on Psalm 130, the twenty-minute, three-movement piece combined vocal, instrumental, and dance sequences. It brought together St. Olaf Band Director Miles “Mity” Johnson, the sixty-five-voice St. Olaf Chapel Choir, a thirteen-member student brass-percussion ensemble, an eighteen-member student modern dance group, and student choreographer Dell Grant '73.

“*De Profundis* is not intended to be entertaining listening nor is it a ‘hip’ version of a Biblical Psalm,” wrote Westerberg in the program introduction. “It is an expression of feelings and ideas that has its roots in the words of Psalm 130 and in the tragic deaths at Kent and Jackson State [Universities]. Those deaths were not the first or the last, but they struck a special chord within that made us cry out in disgust louder than ever before.”

While many St. Olaf students took part in anti-war protests, *De Profundis* uniquely set those sentiments to music and involved students in many hours of rehearsal. Early performances included Homecoming in October 1971, with nearly one thousand attending, and a performance in Minneapolis.

“It wasn’t protesting and picketing,” says Professor Emerita of Dance Ann Wagner. “It was a very positive expression for peace.”

On May 26, 1972, St. Olaf students traveled to Washington, D.C., to give three performances of *De Profundis* in front of hundreds of people. Westerberg dedicated the composition to the memory of the students killed at Kent and Jackson State Universities, noting “We must somehow learn to live and love together — not because it is praiseworthy to do so, but because there is nothing else to do.”

Forty years later, Dr. Kurt Westerberg, now chair of musician-ship studies and composition at DePaul University School of Music, reflects on the inception and performances of *De Profundis*.

**Jeff Sauve:** How did *De Profundis* come about?

**Kurt Westerberg:** *De Profundis* was one of my longest and most ambitious works as a young composer. It was conceived very soon after the tumultuous events of the Kent and Jackson State protests — it was just something I felt I had to do. I had heard Psalm 130 read at a memorial service for the victims of the protests and decided immediately to somehow set it to music.

**JS:** How did the St. Olaf community affect your composition?

**KW:** *De Profundis* was also a response to the community of St. Olaf — a community of students, faculty, music, and faith that had affected me strongly. Community seemed to me to be the answer to the tragedies that had occurred — a way of expressing anguish over what had happened, finding comfort, and working towards a better future.

**JS:** How did the faculty support you?

**KW:** I am still amazed that Mity Johnson and Robert Scholz (whose wife, Cora, sang the soprano solo in the second movement) thought the work worthy of rehearsal and performance. I am even more amazed that Ann Wagner was open to finding a student choreographer (Dell Grant) and including the fledgling St. Olaf dance program in the work.

**JS:** How did the Washington, D.C., engagements on May 24 and 25, 1972, come about?

**KW:** That, again, was a product of community. The project was the idea of student [Clint] “Moss” Hockenberry '72. Once again, the [St. Olaf] community made it happen. Mity, Ann, and Robert all worked together, and President Sidney Rand gave the idea his approval [along with] additional funds.

**JS:** What do you recall of the Washington D.C. experiences?

**KW:** It was a very humbling experience to have my sophomore work used to

express a significant desire for peace and reconciliation. It was really not just my work anymore — I knew that it had grown beyond my creative input, and had impact because of the result of so many other efforts, including the [singers], musicians, and dancers.

**JS:** Coming home to St. Olaf College was a difficult experience for some performers, who were exhausted from travel and the emotional roller-coaster leading up to graduation. Your thoughts?

**KW:** The aftermath, especially the bus ride home, was bittersweet, since I was to graduate, and I knew as we all returned home that it was time to say farewell to many powerful experiences. I knew how lucky I was to have been a part of it all. Many composers are never this fortunate. The end was very much like saying good-bye to a loved one — things would never quite be the same. 🍷

JEFF SAUVE is the associate archivist at the Shaw-Olson Center for College History. Oles can share their stories with him by emailing [sauve@stolaf.edu](mailto:sauve@stolaf.edu).



At the time of the performance, a handout stated: “We believe that the arts may be the only language left through which we can express our moral obligation as men [and women] in these times of violence.”



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—parting shot—

“TWO ROADS DIVERGED IN A WOOD AND I — I TOOK THE ONE  
LESS TRAVELED BY, AND THAT HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.”

— ROBERT FROST



Friendships deepen through shared experiences on the Hill, whether in the classroom or in the residence halls, while on music tours or in lively debates, playing broomball or building a snowman on a cold winter day. Randa Rabemahefa '16, whose hometown is Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Davis UWC Scholar Soukeyna Bocoum '16, who hails from Dakar, Senegal, made time to enjoy Minnesota's first big snowstorm of the season.

PHOTO BY TOM ROSTER