

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

ST. OLAF

M A G A Z I N E



ON THE COVER

A detailed photo of the stained glass in the dome of Steensland Hall. Read more about the renovations to this iconic campus building on page 16.

PHOTO BY EVAN PAK '19

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More than 400 St. Olaf Orchestra alumni and current members gathered in early June for a special reunion concert in honor of retiring conductor Steven Amundson. Learn more on page 36.
STEVEN GARCIA '20

ST. OLAF

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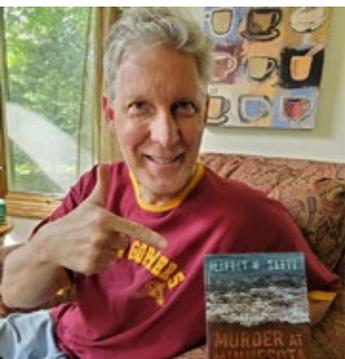
BY JEFF SAUVE

Claire Strother '22 is a writer who majored in American studies and gender and sexuality studies at St. Olaf. In addition to working in the Marketing and Communications Office, she served as the executive editor of the *Olaf*

Messenger and was the station manager for KSTO radio. She is moving to Stockholm this summer to begin a job with a study-abroad foundation.



Jeff Sauve is an author and former longtime archivist at St. Olaf who has been writing the magazine column sharing stories of the college's history since 2008. His new true-crime narrative, *Murder at Minnesota Point*, is available via Amazon.





Dear Oles,

It's an exciting time at St. Olaf College.

For the first time in 17 years, the Board of Regents and our campus community are engaged in the challenging, invigorating work of selecting the college's next leader. Just over a year ago, President David R. Anderson '74 announced that he would retire at the end of the 2022–23 academic year. Now, as President Anderson turns to his last year leading the college — and as we celebrate his many accomplishments — we are also looking to the future.

A Presidential Search Committee composed of regents and former regents, alumni, faculty, staff, and a student, in collaboration with our search firm, Storbeck Search, is leading the charge. As those groups have shaped the profile of St. Olaf's next leader, they've been guided by a wealth of feedback from across the St. Olaf community. Thank you to all who have sat in on listening sessions, provided survey feedback, sent notes, and met with our search firm during their visit to campus. Your input is invaluable.

The work has also been shaped by the Board of Regents' 2021 Visioning Task Force report, which examined St. Olaf's strengths, challenges, and commitments as we look toward the college's next chapter. As we interview candidates, we are searching for those who have the experience, energy, and drive to live out this vision and its commitments:

- For Every Ole — Developing the Whole Person
- Improving St. Olaf Culture and Living Out Our Values
- Empowering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Becoming an Agile and Focused St. Olaf

The Presidential Search Committee began building a candidate pool this spring, and interviews will take place through the summer. Later this year, we expect the committee to make its recommendations to the Board of Regents, which will then select a candidate. St. Olaf's 12th president will be announced to the full campus community in early 2023, and will be in office by July 2023.

This process is the Board of Regents' most important work, and we are grateful to the many people who have and will support it. We are excited to identify a candidate who will lead our effort to live out our vision for the future, as defined by the Visioning Task Force:

St. Olaf College will be known as one of the country's best liberal arts colleges, nationally and internationally recognized for excellence, academic rigor, and community inclusivity, while developing and preparing students of character to lead lives of substance as contributing citizens of the world.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Lund". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Jay Lund '81, P'21, P'14, P'14
Chair of the St. Olaf Board of Regents



A Conversation With the Presidential Search Committee Chair

St. Olaf Regent Stephanie Fehr '87, P'21 has nearly three decades of human resources and talent development experience at companies that include Apple and UnitedHealthcare, where she currently serves as executive vice president and chief human capital officer.

As St. Olaf begins the process of selecting a successor for President David R. Anderson '74 upon his retirement at the end of the 2022-23 academic year, Fehr is chairing the search committee. She sat down recently to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about the search.

The search committee and the search firm the college is using have held listening sessions with faculty, staff, students, and alumni to get a sense for what the campus community would like to see in the college's next president. What are some key insights you've heard from those conversations?

One of the best parts of doing this work has been meeting and hearing from all of the amazing stakeholders who care deeply about St. Olaf. I've always known there is a strong and engaged St. Olaf stakeholder community, but am even more impressed after hearing from so many advocates. The feedback has been very consistent and not surprising. The challenges we face as a college are much different than they were 16 years ago, when President Anderson assumed his leadership role, so the profile of the ideal candidate looks different too. Some of the key areas we want our new president to focus on include:

- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Affordability
- Academic quality
- Institutional culture
- Student success
- Faculty & staff recruitment/development
- Financial stability

What qualities will be most important for the new president to have?

In every conversation we've had with stakeholders, leadership has risen to the top. St. Olaf needs a leader who is equipped to create a vision that addresses the current and future challenges. The work that



was completed last year by the college's Visioning Task Force has been invaluable to us as we think about St. Olaf's aspirations and what type of leader will move the college toward that vision. We're looking for a leader who embraces the mission and core values of the college, embodies a courageous spirit, and has the capacity both to consult with and lead the community with conviction. This leader will be a strong champion of the liberal arts and a faithful person with knowledge of and respect for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) tradition. Lastly, we're looking for a genuine, enthusiastic, and highly visible leader who will be out in front and engaged with the St. Olaf community.

What opportunities do you see in this search?

We have been so fortunate to have President Anderson for almost two decades, and our goal is to find a worthy successor with a proven track record of success who will make a long-term commitment to the college. There are so many exciting opportunities ahead when we think about where St. Olaf is going. One is to bring in a leader who understands and loves St. Olaf, but also brings in new thinking and new ways of engaging the community.

The next president will have the benefit of a strong St. Olaf community with so many advocates across the world. There is an opportunity to continue to tap into this network and foster this advocacy going forward. I feel very privileged to have engaged with so many St. Olaf stakeholders along the way. The love and support for our college is quite moving and this will serve the new president well!

What challenges do you see in this search?

Having been in human resources for most of my career, I can say this is the most challenging and competitive talent market

The St. Olaf Presidential Search Committee

Regents and Former Regents

Stephanie Fehr '87, P'21, *Chair*
 Rev. William Gafkjen '79, *Bishop*
 Susan Gunderson '79, P'15
 Jennifer Hellman '98, P'25
 Christopher Klein P'19
 Timothy Maudlin '73, P'99, P'02
 Brenda McCormick '89
 Glenn Taylor '73

Faculty

Louis Epstein, *Associate Professor of Music and Faculty Representative to Board*

Anthony Bateza, *Associate Professor of Religion*

Staff

María Pabón Gautier, *Vice President for Equity and Inclusion*

Valeng Cha, *Director of Government, Foundation, and Corporate Relations*

Student

Andy Nelson '23, *Student Government Association (SGA) President*

I've seen. Leadership has never been more critical and we are searching for a leader who will not only lead us into the future, but will also create a compelling environment for everyone. We want every student to flourish, feel included, and be part of a college that develops the whole student. Leaders create the environment and we must ensure the St. Olaf experience is one where people can be their authentic selves, feel included, and focus on learning. Finding this special leader will be a challenge in itself, but we are fortunate that St. Olaf is a college that naturally attracts many candidates, so I'm confident we will have a rich pool of candidates to explore.

Where can people find more information or updates on the search process?

We have created a presidential search website where you can find updates on the search timeline and process and read the presidential profile, which is an outline of the qualities and skills that we're looking for in the next president.

You can visit the site at stolaf.edu/presidentialsearch or scan the QR code on this page, which will take you directly to the site. 🐾





Members of the Class of 2022 and their families gather on the Campus Green for the Illumination Ceremony.



Rafa Al-Helal '22 delivers the senior commencement address.



The Campus Green glows with the personalized lanterns of each member of the Class of 2022 as part of the Illumination Ceremony, a Commencement Weekend tradition to honor graduating seniors.



Lauren Sherman '22 and her service dog, Adelena, walk at commencement.



Emily Ziegler '22 smiles as she walks back to her seat after receiving her diploma.



College Pastor Matt Marohl, Vice President for Enrollment and College Relations Michael Kyle '85, U.S. Senator Tina Smith, and President David R. Anderson '74 gather before the commencement ceremony. Senator Smith, who has represented Minnesota in the U.S. Senate since 2018, delivered the charge to the graduating class.



Ole football teammates Lars Prestemon '22 (left) and Gabe Alada '22 congratulate each other during the ceremony.

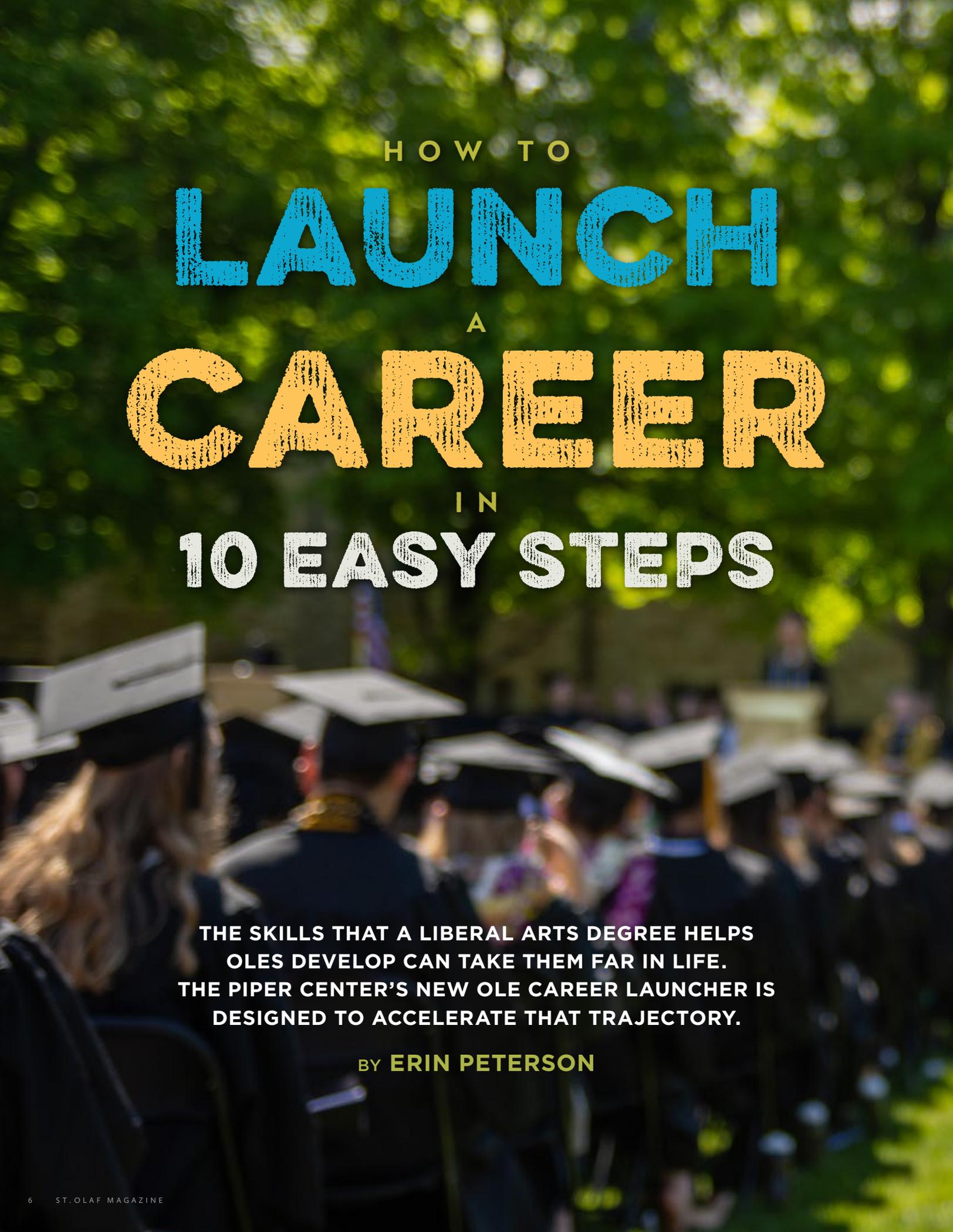


Celebrating the Class of 2022

St. Olaf College lauded its newest graduates with a commencement ceremony on the picturesque lawn in front of Melby Hall on May 29. Watch the ceremony and read more about Commencement Weekend at stolaf.edu/news/celebrating-the-class-of-2022 or by scanning this QR code.



PHOTOS BY EVAN PAK '19



HOW TO
LAUNCH
A
CAREER
IN
10 EASY STEPS

THE SKILLS THAT A LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE HELPS
OLES DEVELOP CAN TAKE THEM FAR IN LIFE.
THE PIPER CENTER'S NEW OLE CAREER LAUNCHER IS
DESIGNED TO ACCELERATE THAT TRAJECTORY.

BY **ERIN PETERSON**





Research has long shown the value of a liberal arts education. Not only

does it help people find meaningful careers and purpose in their lives, but it typically offers a robust return on investment.

According to a Georgetown University study of more than 4,500 colleges and universities, St. Olaf College graduates saw a million-dollar boost in career lifetime earnings over someone with a high school diploma, placing the college among the top 15 percent of institutions measured.

Still, that return can take a decade or more to start accumulating. Piper Center for Vocation and Career Director Kirsten Cahoon '98 thought that with the right student support and programming, St. Olaf could help turbocharge that success.

It was with this mindset that she and her colleagues began developing the Ole Career Launcher, which is designed to help students pair skills that they learn inside and outside the classroom with applied skills that they can immediately use in situations they'll encounter when they enter the workforce. "The Ole Career Launcher tracks help students dip their toes in some of the essential skills of a craft," she says. "It helps them map the broader skills of a liberal arts education onto the world of work."

So what does that actually look like? Here, we walk you through the details, step by step.



Kirsten Cahoon '98
EVAN PAK '19



Gen Z students are eager for experiences in college like internships ...

A *Chronicle of Higher Education* survey found that nearly 80 percent of college students said it was "important for the undergraduate curriculum to include real-world activities, such as internships." As products of the Great Recession, these students look to apply their learning and build concrete skills that will make them both marketable for the moment and adaptable for what's next.



... and employers want students to be ready to hit the ground running, even in entry-level roles.

A recent national survey found that hiring managers were four times more likely to prefer a combination of a liberal arts degree and an industry-recognized certificate in a specialization, rather than a liberal arts degree alone.



> 3

The Ole Career Launcher merges liberal arts insight with practical experiences.

In the fall of 2021, the Piper Center for Vocation and Career began an ambitious new program, the Ole Career Launcher. The program began with 10 different tracks on topics ranging from data analytics to international affairs to business strategy. The tracks are designed to last anywhere from a few weeks to an entire semester.

Each track builds in a mix of practical skills for specific careers, useful work mindsets, and powerful networking opportunities with experts that often include accomplished alumni.

Cahoon likens it to a career laboratory. “The program is designed to give students a sampling of ideas of what’s possible and allows them to test them out,” she says. Coupled with the critical thinking, writing, and problem-solving approaches that are embedded in St. Olaf’s liberal arts curriculum, students build a strong, cohesive skill set for whatever they choose to pursue next.

> 4

Subject matter experts help students hone their skills and knowledge ...

Claire Campbell '01 spent a decade in federal national security roles and had spent years informally coaching people who wanted to get into the field. When she joined NatSecCareers as an intelligence and security career coach, she wanted to think bigger.

Many major East Coast schools have built up formal programs or informal pipelines that funnel students from college experiences to roles in international affairs careers. Campbell believes that St. Olaf — with its strong international studies programs, foreign language requirements, and global mindset — has all the right ingredients to send interested students down a similar path.

While she knew many students had the right building blocks for such careers, she also knew that they would benefit by strengthening a few key skills and adding experts to their network. The International Affairs Careers track she led over the 2021 fall semester helped students do just that.

Campbell worked with students to hone their analytical writing to develop sharp, one-page policy papers. She encouraged them to do independent study projects their senior year. She even offered one-on-one coaching sessions to juniors and seniors to give them the tailored advice they’d need to succeed in whatever career they wanted to pursue.

While she says that she’s always happy to help Oles, she sees a more expansive purpose to her work. “Yes, it’s a benefit to the students,” she says. “But it’s also a benefit to the U.S. government and private sector to get these very well educated, worldly students in their roster of employees. It’s in our best interest to have the best, most qualified people in these crucial jobs.”



Claire Campbell '01
STEVEN GARCIA '20

5 Get real-world experience or build a portfolio ...

It's one thing to watch the sharp investigative reporting in movies like *All the President's Men* or *Spotlight*. It's quite another to try to do the shoe-leather work yourself. If anyone knows that, it's Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Gretchen Morgenson '76, who worked at the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* before taking on her current role as the senior financial reporter for NBC News Investigations.

In the Investigative Journalism track that she is leading with Emmy, Edward R. Murrow, and Walter Cronkite award-winning journalist Karla Hult '95, a longtime reporter at the Twin Cities NBC television affiliate KARE 11, the pair work with a handful of students to help them develop their own investigative journalism project. It begins with generating an idea that has the potential to make a meaningful impact and ends with them dotting every "i" and crossing every "t" in the fact-checking process. "It's a hands-on project," says Morgenson, who also serves on the St. Olaf Board of Regents. "At the end, their work is a publication-ready story or series of stories."

While getting published isn't a guarantee, Morgenson says a clip isn't the only potential benefit of the work. "This is something that students can show a future employer," she says.





STUDENT SUCCESS PROFILE | Aya Kamil '22
Ole Career Launcher Track: **International Affairs Careers**

Aya Kamil doesn't dabble in the things she loves: she pursues them ferociously. A political science major who is deeply interested in a career in international affairs, she managed to do three study-abroad programs as a student — even with a pandemic-shortened travel window.

So when she saw the Ole Career Launcher's International Affairs track, which promised to complement the theories she'd learned in her political science coursework, she couldn't wait to get started. "This was a chance to adapt my skills to the real world," she says.

She did: she learned to write one-page policy memos and targeted resumes. She also learned how to conduct useful informational interviews with people in the field. "It felt like a 'hidden etiquette' that you'd never get by Googling 'Foreign Service Careers,'" she says.

This spring Kamil won a prestigious fellowship with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where she will be part of the Middle East and North Africa team. As she looks ahead, she plans to pursue a career in human rights or women's rights advocacy work within the larger field of international relations. She feels confident that she has exactly what she needs to land a great role. "This experience gave me the skills to set me apart," she says. "It really makes a difference."



"This was a chance to adapt my skills to the real world."

— Aya Kamil '22



Karla Hult '95 instructs students in the Investigative Journalism track during a session in Rolvaag Library 515, with New York City-based Gretchen Morgenson '76 joining the class virtually.
EVAN PAK '19

STUDENT SUCCESS PROFILE | Matthew Myers '22
Ole Career Launcher Track: **Strategy Case Challenge**

When Matthew Myers joined the Strategy Case Challenge track as part of Ole Career Launcher, he was excited to build on his already robust preparation for a consulting career. Myers, a mathematics and quantitative economics major, was president of the St. Olaf Management Consulting Club and interned at the Big Four professional service firm KPMG.

The Strategy Case Challenge offered an array of practical and real-world experiences he's valued. As part of the track, he led two distinct projects for companies: a product launch for a stationery company, and financial projections and modeling for an aquaculture company.

While the deliverables for the projects — slide decks and supporting Excel models — drew on the quantitative skills he'd learned in his major, he adds that the broader coursework he had as part of his St. Olaf education also was essential.

"The communication skills I developed in my classes, from papers in my English classes or debates in my American Conversations class, have been really helpful during the consulting project," he says. "Those are soft skills that are continually underappreciated in the world, but they're essential when I'm collaborating with the team or the CEO of a company."

Next up? Myers landed a position at Analysis Group, an economic consulting firm in Menlo Park, California. "The Strategy Case Challenge was something I brought up in my interviews," he says. "I'm convinced it helped me receive the offer."

6 ... and start a network they can take with them for life.

When Trailblazer Leadership founder Steph Jacobs '03 was getting started in the nonprofit world after college, she admits that a lot of it felt like a mystery.

From navigating unique nonprofit structures to understanding the differences between management and leadership, Jacobs says it took her years — and an advanced degree — to feel comfortable with the nuances of the field. "There was so much that I had to figure out on my own," she says.

The Nonprofit Microcredential track she leads as part of the Ole Career Launcher is designed to introduce students to these nuances. The track, which is supported through a partnership with the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, includes intensive sessions on more than a dozen different topics, including advocacy and public policy, finance, and coalition building.

Then, students apply their new knowledge to short projects at nonprofits including Urban Boatbuilders, led by executive director Marc Hosmer '04, and DaneMAC, an organization founded by Rachel Sattler '03.

The relationships and skills that students gain from the track are designed to last. "Students are going to build a network that they can tap into when they are ready to look for roles," Jacobs says.

Jacobs believes that for many students, the program will help them get to where they want to go more quickly. "Almost every day, I've said, 'Man, I wish I could have had something like this when I was a student,'" she says with a laugh. "Students who decide to go into nonprofits will be so much more knowledgeable. They won't have to stumble through."



EVAN PAK '19



Steph Jacobs '03 (right) with a client

“Almost every day, I’ve said, ‘Man, I wish I could have had something like this when I was a student.’”

— Steph Jacobs '03

➤ 7 **Students learn their strengths and create plans to fuel their growth ...**

At the beginning of their Career Launcher program, students take an Entrepreneurial Mindset Profile assessment so that they can identify their unique strengths and talents.

Layered with an individual coaching session, students build an action plan to grow in the areas that will most benefit them in their careers. “We want students to be nimble and to think about themselves as entrepreneurs — or as intrapreneurs, which are innovators within larger organizations,” says Cahoon. “They can adapt to the changing world of work.”

➤ 8 **... and get essential training on diversity, equity, and inclusion.**

Over the course of their careers, Oles will work with a wide range of people whose experiences and lives may be far different from their own. Effective collaboration demands that students have both significant self-knowledge and empathy for those different from themselves.

That’s why diversity, equity, and inclusion training is an essential component of the Ole Career Launcher program. Staff who work in the college’s Taylor Center for Equity and Inclusion helped develop an overarching training program, which is then tailored to specific career tracks. The goal of the training is to help participants think about how their own identities may show up or affect relationships in the workplace.

AD Banse '23, who has offered training as part of the Ole Career Launcher, has led sessions that have included robust discussions on ideas of professionalism and what it means for everyone to have a seat at the table.

Because work is such an enormous part of people’s lives and because collaboration is essential to most people’s jobs, this knowledge can give Oles what they need to thrive in their work. “To be successful,” says Banse, “we need to see and understand one another at a deeper level.”

9 Students can choose from 10 unique tracks.

The Ole Career Launcher offered the following programs during the 2021-22 academic year, with new ones planned for future years.

- Strategy Case Challenge
- International Affairs Careers
- Equity and Inclusion in Student Employment
- Marketing, Advertising, and Digital Design
- Work of Art
- Investigative Journalism
- Google Data Analytics and Mini Internship with Ovative Group
- Foundations of Real Estate Certification
- Pillars of Wall Street
- Nonprofit Microcredential



STUDENT SUCCESS PROFILE | Alissa Bidwell '22

Ole Career Launcher Track: **Nonprofit Microcredential**

With a double major in theater and religion and a concentration in media studies, Alissa Bidwell has no shortage of drive — she's made the most of her St. Olaf education. But as a first-generation, low-income student, she wanted to pair her liberal arts coursework with additional concrete skills that would help her hit the ground running as soon as she graduated.

The Nonprofit Microcredential track that she participated in as part of the Ole Career Launcher did just that.

Over Interim, she and eight other students learned the nuts and bolts of nonprofit roles from experts in the field. Topics included development, communications, and marketing. As part of the track, Bidwell also completed a handful of projects with Reach Out and Read Minnesota, a nonprofit that partners with medical clinics to provide books and developmental guidance to parents of young children.

Bidwell says the track helped her more deeply understand the nonprofit world, and she now has a much more robust network that she can tap into whenever she needs guidance.

While she's currently mulling offers between two graduate schools and potential careers in arts development, she says the track gave her confidence that she's prepared for whatever comes next. "It complemented my liberal arts education while providing a really structured grounding for life after graduation," she says. "I feel so much more secure going forward."



> 10 And it's just getting started.

The Ole Career Launcher began its first tracks this past fall, and the number of students in each track has ranged from seven to more than 200.

To make sure the program is achieving its overarching goals, Cahoon and her team at the Piper Center are taking a range of baseline measurements on areas such as career readiness, innovation mindset, and student satisfaction. They plan to review and work to improve the numbers over time. They're also hoping to build further support and involvement from alumni.

Cahoon says that the Ole Career Launcher has the potential to be a truly distinctive offering — one that both connects to and builds on the college's deep commitment to a liberal arts education. "We think these shorter bursts of co-curricular experiences will complement the liberal learning they're getting in the classroom," Cahoon says. "This is a program that will differentiate St. Olaf from other institutions." 🦁

STUDENT SUCCESS PROFILE | Kristian Noll '21 Ole Career Launcher Track: **International Affairs Careers**

With a father who worked in the Foreign Service, Kristian Noll grew up overseas and has long had an eye on a career in international affairs. He majored in political science and Norwegian, further preparing himself for a role in the field.

And last fall, he participated in the International Affairs track within the Ole Career Launcher, which he describes as a meaningful addition to his portfolio of experiences and classwork. He says the sessions helped him see a much wider range of opportunities than he had considered in the past. "There's the Department of State," he says. "But there's much more than that: the Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations," he says, ticking off just a few of the options he hadn't before considered.

He adds that having an Ole, Claire Campbell '01, offering career advice made a meaningful difference to him. "It's easy to see people from Georgetown, Harvard, or Princeton in some of these roles and think, 'Well, maybe you can get those because you went to school in those places. But what about St. Olaf?' Having someone from St. Olaf who has worked in all of these places was a confidence booster."

This spring Noll received the German International Parliament Stipendium, a highly competitive and prestigious international award that took him to Berlin for a five-month program at the Bundestag. The purpose of the program is to immerse participants in the decision-making of the parliamentary process. It provided yet another invaluable experience for Noll.

"St. Olaf has been a fantastic place for me to develop my interests," he says.



Built in 1902 to serve as the St. Olaf library, Steensland Hall is one of the most iconic buildings on campus. A recent renovation has given it a new lease on life.



THE STORIED
STEEN
HALL



HISTORY *of*
SLAND
L L

By Claire Strother '22

PHOTOGRAPHED BY EVAN PAK '19

Despite its modest proportions, no St. Olaf College building has served more purposes than the 120-year-old Steensland Hall.

One of the most iconic buildings on campus, the small Neoclassical Revival-style structure is nestled next to Old Main and featured in many of the most picturesque photos of campus. One of just two St. Olaf buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, Steensland has held many titles over the years, from library to recital hall to art gallery.

In recent years Steensland Hall has largely sat vacant, with its future purpose a source of intrigue among students, faculty, staff, and alumni. But the long wait is finally over. After a substantial renovation, Steensland reopened in the fall of 2021 as the new space for the Hong Kierkegaard Library, home to the largest collection of works by and about the 19th century Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard outside of Denmark.

In keeping with the return to its original role as a college library, the newly renovated space in Steensland resembles the original layout of the building. The main floor is lined with bookshelves filled with works by and about Kierkegaard, while the lower level offers study spaces for visiting Kierkegaard scholars and the capacity to be utilized as a classroom.





◀ In a photo from March 2022, photographer Evan Pak '19 captures the enduring beauty of the newly renovated Steensland Hall, 120 years after its dedication.

▲ On May 17, 1902, photographer Ole G. Felland captured a large crowd observing the cornerstone laying ceremony for Steensland Library. St. Olaf College President John N. Kildahl (with cane) stands to the left of cornerstone, and Nils J. Ellestad, vice president of the United Norwegian Church in America, is at the right of the stone. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ST. OLAF COLLEGE ARCHIVES

St. Olaf Director of Facilities Kevin Larson notes that an important part of Steensland's renovation was consulting with architects who understand historic restorations and being mindful of maintaining the historical integrity of the building. Kierkegaard Library Assistant Curator Eileen Shimota shared archival photos of the way Steensland looked in its early years with the team overseeing renovations. "Keeping the building's history was something that was very important throughout the renovation," she says.

While staying true to the historical integrity of Steensland Hall was at the forefront of discussions, so was bringing the building into the 21st century. Renovations totaled \$1.5 million, and included new heating and cooling systems, all new doors and windows, and important updates to make the building compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including a new restroom and a lift to take visitors from floor to floor. The renovations enabled the building to better serve today's campus community.

"It is great to see Steensland meet the needs of the Kirkegaard Library with a classic look in a beautiful building," Larson says.

THE COLLEGE'S FIRST LIBRARY

Built in 1902, Steensland was among the first buildings constructed on the young St. Olaf campus, a sign of the importance early college leaders placed on having a dedicated space for a premier library. The building's namesake, Halle Steensland, was a Norwegian-American immigrant and businessman who covered the bulk of the \$13,000 cost to construct the library. Steensland served as vice consul for Norway and Sweden in Madison, Wisconsin, and at the time his gift was the largest the college had ever received.

In its initial four decades of use, the library's collections grew tenfold, coinciding with a rapidly expanding student population. It quickly outgrew Steensland Hall's small footprint, which was unable

"The hope is that this majestic building becomes an integral place available to students, faculty, staff, and scholars."

HONG KIERKEGAARD LIBRARY
ASSISTANT CURATOR EILEEN SHIMOTA

Studying at Steensland Library, ca. 1926



to hold its collection and serve the college community. Students and alumni began advocating for a new library, and in 1942 Rolvaag Memorial Library – which continues to serve as the college’s library to this day – opened.

NEW USES FOR AN OLD SPACE

Once the college’s library collection moved to Rolvaag, Steensland began serving new purposes. It became a recreation center, then a concert hall, a rehearsal space, an office space for student organizations, and a destination for relaxation between classes. A 1942 article from the student newspaper recounts that “It stood there by Old Main, simple and graceful in architecture, its tall pillars in a way symbolic of its purpose. [...] Steensland Library has not grown useless. For the second time in its history, it is a building which has answered the call of a great need on the campus.”

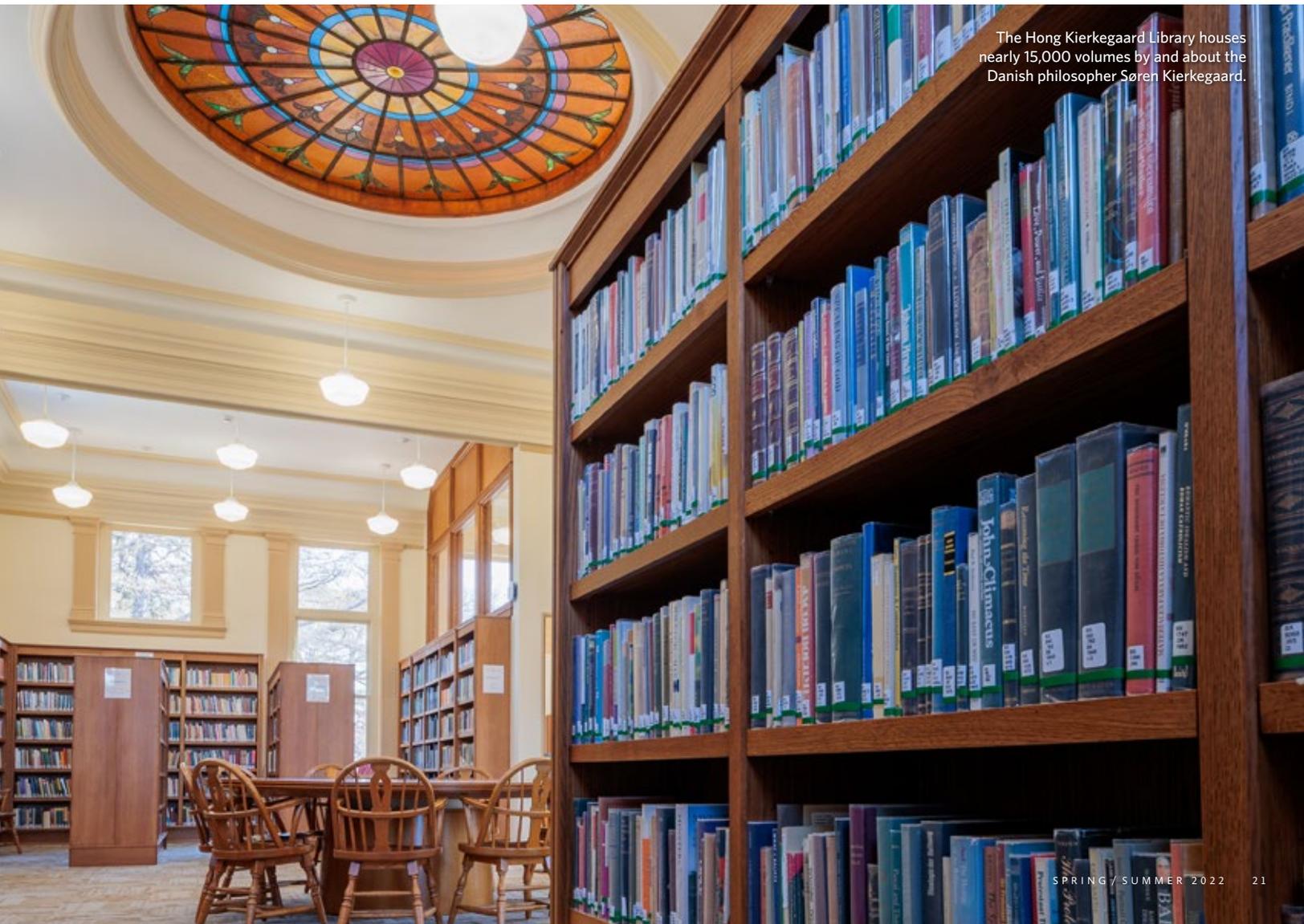
The main floor of Steensland became performance space for hundreds of student music recitals, and rehearsal space for the St. Olaf Choir and Manitou Singers. At the same time, the lower level housed the offices of the student newspaper and the *Viking* yearbook. For a time, Steensland

was a place for students to relax between classes, and it provided a space for the college to screen movies for the community, and host debates and lectures.

For a brief time between 1943 and 1946, the building was even used as a pre-naval flight school, when hundreds of naval cadets arrived at the St. Olaf Naval Flight Preparatory School for training at the start of World War II.

In 1976, more than three decades after Steensland’s role as the library ended, it became the college’s premier art exhibition space. Steensland Gallery housed many senior art shows and faculty exhibits, as well as works from renowned artists such as Edvard Munch, Andy Warhol, and Keith Haring.

During this time, Steensland went through a Museum Assessment Program, and in 1996 the building was officially renamed Steensland Art Museum. This title, however, was relatively short-lived. In 2002 the campus art museum moved to the Center for Art and Dance, where it still is housed today.



The Hong Kierkegaard Library houses nearly 15,000 volumes by and about the Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard.



The library's lower level includes study spaces for visiting scholars and students, and has the capacity to be utilized as a classroom.

A LIBRARY ONCE MORE

Since 2002 Steensland Hall has sat empty, with much discussion and debate among the college community as to how it might best be utilized. A 2018 article published in the

Olaf Messenger suggested that Steensland would be an ideal space for a cafe and study space. An earlier article floated the idea of using the space as a language lab.

In 2006 the infamous hail storm that severely damaged many buildings on campus shattered

Steensland's iconic stained glass cupola. David Kjerland '65, who at the time owned a stained glass studio in Northfield, discovered that the firm that had supplied the glass during the building's construction in 1902 had original sheets of the glass, and thus the cupola was able to be restored in the most authentic way possible.

During Steensland's vacant years, various college departments considered how to utilize this historic building. When the Hong Kierkegaard Library Committee proposed the idea of Steensland becoming its new home, it received support from a wide range of stakeholders on campus and approval from President David R. Anderson '74.

"Housing the world-class Hong Kierkegaard Library in one of the college's most iconic buildings is a marriage made in heaven," Anderson says. "This move celebrates the significance of the Hong Library and renews and returns one of the college's earliest buildings to its original purpose. It's a good thing."

"Housing the world-class Hong Kierkegaard Library in one of the college's most iconic buildings is a marriage made in heaven."

ST. OLAF PRESIDENT
DAVID R. ANDERSON '74



Busts of Howard and Edna Hong hold places of prominence in the new Hong Kierkegaard Library.

The Hong Kierkegaard Library has fully moved into the space, and Steensland now houses almost 15,000 volumes by and about the philosopher. Another 5,000 volumes that are part of the Hong Kierkegaard Library are held in the rare book collection vault in Rolvaag Memorial Library.

Over its century of service to the college, hundreds of artists, musicians, writers, and scholars have found their place in Steensland Hall. The tiny-but-mighty structure has served as an important space for creating community on the Hill. The Hong Kierkegaard Library will continue that tradition, welcoming scholars from around the world and inviting professors to house classes in the lower level of the library and students to study surrounded by the stacks.

"The hope is that this majestic building becomes an integral place on campus available to students, faculty, staff, and scholars," Shimota says. "It's an important space with an incredible collection that is meant to be used and appreciated. We hope that all who are interested will come to reap the wisdom or simply enjoy the space." 🍀



A world-renowned center for the study of Kierkegaard

THE HONG KIERKEGAARD LIBRARY serves as the world's official repository for books by and about Søren Kierkegaard, the 19th-century Danish theologian and philosopher widely regarded as the first existentialist. With a collection that includes some 19,000 volumes, it is the largest collection of writings by and about Kierkegaard outside of Denmark.

The work of nearly 95 percent of the world's prominent Kierkegaard scholars has been informed by the Hong Kierkegaard Library. Every summer, around 50 scholars from around the globe come to the St. Olaf College campus to conduct research. The Hong Kierkegaard Library also hosts 20 seniors or recent graduates of undergraduate colleges and universities each July as part of the Young Scholars Program. And a Danish course is offered each summer, allowing scholars to examine sentences and smaller passages in Kierkegaard's native language.

So how did St. Olaf come to house a world-renowned center for the study of Kierkegaard? The foundation of the library is built on the private collection of St. Olaf alumni Howard '34 and Edna Hatlestad Hong '38. Howard Hong taught in the college's Philosophy Department for 40 years, and together the couple spent decades collecting an enormous body of literature by and about Kierkegaard. They became internationally celebrated for their work translating most of Kierkegaard's published writings and journals from Danish into English, winning the National Book Award in 1968. The Hong's donated their collection to St. Olaf in 1976, and the Hong Kierkegaard Library was born.

The collection has remained far from stagnant since that initial donation, growing and improving ever since. In August of 2021, the Hong Kierkegaard Library received a grant of \$10,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to aid in the restoration of 100 rare books housed in the collection that were printed prior to 1856.

St. Olaf Professor Emeritus of Philosophy Gordon Marino has served as the collection's curator since 1995. He has published books about existentialism and articles in publications including the *New York Times Magazine* and *Wall Street Journal*. Thanks to a generous donation from Krestie Utech '59, the lower level of the library's new space has been dedicated to Marino, who will retire in August 2022.

This spring St. Olaf named Anna Louise Strelis Söderquist the new curator of the Hong Kierkegaard Library. Söderquist earned her Ph.D. in philosophy from the New School for Social Research and has taught courses on Kierkegaard's work around the world, including at the Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre in Copenhagen. In addition, she

has presented at philosophy conferences on multiple continents, including the International Kierkegaard Conference held at St. Olaf.

"Kierkegaard's work still has burning relevance for us today, wherever we live and whatever our backgrounds, for he meets his reader in the inner depths, where reside the personal, yet universal questions about who one is and how one ought to live," she says.

When Söderquist arrives at St. Olaf to assume her role as curator, she will be joined by her husband, K. Brian Söderquist, who was appointed to the college's new Kierkegaard Chair in Christian Philosophy. This professorship was established in 2021 to advance scholarship and publications concerning the writings of Kierkegaard and Christian philosophy. Söderquist earned his Ph.D. from the Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre at the University of Copenhagen, and has been lecturing about Kierkegaard's work in Denmark for more than two decades.

From top: Edna and Howard Hong, founders of the Hong Kierkegaard Library; Gordon Marino, curator from 1995-2022; Anna Louise Strelis Söderquist, who begins as the new curator this year; K. Brian Söderquist, St. Olaf Kierkegaard Chair in Christian Philosophy.

Learn more about the Hong Kierkegaard Library at stolaf.edu/kierkegaard.

Through the Co-Creating an Inclusive Community Initiative, more than 1,500 students, faculty, staff, and alumni have participated in work sessions to identify steps the college can take to strengthen inclusion.



Working Together TOWARD AN **Inclusive** CAMPUS COMMUNITY

BY Zoë Jackson





- 1 The DEI Symposium concluded with the on-campus premiere of the multi-movement work "To Repair," composed by Assistant Professor of Music Tesfa Wondemagegnehu (pictured at the podium). Members of the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club, conducted by Mark Stover '01, were joined by tenors and basses from the St. Olaf Choir and Viking Chorus for the performance.
- 2 Student volunteers make blankets for organizations serving those in need as part of a Martin Luther King Jr. Day service project on campus.
- 3 Students gather in the Taylor Center for Equity and Inclusion.
- 4 Grammy Award-winning artist Caliph performs a concert titled "Immigrant of the Year" as part of the St. Olaf Artist Series this spring.
- 5 Students participate in a Rainbow Run that the Taylor Center hosted to support the LGBTQIA+ community.

- 6 Photographer Florian Koenigsberger and multidisciplinary artist Muna Malik discuss their journeys working at the intersection of art and social impact as part of the St. Olaf Artist Series this spring.
- 7 Panelists lead a session on "Creating Spaces for Hmong Students at St. Olaf: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" during the DEI Symposium.
- 8 To celebrate and honor Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, Twin Cities educator and embroidery artist Yee Yang led a Hmong story cloth workshop on campus.
- 9 Attendees listen to a DEI Symposium session titled "Student Interfaith Engagement on a Multifaith Campus."
- 10 St. Olaf students perform on the Javanese Gamelan as part of an open house celebrating the Taylor Center.



BEFORE JOINING ST. OLAF COLLEGE'S Co-Creating an Inclusive Community Initiative, Anja Bunge Dulin '23 had only seen the campus take on large goals, dreams, and initiatives from afar. Students, faculty, and staff often brainstorm ideas to make the college better and wonder why the progress they want is taking so long, Dulin says.

"To be in the initiative and on the organizing side of it, I have a much better sense of and appreciation for the time and energy that it takes in order to carry out something as big as this," she says.

The Co-Creating an Inclusive Community Initiative seeks to understand all the different components of inclusion on campus — what makes a community member feel a sense of belonging and connectedness, and what gets in the way of that — and how to then begin to make the changes needed.

Dulin, a biology and race and ethnic studies double major, was one of more than 60 members of the college community who pledged hours of time and effort to bring the entire community together to address the college's inclusion gap.

The four-phase initiative, which launched in November

2020, currently is in its action stage after months of building and articulating a vision for this crucial work.

In 2019 St. Olaf outlined a Plan for Equity and Inclusion that included the results of a survey with students, faculty, and staff showing how community members of color have a lower sense of belonging and connectedness to the college than their white counterparts. Similarly, students who are Christian were more likely to say that they feel a stronger sense of belonging and inclusion than students who do not identify as Christian.

The Co-Creating Initiative was designed to understand the origins of these disparities through listening sessions with groups across campus and work toward remedying them, says St. Olaf Vice President for Equity and Inclusion María Pabón Gautier.

But in 2020, the need for this work became more urgent than ever.

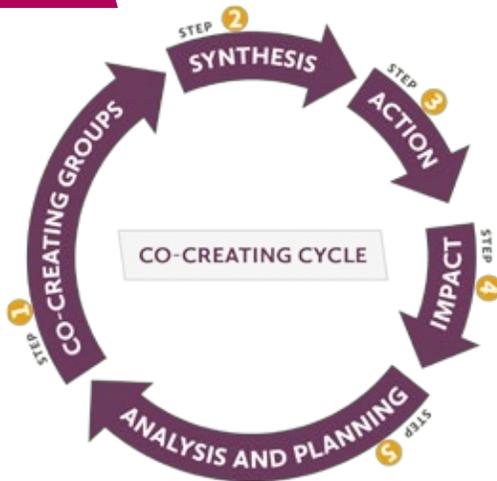
The COVID-19 pandemic had begun, and cases were rising across Minnesota and the country. Faculty, staff, and students were learning and working remotely, and seniors finished their college career without the many unifying moments they deserved. Then George Floyd was murdered by Minneapolis police, and his death and the protests that followed shook the Twin Cities and the world.



St. Olaf biology and race and ethnic studies major
Anja Bunge Dulin '23
EVAN PAK '19

Advancing Action

Co-Creating an Inclusive Community is a multi-year collaborative project to identify and advance action for inclusion. Each phase must complete five steps in the iterative cycle before the next starts.



- *Synthesis and sharing out:* Student researchers synthesized reports and shared results
- *Responsive action:* Initiative leaders worked with specific groups to respond to their visions with recommendations for adopting both short-term solutions and longer-term changes
- *Impact reporting:* Information and impacts from the responsive action phase were reported to the campus community and used to impact the planning of the next co-creation phase.

IN THE LAST 10 YEARS, diversity on campus has been a focus for the college. The number of staff, faculty, and students of color at St. Olaf has increased dramatically, says Vice President for Mission Jo Beld, who led the development of the Theory of Transformation, the basis of how the Co-Creating Initiative was approached.

Two faculty members of color resigned, publicly detailing what they experienced as an unwelcoming campus culture, and students took notice. “Our college was uniquely positioned to say ‘We have to address this,’” Pabón says.

With that momentum, the building phase of the Co-Creating an Inclusive Community Initiative launched. Each phase of the project is guided by the Co-Creating Cycle, which includes:

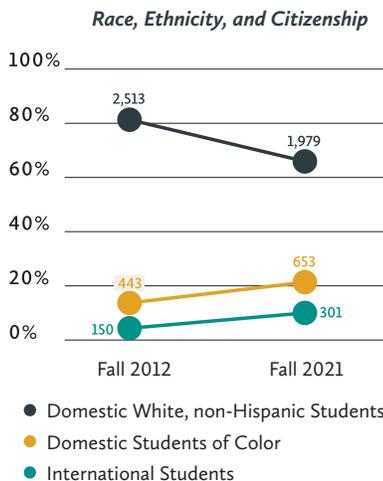
- *Campus-wide co-creating groups:* 90-minute work sessions with peer groups on their visions for an inclusive community and how those visions could be realized

In 2012, 81 percent of St. Olaf students were white, 14 percent were students of color, and 5 percent were international students. In 2021, 67 percent of students were white, 22 percent were students of color, and international students made up 10 percent of the student body, according to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment.

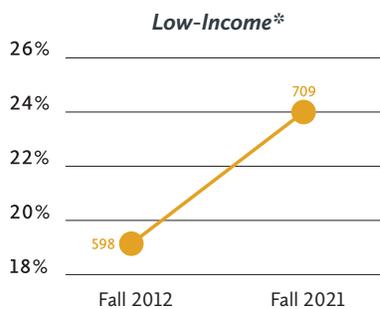
Religious demographics on campus have changed, too. In the fall of 2012, 70 percent of St. Olaf students reported that they were Lutheran or of another Christian affiliation. In 2021, that number dropped to 55 percent. Conversely, the number of students who reported no religious affiliation more than doubled, from 10 percent to 26 percent, also according to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment.

Student Diversity

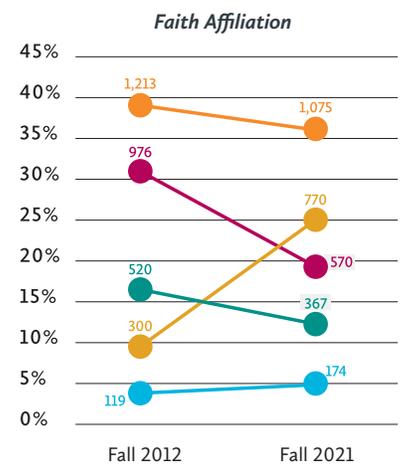
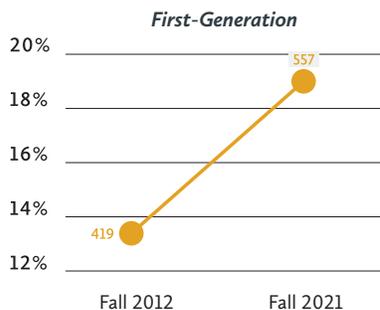
Data taken from fall 10th-day census of full-time, degree-seeking students.



< 1% of domestic students chose not to disclose race/ethnicity



*Family taxable income does not exceed 150% of federal poverty level



- Other Christian
- Lutheran
- Other Religions
- No Affiliation
- Unknown

The initial idea for the Co-Creating an Inclusive Community Initiative was developed by Beld and former Vice President for Equity and Inclusion Bruce King. Pabón added her own expertise, which included more than a decade of community engagement.

Pabón knew there were some pieces of the project she needed to change — one key piece being to begin with “responsive action.”

“When I came on board, I said, ‘We need to focus on action and help people engage in what that action will look like,’” Pabón says.

When project participants and communities have ownership of the work they’re doing, they are more likely to engage in it, she says.

Groups were formed that involved all members of the St. Olaf community. Students, staff, and faculty gathered in their learning or work groups so that sessions would be made up of people who knew one another well and could speak freely. Some 1,500 members of the campus community participated in 85 co-creating sessions led by

50 moderators. The moderators — a team of faculty, staff, and students from a wide range of offices and departments across campus — received training from consultants Kumea Shorter-Gooden, Susan Nowlin ’78, and Diane Nettifee.

During sessions, participants were asked to talk about both the ways in which they do experience inclusion and belonging at the college, and the ways they do not. Community members often talk about the dual experience of not feeling as if they belong or are included, even as they develop lifelong friends during their time at the college, says Beld.

“We wanted people to be able to articulate ways in which they do experience a sense of belonging and inclusion, if not at St. Olaf then somewhere else, so we can learn what makes that work for people, and how we can import that,” Beld says.

Student facilitator Will Rand ’22, a music composition major, says sessions were guided by values-based questions that were invitations for people to open up about their experiences.

“We are building a culture that supports the values that make us who we are and that supports the changing profile of our Ole community.” — Vice President for Equity and Inclusion María Pabón Gautier



St. Olaf Vice President for Human Resources Leslie Moore '77, Vice President for Mission Jo Beld, and Vice President for Equity and Inclusion María Pabón Gautier

EVAN PAK '19



Viveka Hall-Holt '22 and Will Rand '22 lead a group session during the DEI symposium on May 6. "Collaborating across campus with students and faculty is one of the possible ways toward building a campus that is more equitable, and more inclusive, on all kinds of fronts," says Rand.
STEVEN GARCIA '20

He became involved in the Co-Creating an Inclusive Community Initiative when an email from Pabón about the project caught his eye. He led four sessions, and was impressed with the vulnerability of those who participated.

"The idea of co-creating is a word that means a lot to me as an artist and as someone who likes to collaborate with people. This idea of collaborating across campus with students and faculty is one of the possible ways toward building a campus that is more equitable, and more inclusive, on all kinds of fronts. I thought, 'this is totally something I would love to be a part of,'" Rand says.

During sessions led by Rand and other facilitators, groups discussed what their set of shared values meant to them, how these values had been successful so far, and what ways these values made everyone feel connected. Then participants were invited to share the things that were disruptive or disjointed between what they say is shared and what is actually practiced so that they could move forward to a conclusion, says Rand.

EARLY FINDINGS

LAST SUMMER, STUDENT RESEARCHERS overseen by Associate Professor of Practice in Sociology/Anthropology Ryan Sheppard began synthesizing and looking through information collected from those 85 sessions.

As a student facilitator turned researcher, Dulin helped to format data from the sessions into executive summaries that were then presented back to departments. Dulin enjoyed her experience facilitating seven sessions as well, but helping each department outline tangible next steps through her data synthesization was really powerful.

"It was a great experience. I really have a strong appreciation for all the work that it takes to both formulate and organize data and then carry it through to actionable next steps," Dulin says.

The sessions revealed several key trends that the Co-Creating leadership team, which now includes Vice President for Human Resources Leslie Moore '77, are working to address:

- *improving communication across the college*
- *bridging the divide between staff and faculty*
- *reassessing a culture of busyness/always doing*
- *increasing professional development opportunities, specifically around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*

Pabón and staff leadership are now going department-by-department to share the departmental and divisional reports and provide context that they can use to better their culture. Departments and offices can identify one thing that would make the most positive impact on their culture, and then the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office will fund it so they can try it out and see how it works.

Several sessions and workshops have already taken place on topics including restorative justice, conflict resolution, understanding the Derek Chauvin trial, and the term Latinx. Limiting attendance numbers at these sessions was another change, as keeping them smaller helps to foster genuine engagement and interaction, Pabón says.

"Development and opportunities to connect have been two things that came up multiple times in our co-creating sessions. Our community wanted to connect and to continue to get more skills in an ongoing and intentional way," she says.

THE NEXT PHASE

THE TRANSFORMATION PHASE, which will launch in September 2022 and go through May 2023, will involve much of the work of putting ideas into practice.

Even beyond the Co-Creating Initiative, the conversation around inclusivity on campus for everyone is ongoing.

In fall 2020, staff and faculty started a BIPOC affinity group, which is common at many colleges and universities.

“It was in response to everything that was happening, in response to the murder of George Floyd, in response to having had two statements from two Black women faculty who left and how they felt about their time at Olaf. It started with ‘Let’s just get together,’” Pabón recalls.

Since then, the group has continued to meet, to have fun, and to be in community with one another, whether through Zoom sessions to, more recently, lunch and dinner gatherings.

“When you’re in white spaces you tend to monitor your laugh and police how you act and how you move ... it’s such a simple thing, but it’s this feeling of being seen and having a community and not having to code switch constantly,” Pabón says. “Out of all this work that we’ve been doing, that is one thing that we have started to embrace — let’s use this space and this group for us to build community among each other.”

Still, the hard work to make sure projects like these have legs and are not simply conversations, means that the Co-Creating Initiative can never truly come to an end.

Having these conversations normalized across campus was really exciting and motivating for students who stayed active and engaged after the co-creating sessions, says Dulin.

“I think we are on the path to healing and fixing some of the gaps that St. Olaf certainly does have and has had for a long time. My hope is that we don’t forget this process and a lot of the pain and the frustration that motivated these really important discussions,” Dulin says.

The hunger of the participants who chose to do this work and to continue doing it through the final phase of the Co-Creating Initiative and in the months and years beyond was really impactful, both Pabón and Beld say.

“I think the conversations themselves have taken not just a lot of hard work, but a lot of courage and the capacity to respond with integrity and with openness to feedback from all over the college,” Beld says. “I just admire our students and colleagues for their willingness to undertake this work.” 🙌

DEI DATA DASHBOARDS

A set of dashboards on the college’s website provides a new level of transparency on the college’s diversity, equity, and inclusion data. Check it out at stolaf.edu/equity-inclusion/dei-data or by scanning this QR code.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Symposium: Recognizing Excellence, Challenges, and the Work Ahead

St. Olaf hosted its inaugural Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Symposium May 6 and 7, 2022. Titled *Recognizing Excellence, Challenges, and the Work Ahead*, the symposium featured two keynote addresses and dozens of breakout sessions and workshops held across campus and virtually. They touched on a wide range of topics and disciplines, from how to create more inclusive classrooms to supporting religious diversity on campus to ways to be a responsible racial ally and activist.

Vice President for Equity and Inclusion María Pabón Gautier says the symposium provided the campus community with a much-needed opportunity to work and learn together.

“In higher education, we hyperfocus on productivity — sometimes at the expense of building relationships. We are hungry to pause and engage in dialogue and collaborative learning. The symposium allowed many members of our community to pause, learn, and grow together. Students had the opportunity to co-present with staff and faculty and be part of co-creating knowledge. We challenged each other, our minds, and our spirits,” she says.

Assistant Professor of Music Tesfa Wondemagegnehu delivered the first keynote address, titled *To Repair: The Breakdown of the Musical Score*. He shared music, poetry, and stories from the To Repair Project — a 60-day, 7,000-mile solo journey to over 40 cities around the country to collect Black stories on what repair looks like — that inspired his new multi-movement choral work.

Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Senior Director of Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Whitney Harvey delivered the second keynote address, titled *The Journey: A Practical Application of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*. She encouraged participants to think about privilege, shared her personal and professional DEI journey, and discussed real-life and practical applications of DEI in the workplace.

As part of the symposium, the St. Olaf Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office also presented students, staff, and faculty with the *Equity and Inclusion Leadership and Service Award*, which recognizes outstanding leadership and engagement in creating, advancing, and sustaining social change for the well-being of diverse and underserved communities.

The inaugural recipients of the award are Andrea Diaz '22, Anja Bunge Dulin '23, Mariam Prater '23, Assistant Director of Equity and Intercultural Engagement Norma Charlton, Director of Enrollment Operations Marie New, Assistant Director of Academic Support Nayeli Trujillo, Professor of English Jennifer Kwon Dobbs, Associate Professor of Psychology Jeremy Loebach, and Associate Professor of English Jonathan Naito.



Whitney Harvey of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce spoke about real-life applications of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace.



Tesfa Wondemagegnehu shared music, poetry, and stories from the To Repair Project — a 60-day, 7,000-mile journey that inspired his new multi-movement choral work.



Equity and Inclusion Leadership and Service Award recipients include (from left) Associate Professor of English Jon Naito, Associate Professor of Psychology Jeremy Loebach, Mariam Prater '23, Anja Bunge Dulin '23, Assistant Director of Academic Support Nayeli Trujillo, Andrea Diaz '22, and Director of Enrollment Operations Marie New.

PHOTOS BY STEVEN GARCIA '20



St. Olaf Associate Professor of English Sequoia Nagamatsu with his new novel, *How High We Go in the Dark*, in the office where he wrote it. ELIZABETH FLORES/STAR TRIBUNE/GETTY IMAGES

St. Olaf professor's debut novel receives attention, acclaim

By Erin Golden

THE DEBUT NOVEL by St. Olaf Associate Professor of English Sequoia Nagamatsu is a national best-seller that has generated buzz in the literary world and a wave of media attention, from being named a *New York Times* Editor's Choice and one of *Esquire* magazine's best books of 2022 to highlights in *The Guardian*, *Entertainment Weekly*, the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsweek*, and National Public Radio. The book also was selected by author and cultural critic Roxane Gay for her Audacious Book Club.

Nagamatsu's genre-spanning novel, *How High We Go in the Dark*, delves into climate change, a world-altering pandemic, and the ways in which people deal with loss, grief, and uncertainty. *Star Tribune* book editor Laurie Hertzell calls his novel "weirdly wonderful and weirdly powerful, a book of speculative fiction so close to real life that its heart-stopping events feel almost inevitable."

Nagamatsu, who teaches first-year writing and creative writing courses at St. Olaf, says that while the novel's themes are timely, the work was not inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic. He began contemplating the ideas explored in *How High We Go in the Dark* in 2007, when he traveled to Japan after the death of his grandfather. "Although the subject matter can be quite dark, the book is ultimately about hope and how we can use the wake of a long tragedy to reimagine better versions of ourselves and society. Who can we be? What do we value? How can we reignite and hold onto community? These are the questions that ultimately pushed me forward as I worked on the book," Nagamatsu says.

While he worked on the novel, Nagamatsu also published *Where We Go When All We Were is Gone*, a collection of stories inspired by Japanese folklore and pop culture. His forthcoming book is *Girl Zero*, which he'll be working on during his upcoming sabbatical. 🍀

Chung Park named next conductor of the St. Olaf Orchestra

By Connor Boritzke Smith

CONDUCTOR AND MUSIC EDUCATOR Chung Park has been named the new conductor of the St. Olaf Orchestra, and he will take the reins of the award-winning ensemble at the beginning of the 2022–23 academic year.

Park will succeed St. Olaf Orchestra Conductor Steven Amundson, who retired in June after leading the ensemble for 40 years. Along with conducting the orchestra, Park will join the St. Olaf Music Department as a member of the upper string faculty.

Park comes to St. Olaf College most recently from the University of Central Florida, where he served as conductor of the UCF Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, head of string music education, and instructor of viola. Prior appointments include positions at Appalachian State University, the Idaho State–Civic Symphony, Idaho State University, Frost School of Music at the University of Miami, the University of Chicago, the University of North Dakota, and Indiana University South Bend.

Along with his academic work, Park has maintained an active schedule as a guest conductor. Recent engagements include several concerts with the Sarasota Orchestra, Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, and student orchestras in Tennessee, North Dakota, North Carolina, Utah, Washington, and Georgia.

“The fact that St. Olaf is a liberal arts institution was a huge draw for me, because I didn’t want to be at a conservatory where the focus is often too narrow,” says Park. “I want to be around other people who are thinkers, because I still have so much to learn, and I want to swim in the cultural soup this incredible music comes out of.”

Park earned his doctorate in instrumental conducting from the University of Miami, and holds M.M. degrees in orchestral conducting (University of Illinois) and viola performance (Western Michigan University), and a B.M. in viola performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Music. He studied viola

in Hanover, Germany, with Hatto Beyerle of the Alban Berg Quartet. He continued his studies at the Aspen Music Festival, Pierre Monteux School, the South Carolina Conductor’s Institute, Tafelmusik Institute in Toronto, Ontario, and the International Festival-Institute at Roundtop, Texas.

Earlier this year, Park had the opportunity to guest conduct the St. Olaf Orchestra and work with many of the students he’ll lead come fall.

“What I love about working with students is that for most of them, this is their first time experiencing the music we’re playing,” says Park. “Even if some of them have played a piece a few times, it still makes what we’re doing fresh and exciting. I love bringing that music into their lives and going on a journey with them.”



Chung Park conducts the University of Central Florida Symphony Orchestra.
PHOTO COURTESY UCF.EDU

“St. Olaf has been my dream job for at least the last decade, and I feel incredibly blessed to be coming here. I see myself as part of a continuum. I feel a great responsibility to carry on the legacy of the St. Olaf Orchestra and what Steven Amundson has built, and pass this tradition on to the next generation of students.”

— ST. OLAF ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR DESIGNATE CHUNG PARK

Originally from Chicago, where his family still resides, Park views this appointment as a type of homecoming. Apart from his upcoming duties at St. Olaf, Park loves to spend his free time foraging for wild food, attempting to fly fish, cooking, gardening organically, cycling, hiking, doing home renovations, and reading. He hopes one day to build his own greenhouse. 🌱

A Conversation with Alumni and Parent Relations Director Ellen Draeger Cattadoris '07

"My goal for APR is to provide accessible, meaningful opportunities for alumni and families to renew or deepen their engagement with the St. Olaf of today."

By Kari VanDerVeen

Last August, Ellen Draeger Cattadoris became the new director of the college's Alumni and Parent Relations Office.

The office — commonly known on the Hill as APR — organizes and hosts major on-campus events like Reunion Weekend and Homecoming and Family Weekend, as well as regional alumni chapter events throughout the country. The office also oversees Ole Connect, a networking platform just for Oles, and the annual Alumni Achievement Awards.

The APR team works closely with the St. Olaf Alumni Board, a diverse group of Oles who meet twice a year to provide suggestions and perspectives on the college's alumni programs.

Through these events and connections, the overarching goal of APR is simple: to keep Ole alumni and families engaged in life on the Hill.

Draeger Cattadoris sat down to answer a few questions about her new role leading these efforts, share a little about her own time on the Hill, and offer ways in which alumni and families can connect with the college.

You're an Ole yourself. What first drew you to St. Olaf as a student?

I play French horn and wanted to major in music education. Although I ultimately decided to pursue a degree in English, I was still able to participate in three St. Olaf music ensembles as a non-major — one of the things that makes St. Olaf such a special place!

What activities or student organizations were you involved in?

I was a three-year member of the St. Olaf Band and served as an officer during my senior year. I also sang with the Chapel Choir and Manitou Singers. In addition to my musical activities, I was a writing tutor and volunteered for an after-school program at Northfield Middle School.

What are some of your favorite memories of your time on the Hill?

I had wonderful touring experiences with the St. Olaf Band, including a trip to Norway in 2005. My other favorite memories are taking classes that challenged me and changed my perspective — two that come to mind are *Women and Vocation* with English Professor Carol Holly and *Social Policy* with Social Work and Family Studies Professor Mary Carlsen.

How did you end up returning to St. Olaf as a staff member?

No one is more surprised than me! After graduating, I pursued a career in fundraising and was offered a job in the Development Office at St. Olaf in 2014.

In this first year, what has been the most surprising thing about leading the college's engagement with alumni and parents?

Like so many other things, the pandemic has changed how St. Olaf engages with alumni and parents. While in-person events like Reunion and Homecoming will always be an important part of our work, I've been surprised by how willing the St. Olaf community is to engage virtually with the college and by how meaningful those interactions can be for everyone who participates.

Most Oles likely connect with your office around significant milestones, like Reunion or Commencement. How can alumni and families engage with your office — and the college — on a more regular basis?

I have two suggestions! First, join Ole Connect, St. Olaf's exclusive networking platform and job board. This is the place to go if you're looking for a job, would like to hire an alum, or just want to check out some great professional content written by and for Oles. Second, be sure to regularly update your contact information and email preferences in the Alumni Directory to ensure you are getting all of the latest news from the Hill.



PHOTO BY EVAN PAK '19

What is one of your goals for the future of Alumni and Parent Relations at St. Olaf?

One of the privileges of being an alumna who is also a staff member is having both a historical and a current perspective on the college. My affinity for St. Olaf has only grown stronger over the years as I've become deeply invested in the work the college is doing related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, civil discourse, interreligious dialogue, and social mobility. My goal for APR is to provide accessible, meaningful opportunities for alumni and families to renew or deepen their engagement with the St. Olaf of today.

What is your favorite space on campus?

Now that we are back on campus after working remotely for so long, it's definitely the Cage. Every time I walk over for a cup of coffee, I run into someone I haven't seen in person in two years. These reunions are always joyful and a reminder of how grateful I am to be part of the St. Olaf community.

What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?

Spending time at our family cabin near Lutsen, Minnesota, with my husband, our two children, my parents and brother (Russell Draeger '11), and many, many dogs. I'm also a voracious reader — once an English major, always an English major! Some of my favorite reads have been recommendations from St. Olaf alumni or books by Ole authors. Send me your picks at cattad1@stolaf.edu!

Anything else you'd like to add?

Um! Yah! Yah! 🦄



Rev. W. Bruce Benson, Rev. Alexandra Jacob '16, and Andrew Jacob '18.

PHOTO BY REBECCA BEAM '18

A new host and music director will lead *Sing For Joy* program

By Carolyn Pierson '06

REV. W. BRUCE BENSON'S VOICE is well known to many Oles. As the college pastor for 30 years (1981–2011) he could be heard in Boe Chapel, classrooms, and numerous Christmas Festivals. For the past 20 years his voice has found an even greater audience, traveling across airwaves to listeners around the world thanks to his role as host of *Sing For Joy*, a sacred choral music radio program that follows the church lectionary and is produced by St. Olaf College. Benson has delivered insight and commentary for more than 1,000 episodes of the half-hour weekly program that was started by Rev. Alvin Rueter and has been in production since 1954. But on June 5, 2022, Benson retired and bade farewell to his professional time on the Hill.

Rev. Alexandra Jacob '16 stepped into the role of host of *Sing For Joy* on June 12, 2022. Jacob is the Associate Pastor for Families, Youth, and Children at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree in church music at St. Olaf and her Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary. Experiences in church internships throughout her time at St. Olaf helped her discern a “holy nudge” away from the organ bench and toward the pulpit.

The new music director for *Sing For Joy* is Andrew Jacob '18, who began his new position on June 12, 2022. In this role, Jacob will select the musical works heard on *Sing For Joy*. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from St. Olaf and a Master of Music degree in organ performance from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where he was a Kenan Organ Scholar. Jacob currently serves as the organist and co-director of music at Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul, and says that his greatest joy at the organ comes when leading a congregation in song. Jacob's primary teachers while at St. Olaf included Artist in Residence Catherine Rodland '87 and Associate Professor of Music James Bobb, the Elliot M. and Klara Stockdal Johnson Chair in Organ and Church Music. St. Olaf Professor Emeritus of Music John Ferguson will become music advisor emeritus with this new appointment.

St. Olaf Broadcast/Media Services team members Jeffrey O'Donnell '02, Carolyn Pierson '06, Sean Tonko P'22, and Rebecca Beam '18 will continue their current roles in the program's production.

Sing For Joy is sponsored in part by the Sukup Manufacturing Company of Sheffield, Iowa; the St. Olaf Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community; and through the financial support of listeners around the world. 🙏

REUNION 2022

PHOTOGRAPHED BY EVAN PAK '19 AND STEVEN GARCIA '20



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St. Olaf College welcomed hundreds of alumni back to campus June 3, 4, and 5 to celebrate Reunion Weekend in person for the first time in two years. In addition to bringing together Oles of all generations for a weekend of fun, food, and entertainment, this year's celebration featured a special St. Olaf Orchestra Reunion in honor of retiring conductor Steven Amundson.

The weekend's events included a silent disco — featuring some pretty groovy headphones — on the Campus Green [1](#) [2](#), an alumni band showcase in the Pause [3](#), and class dinners in spaces ranging from Urness Recital Hall to Regents Hall [4](#). Alumni played games on the Campus Green, danced, and socialized [5](#) [6](#) [7](#), and the All-Class Rally on Buntrock Plaza featured the largest rendition of *Um! Yah! Yah!* in St. Olaf history [8](#). More than 400 St. Olaf Orchestra alumni and current members performed in concert together in the Reunion Concert [9](#) [10](#) [11](#). *Um! Yah! Yah!* — *Ruben Duffie*



Scan this QR code to watch a tribute video to Steven Amundson and see more photos from the reunion.



Oles, submit your class news online!

stolaf.edu/alumni/share-your-news

It's easier than ever to share your latest news, photos, and updated contact information! Questions? Email alum-office@stolaf.edu or call 507-786-3028 or 888-865-6537.

1940s

At 93 years young, **Ann Urness Gesme '49** is pleased to announce the release of her new book, *Norwegian Emigration: Between Rocks and Hard Places*. Seventy-five years of meticulous research are represented in Ann's book about customs and conditions in the lives of rural Norwegians as they began to consider emigration in the 1800s, and includes more than 100 historic photos and illustrations. A must-read for Oles with Norwegian heritage, it is a rare and delightful resource for those who are researching Norwegian culture, traditions, and the emigrant experience in the 1800s.

1950s

Sig Arnesen '51 writes that he made the move from Pennsylvania to Silver Spring, Maryland, to be closer to three of his children. ■ Minnesota poet, essayist, activist, and leader of the mythopoetic men's movement **Robert Bly '50**, who attended St. Olaf for a year in his younger days and was Minnesota's first poet laureate, has died at age 95. ■ **Clayton R. Buntrock '57** passed away on Nov. 1, 2021, his 86th birthday. A native of Columbia, S.D. and the youngest of three children including his brother **Dean L. Buntrock '55**, and their sister, Joyce, Clayton always held a special place in his heart for St. Olaf College and for the Lutheran church. In 1973 Clayton moved to St. Joseph, Mo., where he bought a small trash business, which became the largest in St. Joseph. He continued in that business until 1997, when he sold Wheeling

Disposal and retired to Indian Wells, Calif. In 1999, with an eye to the future of St. Olaf and a desire to provide sustainable, student-centered community space, Clayton, Dean and his wife, Rosemarie, and their children provided the lead gift for the St. Olaf capital campaign *Fram! Fram! Forward St. Olaf*. Their generous gift resulted in Buntrock Commons. Clayton is survived by his son, Jeffery; Dean and Rosemarie; and his friend of more than 20 years, Jeannie. ■ **Bill Koch '59** has documented his career as a professional theater artist, stage director, choreographer, actor, dancer, playwright, and poet through The Performing Arts Legacy Project. To learn more, visit performingartslegacy.org and search the directory for his listing, which includes a highlight honoring the late St. Olaf Professor of Theater Ralph H. Haugen.

1960s

Ron Tellefson '60 and Eileen Doern Tellefson moved to Arizona in 2018, and they are loving the sunshine and desert living. Ron writes that they continue to spend their summers and holidays near family in Olympia, Wash. ■ **Robert (Bob) Hoyle '61** passed away on Oct. 23, 2021. A 1997 St. Olaf Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, Bob was one of two (with Susan Thompson '61) of the first Peace Corps volunteers from St. Olaf and Minnesota. He was assigned to Iloilo, Philippines, where he served as a teacher. Bob spent three years working for Lutheran World Federation in Jerusalem and Jordan, followed by two years as the executive director of Zambia Christian Refugee Service. For 35 years, Bob was executive director of the refugee resettlement nonprofit, International Institute of Minnesota. He is survived by his wife, **Karen Nelson Hoyle '58**; daughters Rebecca (Ehab) George and **Natalie (Peter) Ross '01**; five granddaughters and nieces and nephews. ■ **Susan Hvistendahl '68**, who witnessed the Nov. 2020 fire that destroyed Northfield's iconic 1877 Archer House, wrote

an update on its history in the second edition of her book, *Historic Happenings*. Her Sept. 9, 2021, Northfield Library talk on the Archer House can be viewed on YouTube.

NEW BOOKS BY 1940s-60s OLES

Norwegian Emigration: Between Rocks and Hard Places (Anundsen Publishing Company, 2021) by **Ann Urness Gesme '49**

Finding Grace in Caregiving (Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2021) by **Brad Hanson '57**

Embracing Diversity: Faith, Vocation, and the Promise of America (Fortress Press, 2021) by **Darrell Jodock '62**

1970s

Charles Billington '70 was invited to be one of the authors to participate in the Printers Row Lit Fest, the largest free outdoor literary showcase in the Midwest. This community-based celebration for book lovers is happening in Chicago on Sept. 10-11, 2022. ■ **Wilson "Bill" Hunt '70** is part of the Class of 2022 for the National Sporting Goods Association's Sporting Goods Industry Hall of Fame. He formed sporting goods manufacturer CHAMPRO, based in the Chicago suburb of Wheeling. ■ **Keith Homstad '71** is busier than ever in semi-retirement. In addition to presiding and preaching at ELCA churches as a temporary fill-in pastor, listening and praying with care center residents, and using the internet as an outreach tool to the elderly, Keith continues to paint beautiful, traditional Byzantine-style Christian icons in egg tempera and acrylics. ■ **Steven Dabelow '73** has lived in Cannon Falls for his entire life, and he loves the history of this picturesque town in Southern Minnesota. While he currently works two jobs at Prudential, he also is a self-proclaimed "history addict" who has volunteered at the Cannon Valley Historical Society for more than 11 years, including nine years as its president. In an interview with the *Cannon Falls Beacon*, Steve notes the importance of the Historical Society: "We owe it to the future generations to be good stewards of the past. Understanding history is crucial to understanding today." ■ **Doug Hanto '73**, the Lewis Thomas Professor of Surgery Emeritus at Harvard Medical



Remembering Lowell Erdahl '53

Lowell O. Erdahl, a former bishop of the St. Paul Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, pastor, author, and an outspoken social justice advocate, died on Dec. 14, 2021, at the age of 90.

"He was a towering figure because of his preaching, because of his courageous leadership for a more just world and for his advocacy, especially for persons who identified as LGBTQ+, to be fully welcomed into membership and leadership of the church," Mark Hanson, former ELCA presiding bishop, said in a tribute to Lowell that appeared in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*.

Lowell and his twin brother, former U.S. Rep. **Arlen Erdahl '53**, grew up on a farm east of Blue Earth, Minn., and both attended St. Olaf College. Both found their vocations and their future wives at St. Olaf: Arlen married **Ellen Syrdal '57**, and Lowell married **Carol Syvertsen '54**, who he met on the debate team. After graduating from St. Olaf, Lowell studied at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, where he later taught; served as pastor at Farmington Lutheran Church and University Lutheran Church of Hope in Minneapolis; and was elected bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota District of the American Lutheran Church. He was elected bishop of the St. Paul Synod in 1988 after three Lutheran denominations merged to form the ELCA, and he retired in 1997.

In 1993, Lowell was honored with the St. Olaf College Distinguished Alumni Award. In addition to his ELCA service and advocacy, Lowell also wrote 10 books, including *Be Good to Each Other*, a book about marriage that he wrote with Carol, and *Winsome Wisdom*, which offered daily "thoughts to ponder and to live." Lowell is survived by his wife of 67 years, Carol; their children, Becky Erdahl, **Paul (Elizabeth Olson '82) Erdahl '82**, and Beth Erdahl; four grandchildren, Peter, Annie, Carlie, and Kat; his brother, Arlen, and sister-in-law Ellen; and his nieces and nephews.



School and chair of the Surgical Ethics Working Group at the Harvard Center for Bioethics, received a master of bioethics/medical ethics degree from Harvard University in May 2021. Doug also is deputy chief of surgery at the VA St. Louis Health Care System, working in an administrative capacity with the chief of surgery to oversee all the surgical services. He retired from clinical surgery in June 2021. ■ **Jean Hoiium Sandrock '73** shares that her mixed media collage, *Light of Life*, was dedicated this fall at Midvale Community Lutheran Church in Madison, Wis. A companion book has been written outlining the stages and steps in creating this eight-month collaborative project. ■ **Rich Ferguson '74** is now not only retired, but also newly married. He's enjoying this new season of life in Pepper Pike, Ohio. ■ **Frederick Haseley '77** has retired as director of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Intelligence Enterprise Training Academy after 43 years of federal service. He started his career as an import specialist and then served as an operational analyst with the U.S. Customs Service at the World Trade Center in NYC. In 2003 he relocated to the D.C. area to work with the CBP National Targeting Center, strengthening counter-terrorism training programs. ■ **Richard Sethre '77** received the 2021 Susan T. Rydell Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contribution to Psychology from the Minnesota Psychological Association. He earned this award for his work on innovative programs in the Fairview Health System that enabled hospital and emergency department staff to better help people experiencing mental health crises. He is now retired.

NEW BOOKS BY 1970s OLES

Zhia Diva (Stone Tooth Press, 2021) by **Karen Ferrell '72**

Born Under the Sign of Odin: The Life & Times of Robert Bly's Little Magazine & Small Press (Nodin Press, Oct. 2021) by **Mark Gustafson '74**

Destined to Fail: Carl Seashore's World of Eugenics, Psychology, Education, and Music (University of Michigan Press, Sept. 2021) by **Julia Eklund Koza '74**

1980s

Glenn Pohland '83 was promoted to full professor of music at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, in February 2022. ■ **Sue Harrington Toth '83** opened Rendezvous Brewing ¹ in Hackensack, Minn., in 2020, and encourages fellow Oles to "Stop in if you are in the area!" ■ Following a decade of serving as the senior pastor of Lutheran Church of the Reformation on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., **Michael Wilker '86** ² has accepted a call to be senior pastor of First Lutheran Church in Decorah, Iowa. He also continues to serve on the ELCA Task Force for the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and on the board of the ELCA European Descent Association for Racial Justice. ■ **Jennifer Jones '87** is serving on the Creating Healthier Communities (CHC) corporate leadership council to elevate social impact issues. The council, including top executives and practitioners from more than 25 global organizations, is working closely with CHC to advance corporate social responsibility; environmental, social, and governance issues; and diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as to support emerging leaders.

Trailblazing Minneapolis entrepreneur **Susan Gunderson '79, P'15** who founded and led LifeSource, a nonprofit responsible for saving more than 17,000 lives through organ donation and transplantation, retired this spring. She launched LifeSource in 1989 and helped bring the nascent field of procuring organs for transplant from infancy into the cyber era, pushing innovations such as the cryogenic freezing of organs, drone-transported organs, and "heart-in-a-box" perfusion technology. A renowned leader in the realm of international donation and transplant, she has been guided by her passionate belief that every life literally has the potential to save another life. She is currently serving two terms as vice chair of the St. Olaf Board of Regents.



Teddie Potter '79 knows that nursing knowledge and leadership are necessary to innovate effective solutions to the most urgent global challenges. A clinical professor and director of planetary health at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing, Teddie was recently named one of two Pauline A. Vincent Chairs in Public Health Nursing. The endowed chair was established in 1999 to support faculty who are developing nursing programs and providing nursing services that focus on the needs of the community at large. In 2019 Teddie was appointed the first director of Planetary Health for the School of Nursing. In addition, she chairs the American

Academy of Nursing Environment and Public Health Expert Panel, is a member of the coordinating committee of Columbia University's Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education, and a member of the steering committee for the Planetary Health Alliance at Harvard University.

A new book by **Danel Olson '87** titled *9/11 Gothic: Decrypting Ghosts and Trauma in New York City's Terrorism Novels* has been named a Non-Fiction Finalist for the Bram Stoker Awards. In the book, published in the fall of 2021 to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks, Olson argues how theories on trauma and the Gothic can combine to explain ghostly encounters survivors experience in 9/11 fiction. He shares what these eerie meetings express about grief, guilt, love, memory, sex, and suicidal urges, along with paths open to recovery.



The awards, named in honor of the author of the seminal horror work *Dracula*, are presented each year by the Horror Writers Association.

Olson, a professor of film, Gothic fiction, and survivor memoirs at Lone Star College in Houston, Texas, is a two-time World Fantasy Award-winning writer. He is the creator of *Exotic Gothic*, an anthology series premiering stories from emerging and established writers in more than 30 countries. His follow-up work in progress for Palgrave Macmillan is *The Gothic War on Terror and Posttraumatic America: Novels, Comics, Video Games, Films*.



NEW BOOKS BY 1980s OLES

Clinical Trial: An ALS Memoir of Science, Hope, and Love (Booklocker.com, Inc., Dec. 2021) by **Robert Ranum '80**

Jubilee: The First Therapy Horse and an Olympic Dream (Capstone, Feb. 2022) by **Kathie Soland Johnston '83**

9/11 Gothic: Decrypting Ghosts and Trauma in New York City's Terrorism Novels (Rowman & Littlefield / Lexington Books, Sept. 2021) by **Danel Olson '87**

Human Health and the Climate Crisis (Jones and Bartlett Learning, Jan. 2022) by **Gail Carlson '88**

Cultivating Vocation in Literary Studies (Edinburgh University Press, Jan. 2022), by **Stephanie Johnson '89**

1990s

Todd Boss '91 published his fourth book of poems, *Someday the Plan of a Town*, 1 and premiered his ninth collaboration with composer Jake Runestad, a 35-minute choral monologue titled *Earth Symphony*.

■ **Matt Engstrom '94** and business partner Bill Eddins (who is married to **Jennifer Gerth '88**) opened MetroNOME Brewery in St. Paul. Matt says, "NOME is short for Nurturing Outstanding Music Education, and our proceeds will fund music lessons and instruments for disadvantaged youth in the Twin Cities." ■ **Matt Braaten '95** co-wrote (with Nic D'Avirro) the play *Unseen Shepard*, which has been invited to premiere at the 2022 Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Matt also will be performing in the production. He has been a professor of theater arts at Glendale (Calif.) Community College for six years, and a writer, performer, and instructor in the Los Angeles area for more than 20 years. ■ **Terrina Anderson '96** 2 was

appointed to the position of Command Sergeant Major (CSM) in the U.S. Army School of Music (USASOM). The USASOM CSM is responsible for the professional training and education of more than 3,600 musicians in the Regular Army, Army National Guard, and U.S. Army Reserve in all phases of their military careers. ■ **Allison Wedell '96** is continuing her writing career at Barr Engineering Co. in Minneapolis. As Barr's newest proposal writer, she helps further the company's work in environmental consulting and engineering. The best part? There are three other Oles on her team!

■ **Jill Armstrong Courtney '97** earned an Ed.S. in educational leadership and administration from Lipscomb University, and is now a multimedia instructional designer for the U.S. Space Force based in Colorado Springs. ■

Rebecca Rossman Schloneger '97 3 is a professional violinist with the Wichita Symphony and a middle school orchestra teacher for Newton Public Schools in Kansas. ■ **Matthew Wigdahl '97** earned his M.F.A. in design from the University of Wisconsin-Stout and published his creative thesis

on motion graphics and tangible user interface for narrative performance. ■ **Jennifer Fink Hellman '98** P'25 4 was named the president and chief executive officer of Goff Public, one of Minnesota's leading communications and public affairs firms. She has more than two decades of experience in reputation management, crisis communications consulting, media relations, and strategic communications. Jennifer currently serves on the St. Olaf Board of Regents and on the board of the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce. She is a former board member for the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and is currently on the organization's Business Services board. ■ **Andrew Peters '98** is serving as organist and minister of music at Augustana Lutheran Church in Denver. He formerly served as organist and music director at Second Presbyterian Church in St. Louis and was ensemble organist with the St. Louis Symphony. ■ **Autumn Berggren Hilden '99** is excited to be writing for the publications of the Los Angeles Zoo. "My work will put me in close contact with creatures and keepers, as I report on everything from cuddly newborn animals to the status of the California condor," she says. ■ **Gretchen Weisgram McPherson '99** has been promoted to chief operating officer at the innovative startup CarServ. "I hope I can make a difference as a rare female COO in the automotive and software spaces," she says. ■ **Lisa Nelson '99** and **Mira Frisch '00**, along with violinist Anna Cromwell, had their album *Dancing on Glass: String Chamber Music by Women Composers* released by Albany Records. The recording includes string trios, duets, and solos by American composers

Victoria Bond, Rain Worthington, Adrienne Albert, and Julie Mandel. ■ In his latest graphic novel, *Button Pusher*, cartoonist **Tyler Page '99** 5 uses his own childhood experiences to explore what it means to grow up with ADHD. From diagnosis to treatment and beyond, Tyler's story is raw and enlightening, inviting you to see the world from a new perspective. ■ **Tim Whipple '99** joined the Ahlers & Cooney law firm in Des Moines as special counsel, focusing his practice in governmental law.

NEW BOOKS BY 1990s OLES

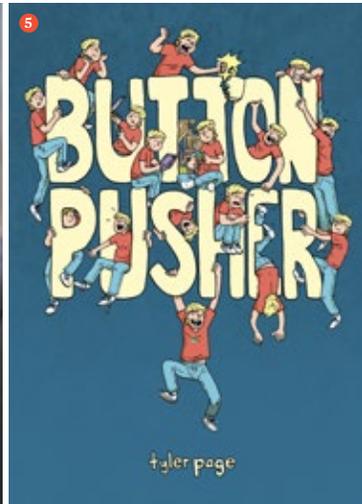
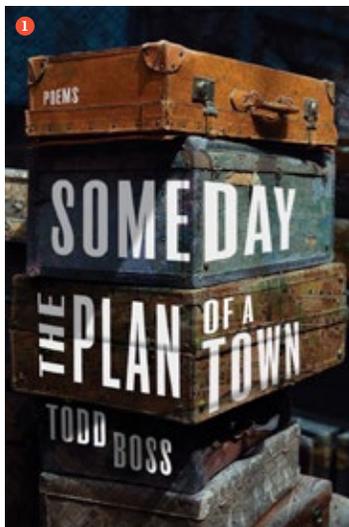
Someday The Plan of a Town (W.W. Norton & Co., Feb. 2022), a poetry collection by **Todd Boss '91**

Number One Realist: Bernard Fall and Vietnamese Revolutionary Warfare (Oxford University Press, March 2022) by **Nathaniel Moir '94**

Button Pusher (First Second/Macmillan, March 2022) by **Tyler Page '99**

2000s

Erin Carlson '00 6 was promoted to full professor and named the Smith Professor of Chemistry at the University of Minnesota. ■ **Justin Hilden '01** returned to Los Angeles to join Disney Animation Studios in its Animation Research Library. "I'll be helping to tell the story of Disney animation history around the world at theme parks, museums, and more," he says. "It is a dream realized!" ■ **Branden Grimmitt '03** penned "University Graduates are Prepared to Succeed in the L.A. Job Market" for the *Los Angeles Business Journal*.



■ **Christopher Blackmon '04** writes that after more than eight years as music librarian for the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, he has been named the senior librarian of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra (*Het Koninklijk Concertgebouw*) in Amsterdam. "They are consistently ranked as one of the top orchestras in the world, with a history of close ties to the repertoire of Mahler and other great composers of the 20th-century," he says. "Richard Strauss' famous tone poem *Ein Heldenleben* was even composed for them! Now to get a bike and learn Dutch!" ■ **Composer, conductor and clinician Kathleen O'Hara LaBrie '04** has been selected as one of Yamaha's "40 Under 40" for her action, courage, creativity, and commitment to growth in the music education field. ■ **Brian Martin '04**, a technology teacher at Valley Middle School of STEM in Apple Valley, Minn., ① found himself working in the same room as fellow Ole teachers **Julia Maras '20** and **Colin Haakenson '97**. ■ **Shenandoah Sowash '04** ② recently was promoted to assistant director of communications at the Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C. She leads the communications team for Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics, overseeing strategic outreach on cutting-edge topics such as artificial intelligence, 5G, and quantum computing. ■ **Allison Sweasy Gettings '05** ③ was named president of Red Wing Shoe Company. Allison is making history as the company's first female president, taking the position to oversee the company's operations, marketing, business technology, and corporate social responsibility functions. She is the first member of the fourth-generation Sweasy family to hold a leadership post at Red Wing Shoe Company. ■ **David Greder '06** was awarded the Alpha Chi Honor Society Professor of the Year Award at Waldorf University and was the keynote speaker at the society's annual banquet in October. ■ **Margie Thirlby '06** launched The Thirlby Company LLC, a coaching and consulting practice that helps leaders and teams experience joy and tap into their full potential. Core services include life and leadership coaching, management training, retreat facilitation, and leadership transition support. ■ **Kathryn Sederberg '07** received the Goethe-Institut/AATG (American Association of Teachers of German) Certificate of Merit for outstanding achievement in furthering the teaching of German in schools of the United States. ■ **Daniel Edwins '08** completed his master of professional studies degree in user experience design from the Maryland Institute College of Art. ■ **Jacob Dalager '09** ④ joined the New Mexico State University faculty as assistant professor of trumpet and jazz, where he teaches applied lessons, directs the jazz ensemble, leads the faculty brass quintet, and runs the annual Jumpstart Jazz Festival. Jacob also released his debut solo trumpet album, *Paradigms*, to critical acclaim on the record label Tonsehen. It features the music of Anthony Plog and a guest performance of fellow Ole **Lauren Geist '09**, soprano. ■ **Patrick Wadzinski '09** ⑤ graduated *summa cum laude* with high distinction from the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. He has accepted a pharmacist position running clinical trials for Aurora Pharmaceutical.

2010s

Kaitie Eke '10 joined Fredrikson & Byron as an associate in the Trusts and Estates Group. She devotes her practice to trusts and estates matters, including planning and administration. ■ **Emily McNee '10**, an attorney in the Minneapolis office of Littler, the world's largest employment and labor law practice representing management, has been elevated to shareholder. She is a strategic advisor and litigator who routinely works with employers on a broad range of employment law issues arising under federal, state, and local law. ■ **Molly Trucano '10** started a new role at WarnerMedia in the Equity and Inclusion Department, supporting the enterprise's diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies for its workforce and productions. She recently graduated with honors from Pepperdine University's Graziadio School of Business with her Master of Science degree in human resources. ■ **Clara Swanson Mattucci '11** has been named partner at the strategic communication firm GillespieHall, a BGP Publicity Inc., business. A social scientist and marketing strategist, she leads the discovery and metrics initiatives at GillespieHall. ■ **Katie Burk '13** recently earned a doctorate in pipe organ performance at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, and got engaged to Purdue University graduate Daniel Webb. ■ **George Brand '14** currently practices labor and employment law at Fox Rothschild LLP in Kansas City, Mo. ■ **Grant Gordon '14** and longtime songwriting partner Diondre Cole released their first studio album, *That Which is Up*. Intentionally eschewing the traditional album release process (the album is not available on Spotify), they partnered with a number of local record stores to promote the album within the community. ■ **Mariah Meyers '14** graduated with a Master of Music Education degree from VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. ■ **Casey Bouldin '15** will perform at the 75th annual Edinburgh Festival Fringe as a member of the Improverts, the international theater festival's longest-running improv show. ■ **Duncan Tuomi '16** won first place in the American Choral Directors Association's 2021 Raymond W. Brock Memorial Student Composition Competition for his piece *The Rose that Bare Jesu*. ■ **Aidan Zielske '18** joined HAWS-KM law firm in the areas of product liability defense, transportation litigation, commercial litigation, and toxic torts. ■ **Kelsey Anderson '19** ⑥ was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. She is excited to be the first in her family to commission, and she will be continuing her military career as a quartermaster officer in the Minnesota National Guard. ■



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Benj Wollant '19 has received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to support his doctoral work in electrical engineering at Stanford University.

2020s

Martha Barnard '21 has received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to support her doctoral work in biostatistics. ■

Kristian Noll '21 is the first Ole to receive the German International Parliament Stipendium, a highly competitive and prestigious international award that supported his participation in a five-month program at the Bundestag in Berlin, Germany. This fall he will begin a one-year master's degree program at the London School of Economics in environmental policy and regulation.

■ **Ling O'Donoghue '21** ① will have a paper she wrote, “论中国现代社会留守儿童现象之起因与影响 (*The Causes and Effects of the Left-Behind Children in Chinese Society*),” published in the Kenneshaw Tower, a peer-reviewed undergraduate foreign language research journal. Ling is currently a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in library science at the University of Maryland. ■

Ziyuan (Sherry) Shi '21 ② is pursuing her master's degree in nursing at Johns Hopkins University. 🐼



Remembering Howard Thorsheim '63

Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Neuroscience Howard Iver Thorsheim passed away peacefully on February 10, 2022, surrounded by his wife of 57 years, **Julie Loken Thorsheim '63**, and their family. He was 80 years old.

Thorsheim was born on July 1, 1941, to Joseph and Gladys Erickson Thorsheim, joining his very excited three-year-old sister, Mary Jo, in their Minneapolis home. Like his father, Thorsheim attended St. Olaf College, where he met Julie at a first-year mixer. He fell in love, first with Julie, and then with the study of psychology, after taking a course with the late psychology professor Olaf W. Millert. “Professors at St. Olaf taught me to find the beauty in science,” he said in a 2012 *St. Olaf Magazine* interview. “I was intrigued with what people think ... what things they create.”

Thorsheim continued his education beyond St. Olaf, earning his master's degree and Ph.D. in experimental psychology, with a focus on cognitive neuroscience, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He joined the St. Olaf faculty in 1968. His knowledge and love of psychology and neuroscience flourished during his 44-year teaching career. Beloved by his St. Olaf colleagues and students, Thorsheim was known for his collegiality, kindness, optimism, generosity, and sense of humor. He was attentive and giving of his time, as a friend, as a teacher, and as a mentor. Everyone who ever met him will remember the twinkle in his eye and his kind smile. A favorite memory shared by Thorsheim's psychology students was the arrival of his annual email about the Ginkgo tree outside Holland Hall, beneath which students walked every day on their way to his class. **Sophia McComb '07**, an academic advisor for TRIO Student Support Services at St. Olaf, remembers taking Thorsheim's class in 2003. “I was struggling being a first-generation college student, and he took me under his wing. He was an amazing teacher, full of compassion and understanding.”



Deeply interested in the health benefits of personal story-sharing and intergenerational reminiscing, Thorsheim published *I Remember When: Activity Ideas to Help People Reminisce and Reminiscing Together: Ways to Help Us Keep Mentally Fit As We Grow Older*, both co-authored with his colleague, Professor Emeritus of Psychology Bruce Roberts. Additionally, a six-year National Science Foundation research grant enabled Thorsheim to develop psychophysiology educational materials and pedagogy for community college instructors nationwide. A personal career highlight was his travel to Norway as a Fulbright Scholar in the 1990s with Julie and their children Kris and Martin.

Thorsheim loved God and was a man of strong faith. He and Julie joined St. John's Lutheran Church when they moved to Northfield in 1968, where he and his family faithfully worshiped, and he taught Sunday School, served on boards, and was a frequent participant in Bible studies. In addition to his Christian faith, he saw great beauty and common ground among many cultures and religions, especially First Nations' belief in the Creator's presence in all of nature, which he delved deeper into while researching the history of the lands near his home. His legacy lives on in the many lives he touched: his children and grandchildren, close family and friends, and in the many generations of St. Olaf students he taught and mentored. Above all, he will be remembered for his love of life. He treasured his family, engaging with people everywhere and hearing their stories, family vacations along the North Shore of Lake Superior, cross-country skiing in the Carleton Arboretum, tinkering with his 1930 Model A Ford (“Lulu”), playing the musical saw, bicycling, hiking, and appreciating nature.

He is survived by the love of his life, Julie; their children, Peter (Gina) of North Carolina, Thomas (Sarah) of South Carolina, Kristoffer (Melissa) of Northfield, and **Martin '00** of St. Paul; five grandchildren: Erik, Jacob, Joseph, Forrester, and Luke; his steadfast sister **Mary Jo Thorsheim '59**; sister-in-law Joan (Fred) Asche; brother-in-law Philip Loken; sister-in-law Mary (Helmut) Haas; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Remembering Sigrid Johnson

Professor Emerita of Music Sigrid Johnson was born on January 8, 1952, to Corliss and Irene Nelson in Bismarck, North Dakota. She died on March 11, 2022.

Johnson was raised in a home filled with music. Her father was an untrained singer with a beautiful tenor voice. Her mother, a trained pianist who could also play hymns by ear, taught Johnson and her two brothers basic music theory as children.

Johnson began formal piano training with Belle Mehus at age four and gave her own solo piano recital at age five. She enjoyed playing concerts and private events in a trio with her brothers on violin and cello. Throughout junior and senior high school, she performed and accompanied in church, high school choir, orchestra, band, the community, and local college operas and musicals. Johnson served a local church as organist and also played flute and bassoon.

After graduating from Bismarck High School in 1969, she was offered a full scholarship to Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, where she sang under conductor Paul J. Christiansen, St. Olaf Class of 1934. She completed her undergraduate degree in vocal performance at St. Cloud State University and received a Master of Music degree in vocal performance from the University of Michigan. She was an adjunct professor of voice at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities and Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota.

While at Concordia, she met the love of her life, Robert "BJ" Johnson. They had two children, Andrew and Peter. Music was always important, but not her only focus. She was devoted to her family; they were at the center of her life.

In 1983 Johnson accepted a position as Artist in Residence and a member of the music faculty (voice) at St. Olaf College, where she conducted the Manitou Singers, the 100-voice first-year women's chorus. She taught at St. Olaf for 32 years until her retirement in 2015.

Johnson was a highly sought-after guest conductor and clinician. She was invited to all-state music festivals in more than 30 states. Known particularly for her outstanding musical ear, she prepared symphonic choruses for Neeme Järvi, Sir Neville Marriner, David Zinman, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Gerard Schwarz, Edo de Waart, and Leonard Slatkin, among others. She served as conductor of the Dale Warland Symphonic Chorus, associate conductor of the Dale Warland Singers, guest conductor of the National Lutheran Choir, and Magnum Chorum. She was also the associate conductor of VocalEssence, where she worked closely with Founding Artistic Director Philip Brunelle.

Johnson was a featured guest lecturer at the World Symposiums on Choral Music in Minneapolis in 2002; in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2008; and in Puerto Madryn, Argentina in 2011. She was a featured lecturer and clinician at the 2004 Australian National Choral Association Conference and also a member of the esteemed jury for the Béla Bartók International Choral Competition in Debrecen, Hungary in 2006.

In 2007 she received the F. Melius Christiansen Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor given by the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota, for providing outstanding contributions and distinguished service to choral music in Minnesota.

For many years, she suffered from palindromic rheumatoid arthritis. She found the strength, the will, the power in the music that enabled her to conduct a choir with such grace and beauty that no one would have known the pain she was enduring. She was a model of vitality, courage, and faith.



Johnson was a loving nurturer, caring, and selfless. She deeply respected her fellow colleagues, who were wonderful supporters and collaborators and a great center of joy in her life. Unrelenting in pursuit of excellence, she dug deep to bring about the beauty in each musical piece her choirs presented. Because she was a stickler for meticulous intonation and attention to the text, her singers always kept their eyes fixed on her. She was known for taking liberties and never conducted a piece of music exactly the same way twice.

She is remembered for having said, "God gave me two beautiful sons, and every year I'm blessed with 100 daughters" (referring to her particular fondness for the Manitou Singers). To her students, she bequeathed life skills that reach far beyond music: the power of preparation, pride in their work, deference and respect, and the importance of listening to each other. She inspired and imprinted these values on thousands of young singers. But above all else, she fervently believed that people — all people everywhere — mattered.

Johnson loved going to their little cabin ("Lille Hutte") on Lake Darling in Alexandria, Minnesota. She loved taking rides around the lake in their pontoon with BJ at the wheel. She loved coffee and often had a cup in her hand and other cups nearby. She was a fabulous host for gatherings at their home. She knew how to set a beautiful table. She always had a smile and a hug. People loved her. She will be deeply missed, but her legacy of loving relationships and beautiful music will last forever.

Johnson is preceded in death by her parents; sister, Mary Corene; niece, Holly Nelson; and her beloved husband, BJ. She is survived by her two sons, Andrew (Sarah), St. Paul, and Peter (Samy), Bloomington, Minn.; two grandsons, Soren and Halvor; brothers, Corliss (Donna), Smyrna, Tenn. and Greg (Pam), Franklin, Tenn.; nieces, Sarah (Damian), Franklin, Tenn., and Serena (Adam), Brooklyn, New York; nephew, Ben (Emily), St. Paul; four grand-nieces, Georgia, Blythe, Tessa, and Maya; and grand-nephews, Henry and Ellis.

A Service of Thanksgiving for Johnson's life was held on March 19 at Boe Memorial Chapel, St. Olaf College. The service was streamed and is archived at stolaf.edu/multimedia/play/?c=3662.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Sigrid and Robert "BJ" Johnson Endowed Fund, the Manitou Singers, the Steven M. Amundson Fund for Orchestra (all c/o St. Olaf College, 1520 St. Olaf Ave., Northfield, MN, 55057, Attn: Development Office) or to VocalEssence (1900 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403).



Future Oles

Suzanne Ohlmann '98 and Ryan Westerhoff, a son, River
 Erin Carlson '00, a son, Ethan **16**
 Erin Scheiwe Rockwell '01 and Owen Rockwell, a son, Aven
 Kyle Haemig '03 and Estelle Haemig, a daughter, Isabelle
 Laura Wilkinson Behrens '04 and Maxwell Behrens, twins, Eloise and Henry **13**
 Christine Hanson Cecil '06 and Robby Cecil, a daughter, Roxanne
 Christine Hinrichs Garrison '06 and Oliver Garrison '06, a daughter, Greta **11**
 Jenny Ingebriksen Whitacre '06 and Adam Whitacre, a son, Jack **1**
 Ellen Draeger Cattadoris '07 and Barry Cattadoris, a daughter, Juliana
 Michael Reading '07 and Bristol Reading, a daughter, Magnolia
 Molly Boes Ganza '08 and Chris Ganza '10, a son, Michael
 Erika Burr '08 and Richard Lader, a son, Felix **4**
 Jenna Ingersoll '08 and Jordan Lacore, a son, Fritz
 Sarah Van den Akker Kemen '08 and Grant Kemen '08, a daughter, Keira **2**
 Kirsten Ytterbo '08 and Rosemary Scott, twin daughters, Greta and Ingrid
 Siri Peterson Baker '09 and Ben Baker '09, a daughter, Sonja
 Nicole Smith Brumley '10 and Alex Brumley '10, a daughter, Eleanor **8**
 Breanna Zarmbinski '10 and Paul Shrewsbury '10, a daughter, Ophelia **7**
 Alisha Natzel Brun '11 and Lucas Brun, twins, Liam and Adelaide
 Natalie Warren Synhovsky '11 and John Synhovsky '10, a daughter, Lucy
 Emily Tolly '11 and Brian Tolly '10, a daughter, Quinn **14**
 Katie Gallenberger Wineman '11 and Michael Wineman '11, a son, John
 Sarah Chao '12 and Matt Menzenski, a daughter, Edith **10**
 Susan Kenzie '12 and Paul Ranum '11, a son, Raymond **17**
 Claire Shannon Knoploh '12 and Grant Knoploh '12, a daughter, Ingrid
 Kate Anderson Graham '13 and Benjamin Graham, a daughter, Maeve **15**
 Emily Macon Mork '13 and Tom Mork '13, a son, Oliver **9**
 Rob Tunheim '13 and Allison O'Neill Tunheim, a daughter, Olivia **6**
 Lauren Slagel Kleven '14 and Andy Kleven '14, a daughter, Iris
 Reilly Quirk Orner '15 and Joe Orner, a son, Lucas **12**
 Maggie Prunty '15 and Samuel Braden '15, a son, Graham
 Alexandra Lebens Carlson '16 and Nathaniel Carlson '15, a daughter, Lillian **3**
 Hannah Besonen Rolfs '16 and Zachary Rolfs '15, a daughter, Claire **5**
 Jennifer Zisette '16 and Derek Smith '16, a daughter, Juna

Weddings

Richard Ferguson '74 and Jennifer DeMuth, Oct. 1, 2021 **5**
 Erika Burr '08 and Richard Lader, Sept. 25, 2021 **1**
 Sara Zieglmeier Hall '11 and Matthew Hall, Sept. 25, 2021
 Molly McCarty Virostek '12 and Donald Virostek, April 3, 2021
 Jane Burton Mondul '13 and Corey Mondul, Aug. 28, 2021
 Melina Lamer Susienka '13 and Keeley Susienka '14, Sept. 12, 2021 **7**
 Katie Burk Webb '13 and Daniel Webb, July 2, 2022
 George Brand '14 and Courtney Brand, Sept. 18, 2021
 Susie Jelinek Curry '14 and Dan Curry, June 19, 2021 **3**
 Lindsey Lee '14 and Phillip Maple '14, Sept. 19, 2021
 April Xiong Saydee '14 and Shadrach Saydee '14, May 2, 2021 **6**
 Anisha Chada '15 and Steven Wett '15, Sept. 4, 2021 **9**
 Will Lutterman '15 and Rachel McGovern, Oct. 30, 2021
 Sierra Napoli Thein '15 and Peter Thein, Nov. 11, 2021
 Katie Bull Heller '16 and Charles Heller '16, March 26, 2021
 Emily Tani-Winegarten Bahnson and Charles Bahnson, Aug. 21, 2021 **8**
 Alexandra Mauney Jacob '16 and Andy Jacob '18, Oct. 23, 2021 **4**
 Elizabeth Sigworth Westerbe '16 and Jacob Westerbe '16, Aug. 28, 2021 **2**
 Kaitlyn Clawson Cannestra '20 and Andrew Cannestra '20, Aug. 14, 2021

Deaths

Richard Thompsen '41, Mount Pleasant, Wis., Jan. 27, 2021
 *Telford "Ted" Wamstad '41, Mclean, Va., Jan. 26, 2021
 Violet Carlson Jacobson '37, Hayward, Wis., Nov. 30, 2021
 Wilbur "Web" Halvorsen '41, Freeland, Wash., Dec. 10, 2021
 Lois Fladager Irwin '41, Mercer Island, Wash., Jan. 12, 2022
 Margaret Nerhaugen Alrick '44, Hutchinson, Minn., Nov. 29, 2021
 Jeannette Rynning Bey '44, Onalaska, Wis., March 1, 2022
 Gail Okerson Byrne '44, Red Wing, Minn., Jan. 7, 2022
 Johan Bergh '45, Oviedo, Fla., Sept. 16, 2021
 Mary Ann Hansen Hatteberg '46, Delavan, Minn., Jan. 13, 2022
 *George Kuehner '46, Eden Prairie, Minn., Oct. 2, 2021
 Mavis Bly Bargon '47, Urbana, Ill., Jan. 27, 2022
 Mildred Rieken Eggimann '47, Jackson, Minn., July 31, 2021

Enid Ronning Hanson '47, Benson, Minn., Oct. 19, 2021
 Gunvor "Gunnie" Barstad Mahlberg '47, Worthington, Minn., Dec. 26, 2021
 Virginia "Rif" Rifenbary Nelson '47, Minneapolis, March 25, 2022
 Virginia "June" Wieman Steffen '47, Platteville, Wis., Nov. 3, 2021
 *Burdette "Brek" Brekken '48, San Marino, Calif., Sept. 14, 2021
 Maxine Hagen Hegg '48, Hanley Falls, Minn., Dec. 15, 2021
 Delores "Dee" Johnson Lundgren '48, Stillwater, Minn., Feb. 10, 2022
 Marilyn Thompson Nielsen '48, Fairmont, Minn., Sept. 2, 2021
 Helen Houg Sanborn '48, Middleton, Wis., Dec. 27, 2021
 Margaret Millang Satre '48, Cedar Falls, Iowa, Dec. 2, 2021
 Eunice Refsell Soonpaa '48, Grand Forks, N.D., Nov. 7, 2021
 Margrete Bly Beard '49, Wheat Ridge, Colo., Oct. 5, 2021
 Donna Conley Creigh '49, Naples, Idaho, Jan. 15, 2022
 John Hagman '49, Edina, Minn., April 15, 2022
 Kathryn Thompson Hanson '49, Mankato, Minn., March 13, 2022
 Betty Oleson Nelson '49, St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 7, 2021
 Faythe "Faith" Nelson Nicholas '49, Arlington, S.D., Nov. 26, 2020
 Ruth Kuhlman Overby '49, Athens, N.Y., Sept. 16, 2021
 Margaret Jensen Rasmussen '49, Lombard, Ill., Feb. 22, 2022
 Ruth Hoppenstedt Ring '49, Thornton, Colo., Oct. 10, 2021
 *Bernard "Bud" Scott '49, Tarpon Springs, Fla., Aug. 6, 2021
 Jean Schaefer Skilton '49, Seward, Neb., Nov. 2, 2021
 *Virgil Teigland '49, Klamath Falls, Ore., Feb. 26, 2022
 *Robert Bly '50, Minneapolis, Nov. 21, 2021
 Walter Creigh '50, Buckley, Wa., March, 2018
 Lauren "Bud" Egdahl '50, Northfield, Minn., April 19, 2022
 *Richard Fevold '50, Bismarck, N.D., Nov. 4, 2021
 Verland Johnson '50, Luverne, Minn., Jan. 19, 2022
 *Peter Kjeseth '50, Lynchburg, Va., Jan. 16, 2022
 Barbara Murkve Lacy '50, Redford, Mich., March 4, 2022
 *Curtis "Curt" Pearson '50, Wayzata, Minn., Oct. 29, 2021
 Frank Summerside '50, Le Mars, Iowa, Nov. 22, 2021
 Fredrik "Fred" Christiansen '51, Roseville, Minn., Nov. 8, 2021
 *Donald Ellingson '51, Buffalo Lake, Minn., Sept. 25, 2021
 *Ernest "Russ" Gustafson '51, St. Paul, Minn., March 10, 2022
 Floyd Nordland '51, Broomfield, Colo., Aug. 22, 2021
 Shirley Ford Silva '51, Highlands Ranch, Colo., Oct. 1, 2021
 Vivian Pearson Barr '52, Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 13, 2021
 *Roderick "Rodd" Frye '52, St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 10, 2020
 Evelyn Kivipelto Groe '52, St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 3, 2021
 Donald "Don" Gulbrandson '52, Mound, Minn., Oct. 20, 2021
 Hazen Himes '52, Rockford, Ill., Feb. 28, 2022
 *Marland "Marly" Madson '52, Alexandria, Minn., Nov. 17, 2021
 Margaret Johnson McCarthy '52, Ann Arbor, Mich., April 6, 2019
 Dorothy Dahl Stein '52, Wheaton, Ill., Sept. 11, 2021
 Jo Ann "Jodi" Mattson Coney '53, Spokane, Wash., Sept. 19, 2021
 Lowell Erdahl '53, St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 14, 2021
 Doretta Fuhs '53, Evanston, Ill., Oct. 26, 2020
 *David Gangsei '53, Northfield, Minn., Dec. 10, 2021
 *Roger "Doc" Hatlem '53, Viroqua, Wis., Sept. 21, 2021
 Mary Haugan Ingbritsen '53, Northfield, Minn., Dec. 19, 2021
 Harold Motter '53, Mankato, Minn., April 30, 2021
 *John Nilsen '53, Minneapolis, Dec. 14, 2021
 Mary Linter Nystuen '53, Northfield, Minn., Sept. 13, 2021
 Gerald "Jerry" Bloedow '54, Richfield, Minn., Oct. 25, 2021
 *James "Jim" Braaten '54, Bellingham, Wash., Sept. 22, 2021
 *Wilmer "Barney" Friesth '54, Apple Valley, Minn., March 21, 2022
 Jacqueline "Jackie" Hartwig Hanson '54, Sioux Falls, S.D., Sept. 24, 2021
 Joyce Leverson Johnson '54, Trimont, Minn., Oct. 14, 2021
 *Milo Ormseth '54, Portland, Ore., Oct. 15, 2021
 Neil Ostlund '54, Alexandria, Minn., Oct. 19, 2021
 Ruth Bear Pflaum '54, St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 7, 2021
 Norma "Jane" Erickson Schamens '54, Ocala, Fla., Oct. 8, 2021
 Neil Anderson '55, Lewisburg, Pa., Sept. 29, 2021
 Clayton "C. Paul" Christianson '55, San Francisco, Feb. 15, 2022
 Lorraine Myli Lee '55, Southport, N.C., April 4, 2022
 *David Leppanen '55, Sun City, Ariz., Feb. 28, 2022
 William "Bill" Loughmiller '55, Burnsville, Minn., July 29, 2021
 *Roger Nelson '55, Litchfield, Minn., Jan. 12, 2022
 *Elmer Olson '55, Whitley City, Ky., Aug. 27, 2021
 Jean Skoumal Peterson '55, La Crescent, Minn., Oct. 3, 2021

- Mary Fabricius Aspenes '56, Mequon, Wis., Dec. 15, 2021
 Peter Gandrud '56, Bemidji, Minn., Feb. 15, 2022
 John Hagen '56, Faribault, Minn., Sept. 25, 2021
 *Gerald "Jerry" Jossart '56, Milwaukee, March 5, 2022
 *Carl Kalbhen '56, Des Plaines, Ill., Dec. 7, 2021
 *Orin Solberg '56, Minneapolis, Oct. 16, 2021
 *Kenneth "Ken" Anderson '57, Oshkosh, Wis., April 6, 2022
 Patricia "Pat" Widder Bennett '57, Bigfork, Mont., Feb. 14, 2022
 Clayton "Clay" Buntrock '57, St. Joseph, Mo., Nov. 1, 2021
 *Donald "Don" Dennert '57, Aberdeen, S.D., Jan. 24, 2022
 John Fahning '57, New Hope, Minn., April 1, 2022
 Zelma Haugen Lashway '57, Las Cruces, N.M., March 6, 2022
 Muriel Tweeten Mikkelsen '57, St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 11, 2021
 Mary Anne Bender Miller '57, St. Anthony, Minn., May 8, 2020
 *Bernt "BJ" Muus '57, Galveston, Texas, Jan. 25, 2022
 Jerome "Jerry" Narveson '57, Lake City, Minn., Nov. 16, 2021
 Audrey Anderson Olsen '57, Holmen, Wis., Feb. 22, 2022
 James "Jim" Borgen '58, Minneapolis, Aug. 17, 2021
 Carolyn Durand Drude '58, Cambridge, Minn., Nov. 23, 2021
 Barbara "Barb" Heide Griffin '58, Billings, Mont., Sept. 29, 2021
 Bruce Hagen '58, Thurmont, Md., March 16, 2021
 Karen Haines '58, Wausau, Wis., Nov. 29, 2021
 Nordis Austinson Johnson '58, Moorhead, Minn., Feb. 9, 2022
 *Henry "Gene" Nelson '58, Manitowoc, Wis., April 12, 2022
 Constance "Connie" Homuth Newman '58, Fond Du Lac, Wis., Oct. 27, 2021
 Corrine Crawford Paulson '58, Sun Lakes, Ariz., Dec. 22, 2021
 Robert "Nick" Ristad '58, Santa Rosa, Calif., Sept. 16, 2021
 David Rossing '58, Argyle, Wis., Jan. 30, 2022
 Russell Wangen '58, Austin, Minn., Feb. 20, 2022
 Jon Wergedal '58, Grand Junction, Colo., Dec. 14, 2021
 Donna Madsen Anderson '59, Helena, Mont., Sept. 28, 2021
 *Allen Bergh '59, Woodbury, Minn., April 14, 2022
 John "Randy" Cox '59, Northfield, Minn., Sept. 14, 2021
 Judith "Judy" Fahrman Dorst '59, Shoreline, Wash., April 4, 2022
 Elizabeth "Betty" Slindee Heck '59, Eau Claire, Wis., Oct. 30, 2021
 Janice "Jan" Skaar Heins '59, Milwaukee, Oct. 29, 2021
 Judith "Judy" Carlson Lokensgard '59, Grand Forks, N.D., Aug. 30, 2021
 Virginia Domes Mehrhof '59, Blue Earth, Minn., September 5, 2021
 Brian O'Connor '59, Minnetonka, Minn., May 5, 2021
 Dorothy Shattuck '59, Savage, Minn., Aug. 11, 2021
 Elliot Stolen '59, St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 1, 2021
 Stephen "Steve" Symes '59, Belvidere, Ill., March 17, 2022
 Ruth Brown Anderson '60, Lancaster, Pa., Jan. 15, 2022
 Carol Birmingham '60, Sussex, Wis., Feb. 25, 2022
 Linda "Linda Kay" Haenny Johnson '60, Des Moines, Jan. 15, 2022
 Barbara Teigen Schaefer '60, Huntley, Ill., July 26, 2021
 Marian Wisti Schmitz '60, Glenwood City, Wis., April 14, 2022
 Alberta "Bert" Dayhuff Stevens '60, Dublin, Ohio, Aug. 28, 2021
 Carol Baumann '61, Salem, Ore., Jan. 3, 2022
 Robert "Bob" Hoyle '61, St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 23, 2021
 Carol Jenson '61, Minneapolis, Nov. 25, 2021
 Sandra "Sandy" Magrath Kasch '61, Wilmington, Del., Feb. 3, 2022
 Mabel "May" Johnson Mettler '61, Burien, Wash., Dec. 18, 2020
 Fred Reiter '61, Minneapolis, Dec. 1, 2021
 *Neil Tellijohn '61, Owatonna, Minn., March 14, 2022
 Neil Brenden '62, Bangkok, Thailand, March 8, 2022
 Mary "Louise" Holmquist '62, Albuquerque, N.M., June 2, 2020
 Susan Ward Jurries '62, Clearwater, Fla., Sept. 6, 2021
 *Allan "Al" Larson '62, Melbourne, Fla., March 26, 2019
 Richard Lee '62, Naples, Fla., Jan. 12, 2021
 Curtis "Curt" Pearson '62, Rochester, Minn., Feb. 27, 2022
 Thomas Totushek '62, McKinney, Texas, July 2, 2021
 Mary Olson Dedricks '63, Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 8, 2022
 *Gary Ellingson '63, Aurora, Colo., Sept. 19, 2021
 Sharon Huss Johnson '63, Albert Lea, Minn., Oct. 22, 2021
 Mark Knutson '63, Olympia, Wash., Oct. 4, 2021
 Ardythe "Ann" Rolstad MacIlraviae '63, Carlisle, Wyo., Oct. 6, 2021
 Johan Madson '63, Cary, N.C., Sept. 27, 2021
 Jon Pekel '63, Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 19, 2022
 Robert "Bob" Ramseth '63, Stockholm, Wis., Jan. 26, 2022
 Howard Thorsheim '63, Northfield, Minn., Feb. 10, 2022
 Otto Bloedow '64, Prescott, Wis., Aug. 18, 2021
 Daniel "Dan" Brockton '64, Longville, Minn., Nov. 5, 2021
 Margaret "Maggie" Kittelson Grohs '64, St. Paul, Minn., July 23, 2021
 John Myhre '64, Mclean, Va., Oct. 15, 2021
 Carlton Overland '64, Stoughton, Wis., Dec. 25, 2021
 Carl Hanson Peterson '64, North Muskegon, Mich., June 1, 2021
 Lynn Weberg Sandquist '64, Woodbury, Minn., Feb. 19, 2022
 Barbara Slethaug '64, Kalispell, Mont., Jan. 21, 2022
 *John Brekke '65, Duluth, Minn., Oct. 23, 2021
 Judith Olson Deitz '65, Billings, Mont., Oct. 23, 2021
 Lawrence "Larry" Knoebel '65, New Brighton, Minn., Sept. 30, 2021
 *David "Dave" Solheim '65, Silver Lake, Minn., Jan. 12, 2022
 Joyce McCanless Zerwekh '66, Portland, Ore., Dec. 20, 2021
 *Kerry Bartels '67, Biloxi, Mass., Dec. 11, 2021
 *Judith Bowers '67, Hopkins, Minn., Nov. 16, 2021
 Mary Durkee Fay '67, Keene, N.H., Nov. 17, 2021
 John Foss '67, Lake Elsinore, Calif., Sept. 11, 2021
 Catherine Frerichs '67, Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 28, 2022
 Warren Johnson '67, Faribault, Minn., Aug. 27, 2021
 Jack Klecka '67, Highland Park, Ill., Nov. 26, 2021
 Donald "Don" Larsen '67, Maplewood, Minn., Nov. 8, 2021
 Sandra Chronquist Metcalf von Steinbergs '67, Bayport, Minn., Feb. 19, 2021
 Peggy Reinking Wielenberg '67, University Heights, Ohio, Jan. 27, 2022
 Suzanne Riehl Dyer '68, Spicer, Minn., March 14, 2022
 Richard Hardwig '68, Castro Valley, Calif., Dec. 18, 2021
 Dale Hunter '69, Milaca, Minn., April 10, 2022
 Thomas Laurie '69, Minneapolis, April 2, 2022
 Scott Anderson '70, Sacramento, Calif., Sept. 2, 2021
 Cynthia "Cindy" Berg '70, Atlanta, March 6, 2022
 Donald Stinespring '70, Mchenry, Ill., April 6, 2022
 *Gregory Warner '70, Walnut Creek, Calif., Feb. 26, 2022
 Rolf Huss '71, Fairfax, Va., May 1, 2021
 Margaret "Margie" Hanson '73, Albuquerque, N.M., Aug. 9, 2021
 Vicki Hultine '73, Mankato, Minn., Jan. 30, 2022
 Terry Weed Johnson '73, Waverly, Minn., April 11, 2022
 Scott Peterson '73, Pequot Lakes, Minn., Nov. 7, 2021
 James "Jay" Elder '74, Olympia, Wash., Dec. 22, 2021
 Gary Gulrud '74, Sartell, Minn., Jan. 9, 2022
 Richard "Rich" Nicoll '74, Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 1, 2022
 Susan Cooper '75, Winona, Minn., Nov. 16, 2021
 Mary Eastwold Dettloff '75, Canyon Lake, Texas, Jan. 23, 2022
 Marcia Taylor Schaupp '75, Wausau, Wis., Sept. 29, 2021
 John Lu '77, Fremont, Calif., Sept. 7, 2021
 Cheryl Enger '78, Brooklyn, Mich., Dec. 31, 2021
 Karin Kracht '78, Norwalk, Conn., March 18, 2022
 Marit Ohlin Rosacci '78, Centennial, Colo., March 3, 2022
 Sheril Arndt '80, St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 17, 2022
 Elisabeth "Lisa" Stitt Batura '80, West Babylon, N.Y., Sept. 8, 2021
 Nathan "Nate" Bergeland '80, Eden Prairie, Minn., Jan. 1, 2022
 Jill Gaddis '80, Edina, Minn., Sept. 13, 2020
 Wendy Randall MacDougall '80, Menomonie, Wis., March 1, 2022
 Elizabeth "Betsi" Galvin Rutan '80, Elk Grove, Calif., Oct. 5, 2021
 Neil Stokes '81, St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 28, 2021
 Susan Thompson '81, Minneapolis, Sept. 10, 2021
 Peter "Pete" Johnson '82, Madison, Ala., Aug. 27, 2021
 Katherine "Kathy" Leonard Kittinger '82, Gilbert, Ariz., Oct. 1, 2021
 Harry "Chip" Pulver '82, Golden Valley, Minn., Dec. 29, 2021
 Amy Ebersviller Mathews '83, St. Louis Park, Minn., March 9, 2022
 Kathryn Pederstuen Johnson '84, St. Louis Park, Minn., Nov. 10, 2021
 Glenn Mehnert '86, West Chester, Pa., Jan. 21, 2022
 Dona Hildebrandt Nicklay '87, Hastings, Minn., Nov. 21, 2021
 Michael Christiana '89, Rochester, Minn., Sept. 17, 2021
 Michael Lee '90, Minneapolis, Oct. 10, 2021
 David Strelnieks '91, McGregor, Minn., Jan. 1, 2022
 Laura Sue Newell Sylvan '91, San Jose, Calif., Oct. 10, 2021
 Joel Magrane '92, Northfield, Minn., Nov. 7, 2021
 Carolyn Moe Buzza '93, St. Anthony Village, Minn., Nov. 23, 2021
 Robert "Bob" Manz '93, Eau Claire, Wis., Nov. 9, 2021
 Zebulun Krahn '01, Arlington, Va., Dec. 18, 2020
 Robert Vargas '02, Northfield, Minn., April 5, 2019
 Anna-Christina Betekhtin '18, New York, May 5, 2021

*VETERAN

Remembering **Valborg Tollefsrud**

Professor Emerita of Nursing Valborg Tollefsrud passed away on Oct. 22, 2021. She was 96. An icon in the St. Olaf Nursing Department, Tollefsrud became the nursing program's third full-time faculty hire in 1953 and served on the nursing faculty for 44 years, retiring in 1995. Respected and beloved by countless nursing majors, many of whom kept in close touch with her throughout her life, Tollefsrud instilled in them high standards and the importance of excellent, holistic care. Her former students — who remember her spirit of caring, her wonderful smile, and the twinkle in her eyes — went on to serve as leaders in education and research, in public health agencies and medical clinics, and continued to be deeply committed to the nursing profession.



Tollefsrud graduated from Fairview Hospital School of Nursing, and received both her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing and Master of Education in nursing from the University of Minnesota School of Nursing. She was a retired Colonel in the United States Army Nurses' Reserve, a recipient of the Legion of Merit award from the U.S. Army, and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minnesota Nurses Association. At St. Olaf, Tollefsrud's students clocked 40 hours of weekly clinical experience, including weekends, evenings, and night rotations, learning to treat their patients as people first, and approaching their work not only as competent clinicians, but as whole human beings. The day after she retired from teaching at age 70, Tollefsrud began serving as parish nurse at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, where she tirelessly served congregants who were in "advanced years."

In a 2006 *St. Olaf Magazine* interview, Tollefsrud explained that her aging parishioners needed extra care, regularly visiting them in the hospital or in long-term care, driving them to doctor appointments and to church, helping them with their medications, and making sure they were "comfortable and at peace, and that their surroundings [were] pleasant." For a lesser individual, such 24/7 care would be unsustainable. For Valborg Tollefsrud, it was just another "rich opportunity." She is survived by her sister, Ruth Sherry.

— Carole Leigh Engblom

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Theater in London

Led by *Diana Postlethwaite and Paul Thiboutot*
September 9-18, 2022

Vocation Beyond Occupation: Finding Your Path in the Third Chapter of Life

Led by *Deanna Thompson* and hosted by *Ellen Draeger Cattadoris* | November 6-9, 2022

Picturesque Mediterranean

Led by *David Anderson and Priscilla Paton*
April 13-24, 2023

Exploring Peru: Land of the Inca

April 15-22, 2023

Journey to the Holy Land

Led by *Matthew Marohl and Katherine Fick*
June 9-21, 2023

Ireland: Literature, History, and Culture

Led by *Jon Naito and Mina Kinukawa* | July 13-24, 2023

A Ramble Around Mont Blanc: France, Italy, and Switzerland | July 14-23, 2023

Ole G. Felland's Invaluable Photographs

BY JEFF SAUVE

SINCE STEENSLAND HALL was built in 1902, the two decorative white owls perched on its portico have witnessed countless people come and go. The most familiar person to them in their early years was likely none other than the venerable St. Olaf Professor Ole G. Felland, who joined the faculty in 1881, primarily teaching ancient languages. A decade later he assumed extra duties as the head college librarian, a position he maintained until retirement in 1926 at the age of 73.

A devoted amateur photographer since the mid-1880s, Felland was ever ready with his camera. His goddaughter, Edell Ytterboe Ayers, recalled in her book *The Old Main* (1969) that at nearly all special college occasions, “he would be there with his big camera atop a high tripod. To me he seemed always to be hiding behind a piece of black cloth.”

Over a period of 40-plus years, Felland took more than 1,600 photographs, documenting the campus and its development. The unique collection portrays student and faculty life, significant events, facilities, landscapes, and the surrounding Northfield area. Ayers added, “At that time, we didn’t have sense enough to realize that he was making a complete history of St. Olaf College in pictures. Those photographs now are invaluable.”

One interesting picture taken by Felland on February 19, 1907, provides a few storylines regarding Steensland’s interior at that time.

SITTING AT THE FRONT DESK reading a book is Professor Agnes Mellby, St. Olaf’s first woman graduate, Class of 1893. A faculty member upon matriculating, Mellby taught history and German and served as the “Preceptress” or Dean of Women until 1909. Sadly, she passed away in 1918 after a brief illness. Recognized for her unwavering support of the college during her lifetime, a women’s dormitory was named after her in 1938.

PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED ON THE FRONT DESK is a handsome portrait bust of Henrik Johan Ibsen, the famous Norwegian playwright of the late 19th century. Sculpted by Jacob Fjelde in 1885, Ibsen patiently sat for the young artist who created several renditions, one of which was presented to the college in Ålesund, Norway, on July 13, 1906.

At that time, the 48-member St. Olaf Band had undertaken an incredibly ambitious tour of Norway — 26 concerts during the month of July

The Felland glass negatives collection, housed in the College Archives in Rolvaag Library, recently has been professionally restored, digitized, and made available online at elevator.stolaf.edu.



Learn more about the work to conserve the Felland negatives, including the role that St. Olaf students have had in the process, at stolaf.edu/news or by scanning this QR code.



excursion holds the distinction as the first American college instrumental musical organization to conduct a concert tour abroad.

At the Ålesund evening concert, an at-capacity house of 1,400 festively dressed men and women greeted the St. Olaf Band with great enthusiasm. During intermission the Ibsen bust was accepted by St. Olaf President John N. Kildahl. According to the tour manager, Harry Randall, Kildahl remarked, “I wish, on behalf of the students, to thank you for this beautiful gift. We shall take it home with us and find the best place of honor for it at our school.”

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LIBRARY sits a plaster-cast of the Apollo Belvedere on a pedestal. Presented by the senior members of the Class of 1902, the sculpture was located under the central rose-colored stained-glass dome. The donors hoped that it would appear as a “radiant apparition” for all to behold. The tradition of the annual senior class gift continues to the present day.

THE WHITE BIRCH BOOKSHELVES are nearly full. When Felland was appointed librarian in 1891, the college catalog consisted of 600 volumes, with a scant seven cents in the treasury. By 1907, when he snapped the Steensland Library interior photograph, the catalog had expanded to 6,000 titles, occupying 85 percent of shelf space. The situation worsened in the immediate years to come as thousands of more volumes were added.

The excess books were relegated to Steensland’s basement or stored in various locations on campus, including the president’s office in Old Main. In 1916, Felland fully recognized that the beautiful library had “become much too small, and additional room is a crying need.” His words were heard, but campus misfortunes in the 1920s and the Great Depression of the 1930s stalled construction of Rolvaag Memorial Library until 1942. Felland did not live to see it built, having passed away in 1938. In 1966, a library wing was named after him. 🦉

Help all Oles succeed through planned giving.

Grateful for his professors' guidance and his experiences in music ensembles, first-generation graduate Kevin Bailey '89 included a gift to St. Olaf in his will – half will go to financial aid, the other to the St. Olaf Choir.

“My education gave me the tools I needed to succeed. I also needed serious financial help to make my way through. If I can help someone who needs it, I will. A planned gift was an easy way I could make a significant impact.”

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Kevin Bailey '89 and his husband, Ken Kieffer

 ST. OLAF COLLEGE

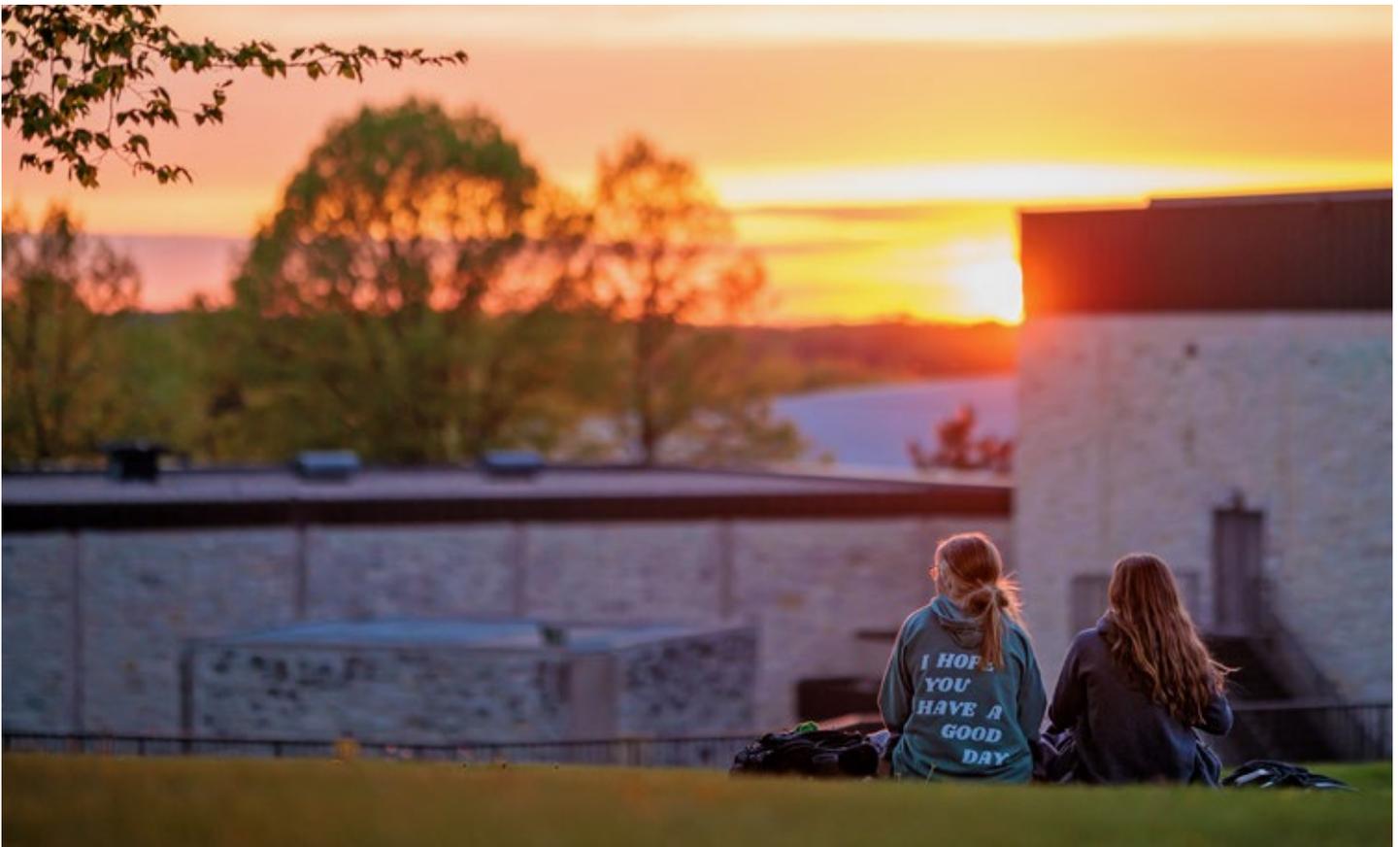


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A GOOD DAY FOR A GREAT SUNSET. Students gather on the grassy hill that overlooks Skoglund Center to take in a spectacular spring sunset. PHOTO BY EVAN PAK '19