

FALL 2022

# ST. OLAF

M A G A Z I N E



## ON THE COVER

Soaring ceilings and wall-to-wall windows define the architecture of the new residence hall on the south side of St. Olaf Avenue. Read more about the Ole Avenue Project on page 22.

PHOTO BY STEVEN GARCIA '20

## ST. OLAF MAGAZINE

Fall 2022  
Volume 69 · No. 2

EDITOR  
Kari VanDerVeen

ART DIRECTOR  
Don Bratland '87

DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE SERVICES  
Fernando Sevilla

COPY EDITOR  
Carole Engblom

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS  
Cece Boyle, Samuel Gwin '25,  
Kevin Healy, Marcel Hones '22,  
Melinde Madsen '21, Peter McCrae-  
Hokenson '19, Darrell Owens, Jim  
Oelhafen, Hannah Robb, Fernando  
Sevilla, Sam Silver, Jordana Torgeson

Readers may send name/address  
changes and corrections to:  
Advancement Services, St. Olaf  
College, 1520 St. Olaf Ave.,  
Northfield, MN 55057;  
email: [update@stolaf.edu](mailto:update@stolaf.edu)  
or call 507-786-3330

Class Notes and Milestones:  
Contact the Office of Alumni and  
Parent Relations, 507-786-3028  
or 888-865-6537; update online at  
[stolaf.edu/alumni/share-your-news](http://stolaf.edu/alumni/share-your-news);  
email: [alum-office@stolaf.edu](mailto:alum-office@stolaf.edu);

*St. Olaf Magazine* is published three  
times annually by St. Olaf College,  
with editorial offices at the Office  
of Marketing and Communications;  
email: [magazine@stolaf.edu](mailto:magazine@stolaf.edu)



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



[instagram.com/stolafcollege](https://www.instagram.com/stolafcollege)



[youtube.com/user/stolaf](https://www.youtube.com/user/stolaf)



[facebook.com/stolafcollege](https://www.facebook.com/stolafcollege)



[twitter.com/StOlaf](https://twitter.com/StOlaf)



Timothy Mahr's first official portrait as conductor of the St. Olaf Band, taken in 1994, and his last official portrait before he retires, taken this fall. Read about the revered conductor's career on page 14.

## CONTRIBUTORS

**Steven Garcia '20** is a professional photographer, musician, multimedia artist, and media producer based in Minneapolis. Learn more about his work, which has been featured in publications that include the *Star Tribune* and the *Wall Street Journal*, at [stevengphoto.com](http://stevengphoto.com).

**Mara Kumagai Fink Klein '11** is a second-generation St. Olaf Bandie. She works as a professional coach and also is senior project manager with the Equity, Diversity,

and Inclusion Practice at the Center for Creative Leadership.

**Evan Pak '19** is a freelance photographer and full-time environmentalist whose work has taken him from the Superior National Forest to the St. Olaf Natural Lands — and enabled him to capture stunning photos along the way. Learn more about his work at [evanjpak.com](http://evanjpak.com).

**Jeff Sauve** is a former longtime archivist at St. Olaf who has been sharing stories of the college's history in the *St. Olaf Magazine* since 2008. He recently





# ST. OLAF

M A G A Z I N E

F A L L 2 0 2 2

authored *St. Olaf Theater: A Centennial Celebration 1921-2021* and a true-crime narrative, *Murder at Minnesota Point*.

**Andy Steiner** is a Twin Cities-based writer and editor who is currently the mental health and addiction columnist for MinnPost. She also is the author of several books, including two for young readers on girls and women in sports. Learn more about her work at [andysteiner.com](http://andysteiner.com).



## 2 Letter to Oles

From St. Olaf President David R. Anderson '74

## 3 Hill Highlights

Her Majesty Queen Sonja of Norway visited the college on October 14.

## 4 Global Engagement

The 39th annual Gimse Global Engagement Photo Contest features images from around the world. PHOTO ESSAY

## 10 Introducing the Smith Center

A transformative \$10.7 million gift will support the college's study abroad and study away operations and provide generous financial aid to students.

BY KARI VANDERVEEN

## 12 The Lifelong Impact of a Semester Abroad

More than 40 years after they participated in Global Semester, a group of Oles reunited to reflect on the ways the experience has shaped the course of their lives. BY KARI VANDERVEEN

## 14 A Reverberating Force

St. Olaf Band Conductor Timothy Mahr '78 will retire this spring after having led the ensemble to new heights of excellence over the last three decades. BY MARA KUMAGAI FINK KLEIN '11

## 22 A Commitment to Community

A new residence hall and townhouses have transformed the eastern edge of campus — and affirmed the college's commitment to the intensely residential experience at the heart of a St. Olaf education.

BY KARI VANDERVEEN · Photographed by Steven Garcia '20 and Evan Pak '19

## 28 Title IX Turns 50

As the landmark law prohibiting sex-based discrimination hit the half-century mark this June, St. Olaf women reflected on the progress made — and the work that still remains. BY ANDY STEINER

## 36 Farewell, Friends

St. Olaf honors the faculty and staff who retired this year.

## 40 Beyond the Hill

Alumni News, Class Notes, and Milestones

## 48 STORIES: A Mile of Memories

BY JEFF SAUVE

FROM THE DESK OF  
PRESIDENT DAVID R. ANDERSON '74



*Greetings, Oles!*

We are embarked on a particularly consequential year at the college. Consequential because we've enrolled the largest first-year class in our college's history. Consequential because we have completed one of the largest capital projects in our history: the Ole Avenue Project, which houses 440 students in a residence hall and 14 townhouses on St. Olaf Avenue. And consequential because after 17 years, the college will have a new president beginning next summer. These are meaningful institutional changes.

What's more, members of our community are experiencing life changes at the same time.

Think of all the members of the Class of 2026, most of whom are living away from home for the first time in an unfamiliar environment and without the company of the family and friends they are accustomed to having around them. Think of our new faculty, entering new classrooms to engage with new students. Or think of a new member of our staff stepping into a new role at a new place with new colleagues. It's not just the new members of our community who are facing changes. Think of a faculty colleague who is stepping into the role of Department Chair for the first time, or a member of the staff who is transitioning from one role at the college to a new role in a different area. Think of community members blessed with a new family member or those mourning the loss of someone dear. Think of those of us preparing for retirement after years of service to the college. Again, big changes.

In a time of big changes, I find a familiar verse from *Ecclesiastes* comforting: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Our lives are made up of a mixture of experiences, some happy, some sad, some welcome, some unwelcome, some within our control, some beyond our control. This verse reassures us that there is a time for all of those experiences.

Change can cause anxiety, and big changes spawn big anxiety. But when you think of change not as a deviation from the plan, not as an unsought and unwelcome intervention in your life but rather a part of the rhythm of human existence, that anxiety begins to fade. I appreciate the way the writer in *Ecclesiastes* uses the concept of time. He doesn't just say that in our lives there's weeping and laughing, or loving and hating, or mourning and dancing. Rather, there's a *time* for each of them to occur. This idea that there's an appropriate moment for mourning, just as there's an appropriate moment for dancing, argues for overall coherence in our daily lives. We may not ever actively *want* to mourn, but in our lives we will, inevitably, experience loss. It's then the time to mourn. And when we next experience happiness, it's then time to dance. Neither of these is an isolated blow or an isolated gift: they are part of a larger pattern that we call life.

What does all this have to do with a bunch of Oles who are in the midst of a consequential academic year full of big changes? It tells us that it's going to be okay. There will be seasons in the lives of our new first-year students, in the lives of our new faculty and staff colleagues, in the lives of our long-serving community members, and in the lives of our alumni around the world. Not every day will be a good day. Not every change will be a welcome one. Not every theoretically impeccable plan we make will work out. We will experience loss, pain, disappointment. But there will be many good days. And there will be many changes for the better. Many of our plans, hopes, and aspirations will come to fruition. As we make our way through this year, let us heed the good words of the writer of *Ecclesiastes* and take comfort in the fact that "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.



UM! YAH! YAH!

# Queen Sonja of Norway visits campus

HER MAJESTY QUEEN SONJA OF NORWAY visited St. Olaf College on October 14 as part of a tour to highlight the strong ties between Norway and Minnesota's Norwegian-American community.

Her Majesty began her visit by meeting with St. Olaf students, faculty members, the Board of Regents, and members of the Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA) for a special presentation showcasing Norwegian-American stories and artifacts housed at the college.

"NAHA, the St. Olaf Archives, and Rølvaag Library Special Collections all share common Norwegian roots," NAHA Executive Director Amy Boxrud '89 noted in her opening remarks. "The Norwegian immigrants who founded St. Olaf in 1874 had the foresight to gather and preserve a historical record of their community."

St. Olaf students provided Queen Sonja with glimpses into that historical record. Leah Berdahl '23, Skye Federation '23, and Teague Peterson-McGuire '23 read from letters that Norwegian immigrants had written sharing about their new life in the United States. Caroline Flaten '23, Esmir Hodzic '23, Erik Moe '23, and Helen White '23 presented their research into various aspects of Norwegian-American life.

Queen Sonja then joined President David R. Anderson '74 and Head of Strategy for Library Collections and Archives Mary Barbosa-Jerez for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Special Collections vault at Rølvaag Memorial Library.

The visit was Queen Sonja's fourth to St. Olaf; she previously traveled to the college with King Harald V in 2011 and 1995, and first visited in 1978 as Crown Princess of Norway. In addition to Queen Sonja's previous appearances with King Harald V, other Norwegian royal visits include Princess Astrid in 2008; Princess Märtha Louise in 2006, Crown Prince Haakon in 2005, and King Olav V in 1987.

— Kari VanDerVeen

▲ Queen Sonja toured the St. Olaf campus with St. Olaf President David R. Anderson '74 and his wife, Priscilla Paton.  
PHOTO: SIMEN LØVBERG SUND, THE ROYAL COURT

▲ St. Olaf students lined the sidewalks to greet Queen Sonja.  
PHOTO: SIMEN LØVBERG SUND, THE ROYAL COURT

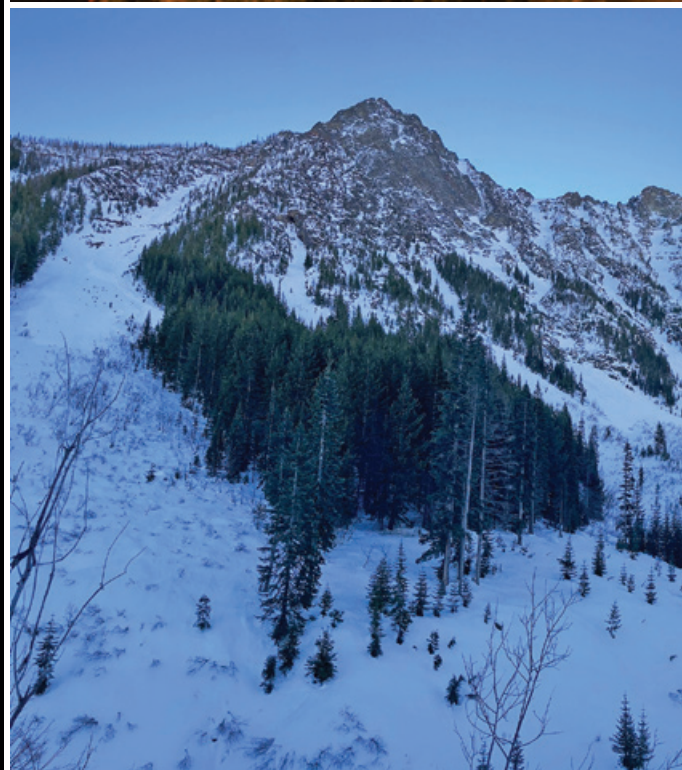
◀ NAHA Executive Director Amy Boxrud '89 presented an exhibit of Norwegian-American stories and artifacts housed at St. Olaf.  
PHOTO: MARCEL HONES '22



# THE 39TH ANNUAL GIMSE GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT PHOTO CONTEST

Although the number of St. Olaf students who participated in study abroad and study away programs this past year remained lower than usual in the wake of the pandemic, Oles still embarked on adventures around the globe and across the country. And as they have for nearly four decades, many submitted their photography for the annual Gimse Global Engagement Photo Contest.

*The following images were captured by students in England, France, Hungary, Ireland, Northern Ireland, South Korea, Taiwan, Florida, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, and Washington, D.C.*





TOP AWARD

**TIME WARP** | Carter Schafer '24

Living Faith: Theology and Practice at  
Holden Village - Chelan, Washington

*"I captured this star trail as the stars arced  
from Buckskin Mountain to Copper Peak,  
the iconic mountains of Holden Village."*



**LOST IN THE NORTH CASCADES**

Mandie Flint '24 | Living Faith:  
Theology and Practice at Holden Village  
Chelan, Washington

TOP AWARD  
**THE IRON LADY**

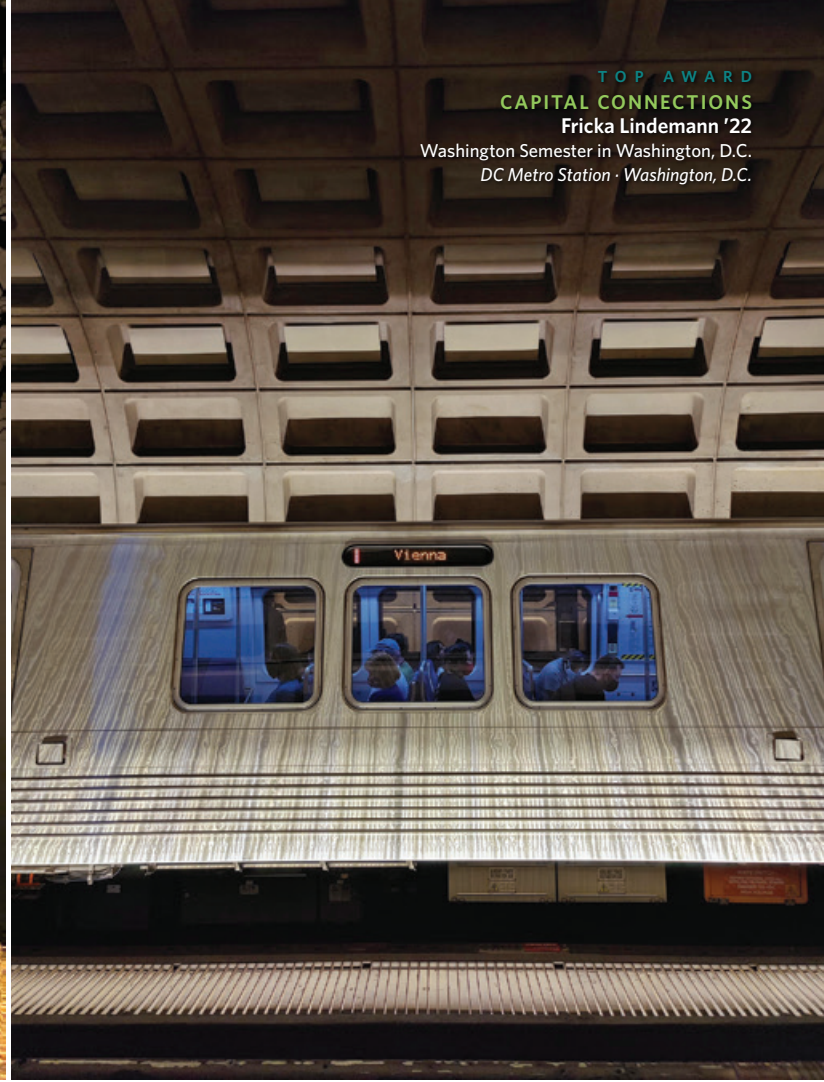
Camryn Scott '22  
IES Study Abroad in Milan, Italy  
Eiffel Tower · Paris

*"While I was abroad, I took the opportunity to travel with some friends to Paris. I captured this photo as we gazed at the glowing and twinkling lights of the iconic Eiffel Tower on our first night in France."*



TOP AWARD  
**CAPITAL CONNECTIONS**

Fricka Lindemann '22  
Washington Semester in Washington, D.C.  
DC Metro Station · Washington, D.C.



**THE STAIRWAY TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD**

Scott Binder '22

Multicultural Education in Hawaii: Seminar and Practicum  
Ha'ikū Stairs · O'ahu, Hawaii

*"Overlooking the cities of Ahuimanu and Kaneohe, the Ha'ikū stairs, otherwise known as the Stairway to Heaven, were a path that sailors used to reach a radio station in the peak of World War II. The radio station, now inoperational, serves as a lookout point for hikers traversing the island. In 2019 the Hawaii state government declared the stairs to be off limits, so hikers discovered a back way up a mountain to reach the radio outpost. The hike is approximately seven hours long."*







**SHEEP AT BLENHEIM PALACE**

**Madeline Everett '22**

Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies  
(CMRS) Humanities Program, Oxford  
Woodstock, Oxfordshire, England



**THE NORTH COAST**

**Johnna Johnson '22**

HECUA Democracy and Social  
Change: Northern Ireland  
Magheracross, Northern Ireland



**GUARDIANS**

**Xia Xiong '22** | Yonsei University

Deoksugung Palace · Seoul, South Korea



**LISSIE IN TAIWAN**

**Mei Kreibich '22**

Term in Taiwan  
Wenshan District  
Taipei, Taiwan



**LANTERNS**

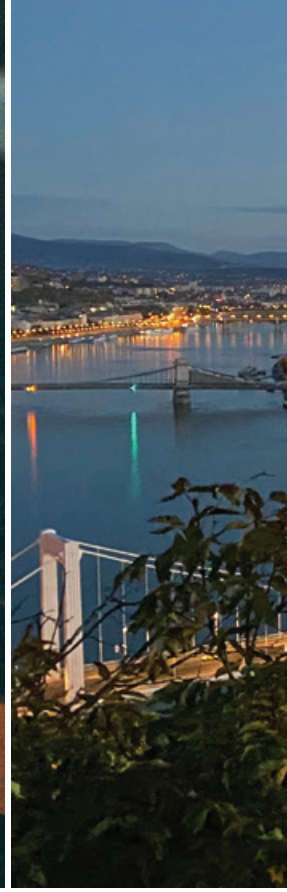
**Natasia Preys '22**

Term in Taiwan  
Fengjia (逢甲) Night Market  
Taichung, Taiwan

**RELAXING AT THE OREGON EXTENSION**

**Luke Springer '23**  
Oregon Extension  
Ashland, Oregon

*"Justin Vorndran '23 plays guitar in a rustic cabin in the woods at the Oregon Extension."*



**SOLEMNITY**

**Helen Olson '24**  
Living Faith: Theology and  
Practice at Holden Village  
Chelan, Washington

*"The village at night is a quiet, restful community as students rush to the sauna or gather around tables to play cards. Meanwhile, the sky is clear, stars are bright, and the pine martens dig through compost bins."*

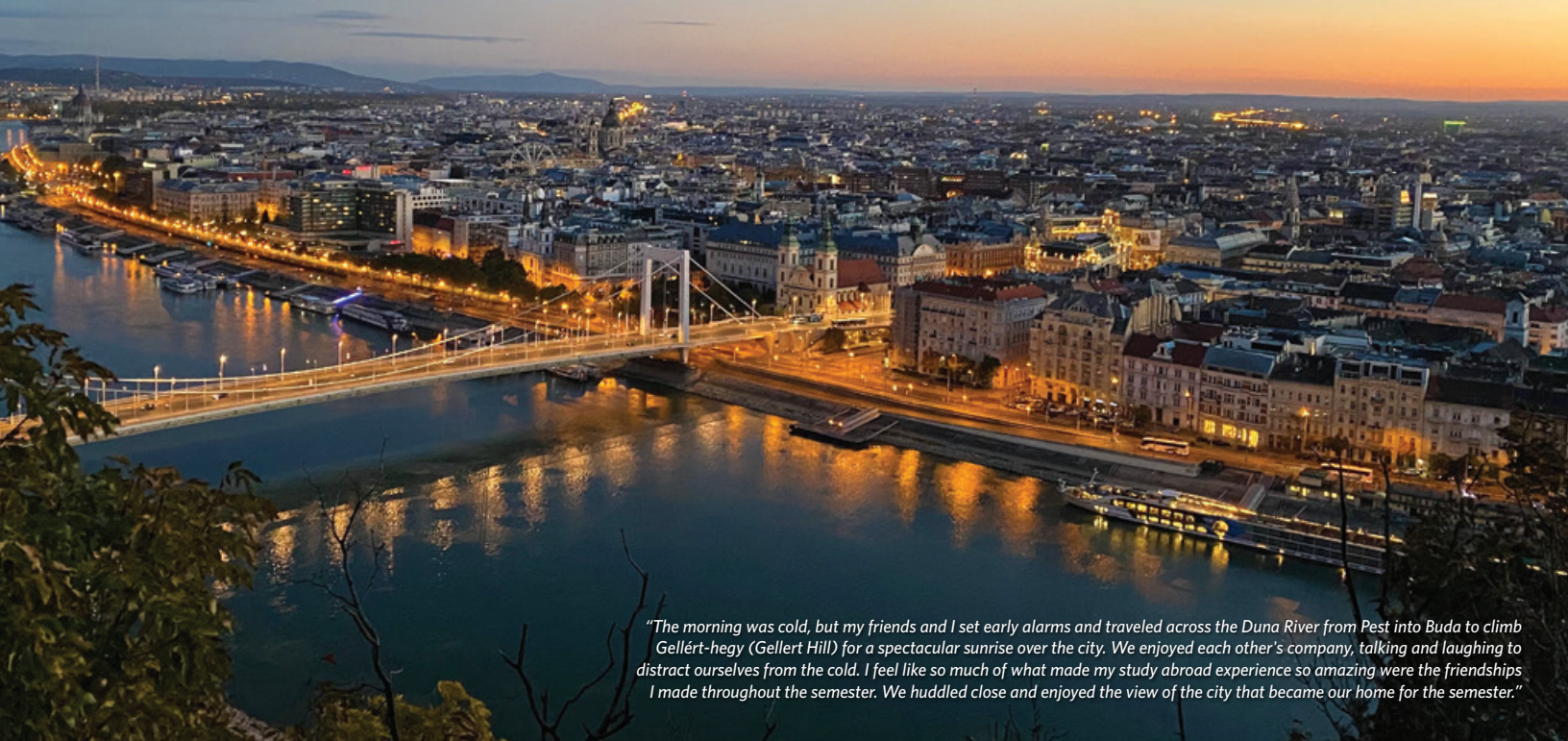


## SUNRISE OVER BUDAPEST

Marley Anderson '23

Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Education

Gellért-hegy · Budapest, Hungary



*"The morning was cold, but my friends and I set early alarms and traveled across the Duna River from Pest into Buda to climb Gellért-hegy (Gellert Hill) for a spectacular sunrise over the city. We enjoyed each other's company, talking and laughing to distract ourselves from the cold. I feel like so much of what made my study abroad experience so amazing were the friendships I made throughout the semester. We huddled close and enjoyed the view of the city that became our home for the semester."*



### NEOLITHIC IRISH TOMB

Katherine Schmiechen '22

DIS Copenhagen

Poulnabrone Dolmen

Burren, County Clare, Ireland



### SNUG IN OUR SQUARES!

YiWynn Chan '22

Field Paleontology in Florida

## GET MORE GLIMPSES OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

See more photos from the Gimse Global Engagement Photo Contest — and get additional perspective from the Oles who took them — by scanning the QR code below or by visiting [stolaf.edu/magazine](http://stolaf.edu/magazine).

The photo contest is named in honor of Professor Emeritus of Art and Art History A. Malcolm (Mac) Gimse '58 and his wife, Jackie. They took groups of students abroad 20 times, helping more than 500 Oles achieve an informed global perspective. An accomplished photographer, Mac took thousands of photos during his travels and used those photos to the benefit of the students who took his art history and architecture classes on campus.



# A NEW CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

A transformative \$10.7 million gift from Louis and Mary Kay Smith will support the college's study abroad and study away operations and provide generous financial aid to students.

By Kari VanDerVeen

**T**HIS FALL ST. OLAF COLLEGE celebrated the grand opening of the new Smith Center for Global Engagement. Launched with a transformative \$10.7 million gift from Louis and Mary Kay Smith, the center supports students in developing global and intercultural skills through study abroad and study away programs across the United States and around the world, as well as through Academic Civic Engagement (ACE) courses in local communities.

In addition to establishing an endowment that will fund the center's operations, the gift from the Smiths will provide generous financial aid to students studying abroad and away from campus.

"We want every Ole to have the chance to take part in these programs," says President David R. Anderson '74. "This gift will help close the participation gap and ensure that studying abroad and away remains a critical part of the St. Olaf experience."

The timing couldn't be more perfect. Smith Center Director Jodi Malmgren '92 says her team is seeing increasingly open international borders as COVID-19 recedes, and Oles are once again eager to participate in the college's hallmark study abroad/away programs. The college's typical participation rate of 75 percent of St. Olaf students studying abroad/away fell to 41 percent in the wake of the pandemic. In 2020-21, just 29 students participated in study abroad/away programs in six countries. This year, the Smith Center projects 650 St. Olaf students will participate in programs in 30 countries.

"We have programs in all regions of the world, offering courses that support students' major and concentration requirements as well as general education requirements," Malmgren says. "The curricular connection between our study abroad/away programs and our St. Olaf curriculum means students can stay on track for graduation and even study abroad/away more than once if they wish."

In addition to opportunities to study around the globe and across the United States, the Smith Center's programs include ACE courses that partner students with organizations and learning opportunities in local communities. "This means students have an array of local to global engagement opportunities that extend their liberal arts learning," Malmgren says.

The academic and geographical breadth of programs offered through the Smith Center, as well as the strong partnerships that the college has developed with program leaders around the world, are key reasons why St. Olaf has remained a national leader for decades in the number of students who study abroad each year. The gift from the Smiths ensures the college can not only continue to develop strong programs in collaboration with faculty members and prepare students for meaningful learning experiences, but can also ensure that every student who would like the opportunity to study abroad/away has the resources to do so.

**"Our first Smith grant recipients are abroad right now, but in the decades to come, this gift will change innumerable lives. Smith scholarships will make study abroad/away more affordable and accessible to every St. Olaf student."**

— SMITH CENTER DIRECTOR JODI MALMGREN '92



▲ (L-R) Financial Aid Director Steve Lindley '08, Smith Center Director Jodi Malmgren '92, and Louis Smith at the opening of the Smith Center for Global Engagement on September 30. PHOTO BY STEVEN GARCIA '20

## A transformative experience abroad, at no additional cost.

In recent years St. Olaf alumni have made transformational gifts that have enabled Oles to participate in two of the college's signature study abroad programs for the same cost as studying on campus, as well as tour internationally with St. Olaf music ensembles at no cost.

**Global Semester:** Since the fall of 2017, St. Olaf students have been able to participate in the faculty-led Global Semester — which takes 20 students to multiple countries around the world — for the same cost as studying on campus. This incredible opportunity is made possible by Lynn Seifert Stranghoener '76 and Larry Stranghoener '76 and the Larry Carlson Global Semester Endowed Scholarship.

**Semester in Jerusalem and Athens:** Students also have the opportunity to participate in a new faculty-led semester-long program titled *Religion, Politics, and Society in Jerusalem and Athens* for the same cost as studying on campus thanks to a generous gift from Lisa Nave Buck '77 and Greg Buck '77. The biennial Semester in Jerusalem and Athens will first run from February to May 2023. Twenty students will study for two months in Jerusalem and a month in Athens, with separate excursions to Petra (a UNESCO World Heritage site) in Jordan and Galilee in Israel.

**International Music Tours:** Beginning this year, members of the St. Olaf Band, St. Olaf Choir, and St. Olaf Orchestra are able to tour internationally with the ensembles at no expense thanks to a \$4.2 million endowment established by two anonymous donors who have long supported and been inspired by music at St. Olaf. The gift has made St. Olaf one of very few institutions that provide international tour opportunities for its premier ensemble members cost-free.

## What St. Olaf students learn by studying abroad and away.

Smith Center Director Jodi Malmgren '92 says when thinking about what students gain from participating in study abroad programs, it's helpful to use the acronym **AVID: Academic, Vocational, Intercultural, and Developmental learning.**

**Academic:** Students study courses in their discipline but from another perspective, enhance their language skills, or try an elective course, all while completing St. Olaf requirements. They then bring that learning back to their on-campus courses and peers.

**Vocational:** Students have opportunities for applied learning, such as a research project or internship, as well as opportunities to reflect on their goals, skills, and interests. All of that can help guide their vocational discernment and future career path.

**Intercultural:** Being in a new community is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about yourself and your identity, while seeing that other people live differently and embrace different values. Students learn deeply about how to engage with people who are different from them and about the new communities in which they temporarily reside.

**Developmental:** Study abroad/away offers the opportunity to develop one's independence, maturity, and skills. Students might learn to use public transportation, cook for themselves, navigate immigration and customs, solve a problem, register in a new academic system, take care of their own health care, or any one of many similar tasks.

## Study abroad/away financial aid **BY THE NUMBERS**

St. Olaf currently has **102** endowed funds that generate **\$1.065 million** in support each year for study abroad/study away. Additionally, alumni, parents, and friends of the college have committed **\$18.67 million** to future support for study abroad through their wills and other planned gifts. This support has made a significant, tangible difference for Oles.

**In the past 10 years, St. Olaf has gone from:**

- **100 → 500** students/year receiving study abroad funding
- **20 → 75** percent of students receiving study abroad funding
- **\$200,000 → \$1 million+** per year in study abroad funding awarded
- **75 → 100** percent of study abroad participants receiving financial assistance

# The Lifelong Impact of a Semester Abroad

MORE THAN 40 YEARS AFTER THEY PARTICIPATED IN GLOBAL SEMESTER, A GROUP OF OLES REUNITED TO REFLECT ON THE WAYS THE EXPERIENCE HAS SHAPED THE COURSE OF THEIR LIVES.

By Kari VanDerVeen | Photographed by Peter McCrae-Hokenson '19

The opportunity to participate in Global Semester was the reason Meg Hawley '82 chose to attend St. Olaf College.

The experience she had traveling the world for five months with fellow Oles was so powerful that it set the course for the rest of her life, leading to a distinguished career as a U.S. diplomat. She has spent more than 30 years living and working abroad, serving the State Department in eight different countries. She negotiated U.S. positions on trade and agriculture policy with the European Union, managed U.S. assistance to the World Food Program in Mali, oversaw U.S. energy policy across Africa, and organized visits by President Obama and then-Vice President Biden to South Korea.

"Working as a diplomat has its challenges, including frequent moves and potential evacuations, but offers a rich life experience while serving one's country," she says.

And it all started by studying abroad at St. Olaf.

"St. Olaf's Global Semester offers an unparalleled study and adventure experience that has the potential to whet one's appetite for more of the same, as it did for me," says Hawley, who currently lives in Stuttgart, Germany. "I'm grateful to St. Olaf for this global study adventure and for the long-lasting friendships that ensued."

The strength of those friendships was on full display this summer, when the Global Semester participants Hawley traveled with more than four decades ago gathered for a reunion. The gathering — organized by David Buck '82, Kristine Dale Kawamura '82, Ellen Mueller Heisel '81, David Midthun '80, and Jeanne Hulstrand Berget '82 — offered an

opportunity for these Oles to reflect on the impact that studying abroad has had on their careers, their relationships, and the ways they've chosen to serve others.

"My five-month study abroad experience was perhaps the most profound and impactful experience of my life," Buck says, noting that studying abroad can open the eyes of a 20-year old student in ways a textbook can't. He says he learned to see and appreciate differences through studying abroad, but the experience also helped him understand that people around the world are more alike than they are different. "People everywhere generally strive to prosper, love their family, and are willing to help others ... all just as we do."

*"St. Olaf's Global Semester offers an unparalleled study and adventure experience that has the potential to whet one's appetite for more of the same, as it did for me."*

— MEG HAWLEY '82

Midthun agrees, noting that he thinks the worldview many Americans have would benefit substantially from time spent studying abroad. "Global changed the lens through which I look at the world, and has certainly added seasoning to many interpersonal interactions," he says.

After graduating from St. Olaf, Midthun attended medical school and became a pulmonologist at Mayo Clinic. The experiences he had on Global led him to participate in mission trips to Honduras, Bolivia, and Kenya, as well as work-related trips to Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan, and Europe.

"The life I have been fortunate enough to lead caught flight on Global," Midthun says.

The lasting impact of studying abroad can often be difficult for current students — or even more recent alumni — to fully see just yet. But 40 years on, Buck says, it's crystal clear. As members of his Global Group, along with program leaders Bill and Char Carlson, reminisced over photos, scrapbooks, and even a video documenting their travels, they reflected on the innumerable ways the experience had shaped their lives. It's something Buck has continued to think about in the months since the reunion.

"Study abroad was a kind of summons — it invoked in me a kind of spiritual or grateful response to be compassionate and give back," he says. "Ultimately, it helped me appreciate what Howard Thurman said: 'Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.'" 🦋



Bill and Char Carlson

The Oles who gathered brought several scrapbooks documenting their Global Semester adventures.



The group who traveled the world together on Global Semester more than four decades ago gathered in the summer of 2022 to reminisce about their experiences.





Timothy Mahr '78 conducts the St. Olaf Band during Homecoming and Family Weekend in October 2022.  
PHOTO BY EVAN PAK '19



# A REVERBERATING

St. Olaf Band Conductor Timothy Mahr '78 will retire next spring after having led the ensemble to new heights of excellence over the last three decades. Along the way, he's been a stalwart mentor who has inspired countless students to make their own waves in the music world.

By Mara Kumagai Fink Klein '11

# FORCE

Anyone who has been part of the St. Olaf Band knows the power of hitting the final chord of a piece with the intense focus of 90 musicians behind it. It's not just a note, it's a reverberating force. It's an invitation from Conductor Timothy Mahr '78 to pause and enjoy the moment together.

Those moments still resonate with students near and far. "Dr. Mahr has a very clear vision and still is able to intuit when to leave time and space in the air. Only a person with remarkable musicianship and humanity is able to create those opportunities and invite everyone else to live in the moment with him," says St. Olaf Band alumna Melanie Brooks Dinh '11.

When Mahr first stepped onto the podium as the conductor of the St. Olaf Band nearly 30 years ago, he understood the immensity of the task in front of him. Since taking the helm, he and the St. Olaf Band have traveled around the world, including tours to Japan, Mexico, Norway, Spain, France, Italy, Australia, and New Zealand. They've been featured performers in stunning venues like Ireland's National Concert Hall in Dublin, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Palau de la Musica in Valencia, and Carnegie Hall. In 2021 the ensemble was awarded the prestigious American Prize in Band Performance in the college/university division.

A professor of music at St. Olaf, Mahr started his teaching and conducting career at Milaca (Minnesota) High School and the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He is in great demand globally as a guest conductor and clinician, from Norway to Japan to Thailand. He has conducted All-State bands in almost half of the states in the country.

An acclaimed composer, Mahr has written more than 100 works and has been commissioned by top-tier organizations such as the United States Air Force Band and the Music Educators National Conference. In 1991 he won the Ostwald Award from the American Bandmasters

Association, which honors the best new composition of the year, for his piece *The Soaring Hawk*.

But beyond all the accolades and awards, the thing that truly sets Mahr apart is the way he uses his gifts as an educator, says Terra Widdifield '95, manager of the St. Olaf Band and associate director of Music Organizations. "He's so excellent at everything he does that when he extends those high standards to other people, it helps them excel," Widdifield says. "One of his greatest traits is that his gifts end up benefiting and blessing everyone else as well."

After three decades of leading the St. Olaf Band with heart and skill, Mahr will retire this coming spring. Fans and former Bandies will have the opportunity to see him lead the ensemble at campus concerts this year, at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, and on tours in California in January and February, and Japan in May.

#### BUILDING A FAMILY

When Mahr took the reins as conductor of the St. Olaf Band, he was just starting a family with his wife, Jill. At the same time, he was continuing to build on the strong foundations of the St. Olaf Band family. From annual Christmas cookie decorating at the Mahr house, to the many hours of bus rides on tour, he created a close-knit community. "He is able to find that balance of being the students' conductor, being a professor, but also treating them like family while they're in the band," Widdifield says.

He also brings his love for his family into the rehearsal room. Mahr often tells stories of Jill, who also teaches in the St. Olaf Music Department, as well as their children, Hannah and Jenna, as inspiration. "It was like opening a window into his soul that went beyond the music and yet heightened our music making," Brooks Dinh says. "He brought his full self to the podium, and that went beyond being a fine musician and talented conductor. His heart and soul have the capacity to reach out well beyond his individual passion for the music on the page."

Brooks Dinh is now the director of bands at Winona State University. She says being part of the St. Olaf Band family was transformational for her as an educator.



As a member of the St. Olaf Band in 1977, Timothy Mahr '78 played the tuba at the famous "Liter Bowl," when St. Olaf and Carleton College faced off for the only NCAA-sanctioned metric football game ever played.

compositions, "Kaalachakra, The Wheel of Time," premiered on the St. Olaf Band tour last fall. The piece was not only Joshi's first time writing for band, but also his first time writing for more than four instruments and having his music performed by others. Growing up he wasn't familiar with wind band music, and he viewed this as a way to share the medium with his community in India. The piece was an instant success, and Joshi received standing ovations on tour and even requests for commissions after performances. He says the experience was life-changing.

"Working with Dr. Mahr helped me emerge as a confident composer with a good idea of my personal musical voice," Joshi says. "I became well-versed with all the band instruments, and I ended up realizing that I truly love writing for big ensembles and want to continue doing so. Dr. Mahr was always very supportive and understanding from the get-go, despite my initial shortcomings. I had never formally studied composition — I didn't even know half the band instruments properly! I think Dr. Mahr was more interested in my love for music and compositional ideas than me not knowing what an oboe is."

Mahr says that working with students in this way has been one of the most impactful aspects of his career. That comes, in part, from the fact that as a composer himself, he knows the power of bringing a composition to life.

"Perhaps the most intense personal experiences were those moments when I conducted a work of mine," Mahr says. "What used to be a mangled-up set of ideas in my imagination is transformed into a structured work brought to life through the committed effort of an outstanding band. I've been so incredibly fortunate."

Mahr has shared that good fortune by giving numerous Oles the opportunity to have their works brought to life by the St. Olaf Band. Performing these student compositions in programs is something he takes great pride in. "I don't think I'm reaching in and changing everybody's life, rather I'm trying to set them up for a really powerful growth experience," Mahr says. "I'm proud of the fact that I played a small part in contributing to their growth as they were studying here."

Noted composer, conductor, and educator Carl Holmquist '05 says in his first few weeks as a student on campus, Mahr already had him hooked on wind band music. "The way that Dr. Mahr approaches the wind band medium is consistently 100 percent as a composer and 100 percent as a conductor/performer. There really is no distinction. Throughout my time at St. Olaf and in my career since then, he has continued to inspire, not only as a teacher but as a colleague and ardent supporter of my own career and the careers of countless others," he says.

"I always wonder if my students know how much I care; I hope they do. I always knew that Dr. Mahr did — it was just in the air. That's one of the things that makes him so special. Like a lot of great moments in music, it absolutely goes beyond words," she says.

#### BRINGING COMPOSITION TO LIFE

In addition to conducting the St. Olaf Band, Mahr is the Robert Scholz Endowed Chair in Music and teaches music composition. For many summers he has mentored St. Olaf Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (CURI) students in composition. The CURI program provides students with a stipend for their work, and Mahr has featured many of their compositions in St. Olaf Band programs.

Jesse Brault '13, a composer and conductor in Berlin, was Mahr's first CURI student. "To this day, I look for the deeper meaning of the music and art that I encounter, and I try to embody a sense of spirituality, gratitude, and beauty in my own music. I undoubtedly learned this from Dr. Mahr," he says.

Nearly 10 years later, Mahr is still impacting students through the program. Aryaman Joshi '23 had one of his



Timothy Mahr '78 (right) having fun with St. Olaf Band officers during the ensemble's 1996 tour of Norway.



Leading the St. Olaf Band in a performance at St. Olave's Church in York, England, in 2000.



Mahr (center) with St. Olaf Band officers during the ensemble's 2010 tour of Japan.



"Bandies" gather for their early morning softball game versus "Orchies" in 2009.



Mahr gathers with colleagues and fans at a post-concert reception in Tokyo during the St. Olaf Band's tour of Japan in 2010.



Timothy Mahr with his family (from left) Jenna, Jill, and Hannah at the reception after the St. Olaf Band's Carnegie Hall performance in 2016.



Members of the St. Olaf Band pause for a photo in front of the Sydney Opera House during their 2018 tour to Australia and New Zealand.



Leading the St. Olaf Band in a 2016 performance at New York City's renowned Carnegie Hall.  
NATAN DVIR / POLARIS IMAGES

## BEYOND THE NOTES

As a composer, Mahr takes great care with his programming for the band and aims to communicate a message to the audience through most concert programs. He says he takes advantage of the chance to speak to a different part of people, especially to their heart.

When selecting the repertoire for a concert, Mahr says he asks himself: “Out of all the music that you could share, what are the pieces that you are going to bring to life in that environment where the acoustic works on them? They’re not listening with headphones or speakers. It’s the vibration in the air — it’s just different. Where will you take them with your program?”

**“HE EXEMPLIFIES WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN IMPACTFUL TEACHER, COMPOSER, CONDUCTOR, AND MENTOR. HE DEMONSTRATES TO EVERYONE THAT LIFE IS BETTER WITH A BAND.”**

— RACHEL WESTERMEYER WRIGHT '95

In recent years Mahr has developed a strong social justice focus in his programming. “When you have someone sitting in the audience, the room darkened, silence supporting beautiful sound, I think that their heart opens up, their mind opens up. They let a message come in that doesn’t even have words attached to it. I think we can help them reflect on situations that might be personal and local, let alone national and global. Someone might be moved to take a different tack with their life. I’m hopeful,” he says.

Widdifield has toured with the ensemble for over a decade and has attended scores of St. Olaf Band concerts in her role. “Tim is one of the best programmers I’ve ever experienced,” she says. “His programs scoop you up at the beginning, hold you all the way through, then gently set you down at the end.”

Mahr says that’s part of the goal. “We make people think, we make them ruminate on their own situation and their own level of involvement in aspects of social change.”

## ONCE A BANDIE, ALWAYS A BANDIE

Throughout his career, Mahr has made a point to invite back alumni as soloists, conductors, and composers. For this year’s Homecoming and Family Weekend Concert, Mahr invited a slate of guest conductors ranging from the Classes of 1995 to 2011, including Brooks Dinh. An upcoming celebratory performance with the St. Olaf Band on May 5 at Orchestra Hall features trombone soloist Senior Master Sergeant Matt Nudell ’05 of the U.S. Air Force Band.

Mahr says he wants to give others the opportunity to experience the joy he has in working with the St. Olaf Band. “I’ve always thought that this band is like a really fantastic race car, and you’re just handing the keys to somebody and saying ‘Here, take this around the block.’ I shouldn’t be the only one who gets to have that fun for so many years,” he says.

This eagerness to collaborate and share the St. Olaf Band experience with others is why Mahr continues to impact his students long after they’ve left the ensemble. His encouragement and guidance goes with them. “One big impact of having Dr. Mahr’s support is that I have never given pause to taking on really big projects or attempting things that I probably had no business attempting,” Brooks Dinh says. “If I had questions, or needed guidance along the way, he would be there in a compassionate way. How empowering is that?”

Nudell agrees. He says Mahr was a trusted advisor to him as a student, and that he is grateful for his encouragement to dive into the performance field. He says it’s hard to choose just one thing that made the biggest impact on him. “So much of my life in the United States Air Force Band is shaped by my time in the St. Olaf Band with Dr. Mahr,” he says. “If I had to boil it down, it would be dedication to the art and craft of music-making, and band as a family.”

## LEGACY

This dedication and generosity of spirit has continued to strengthen the Bandie family far beyond students’ time on the Hill. Recently retired St. Olaf Orchestra Conductor Steve Amundson has no doubt about the legacy of Mahr’s time in front of the band. “Unquestionably, it will be the St. Olaf Band community,” he says. “Tim is an enormous talent. But it’s the intangible of how he has shaped this superb ensemble into the vibrant community that it is. The St. Olaf Band is a beautiful ensemble that communicates with intelligence, love, and strong energy that reflects the attitude of the conductor.”

Mahr’s view is a bit more modest. “What got handed off to me in 1994 was the St. Olaf Band, by God, and it was this fantastic opportunity,” he says with his trademark grin, which is so often accompanied by a quip coated in his wry sense of humor. “To this point in my career, I don’t think it’s gotten worse. So maybe that’s the most successful thing I’ve done — I didn’t drive the ship up on the rocks.”

Of course, as so many Oles know, Mahr’s work has elevated the St. Olaf Band to new levels of excellence and inspired scores of students to pursue professional careers in music. But that continuation of excellence doesn’t end with those who chose to pursue music professionally. Dozens of St. Olaf Band alumni now play in the Minnesota Symphonic Winds (MSW), a community band that Mahr conducts based in the Twin Cities. The ensemble has toured nationally and internationally from Alaska to Canada to



Professor of Music Timothy Mahr '78 works on a composition with Erika Malpass '19 in 2018 as part of the Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (CURI) program. In addition to being a talented conductor and composer, Mahr is known for his work mentoring students.

that smile across his face and sparkle in his eye when the music is really coming alive during a performance. And, yet, he never allows us to forget to have fun in the process,” she says. “He exemplifies what it means to be an impactful teacher, composer, conductor, and mentor. He demonstrates to everyone that life is better with a band.”

Mahr’s following extends far beyond St. Olaf, both nationally and internationally. His compositions are revered in Japan, where he and the band have been received with rock-star receptions at every tour stop.

The St. Olaf Band departs for Japan in Mahr’s final tour conducting the ensemble this spring.

Naoya Takizawa is the associate director of bands and lecturer at Senzoku Gakuen College of Music, and he will be hosting a shared concert with the St. Olaf Band in Tokyo next spring. “Dr. Mahr’s music is accessible to everyone, yet highly artistic. I don’t think there are many composers who have both of these qualities. He is a role model even in Japan, our distant land across the sea, and still has a great influence today,” he says.

Outside of the music building, Mahr is also a leader on campus. As a recent member of the Faculty Life Committee, he was instrumental in establishing an award honoring faculty working for social justice. It was part of an effort to highlight the intentionality of faculty members working on these issues. He says it’s one of the things he’s most proud of. “It has nothing to do with me as a musician, but everything to do with me as a person,” Mahr says.

#### THE FINAL CHORD

As his time on the podium and the Hill comes to an end, colleagues say they will miss Mahr’s warmth and humor. “Tim has long been one of the most brilliant among us. And I’ve been grateful for his wisdom, his camaraderie, and his leadership,” says Amundson.

Mahr says he is looking forward to more time to compose and also to spend with Jill. At the same time, closing this chapter will be difficult. “I hope that I can communicate effectively what a privilege it’s been for me to do this. I’m tearing up right now thinking about it,” he says. “I don’t want to give up the podium *at all*. When I’m in rehearsal with the band, I want to stay there forever.” 🦄

“TIM IS AN ENORMOUS TALENT. BUT IT’S THE INTANGIBLE OF HOW HE HAS SHAPED THIS SUPERB ENSEMBLE INTO THE VIBRANT COMMUNITY THAT IT IS. THE ST. OLAF BAND IS A BEAUTIFUL ENSEMBLE THAT COMMUNICATES WITH INTELLIGENCE, LOVE, AND STRONG ENERGY THAT REFLECTS THE ATTITUDE OF THE CONDUCTOR.”

— ST. OLAF PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF MUSIC STEVEN AMUNDSON

Singapore, and was invited to perform at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. Mahr will continue to conduct the MSW band after retiring from St. Olaf.


Rachel Westermeyer Wright '95 was the St. Olaf Band president when Mahr arrived on the Hill, and she has performed in MSW since before Mahr took the podium in 1999. She says she knew he was the right person for the job from the first time she worked with him in her St. Olaf days, and that has continued through to MSW. “He has high standards, and wants us to make exceptional music together. Anyone who has played under his baton knows



Timothy Mahr '78 leads the St. Olaf Band in providing music — and having fun — at commencement. Each year many of the graduates who have been involved in music-making on campus form a kickline at the close of commencement for John Philip Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever." PHOTO BY FERNANDO SEVILLA

"I hope that I can communicate effectively what a privilege it's been for me to do this," says Timothy Mahr '78, pictured on campus in the fall of 2022. "When I'm in rehearsal with the band, I want to stay there forever."  
PHOTO BY STEVEN GARCIA '20



A modern lounge area with a green sofa, an orange chair, and a large window overlooking a brick building. The room features a polished concrete floor, a wooden bench along the window, and a small table. The window provides a view of a brick building with a gabled roof and trees with yellow autumn foliage.

A NEW RESIDENCE HALL AND  
TOWNHOUSES HAVE TRANSFORMED THE  
EASTERN EDGE OF CAMPUS – AND AFFIRMED THE  
COLLEGE’S COMMITMENT TO THE VIBRANT RESIDENTIAL  
EXPERIENCE AT THE HEART OF A ST. OLAF EDUCATION.

# A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

By Kari VanDerVeen | Photographed by Steven Garcia '20 and Evan Pak '19





This fall St. Olaf College celebrated the completion of the Ole Avenue Project, a significant investment in campus housing that features a new residence hall and townhouses along St. Olaf Avenue.

The project has not only created a beautiful new gateway to St. Olaf on the eastern edge of campus, but it has also enabled the college to address a three-decades-long housing shortage and begin renovations to existing residence halls.

“The opening of this new housing immediately impacted every single residence we have on campus,” says Pamela McDowell, who oversaw residence life during the construction of the Ole Avenue Project and now serves as the college’s Title IX and Section 504 coordinator.

Making this investment in campus housing is important, McDowell notes, because so much of the St. Olaf experience happens as students live in community with one another. “When I look at this project, I see lifelong friendships. I see our community,” she says.

That’s exactly what the Ole Avenue Project’s design team wanted people to see in the new housing, says Workshop Architects owner Jan van den Kieboom, whose firm designed the \$60 million project that houses 440 students. He points out that the key architectural features of the new housing are the spaces where students come together to cook, study, relax, and socialize.

“Togetherness is what this project is all about,” he says. “It’s what drove the thinking behind what we now see.”

While the rooms in the new residence hall on the south side of St. Olaf Avenue are purposely similar to the sizes of other rooms on campus, the community spaces are bigger, brighter, and designed to bring students together. Large kitchens, ample seating options, and a variety of meeting spaces and nooks give students plenty of spaces to gather in groups large and small.

Across the road on the north side of St. Olaf Avenue, the same intentionality was applied to new townhouse-style residences that house 140 students. Built to give students greater independence, they provide living and dining spaces that enable cohorts of students to live with roommates in much the same way they will after graduation.

St. Olaf Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Jan Hanson says all of the key partners in the project — from the St. Olaf Facilities team led by Kevin Larson to the Boldt Construction crew led by Tom Boldt ’74 to the Workshop Architects group led by van den Kieboom — kept the needs of students at the center of their work, even as they faced the challenges of completing the project during a global pandemic marked with supply chain issues. “The willingness to be flexible and solve problems in a manner that never lost sight of the student perspective was phenomenal,” Hanson says. 🦁

“Togetherness is what this project is all about.”

— Architect Jan van den Kieboom



“At St. Olaf we believe that the deepest learning happens in community with other learners. That’s why when students enroll at our college we gather them together on our campus for four years of living and learning in community. That means studying together, discussing together, working on projects together, eating together, and living together. The Ole Avenue Project confirms our ongoing commitment to this model.” – PRESIDENT DAVID R. ANDERSON '74



The kitchens in the new residence hall open up to dining spaces and common rooms with plenty of seating and sweeping views of campus.



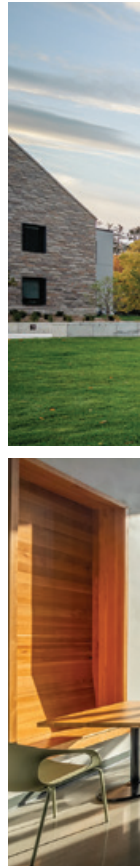
The new residence hall features 80,000 square feet of living space for 300 students on three floor levels, and includes an 8,000 square foot health services area.



The Ole Avenue Project was designed for juniors and seniors, enabling them to live as part of the campus community but also be closer to Northfield and possible internships, jobs, and practicums.



"As architects we appreciate designing buildings where the starting point is already someplace special. At St. Olaf, the first thing that struck the design team was the natural beauty of the campus. The feeling that campus buildings were extensions of the topography – nestled into and engulfed by the landscape – is something not every academic community is lucky enough to have. We knew from the beginning that every design decision we made had to amplify this feeling. From the size of the windows to the placement of the lounges and kitchens, each decision was made so the students could take advantage of the natural beauty and feel the restorative power of the surrounding nature." – ARCHITECT TOM HOFMAN





One of the most stunning features in the new residence hall is a multi-story tile wall in the main lounge. Ole Sarah Swan-Kloos '21, a tile artisan at Mercury Mosaics in Minneapolis, worked on the layout of the tile. The background of the wall features a pattern using ASCII text — the binary computer language — that spelled out a shortened version of “Um! Yah! Yah!” to create a simple gradient of colors to reflect the changing seasons. Every tile in the feature wall was hand-created.



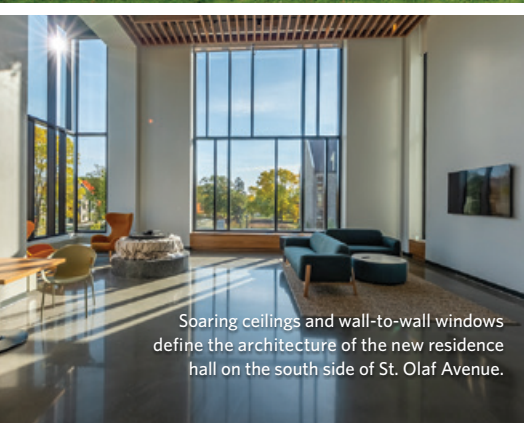
The 14 new townhouses each house 10 students in comfortable, residential-style living spaces.

## Come Fly With Us

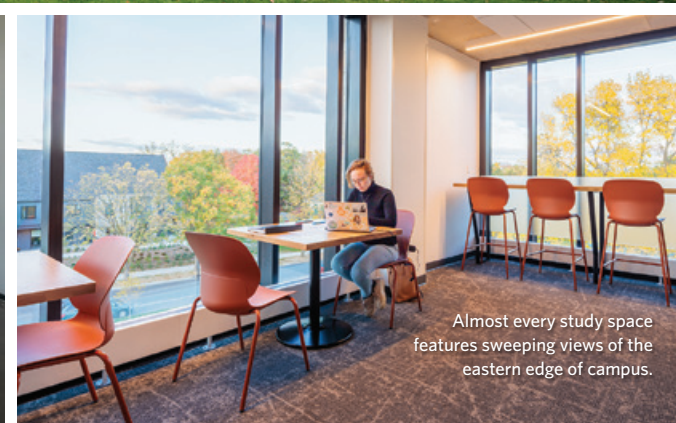
This fall we invited Sky Candy Studios to campus to fly through the new residence hall with a first-person view drone, a new type of technology that has the ability to fit into small spaces and provide a unique viewing experience.

The drone’s pilot was the mastermind behind the Bryant Lake Bowl video that went viral last year, garnering millions of views on YouTube and features in media outlets ranging from the *New York Times* to the BBC.

Check out the new St. Olaf video using the QR code below.



Sparing ceilings and wall-to-wall windows define the architecture of the new residence hall on the south side of St. Olaf Avenue.



Almost every study space features sweeping views of the eastern edge of campus.



# TITLE IX TURNS 50





AS THE LANDMARK LAW PROHIBITING SEX-BASED DISCRIMINATION HIT THE HALF-CENTURY MARK THIS JUNE, ST. OLAF WOMEN REFLECTED ON THE PROGRESS MADE — AND THE WORK THAT STILL REMAINS.

BY **ANDY STEINER**

**A**NN ASTRUP '78 IS A NATURAL athlete, but when she was growing up in Austin, Minnesota, she never officially got to play on a team. Until her sophomore year, when her high school scheduled a handful of girls basketball games, she recalls, "I played with the boys."

When a girls team was finally assembled, it felt like a second thought. "We had to buy our own T-shirts," Astrup says. "Nobody came to our games."

When Astrup got to St. Olaf, Title IX — the landmark federal civil rights law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in schools and education programs — had been around for just a few years. Yet it was starting to create more opportunities for women.

Astrup was so excited by the athletic options available for female student-athletes at St. Olaf that she signed up for three: volleyball, basketball, and softball.

"I was so glad that there were opportunities," Astrup says. "I could finally play."

What felt like a wonderland to athletes like Astrup in those first few years was actually far from the level playing field Title IX had promised. In the fall of 1974, there were 12 athletic teams for men at St. Olaf. There were seven for women. During that academic year, 345 men participated

in athletics. Just 96 women participated. Male student-athletes were courted and revered, Astrup recalls. Women had teams, but they were an afterthought, she says.

"When I look back now I see the discrepancy between what we had versus what the men had," Astrup says. Yet Astrup and her teammates were so thrilled to finally be able to compete that the differences felt easy to ignore.

This summer marked the 50th anniversary of Title IX. Today St. Olaf offers 13 varsity sports for women — the same number as men — and there are 240 female student-athletes. Ole women athletes have won 24 individual national championships and 42 team conference championships. They work hard, compete furiously, and have an unwavering expectation that equal opportunities will be available to them.

St. Olaf Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies Diane LeBlanc, who co-authored *Playing for Equality: Oral Histories of Women Leaders in the Early Years of Title IX*, notes that Congress passed Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in response to a broad range of sex-based discrimination in education. "Girls and women faced overt discrimination through such practices as denying them access to courses and programs that historically enrolled boys and men, tying financial aid to sex-based opportunities, hiring on the basis of sex, and excluding girls and women from competitive sports and athletics," she says.



The alumni who gathered for the Trailblazers Reunion in 2019 included (from left) Aldra Henry Allison '77, Jeanne Foley '75, Anne Sherve-Ose '75, Vanessa Seljeskog '78, Martha Nause '77, Ruth Bjorlie Neuger '80, Ann Astrup '78, Sig Johnson '77, Deb Lenox White '75, Mary Sachse '76, Blair Couch '74, and Randi Brevik '77. PHOTO BY KEVIN HEALY





St. Olaf Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies Diane LeBlanc co-authored *Playing for Equality: Oral Histories of Women Leaders in the Early Years of Title IX*. PHOTO BY EVAN PAK '19

After Title IX went into effect on June 23, 1972, educational programs that received federal money had to demonstrate compliance with nondiscriminatory practices or risk losing their funding.

Contrary to popular belief, LeBlanc notes, Title IX was not created specifically to address inequality in athletics. “But once physical educators, coaches, administrators, and athletes realized its potential to create change in sports, they began tailoring implementation to specific inequalities involving girls and women in sports,” she says.

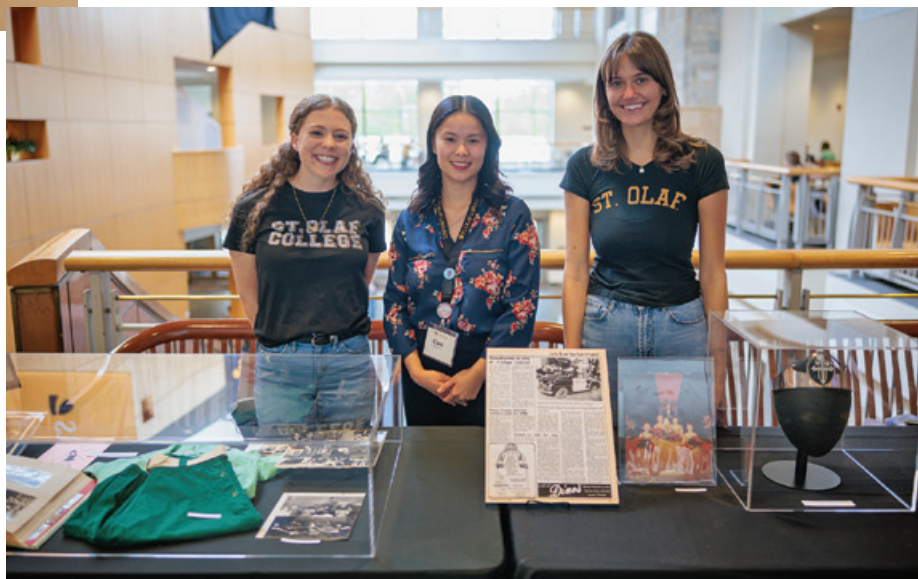
Over the last 50 years, the scope of Title IX has broadened significantly. In addition to prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation, the law provides protection against sexual harassment, sexual violence, gender-based stereotyping, and gender-based harassment. Colleges and universities are required to have a Title IX coordinator to oversee compliance with the law and to adopt a process to respond to alleged violations, a role filled at St. Olaf by Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator Pamela McDowell.

The way that Title IX has broadened over the decades means that while earlier generations associate the law with equal opportunities in athletics, many young alumni and current students associate the work with preventing and addressing sexual misconduct on campus. LeBlanc says it’s important that all generations understand the comprehensive potential of Title IX.

“Imagine the possibilities if we all understood the full depth of gender discrimination and its impact on education,” she says.

That’s a message that Olympic medalist Joey Lye drove home during a speech she gave at St. Olaf this fall as part of a celebration of 50 Years of Women in Sports. Lye paid tribute to women’s rights activist Bernice Sandler, who played an instrumental role in the creation of Title IX after being denied equal access to teaching jobs at her university, as well as the legislators — led by Edith Green, Patsy Mink, and Birch Bayh — who were key to getting Title IX signed into law.

“I have so much gratitude for those who began the fight — and I say *began*, because there’s still so much work to do,” Lye told the audience during her keynote address. “The more I continue to learn about the people who set the stage, the more empowered I am to continue the fight.”



During Homecoming and Family Weekend, students working with St. Olaf Archives — from left, Signe Aleckson '26, Cami Stokes '24, and Bre Teynor '24 — presented a pop-up exhibit showcasing unique items from women’s athletics over the decades. PHOTO BY EVAN PAK '19

### CREATING AN EQUAL PLAYING FIELD

One of the early drivers for change at St. Olaf was Associate Professor Emerita of Exercise Science Chris Daymont, who worked in the college’s Athletic Department for nearly 40 years. She came to the college in 1976 with a freshly minted degree in kinesiology from New York’s Syracuse University. For an annual salary of \$11,200 a year, she was hired, she recalls, “as the women’s cross country coach and indoor and outdoor track and field coach. I was an assistant basketball coach. And I taught classes, too.” Though the responsibilities were big and the pay modest, Daymont was over the moon.

“I was thrilled I had a job,” she says now. Growing up, Daymont never had the opportunity to play on a school team. She was determined to make a difference: “I wanted to make sure that women got the opportunities I never had. I went into coaching for that.”

Daymont, like Astrup, felt her world expand when she went to college and was eventually able to play on teams. Women's cross country and track and field were new sports at St. Olaf, and Daymont worked hard to make it clear that the women on her teams were athletes, just like the men, and they deserved equal treatment. Having a law like Title IX to back her up — combined with Daymont's bold stubbornness about pointing out discrepancies — eventually helped change happen.

“St. Olaf changed things,” Daymont says, recalling how getting the college to issue uniforms for female student-athletes that weren't hand-me-downs from the men's team or towels of the same size and quality as their male counterparts' required some serious pestering, “Things happened, but you had to ask. As long as you were stirring the pot, things eventually got done.”

It wasn't always easy being a trailblazer, the now-retired Daymont says. She recalls a number of negative interactions during her career, including harassment by male colleagues. Nevertheless, she persisted. “I protected my team. I coached them up, made them good. I worked hard on my teaching. I just kept doing my job,” she says.

Under Daymont's leadership, her team shined. By 1979, St. Olaf women's cross country was ranked second-best in the country.

Daymont considers all her Ole teams special. The early athletes were eager to be coached and be a part of a team, some for the very first time. “Years later, coaching my own daughters reaffirmed that the fight was worth the energy and effort it took to make change happen,” Daymont says. “And it is heartwarming to see the young women today honoring the past and still working to make things better for future Oles.”

What cannot be overlooked, she emphasizes, is the courage and strength of the women who showed up to practice and compete in the sports they loved no matter the obstacles or biases they faced. “It was simple. They just wanted to play. Their courage, desire, and passion forced change in an arena that was reluctant to change,” she says.

A half-century later, members of the St. Olaf women's cross country team are still schooled on Title IX and its impact on women's athletics. Head coach Erica Maker '04 was a member of the team under Daymont, and she brings her former coach back each year to talk to the team about how Title IX changed the country.

“When I ask Chris to speak to the team, I want her to share it all — the highs and the lows, the triumphs and the struggles. She may not coach the women on the team now, but everything she worked for, and everything our alumni worked for, have made it possible for us to have the success we are experiencing today,” Maker says. “Now it's our turn to be those women and continue to push for equity and



**“I WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT WOMEN GOT THE OPPORTUNITIES I NEVER HAD. I WENT INTO COACHING FOR THAT.”**

— *Chris Daymont*



**"I am PROUD TO BE A PART OF OLE ATHLETICS, WHERE I TRULY BELIEVE WOMEN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY IN THE 50 YEARS SINCE TITLE IX, BUT WE HAVE SO MUCH FURTHER TO GO."**

— St. Olaf head softball coach Kayla Hatting

At left: Chris Daymont coaches members of the St. Olaf women's cross country team at a meet in 2012. "She may not coach the women on the team now, but everything she worked for, and everything our alumni worked for, have made it possible for us to have the success we are experiencing today," says current head coach Erica Maker '04.

Above: Kayla Hatting (left) coaches outfielder Shreya Ashok '24 during a St. Olaf softball game in April 2022.

opportunity, both in sports and beyond. Understanding our past lays the groundwork for helping us build an even brighter future for all."

These talks have made an impact on current student-athletes like runner Seneca Norvell '23, who says learning about the early trailblazers who pushed for access and equality has been empowering. "Hearing about their frustrations and fights has definitely made me feel more confident about speaking up about things," says Norvell.

LeBlanc says St. Olaf has arrived at a different point than it sat at in the early days that Astrup and Daymont describe. Today, LeBlanc says, "No one at St. Olaf can say, 'We have a men's soccer team. We don't have a women's soccer team.'" Upholding Title IX is, in a way, more complicated now, she concludes. "It has come down to those more nuanced things that are hard to measure," she says.

St. Olaf student-athletes like basketball standout

Kay Kay Lewis '22 are empowered to point out those nuances and advocate for things like improvements to locker rooms and additional team apparel. Basketball has provided her not only with lifelong friendships and a tight-knit community, but has helped her become a confident leader. "Everything in sports at St. Olaf has gotten better during my four years here," she says.

Yet there's still work to do. This summer St. Olaf Athletics evaluated how individual teams fundraise, and the department is implementing new policies to ensure equitable resources are available for all programs. Leaders are also examining ways to elevate the role of women in athletics administration at the college.

"I am proud to be a part of Ole Athletics, where I truly believe women can make a difference. We have come a long way in the 50 years since Title IX, but we have so much further to go," says head softball coach Kayla Hatting. "And I know the impact and continued change for women can start right here at St. Olaf."

Maker agrees. "The women in this department — both athletes and coaches — are leaders, not just on the field, track, or court, but in the classroom and community as well. They stand out because they are used to rising to a challenge and breaking down barriers," she says. "Women

in athletics have always been considered a necessity — at first, simply to appease the law of Title IX. Now no one can deny we are so much more than an obligation. We lead teams and shape departmental policy while balancing being wives and mothers. We win championships and accolades while earning some of the highest GPAs in the college. We were doing all these things before, but now we are demanding the respect we've always deserved and pushing past preconceived notions of what women are capable of. We are an extraordinary force when we are united, and are still figuring out our full potential.”

#### A PROCESS TO ADDRESS SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

While much of the early years of Title IX focused on equality in athletics, in the last decade attention has shifted to another powerful part of the law: the requirement that institutions respond to known incidents of sexual harassment, including sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct. So although the role of the college's Title IX coordinator is to ensure compliance with all aspects of Title IX law, including gender equity among all programs and activities at the college, a significant part of the work is overseeing the process for promptly, impartially, and equitably addressing and resolving all reports of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct.

This fall St. Olaf appointed McDowell as the college's new Title IX and Section 504 coordinator. Kari Hohn, who had served as the college's director of Title IX and equal opportunity for the last six years, moved into a new Human Resources role at St. Olaf.

Before Hohn came to campus in 2016, the Title IX coordinator position was part-time. The role is now full-time, per recommendations from the Title IX Working Group that was formed that year in response to student protests around the college's handling of sexual misconduct claims. The working group recommended that the college transform the way students were supported during the grievance process, and the Title IX coordinator role was expanded to achieve that.

Hohn had previously worked in Washington, D.C., as an advocate for survivors of sexual assault and was a staff member at the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault. At St. Olaf, she knew she had her work cut out for her. “I was walking into a pretty tense community. People were very distrustful and very hurt,” she says. “A lot of those first couple of years was spent trying to demonstrate how things were different, to build up the program in a way that people could believe in.”

**“WE’VE PUT A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT INTO TURNING A LAW AND PROCESS THAT HAS MANY COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS INTO SOMETHING THAT FITS WITH AND IS ACCESSIBLE TO OUR COMMUNITY. THAT IS NO SMALL FEAT.”**

— Former St. Olaf Title IX Coordinator Kari Hohn

Hohn worked tirelessly to restore the community's faith in the Title IX process. She significantly increased efforts to prevent violence and harassment, including establishing the Consent and Sexual Respect Initiative, and educated the community on how to report misconduct.

“Under her leadership, today we have a process that ensures a caring, consistent, fair, impartial, and lawful response for all participants,” says St. Olaf Vice President and General Counsel Carl Crosby Lehmann '91, who had more than 20 years of experience advising colleges and universities on Title IX before he joined St. Olaf in 2016.

McDowell is ready to build on this foundation. As a key member of both the college's Title IX Coordinated Response Team and its Bias Response Team, McDowell has worked closely with Hohn and has a deep familiarity with St. Olaf's policies and processes. She served as the college's conduct officer from 2009 until this year, has provided assistance to students involved in cases of sexual harassment and misconduct, and has both conducted and adjudicated investigations of sexual misconduct.

McDowell's work is supported by a 12-member Title IX team that includes staff and administrators from across campus. St. Olaf also has an independent Title IX Advisory Group that seeks feedback on Title IX processes and policies from members of the St. Olaf community. The Advisory Group submits an annual report to the president of the college, summarizing the feedback it has received, including what is working well and what needs improvement.

The goal of this structure is to increase transparency and accountability. “The process has a lot of credibility in our community now as a result of the attention that it was given and the changes that were made,” Lehmann says.

Zoe Golden '22 signed up to help survivors of sexual misconduct and interpersonal violence during her first year on campus. She joined with others volunteering at the college's student-run Sexual Assault Resources Network (SARN), and went on to become chair of the organization.

A child of the generation born with Title IX in place, Golden grew up confident that all students, no matter what their gender or sexual orientation, have a legal right to feel like they are safe and fairly treated on campus. In her role as a SARN advocate, she provided a non-judgmental

**TRANSPARENCY IN TITLE IX** | To learn more about St. Olaf's Title IX policy, and to access information and resources, visit [stolaf.edu/title-ix](http://stolaf.edu/title-ix) or scan the QR code.



listening ear and helpful connections to support resources both on campus and off.

“SARN is a confidential resource for students,” Golden says. “This means that whatever is said to you cannot be repeated to anyone unless it is something that is going to harm one person or other people.”

While St. Olaf offers five confidential resources (SARN, Health Services, the Counseling Center, College Pastors and Chaplains, and TimelyCare), SARN is the only student-run confidential resource.

Though SARN, founded in 1987, has a long history of supporting students, Golden said the group gained more clout and credibility in 2016. The comprehensive, easily accessible Title IX process that exists at St. Olaf today — and the culture shift that made it possible — helps Oles

feel comfortable talking about sexual misconduct, Golden says. They know that the school takes these reports seriously and is committed to seeing them through to a positive and fair resolution.

“I love how hard we’ve worked to make the Title IX Office a space for resources and education. We are grounded in wanting anyone who needs us to be able to learn about all the options and resources available so that *they* can make an informed decision about next steps,” Hohn says, emphasizing that providing people who report misconduct with the autonomy to decide whether and how to move forward with a case is crucially important. “We’ve put a lot of time and effort into turning a law and process that has many compliance requirements into something that fits with and is accessible to our community. That is no small feat.” 🦁

## WATCH A VIRTUAL CONVERSATION WITH TWO TRAILBLAZERS

Jeanne Foley '75 and Aldra Henry Allison '77 are part of a group of Oles whose connection to the college is so strongly tied to their pioneering role in women's athletics that when they returned to St. Olaf for Reunion Weekend in 2019, they didn't do so as members of their graduating classes — they did so as part of a reunion group that they simply dubbed The Trailblazers.

Use this QR code to watch a Women's History Month conversation with Allison and Foley where they discuss their experiences at St. Olaf, their trailblazing role as women in male-dominated career fields, and the work that remains to fulfill the promise of Title IX.



Trailblazers (from left) Jeanne Foley '75, Aldra Henry Allison '77, and Blair Couch '74 in Skoglund Athletic Center during their reunion in 2019. PHOTO BY KEVIN HEALY

# Farewell, friends

Over the last year our retirees have included faculty and staff members who have devoted decades to teaching, conducting research, supporting students and colleagues, caring for campus, and providing leadership both within their departments and across campus. They leave a deep and lasting legacy to the St. Olaf community with their scholarship and work, advocacy, collegiality, and humor. We thank them for all they've done and wish them well in their retirement.



Beth Abdella



Mark Allister

## **BETH ABDELLA '82** | Associate Professor of Chemistry | 36 years of service

"Beth made a huge impact on thousands of students taking first-year chemistry courses. She has helped anchor these courses for years, and she co-authored the textbook that is used for all first-semester chemistry courses at St. Olaf. When I took over being department chair from Beth, I spent more time in her office than in mine asking questions. Beth was always happy to help, a sentiment I know was shared by so many of the students she has taught over the years."

— Professor of Chemistry and Department Chair Doug Beussman '92

## **MARK ALLISTER** | Professor of English | 36 years of service

"Mark has been the epitome of an interdisciplinary liberal arts professor who followed his passions in multiple directions and brought his knowledge and enthusiasm for a variety of subjects to his courses. Mark was among the earliest members of the English Department to bring nature and environment to his research and teaching; a longtime contributor to environmental studies, he also penned a book on nature writing and autobiography. Mark was also among the first St. Olaf faculty members to engage seriously in popular culture, teaching courses on Romanticism and Rock Music, and writing professionally about Bruce Springsteen and Cloud Cult. Most recently, Mark has followed his passion for softball to write on the topic for regional and national publications and in his book, *Women's College Softball on the Rise*. Mark's approach to 'teaching what you love' contributed richly to the palette of possibilities for student learning at St. Olaf and inspired students and colleagues to follow their hearts and instincts."

— Professor of English and Associate Dean of Humanities Colin Wells



Fred Behr



Irve Dell

## **FRED BEHR** | Director of Public Safety | 34 years of service

"Fred devoted his career to the safety of others. In his years on campus he developed a professional team and was very involved in the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. Because of his collaborative nature, he was not only well-known on campus by faculty, staff, and students, but in the Northfield community as well. Fred provided security

for every major event the college put on — from hosting Norwegian royalty and former presidents, to thousands of cross-country runners and visitors each year for the state meet, to more than 30 graduations and Christmas Festivals. Through it all, he was always prepared and calm."

— Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator Pamela McDowell



Dan Dressen

## **IRVE DELL** | Professor of Art and Art History | 32 years of service

"As a professor, Irve loved teaching all things three-dimensional and was especially devoted to his foundry class. He began serving as Associate Dean of Fine Arts in the year of the pandemic, which is one tough way to start! Throughout uncertain and troubling times, he has been a tireless advocate for the Fine Arts faculty and a wise, principled, and forthright leader. Long a proponent of diversity, equity, and inclusion, as Associate Dean Irve took on a new role in this regard, advising and prompting colleagues and amplifying others' voices. In the Deans Council, Irve struck an artful balance between lifting up his colleagues and pressing everyone to think differently. Early in his time as Associate Dean, Irve adopted a motto: 'Instruct and Delight.' As he turns his energies, full-time, to artistic endeavors, my wish for him is ... delight!"

— Provost and Dean of the College Marci Sortor

**DAN DRESSEN** | Professor of Music and Associate Provost | 40 years of service

"I know Dan as an accomplished singer/actor. Whether on the recital stage, the concert stage, or the operatic stage, he is a consummate professional. Dan has a beautiful, soaring, and expressive tenor voice. As a member of the voice faculty, he helped students develop their love of singing to their fullest potential. Dan has been a mentor to countless faculty, staff, and students in the Music Department, Fine Arts Division, and the college as a whole. I joined the St. Olaf faculty at a time when faculty mentoring wasn't as formalized and structured as it is now. Dan served as my unofficial mentor in those early years. His organizational and leadership skills resulted in his appointment to a 10-year stint as Music Department chair until he was appointed Associate Dean of Fine Arts in 2007. As Associate Dean, he once again stepped up to mentor me as a new department chair. After completing six years as Associate Dean, the college again recognized Dan's extraordinary contributions by appointing him Associate Provost. I am happy to count him as a friend."

— Professor of Music and Associate Dean of Fine Arts Alison Feldt

**CHERI FLOREN** | Senior Coordinator in Development | 26 years of service

"The Annual Fund and the Development teams both benefited from Cheri's calm, can-do attitude and her self-deprecating sense of humor. I hired Cheri first to join the Annual Fund team, and then several years later, I recruited her to join the Development team. Cheri had a ton of expertise in and knowledge of our database, which was immensely helpful. But her greatest attribute was her people skills. She is one of the best volunteer managers I have ever worked with!"

— Assistant Vice President for Advancement Rebecca Otten

**MARK GELLE '76** | Assistant Vice President and Chief Investment Officer | 44 years of service

"Mark grew up on the St. Olaf campus, coming to Northfield as a young child when his dad, Bob Gelle, took a position [as head men's basketball coach] here. Mark worked in Financial Aid, in Auxiliaries managing the various college-owned properties, with donors as they contemplated their planned giving portfolios and bequests, and coordinating the college's endowment investments. He has also been an ardent supporter of St. Olaf Athletics. His institutional memory is long and varied, and he has been a trusted and valued colleague to many."

— Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Jan Hanson

**JEANINE GRENBERG** | Professor of Philosophy | 26 years of service

"The Philosophy Department is very fortunate to have had Jeanine as its scholar of early modern philosophy. Renowned internationally for her scholarship on Kant, she has educated generations of students on the philosophy of the eras of the scientific revolution and the enlightenment. As a fellow historian of philosophy, I have always admired her text-based approach to teaching and the rigor of her pedagogy."

— Professor of Philosophy and Department Chair Danny Muñoz-Hutchinson

**DOUG HAMILTON** | Digital Humanities Instructional Technologist | 7 years of service

"Doug joined the Instructional Technology team as part of the Digital Humanities on the Hill grant. He was integral in bringing together IT and Library staff to support students and faculty working on digital projects, laying a strong foundation for our work in all areas of the college. Doug also spent much of his tenure establishing classroom recording technology, spurring innovation in teaching and proving indispensable for remote instruction. And he did all of this with thoughtfulness, good humor, and a collaborative spirit."

— Director of Learning, Research, and Technology Ben Gottfried

**CHRISTIE HAWKINS** | Studio Art Technician | 28 years of service

"For 28 years Christie was as integral to the success of the Department of Art and Art History as anyone else has been. She was the department's first technical supervisor, and her contributions to the technical needs of the department as well to the esprit de corps of the art team have been monumental. A wonderful artist, Christie understood the particular and sometimes peculiar needs of an art department. She was an inspiring mentor and guide to students, a ready source of technical as well as life advice. She taught very popular folk school courses and led the beloved lunchtime spoon-carving sessions. And she has become a revered designer for the St. Olaf Christmas Festival, a role she will continue on a freelance basis. Christie's feet are well-proportioned to her diminutive size, but she will leave gigantic shoes to fill."

— Professor of Art and Art History Irve Dell



Cheri Floren



Mark Gelle



Jeanine Grenberg



Doug Hamilton



Christie Hawkins



DeAne Lagerquist

**L. DEANE LAGERQUIST** | Professor of Religion | 34 years of service

“DeAne taught in the Religion Department for 34 years, chairing it for nine years. She also chaired American Studies, directed American Conversations, and served the Paracollege as its lead tutor. All of these roles demonstrate her many accomplishments in interdisciplinary learning and work. She brought many students to learn carefully about religion in the U.S. as well as in India, Greece, and Turkey through her leadership in study abroad and study away. A sought-after mentor in teaching, DeAne has written and spoken about the mission of Lutheran higher education throughout her career.”

— Professor of Religion and Harold Ditmanson Chair of Religion Greg Walter '96

**ANNA MOOY** | Visiting Assistant Professor of Music | 13 years of service

“Anna has been an important part of the voice faculty for many years. She began teaching at St. Olaf in the early 1990s. We had several opportunities to sing together on the recital and concert stage. Anna went on to teaching positions at Bemidji State, and in Utah and Hawaii. Good fortune brought her back to Minnesota in 2014. Anna has mentored hundreds of singers over the course of her career, and many have gone on to successful careers on the operatic stage, in professional choirs, and as music educators.”

— Professor of Music and Associate Dean of Fine Arts Alison Feldt



Anna Mooy



Nancy Paddleford

**NANCY PADDLEFORD** | Professor of Music | 47 years of service

“Nancy Paddleford’s distinguished career at the college truly embraced the heart of the liberal arts experience we offer. A talented pianist and gifted performer, she taught piano, piano pedagogy, music appreciation, and music theory, while also serving as a director of Hispanic Studies and as an associate director of the ACM programs in Costa Rica. She was a member of the St. Olaf Trio as well as an adjudicator for piano competitions both in the United States and abroad. It has been an honor and a privilege to work alongside Nancy. Her mentorship, encouragement, and artistry leave a profound legacy for her students and colleagues alike.”

— Professor of Music and Department Chair Kathryn Ananda-Owens

**ANTHONY ROBERTS** | Artist in Residence in Dance | 27 years of service

“Anthony, along with his wife, Janice, has been the center of the Dance Department at St. Olaf College for almost 30 years. Anthony has impacted many, many students with his dedication, artistry, expertise, sense of humor, and desire to challenge his students to grow. He has continued to add to his areas of expertise and the classes he has taught in the department by modeling curiosity and lifelong learning, and he has contributed so much to the department in big and small ways.”

— Professor of Dance and Department Chair Heather Klopchin



Anthony and Janice Roberts

**JANICE ROBERTS** | Professor of Dance | 28 years of service

“Janice’s support for, encouragement of, and commitment to sharing her passions with students has been an incredibly positive influence on so many Oles, and her legacy will resonate with the many, many students she has taught. Her artistry and commitment to dance as a performing art is evidenced in the many wonderful dances she has created for St. Olaf students as part of Companydance. Janice and her leadership of the Dance Department for 17 years brought the department national acclaim and impacted many students. Her vision for the Dance Department has provided an extremely solid foundation for the future evolution of the discipline at St. Olaf.”

— Professor of Dance and Department Chair Heather Klopchin



## ANTHONY RUDD

Associate Professor of Philosophy | 19 years of service

"Probably more than anyone in our department, Anthony has taught a wide range of courses outside of his area of specialization, ranging from environmental ethics to Asian philosophy. His ability to be a leading scholar in his field, while teaching in the Conversation programs regularly and while teaching such an array of courses, has been nothing short of extraordinary."

— Professor of Philosophy and Department Chair  
Danny Muñoz-Hutchinson

## NANCY STUCKMAYER

Buntrock Commons Coordinator | 24 years of service

"Nancy consistently showed up for many years to provide students with the services they needed. She was the friendly face behind everything from room reservations to Ole Card IDs to our college vehicles and more. If you ever attended a football game, you could always count on her cheering for our athletes. She simply loves life on the Hill and has a deep passion for seeing students succeed."

— Vice President for Student Life Hassel Morrison

## MARY TITUS | Professor of English | 33 years of service

"Mary embodies so many of the best qualities of an English professor. She is always guided by her curiosity — a curiosity about poetry, the work of Southern women writers, and literature and writing of all kinds; a curiosity about material objects, new and not so new; and, most importantly, a curiosity about people and how they grow and learn. As all of this suggests, she is an English Professor, but also so much more. Her curiosity is closely related to her generosity and her commitment to helping others recognize their potential and achieve great things. Some of this work has been quite visible — such as her way of connecting with students in the classroom and her leadership of the Center for Innovation in the Liberal Arts and the English Department — while some of this work has been less visible. I know that I am one of many professors at St. Olaf who has been shaped by Mary's example and her specific efforts to support and mentor those around her."

— Associate Professor of English and Department Chair Jon Naito

## DAVE TSCHANN | Facilities | 37 years of service

"Dave, known to most of us as Tiny, worked at St. Olaf for almost 38 years, and he is one of the people responsible for keeping everyone on campus warm in the winter and cool in the summer. With the size of our power plant, by law we must have a boiler operator running our boilers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. That means that every holiday that we were home with our families, Dave or one of his coworkers were here watching our power plant operations. I am very grateful for his service."

— Director of Facilities Kevin Larson

## KELLY VIKLA '82

Associate Director of Alumni and Parent Relations | 8 years of service

"Kelly brought a deep commitment to St. Olaf to everything she did, tirelessly welcoming thousands of guests for events like Reunion and Homecoming. Kelly is well-known for her top-notch organizational skills — and her love of spreadsheets! — which enabled her to manage complex, multi-faceted programs without missing a beat."

— Director of Engagement and Alumni and Parent Relations Ellen Draeger Cattadoris '07



Nancy Stuckmayer

Anthony Rudd



Mary Titus



Dave Tschann

Kelly Vikla

**Oles, submit your class news online!**

[stolaf.edu/alumni/share-your-news](http://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](mailto:alum_office@stolaf.edu) or call 507-786-3028 or 888-865-6537.

**1970s**

A new book by **Julia Eklund Koza '74**, *Destined to Fail: Carl Seashore's World of Eugenics, Psychology, Education, and Music*, received the 2021 Outstanding Book Award from the Curriculum Studies division of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). Julia, a professor emerita in the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Education and the Mead Witter School of Music, is a widely

published researcher who focuses on equity issues in education, music, and music education. The AERA Curriculum Studies review committee noted *Destined to Fail* "is critical to re-visioning an anti-racist future in education and educational research." ■ **Jeff Cook '76**, the outgoing director of rowing and senior treasurer of the Hughes Hall Boat Club at Cambridge University, was "chuffed and completely surprised" to have a new boat named in his honor. Jeff received the honor alongside Dr. Anthony Freeling, acting vice-chancellor of the university (pictured here at the dedication of the new boat named in their honor). ❶ Closer to home, Jeff has donated three boats to St. Olaf Rowing and assists the club whenever he can. ■ **Carrie Warder Bartlett '79** notes that the 1978-79 Global Semester group recently had a three-day in-person reunion in Temple, Texas, at the home of

Cheryl and **Mark Fihn '81**. ❷ The group included **Melissa Barnes '80**, **Carrie Warder Bartlett '79**, **Ann Setzer Buskirk '79**, **Dave Cleary '80**, **Karen Allen Failing '80**, **Mark Fihn '81**, Monty Gamber, Professor Emeritus of Physics Bob Jacobel (their faculty leader), **Ryan Ogaard '81**, **Brent Paine '81**, **Fr. Jim Perkl '80**, **Mark Peterson '79**, **Todd Peterson '80**, **Bill Vernon '79**, and Ron Von Hess. They also reunited via Zoom with fellow Global Oles living in Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Egypt, and Switzerland: **Jill Rippe '79**, **Nancy Bostrom Choquette '79**, **Deb Washburn Taufen '80**, **Paul Brisance '81**, and Pam Jacobel.

**1980s**

**Stephen Hage '80** writes that The Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company's spring 2022 production of *Ruddigore* included eight Oles in the cast, production staff, and orchestra. ❸ Pictured (front, L-R) are **Scott Benson '83**, **Deb Haas '91**, **Lara Trujillo '91**, and **Stephen Hage '80**; (back, L-R) **Erik Rogers '81**, **Carl Schoenborn '97**, **Jean Orbison Van Heel '80**, and **Ford Campbell '76**. ■ **Julie Wrase '82** shares that she and fellow trombonists **Mark Danielson '82**, **Matt Hafar '82**, and **Don Hammerstrom '82** met at their 40th class reunion in June where they played quartet music, just as they did beginning in 1978 as a first-year quartet formed by Paul Niemisto, and continued playing together until graduation. ■ **Geoffrey Ross Rothmeier '86** and his wife, Vicki, have retired and moved to Portugal with their dog, Olaf [*editor's note: great name!*], and cats Baby and Cheddar. Geoffrey's retirement follows a 28-year career in the pharmaceutical industry. "I had the honor of working for and with some extraordinarily talented, wonderful people," he writes. "We helped develop treatments that have made a positive difference for patients." ■ The Rev. **Barb Pampu Haugerud '88** writes that after serving congregations in Western North Dakota for 28 years, she is now serving Pella Lutheran Church in Sidney, Montana. ■ **Amy Boxrud '89**, executive director of the Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA) based at St. Olaf, shares that eight Oles traveled from Oslo to Bergen last summer as part of the Artistry and Industry of Norway tour. Hosted by NAHA, travelers explored cultural, industrial, and agricultural history in the heart of Norway, with stops at the Telemark Canal, Hotel Dalen, fish and fruit farms in the Hardanger region, the Oleana knitwear factory, and the *Rjukan-Notodden* (a UNESCO World Heritage site). ❹ Pictured enjoying views of Bergen from Mount Fløyen (L-R): **Kristen Satrom Walseth '71**, **Amy Boxrud '89**, **Sue Boxrud '78**, **Ronald Johnson '65**, **Mark Jansa '89**, **Stacey Sagedahl Jansa '92**, **Daniel Walseth '69**, and **Paul Rolvaag '69**. ■ From the redwoods just north of San Francisco, **Thomas Christenson '89** (aka T. Wold) has just released a brand new Archer Monk album, *Joy Ride Opus*. ❺ This 12-song collection — in a unique folk-rock-Americana subgenre he calls "tumbleweed pop" — joins a growing list of recordings released under the monikers Archer Monk and Thomas Wold, including *Wanderdust* (2015), *Buried Transmissions* (2010), and *The Folkdadelic Two Step* (2006). Learn more at [archermonk.com](http://archermonk.com). ■ **Katherine Plueddeman Brainerd '89** had the rare opportunity to row

**Remembering Duane C. Kringen '47**



St. Olaf Business Manager Emeritus **Duane C. Kringen '47** passed away on June 12, 2022, at the age of 100. Duane entered St. Olaf in 1941, where he met and fell in love with **Elaine Holst '45**, who he married in 1944. Duane's undergraduate years were put on hold during World War II when he received a commission in the Navy, serving in the Pacific Theater for the duration of the war. He returned to St. Olaf to complete his education, after which he accepted a position in the college's Business Office. He spent his entire career at St. Olaf, retiring in 1984.

Duane's life was filled with a deep and abiding love for Elaine, their family, and their friends, as well as a commitment to civic responsibility and the joy of "giving back to others" — establishing the Elaine and Duane

Kringen Endowed Scholarship at St. Olaf. Over time, Duane served as Northfield City Council alderman, president of the Northfield Chamber of Commerce, was a member of the Lion's Club and the Northfield Golf Club, served on many committees at St. John's Lutheran Church, and especially enjoyed being the timekeeper at St. Olaf basketball games. The Kringens were also part of a small group of St. John's members who helped start a new ELCA congregation in Arizona. Preceded in death by Elaine and their daughter, Peggy, Duane is survived by his daughter **Janet Kringen Thompson '70** (Terrie) and son Andrew (Dawnette); grandchildren, Siri Thompson, Nate Thompson, Joel Soden, Marta Soden, and Elisa Schaar; and great-grandchildren, Addison, Charlotte, Arlo, Cora, Kira, and Evan.

**Remembering Kathryn Voss Vigen '56**



A pioneer in nursing education and a St. Olaf Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, **Kathryn Voss Vigen '56** passed away peacefully on August 12, 2022, with her daughters at her side singing to her and blessing her on her way. Kathryn was a first-year student in 1952 when St. Olaf formalized its baccalaureate nursing program to provide the depth and breadth necessary to meet the changing demands of professional nursing. She graduated magna cum laude in 1956 as a member of that very first baccalaureate nursing class, and married **David Vigen '55** that summer. Interviewed by *St. Olaf Magazine* in 2006, Kathryn, then director of North Park University School of Nursing in Chicago, noted that in the mid-1950s, "Just wanting to be a nurse wasn't enough." She and her classmates knew they were setting important

precedents and felt a keen responsibility for the St. Olaf nursing students who would come after them. "We wanted to leave the world a little better than when we found it," she said. "The standards were, and still are, very high." In 1970 she discovered her love of teaching at the Sioux Falls School of Practical Nursing, later becoming assistant director. Kathryn navigated many challenges, including a divorce, pursuing graduate education as a single mom, and moving 17 times.

At age 46, she was recruited to start a nursing program in Huron, South Dakota, from the ground up. She was also a recipient of the prestigious Bush Fellowship Award in 1979. Ultimately, she earned two master's degrees and a Ph.D. She was the first nurse in the U.S. to be awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 1991, which enabled her to teach and mentor students in Malta and to make many lifelong friendships there. She received the Rozella Scholtfeldt Leadership Award from the Midwest Alliance in Nursing in 1993. And she was honored with the St. Olaf Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003. Throughout her life, Kathryn mentored and inspired students and nurses to reach their vocational goals. Along with nursing, her greatest passion was her family.

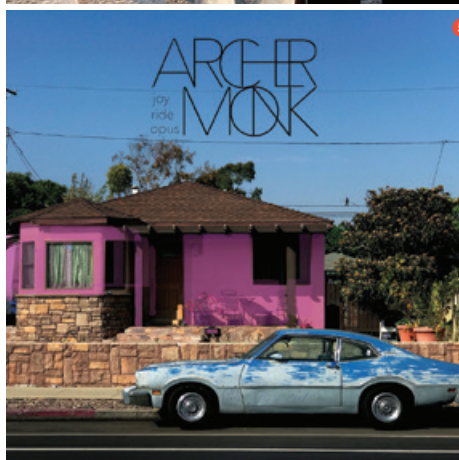


a whitewater river raft the entire 210 miles of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. "This is definitely a test of skill and stamina," she writes. "The majority of the other 11 people in our group were strangers to me, so I was surprised to discover that one of them was also an Ole! What are the chances?" Katherine is pictured in front with **Megan Behnke '16** <sup>6</sup> after they "just finished successfully running the largest, scariest rapid in the Grand Canyon."

## 1990s

**Kristina Tanasichuk '90** is part of a small team that delivered supplies to Ukraine through a program founded by Women in Homeland Security.

■ **Lara Trujillo '91** directed and appeared in Full Circle Theater Company's production of *Atacama* at the Twin Cities Park Square Theatre this past spring. *Atacama* is the story of two people, played by Pedro R. Bayon and Lara, who meet in Chile's Atacama Desert and confront one another about their opposing views and actions. The play, as told by playwright Augusto Federico Amador, explores the transformative possibilities that can lead from transgression to remorse, forgiveness, and redemption. <sup>7</sup> Lara is pictured with Associate Director Rick Shiomi. ■ **Lousene Hoppe '94**, an attorney with Fredrikson & Byron, was named a 2022 Notable Partner in Law by *Twin Cities Business* magazine. Lousene is a litigator and criminal defense attorney who represents corporations and individuals accused of health care fraud, financial or tax crimes, and criminal felony and misdemeanor cases at both the state and federal levels. She is president of the Board of Directors of the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association, the world's largest bar association for LGBTQ+ lawyers,



and also acts as general and ethics counsel for Fredrikson & Byron, and chairs the firm's practice quality committee. ■ **Nicole L. Anderson '96** (néé Peter S. Anderson) recently made some major changes in her life. "I hit a giant reset button, as it were. I am excited to announce that my authentic life has finally begun! The days of Pete trudging across campus on the way to art class are in the distant rear view, and I now shine brightly as Nicole," she writes. "While my gender transition, the pandemic, two lost jobs, and my divorce made for some of the hardest years of my life so far, I stuck to my values and I rallied. I am a proud single

mom of two smart, creative, athletic children. I recently began a new post as assistant vice president of software engineering at the Federal Reserve Bank. I volunteer my time as secretary on the board at Minneapolis Hockey. And I spend the rest of my free time with a guitar in my hand or on the rink with my hockey team. I have never been more proud of my accomplishments than I am now, and I have never been more excited about my future ... except maybe for that sunny May day as I departed the Hill as a graduate of the Class of 1996. If time has found distance between us, I warmly welcome the chance to reconnect." ■ **Amy Weisgram Engstrom '96**, an attorney at Dorsey & Whitney, was sworn in to serve as a conciliation court referee in the 10th Judicial District for Minnesota. "I look forward to serving the Minnesota community while also growing my practice," she says. Amy's Federal Indian Law practice includes representing tribal governments, tribal economic development corporations, and entities doing business with tribes. In addition to Federal Indian Law, Amy's practice also includes a broad spectrum of commercial litigation matters. ■ **Andrew Hageman '96** recently was named director of the Center for Ethics and Public Engagement at Luther College. He continues to teach in the English Department at Luther in addition to his new role. ■ **Eric Dehn '98** is Gundersen Health System's new Vice President of Enterprise Architecture and Solution Design. He has more than two decades of leadership in information technology and brings a passion for people and purpose to Gundersen from Thrivent Financial, where he most recently served as vice president of enterprise architecture, engineering, and cloud infrastructure. "Much like the financial services industry, we are in a transformative digital era for healthcare. I am excited about the opportunity to be part of a world-class organization and the possibilities ahead," Eric says. ■ **Jeremy Haug '98** has a new role as the Global Business Services IT Director - Communication Services for Cummins, Inc. "I am proud to continue my passion for real-time communications, service management, continuous improvement, and optimized employee and user experience with safe and secure access," he says.

works primarily with polytrauma populations, specializing in acquired and traumatic brain injury rehabilitation. He's also a podcaster, and co-hosts Waves, the official podcast of the Michigan chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association. ■ **Matthew Resch '03** joined the law firm Maslon LLP as a corporate and securities attorney. A 2008 graduate of Hamline University School of Law, Matt is serving clients nationally and internationally in entity formation, mergers and acquisitions, SEC filings and compliance, general counsel services, real estate transactions, and intellectual property concerns. ■ **Branden Grimmitt '03** is leading Emory University's new Pathways Center, a "re-envisioning of undergraduate career exploration and professional development as part of Emory's Student Flourishing initiative." Branden is serving both as associate dean in Emory College of Arts and Sciences and as vice provost for career and professional development. "I'm thrilled to join Emory at a time when the university is focused on intentionally preparing students for professional achievement and success in life," Branden says. Branden was the inaugural director for St. Olaf's Piper Center for Vocation and Career, and most recently was associate provost for career and professional development at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. ■ **Matthew Bills '04** is the new director of human resources at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. ■ **Jonathan Ziese '06** has accepted an appointment as assistant professor of theater at Alfred University. ■ **Peter St. Lawrence '07** is president of PRO-DIP®, an innovative, nutritional oral energy supplement that has recently been issued a patent by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Peter says the patent will ensure commercial protection as his team develops products for hydration, immunity, multi-vitamin, antioxidants, creatine, and sleep. "I am grateful to all the people involved over the last seven years who have played a role in achieving this important milestone," he says.

## On the Shelf

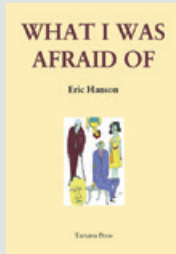
BOOKS BY ST. OLAF COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FACULTY



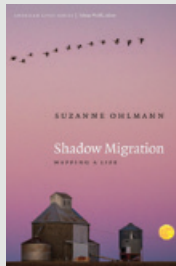
**Under the Radar: Tracking Western Radio Listeners in the Soviet Union** (Central European University Press, 2022) by **Eugene Parta '62**



**All Entangled: Poems** (Self-Published, 2021) by **Ann Floreen Niedringhaus '65**



**What I Was Afraid Of** (Tartarus Press, 2022) by **Eric Hanson '77**



**Cyber Intelligence: Actors, Policies, Practices** (Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc., 2021) by **Connie Peterson Uthoff '88**



**Shadow Migration: Mapping a Life** (University of Nebraska Press, 2022) by **Suzanne Ohlmann '98**

**A Little Bit Country** (HarperCollins, 2022) by **Brian Kennedy '02**

**A Thistle Stuck in the Throat of the Sun** (Kelsay Books, 2021) by **Dane Hamann '06**

## 2000S

**Andrew Wicks '00** was appointed as assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Mich. A clinical specialist in neurologic physical therapy, Andy

## 2010S

**Cary Schlick '11** recently finished her surgical residency at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine and won the Susan Perlman Award given by the Northwestern Memorial Hospital Medical staff (including **Kevin Bethke '78**, pictured with Schlick) to the senior trainee who "best demonstrates academic excellence, special leadership skills, and compassion for patients." In August, Cary started her Surgical Oncology Fellowship at New York City's Memorial Sloan



Kettering Cancer Center. ■ **Patrick Behling '12** and **Bjorn Wastvedt '12** traveled to Trondheim, Norway, for the annual celebration of the life and martyrdom of Saint Olaf, “the eternal king of Norway.” The duo offered prayers in Nidaros Cathedral for the St. Olaf College community.

■ **Alexi Garrett '12** has joined the History Department faculty at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont, as an assistant professor of early American history (Pre-Contact to 1865). The position focuses on race, gender, and public history. “I am thankful to Professor Steve Hahn of St. Olaf's History Department for mentoring me towards this goal over the past 12 years,” Alexi says. ■ **Ariel Carlson '13** recently completed a residency in Veterinary Anatomic Pathology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and has accepted a position as a veterinary pathologist at a private diagnostic laboratory (Fishhead Labs, LLC) in Stuart, Fla. ■ **Henry Burt '16** is a third-year Ph.D. candidate in Pastoral Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary and a supply preacher for the New Jersey ELCA Synod. In August, Henry and his former professor of church history at Princeton, **Paul Rorem '70**, led worship together at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in West Windsor, N.J. Not only do Henry and Paul share backgrounds in ministry and theological scholarship, they also both did track and field while at St. Olaf. ■ **Emma Downey '16**, the environmental health and safety manager at Generation Bio Achieves, recently completed her Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) certification. BCSP credential holders are among the most highly-trained, educated, and experienced individuals in the safety field. ■ **Megan Jekot '16**, the advocacy and civic engagement program manager for the Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood (SSPN), spent a week at the Harvard Graduate School of Education with leaders from 13 other Promise Neighborhoods across the country. Megan attended the inaugural summer institute “Transforming Place through Neighborhood Leadership,” where she learned how to best accelerate the impact of place-based, cradle-to-career solutions through her advocacy role at SSPN. ■ **Alex Betley '17** 3 recently completed his master of arts in law and diplomacy at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and started his career in Washington, D.C. ■ **Colten Yahn '17** 4 graduated from medical school at Eastern Virginia Medical School and has begun his residency in general surgery at Boston Medical Center. Upon his graduation, Colten also became a Captain in the U.S. Air Force. 🦅



## Bringing Leaders to Life for Young Readers

By Kari VanDerVeen

**S**arah Warren '99 is dedicated to writing books that provide young readers with a powerful lesson: ordinary people can do extraordinary things.

Her picture books include *Beyoncé: Shine Your Light*; *Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers*; and *Charlotte and the Nutcracker: The True Story of a Girl Who Made Ballet History* (written with Charlotte Nebres). This September she published *Stacey Abrams: Lift Every Voice*. Her forthcoming books include *Everything a Drum*; *Majora Carter: To Plan a Park*; and *Think Like a Bee! How Marla Spivak Helped the Honeybees*. She recently shared with *St. Olaf Magazine* what got her writing and the inspiration behind her newest book.

### What drew you to writing a picture book about Stacey Abrams?

It was Oprah. She started it. I was listening to the June 17, 2020, episode of her Super Soul podcast, just trying to make sense of our world. George Floyd's murder was a hard thing to process in isolation. When Oprah convened a panel of Black leaders to grieve, scrutinize, and strategize, I was all ears. Stacey Abrams stood out. She helped me understand what was going wrong. She had practical ideas for what we could do to make things right. I knew her biography would offer readers the kind of template for active citizenship I wished I'd had as a child.

### How do you tell the stories of these trailblazers in a way that resonates with young readers?

When I write books for other people's children, I use a celebrity's life to make abstract ideas concrete. I explore concepts like persistence, justice, service, and community. It's tricky. I love showcasing heroes, their everyday powers, the obstacles they faced, and the way they overcame them. But I don't want to overvalue personal achievement when I calculate anybody's success. I work to pinpoint the support systems my heroes had along the way. I also know that I tend to idolize women like the ones who raised me, people who solved their own problems. They rarely asked for help. They never let you see them cry. They were invincible, and I loved them for it. I tend to lean into these qualities when I pick my subjects and tell their stories. But when I over-glamorize grit, I set dangerous expectations for my readers. I want young people to be kind and generous with themselves as they work to achieve their goals.

### Are there challenges to writing about people who are still working, pushing for change, and very much part of current events?

Yes! I write about people who inspire me, but I want my books to be for everyone: fans of my subjects and fans-in-the-making. Dolores Huerta, Majora Carter, Stacey Abrams, Beyoncé,



and Marla Spivak are people with powerful stories, but not everybody is open to learning about public figures who don't mirror their beliefs or background. I want to build an audience for these ideas that includes people who share my politics and perspective and people who don't, so I need to be objective. I examine my own bias. I try to stay off my soapbox. I stick to the facts. When readers pick up one of my books, I want it to be a jumping off point for big conversations. I want them to be inspired and ready to learn more.

### What's the best question or feedback you've gotten from a young reader about your books?

When I graduated from St. Olaf, I started teaching at the YWCA Children's Center in downtown Minneapolis. My students were infatuated with superheroes, so I looked for ways to introduce them to real-life heroes and leaders. I was especially interested in finding books that celebrated our diverse backgrounds. I didn't see books with many Black bi-racial girls like me when I was growing up. I wanted better for my scholars. The problem was, there weren't many books that reflected our backgrounds. That's what got me writing.

My biography about Dolores Huerta came out when I was teaching at Head Start. I was giddy. The text did what I wanted it to: It showed all the “hats” Dolores wore to do the work she set out to do. The illustrations were accurate and beautiful. The illustrator, Robert Casilla, had tons of experience. His background gave him a cultural wisdom that shaped the book and made it better. I was so proud of what we made. I couldn't wait to share it. My pre-schoolers were a tough audience, and so I really gave that reading everything I had. When I was done, we talked about the pictures in the book and recalled what we knew about its main character. One girl raised her hand. “Dolores looks like my mom,” she said. Way to go, Robert!

### What are you reading right now?

*Where We Come From* by Diane Wilson, Sun Yung Shin, Shannon Gibney, John Coy, and Dion MBD; *Magic Candies* by Heena Baek; *Not a Lot of Reasons to Sing, But Enough* by Kyle Tran Myhre; *You Are Life* by Bao Phi and Hanna Li; and *Reclaiming Your Community: You Don't Have to Move Out of Your Neighborhood to Live in a Better One* by Majora Carter. 🦅



## Future Oles

Abbie Teslow DeGregorio '00 and Kelly DeGregorio, a daughter, Grace Kjersten Johnson '04 and Josh Hewes, a daughter, Lauren <sup>1</sup>  
 Kelly Nail '07 and Jeff Foels '06, a son, Milo <sup>2</sup>  
 Eric Tvedt '08 and Megan Tvedt, a daughter, Clara  
 Amber Gilbertson Grochocinski '09 and Geoffrey Grochocinski, a daughter, Ingrid <sup>3</sup>  
 Laura Hanson '09 and Tyler Moe Slepica, a daughter, Ingrid <sup>4</sup>  
 Kendra Passow Conrad '10 and Bogi Conrad '11, a son, Niko <sup>5</sup>  
 Kathryn Staver Samuelson '10 and Olaf Samuelson '10, a son, Soren  
 Katherine Abell King '11 and Tim King, a son, John  
 Rachel Wiers Burgess '12 and Zachary Burgess, a son, Westley <sup>6</sup>  
 Ben Leis '12 and Molly Oberstar, a daughter, Genevieve <sup>7</sup>  
 Libby Magnuson Hatchett '13 and Ben Hatchett, a daughter, Piper <sup>8</sup>  
 Allison Rodriguez '13 and Andy Nail '12, a daughter, Evelyn <sup>9</sup>  
 Chloe Elzey Johnson '15 and Eli Johnson '15, a son, Adlai  
 Karen Van Acker Meyer '15 and Phillip Meyer '15, a son, Dominic <sup>10</sup>  
 Katelyn Dinnies O'Gara '17 and Ryan O'Gara, a daughter, Hattie <sup>11</sup>

## Weddings

Ashley Bjork Thompson '09 and John Thompson, Oct. 24, 2021 <sup>1</sup>  
 James Checco '10 and Marlies Hager, July 16, 2022  
 Brigit Trehus '10 and Jason Hamidi, Sept. 3, 2022  
 Emily Heninger Wirtz '10 and Luther Wirtz, May 21, 2022 <sup>2</sup>  
 Noah Anderson '12 and Taryn Mortimer, April 30, 2022 <sup>3</sup>  
 Alexi Garrett '12 and Geoffrey Skelley, June 18, 2022 <sup>4</sup>  
 Emily Haller '14 and Ian McConville, June 25, 2022  
 Taylor Hermundson '15 and Geoffrey Gieni '15, Sept. 10, 2022  
 Emma Ritter Gordon '15 and Grant Gordon '14, Jan. 2, 2022  
 Olivia Slack '15 and Maxwell Anderson '15, March 19, 2022 <sup>5</sup>  
 Zipi Diamond '20 and Sumner Pitt '19, June 12, 2022 <sup>6</sup>

## Deaths

Alta Bertilson Nodland '41, Estero, Fla., June 5, 2022  
 Doris Bunch Braithwaite '44, Winston Salem, N.C., Aug. 13, 2022  
 \*Winfred "Vince" Christensen '44, Naples, Fla., Feb. 6, 2022  
 Grace Carpenter Joyslin '46, Minneapolis, Oct. 9, 2020  
 Gertrude "Trudy" Hoyne Lindau '46, Sanger, Calif., May 16, 2022  
 Corrine "Connie" Nerhus Erickson '47, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Aug. 8, 2022  
 Elaine Bean Gerlinger '47, Overland Park, Kan., May 15, 2022  
 Marilyn Thompson Hickok '47, Minneapolis, April 21, 2022  
 Wanita "Wani" Ekholm Keating '47, Mercer Island, Wash., May 26, 2022  
 Mary Friesen Knickrehm '47, St. James, Minn., May 19, 2022  
 \*Duane Kringen '47, Eagan, Minn., June 12, 2022  
 Jeanne Opsahl Frerichs '48, Amery, Wis., June 30, 2022  
 \*Warren Quist '48, San Luis Obispo, Calif., June 16, 2022  
 Joan "Jo" Eyberg Schultz-Wallace '48, Lewiston, Idaho, May 2, 2022  
 Muriel Hoiness Waage '48, New York City, May 8, 2022  
 Edla Erickson Bodelson '49, Red Wing, Minn., July 3, 2022  
 Norma Peterson Langehough '49, Golden Valley, Minn., Aug. 10, 2022  
 Carolyn Jackson Alm '50, Sartell, Minn., Nov. 26, 2021  
 Philip "Pat" Anderson '50, Golden Valley, Minn., April 8, 2022  
 Robert "Bob" Gilbertson '50, Burnsville, Minn., Aug. 15, 2022  
 Joan Holtan Meng '50, Grand Rapids, Mich., May 31, 2022  
 \*Vernon "Vern" Nordaune '50, St. Paul, Minn., April 9, 2022  
 John Reppe '50, Two Harbors, Minn., Sept. 12, 2022  
 Ardelle Davidson Revland '50, Cannon Falls, Minn., Dec. 16, 2020  
 \*Harold "Hal" Roed '50, Minneapolis, July 21, 2022  
 Theodore "Ted" Vinger '50, Rochester, Minn., Sept. 11, 2022  
 Donald "Don" Walker '50, Mission Viejo, Calif., June 27, 2022  
 \*Gudrun Hofstad Abolins '51, Riverhead, N.Y., May 25, 2022  
 Pauline Amodt Buckland '51, Viroqua, Wis., Aug. 24, 2022  
 Paul Hanson '51, Duluth, Minn., Jan. 20, 2019  
 Donald "Don" Hustad '51, Manlius, N.Y., July 28, 2022  
 \*Loren Kronlokken '51, Chanhassen, Minn., June 3, 2022  
 Jean Conroy Lommen '51, Monticello, Minn., May 12, 2022  
 \*Roald "Myk" Mykkeltvedt '51, Carrollton, Ga., April 23, 2022  
 \*Neal Aronson '52, Germantown, Tenn., Aug. 23, 2022  
 \*Owen Erstad '52, Edina, Minn., May 14, 2022  
 Ruth Holdridge '52, Minnetonka, Minn., March 7, 2022  
 Dolores Fitzsimmons Rohloff '52, Evansville, Wis., July 2, 2022

Elaine Larson Skatrud '52, Jackson, Wyo., June 12, 2022  
 Gertrude "Tolly" Tollefson Swanlund '52, St. Paul, Minn., May 29, 2022  
 Johna Stark Flanagan '53, Spokane, Wash., Jan. 9, 2019  
 \*Ronald "Ron" Lien '53, Edina, Minn., June 13, 2022  
 Patricia "Pat" Ree Nasby '53, Minneapolis, July 3, 2022  
 Ruth Sonnenberg '53, Bethlehem, Pa., Jan. 13, 2021  
 Marietta Sedlock Tassos '53, San Francisco, March 15, 2022  
 Mary Kilian Wickman '53, Greenwood, Ind., July 25, 2022  
 \*Frederick "Fred" de Castro '54, Eden Prairie, Minn., June 8, 2022  
 Joanne "Jo" Pereles Fenske '54, Mequon, Wis., June 24, 2022  
 Donna Mansager Hogsven '54, Wayzata, Minn., July 7, 2022  
 Ronald "David" Keeseey-Berg '54, Madison, Wis., July 13, 2022  
 Rosemary "Rosie" Ostertag Kohn '54, Duluth, Minn., Sept. 15, 2022  
 Carol Curfman Linser '54, Circle Pines, Minn., May 6, 2022  
 \*Theodore "Ted" McCracken '54, Warren Township, N.J., May 4, 2022  
 Carol Nelson Narup '54, Wheaton, Ill., July 24, 2022  
 Helen Starr SaLoutos '54, Baraboo, Wis., June 20, 2022  
 John Austinson '55, Sun City, Ariz., July 30, 2022  
 \*Elvin Heiberg '55, Minnetonka, Minn., June 7, 2022  
 Edward "Ed" Novak '55, Edina, Minn., June 24, 2022  
 Milton Sadd '55, Willmar, Minn., June 2, 2022  
 John Jacobson '56, Eau Claire, Wis., May 24, 2022  
 Janet Ankersen Lavelle '56, Rockford, Ill., July 21, 2022  
 Kathryn Voss Vigen '56, Decorah, Iowa, Aug. 12, 2022  
 Nancy Young Camden '57, Centerville, Ohio, June 18, 2022  
 Patricia "Pat" Moe Falco '57, Palm Harbor, Fla., June 21, 2022  
 Marjorie Coltvat Jamieson '57, Edina, Minn., June 15, 2022  
 Paul Martinson '57, Fort Myers, Fla., Aug. 18, 2022  
 Donna Hanson Nesheim '57, South St. Paul, Minn., May 17, 2022  
 Larry Shaw '57, Pleasanton, Calif., June 29, 2022  
 Lyla Smitterbergh Hillstrom '58, Sioux Falls, S.D., July 24, 2022  
 Lois Christiansen Lutender '58, Waterford, Conn., Sept. 19, 2022  
 Raymond "Ray" Merritt '58, Prairie Du Sac, Wis., April 20, 2022  
 Robert "Bob" Mork '58, Mora, Minn., Aug. 5, 2022  
 \*Noel Ness '58, Eau Claire, Wis., July 3, 2022  
 Julie Overbye Quist '58, Great Falls, Mont., May 12, 2022  
 \*Roger Engstrom '59, New Braunfels, Texas, May 24, 2022  
 Gary Flatgard '59, Minneapolis, June 21, 2020  
 Kenneth Knops '59, Copley, Ohio, Aug. 4, 2022  
 Beverly Negaard Lundeen '59, Littleton, Colo., June 1, 2022  
 Janice "Jan" Thorseth McClary '59, Lakewood, Colo., Aug. 29, 2022  
 Nancy Thode Peterson '59, Marquette, Mich., July 20, 2022  
 Roy Johnson '60, Pullman, Wash., July 24, 2022  
 Donald Pedersen '60, Pea Ridge, Ark., July 17, 2022  
 Jacquelyn "Jacki" Gundersen Barnes '61, Sun Prairie, Wis., April 24, 2022  
 Phyllis Larson Smith '61, Denton, Texas, Nov. 26, 2021  
 Carol Martinson Warland '61, Rocky River, Ohio, May 3, 2019  
 Howard "Howie" Wennes '61, Newbury Park, Calif., July 12, 2022  
 \*John Bergstrom '62, Palm Harbor, Fla., April 30, 2022  
 Gary Overvold '62, Marlborough, Mass., Dec. 5, 2020  
 Frederick "Fred" Rathert '62, Wolf Point, Mont., Sept. 8, 2022  
 Bobbie Wilhelmsen Carlson '63, Des Moines, Jan. 6, 2020  
 Arvid Lokensgard '63, Bloomington, Minn., May 22, 2022  
 Carole Berlin Speidel '63, Sandusky, Mich., April 26, 2022  
 Peter Aus '64, White Bear Lake, Minn., May 9, 2022  
 Arlene Hiller '64, Hawthorne, Calif., Aug. 3, 2022  
 Arlin Jansen '64, Marietta, Ga., Sept. 14, 2022  
 Raymond "Ray" Nesseth '64, Barron, Wis., June 14, 2022  
 Kristine Moore Gebbie '65, Adelaide, South Australia, May 17, 2022  
 David "Dave" Hosokawa '65, Great Barrington, Mass., May 14, 2022  
 Fredric "Fred" Jefson '66, Westby, Wis., July 14, 2022  
 \*James "Jim" Johnson '66, Billings, Mont., June 21, 2022  
 Evangeline Aus Ackermann '67, Anoka, Minn., July 27, 2022  
 Timothy "Tim" Schmitt '67, Wadena, Minn., Aug. 13, 2022  
 John Solum '67, Genoa, Wis., April 22, 2022  
 Sela Varland '67, Urbana, Ill., Oct. 6, 2021  
 \*Steven "Steve" Koeckeritz '68, Fort Collins, Colo., Sept. 2, 2022  
 \*Donald "Don" Mitchell '68, Hayes, Va., June 7, 2022  
 \*Sigfrid "Sig" Soli '68, Jacksonville Beach, Fla., April 11, 2022  
 Edward Waples '68, Tucson, Ariz., June 15, 2022

## Deaths [continued]

Debrah "Deb" Allison Adams '69, Chippewa Falls, Wis., Aug. 19, 2022  
 Kathryn "Kate" Green Clark '69, Brookfield, Wis., April 19, 2021  
 \*Mark Johnson '69, Minnetonka, Minn., July 21, 2022  
 Glenn Haggan '70, Franktown, Colo., April 23, 2022  
 Karen Petersen Jaeger '70, Missoula, Mont., June 1, 2022  
 Daniel "Dan" Johnson '70, Austin, Texas, March 4, 2022  
 Robert "Bob" Tonolli '70, Bismarck, N.D., June 4, 2022  
 Matthew "Matt" Dion '71, Shoreview, Minn., June 27, 2022  
 Deborah Johnson '72, Cody, Wyo., July 4, 2022  
 Peggy van Dyke Headlund '73, St. Croix Falls, Wis., Sept. 26, 2020  
 Norman Belland '74, Hudson, Wis., July 19, 2022  
 Kay Koeplin '74, Mequon, Wis., April 4, 2022  
 Patricia "Pat" Wilson '74, Flagstaff, Ariz., March 18, 2022  
 Michael "Mike" Volpe '76, Corvallis, Ore., June 19, 2022  
 John Alberg '77, Minnetonka, Minn., April 29, 2022  
 Douglas "Doug" Anderson '77, Berkeley, Calif., June 1, 2022  
 Caroljean Pint Coventree '78, Spring Valley, Wis., Aug. 6, 2022  
 Robert "RP" Propf '78, Minneapolis, July 10, 2022  
 Randolph "Randy" Skare '78, Savage, Minn., June 29, 2022  
 Theodore "Ted" Loftness '79, Wayzata, Minn., Aug. 19, 2022  
 Jon Olson '80, Milwaukee, May 19, 2022  
 Michelle Kimbrough '83, Minneapolis, Sept. 15, 2022  
 Carol "Robin" Wright Schmitz '85, Rosemount, Minn., Aug. 23, 2022  
 Margaret Bierman Cloud '86, Northfield, Minn., Aug. 11, 2022  
 Andrea Seashore '86, West St. Paul, Minn., May 7, 2022  
 Dana Leno Heidelberger '88, Boyce, Va., July 23, 2022  
 Laura Proudfit Crowder '89, Lino Lakes, Minn., May 20, 2022  
 Kevin Anderson '93, Minneapolis, May 19, 2022  
 Joshua "Josh" Holmes '97, Rochester, Minn., May 20, 2022  
 \*Mitchell "Mitch" Murdock '09, Pace, Fla., July 3, 2022  
 Geoffrey Swanson '10, Minneapolis, June 7, 2022  
 Fanchon Burns '11, Minneapolis, July 21, 2022  
 Anna Leikvold '21, Fort Collins, Colo., July 9, 2022

\* VETERAN

## Remembering Rosemary Rader

Sister Rosemary Rader, a visiting associate professor of religion at St. Olaf in the 1990s, died peacefully at St. Paul's Monastery Health Care Center on June 29, 2022. She was 91 years old.

Born to Anton and Cecilia (Skrypek) Rader on April 11, 1931, in St. Leo, Minnesota, she was the ninth child in a family of 13. Rader entered the scholasticate in 1948 at St. Paul's Priory, making first vows in 1950. She began her scholarly career at St. Catherine University and subsequently earned an M.A. in Latin at the University of Minnesota, and an M.A. in religious studies followed by a Ph.D. from Stanford University. She studied in Rome on a Fulbright scholarship, served as prioress, was elected president of the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses, and led the American Benedictine Academy. She was the author of the book *Breaking Boundaries: Male/Female Friendship in Early Christian Communities*, and published many other articles in academic journals and publications.

St. Olaf Associate Professor of Practice in Religion Trish Zimmerman taught with Rader, and says she was an influential mentor — particularly for feminist scholars of religion — who was devoted to "the good, hard work of radical inclusion in Christianity."

"She had a rich, full career and mentored many, many people and practiced deep care of souls," Zimmerman says.

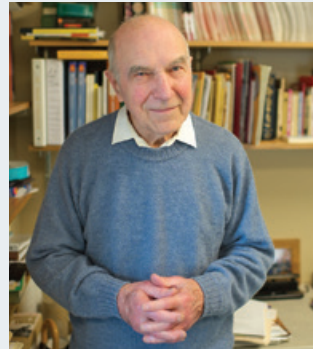
Rader is survived by her Benedictine sisters, including **Jacqueline Leiter '92**, as well as associates, oblates, and nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her brothers and sisters.

Funeral services were held July 6 at St. Paul's Monastery, with interment at the monastery cemetery.

## Remembering LaVern Rippley

Professor Emeritus of German Studies LaVern Rippley died on January 6, 2022, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester after living with Parkinson's disease for a decade. He was 86 years old.

He was born on March 2, 1935 at the farm home of Louis and Johanna (Rucinski) Rippley two miles north of Waumandee, Wisconsin. After graduating from Holy Cross Seminary in La Crosse, Wisconsin in 1952 as part of the minor



seminary for high school-age students, Rippley continued his studies there, completing four years of college in 1956 as part of the major seminary for college-age students. He proceeded to enroll at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls to earn his teacher certification in English, Latin, and German. While there he met Barbara Jean Brickner, and on August 20, 1960, they married at St. Bridget's Catholic Church in River Falls.

Rippley served briefly in the U. S. Army and taught two years at River Falls High School. After earning his master's degree in

German at Kent State University, he took a teaching assistantship at Ohio State University and began pursuing his doctorate. Following the program routine, Rippley earned a Fulbright Fellowship to study at the University of Munich in Germany during the 1963-64 academic year. He returned to Columbus, Ohio, to complete his Ph. D. in 1965. In the meantime, he accepted an appointment as an assistant professor of German at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio, and a part-time position at the Ohio State branch university in Lima, Ohio.

In 1967 Rippley was appointed associate professor and chair of the Department of German at St. Olaf. Promoted to full professor in 1971, he remained active not only in the classroom but in administrative and committee positions during his 50 years of service at the college. His many achievements included being named an honorary fellow in the American Association of Teachers of German, as well as financial awards from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Rippley served as president of the Society for German-American Studies, and for 30 years he edited its newsletter.

Rippley loved world travel. He led more than two dozen programs for students and teachers to European countries, often Germany, including the 12 Interim programs encircling the Baltic Sea from 1997 to 2017. As a result, he became a keen observer of the East-West struggle through the Cold War and the demise of communism. Professor Emeritus of Economics Steve Soderlind teamed up with Rippley to lead these Interim programs, and says he was a devoted colleague and accomplished scholar.

"He could stand at thousands of places and recite to exhaustion what happened there, when, and why anyone should care," Soderlind says. "He could speak of trends and stages, but his favorite moments were spent regaling students with stories of regional disputes: who won, who lost, whether a significant migration resulted, and, if so, where people landed afterward. Many students found their family histories involved."

Over the decades, Rippley wrote and published 18 books, as well as 150 articles in scholarly and popular journals and more than 200 book reviews in varied periodicals. He presented more than 200 times at conferences. His greatest contribution was the study of immigration (both of people and cultural items) from the German-speaking world. Due to his affection for Old Time music, Rippley wrote a history of the Chemnitzer Concertina, which resulted in his enjoying and joining three concertina clubs in Minnesota.

During the course of his academic career, Rippley carried on sub-professions, a key activity being real estate, for which he held agent and contractor licenses while owning, building, and financing numerous properties, among them the Ole Store restaurant in Northfield. He also served on the Northfield School Board in the 1970s.

Rippley is survived by his wife of 61 years, Barbara Jean; his children John of Northfield and **Larissa '90** of St. Paul; grandchildren Naya and Anjali Tadavarthy; sisters Elise (Daniel) Brommer and Phyllis (John) Sonsalla; and numerous cousins, nephews, and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Charles, and sister Mary.

Funeral services were held January 10 at the Church of St. Dominic in Northfield, with interment in St. Boniface Cemetery in Waumandee, Wisconsin.



# ALUMNI & FAMILY TRAVEL

St. Olaf Alumni and Family Travel is ready to help you explore the world in community, as so many graduates, families, and friends have before us. We invite you to join us! Nurture your whole self through active learning adventures alongside like-minded travelers. Learn more about St. Olaf Alumni and Family Travel and start planning your new journey today at [stolaf.edu/travel](http://stolaf.edu/travel).



## Journey to the Holy Land | June 9-21, 2023

Led by Matthew Marohl and Katherine Fick

## Ireland: Literature, History, and Culture

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

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

## Active Adventure in Northern Spain: Culture, Cuisine, and Nature | September 8-23, 2023

Led by Dave and Pat Van Wylene

## America's Struggle for Civil Rights: Religion, Race, and the Work of Justice | October 3-12, 2023

Led by David Booth and Ann Tobin

## Belize: Temples of Coral and Stone November 5-11, 2023

## Remembering Marland Madson '52

Professor Emeritus of Biology **Marland "Marly" Madson '52** died on November 17, 2021, at the age of 91.

Madson was born on August 1, 1930, in Saint James, Minnesota, the first child of Harold and Linnea (Warling) Madson. He was baptized in the Norwegian Lutheran Church and confirmed in the First Lutheran Church. During his school years he worked on the family dairy farm and was active in 4-H. He graduated from Butterfield School as Salutatorian in 1948.



After graduating in 1952 from St. Olaf, he was drafted and served two years in the United States Army. From 1955 to 1964 he taught in the Alexandria Public Schools. It was there that he met Grace Carlstrom, a receptionist in the Superintendent's Office. They were married at First English Lutheran Church of Alexandria on July 29, 1956, and together they had three sons and one daughter.

During the next five years Madson earned two master's degrees and a Ph.D. He returned to St. Olaf in 1969, where he was a highly respected faculty member and chair in the Department of Biology until his retirement in 1993. In the course of his career he taught introduction to biology courses to large numbers of St. Olaf students and served many years on the St. Olaf Health Professions Committee. He interviewed scores of future medical and dental students with compassion and wisdom, says Professor Emeritus of Biology Ted Johnson.

"He spent hours interviewing students, many times late in the evening. He was very dedicated and exhibited wisdom and a deep understanding of what it takes to be an excellent physician or dentist," says Johnson.

In 1973 Minnesota Governor Wendell Anderson appointed Madson to participate in a symposium on implementing the state plan for environmental education in teacher training.

"Marly was an educator's educator. His training and background in public education made him a perfect fit at St. Olaf to supervise, help train, and observe student teachers," says Professor Emeritus of Biology Gene Bakko. "His enthusiasm for, and his knowledge of, biology also made him an outstanding teacher in the classroom. He always had time for students and was genuinely interested in their questions, problems, and general well-being."

Madson was a person of deep faith, committed to his family and to excellence in his teaching. "His devotion to family and faith was indicative of his overall quality of character," Bakko says.

Every summer of his married life, Madson and his family lived on Lake Darling in Alexandria. There he designed and built golf courses and managed all outdoor recreational activities at the Darling Dude Ranch, which later became the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center. After retiring from Arrowwood in 1988, he and Grace continued to spend each summer on Lake Darling until 2016.

Madson moved back to Alexandria several months before he passed away in order to be closer to his family, and he felt like he had "come home." His family was blessed to be with him daily until his death.

He is survived by three brothers (Howard, Chuck, and Claire); four children, **Tim Madson '80** (Heidi), **John Madson '82**, **Barbara Madson Madden '84** (Stephen), and **Matthew Madson '89** (Stephanie); and five grandchildren (Emily, Olivia, Ethan, Noah, and Isabella). He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Grace; sister Marjorie; brother DuWayne; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on November 24, 2021, at Mount Carmel Ministries Chapel, with burial at Kinkead Cemetery in Alexandria, Minnesota.

# A Mile of Memories

BY JEFF SAUVE

AT SUNSET ON A SUNDAY in February 1875, an auspicious moment in the college's history occurred near St. Olaf Avenue and Lincoln Street. Returning from a drive, Lars S. Reque, a teacher at the then-named St. Olaf's School, and Harald Thorson, a benefactor and one of the school's founders, stepped out of their sleigh, tied the horses to a tree, and trudged through hip-deep snow up the hill.

"Before us was spread a most beautiful panorama as far as the eye could reach," Reque later recounted. That location later became the site of St. Olaf College.

The fact that the location of campus was first determined on the edge of St. Olaf Avenue underscores the important role the well-loved road has played in the college's history. The mile-long ribbon of road, affectionately known as Ole Ave, connects the campus to the western edge of Northfield's business district. Since the school's earliest years, this link has played an integral role in student life.

Now a new era emerges for the venerable street with the recent completion of the Ole Avenue Project, which has created a new gateway to St. Olaf on the eastern edge of campus. It includes a 300-bed residence hall and several townhouse-styled residences that can accommodate 140 students.

No doubt many of these new residents and those to follow in the generations ahead will sit by their windows and gaze at the landscape in front of them while listening to songbirds and the laughter of their classmates who pass by. Their imaginations may include hints of yesteryear dating to the late 1880s, when a few scattered homes existed there and rickety planks served as sidewalks. Sumac, chokecherries, and wild plums lined both sides of the dirt road. Chicken coops, cow pastures, and corn fields were the norm.

Gone is the college president's residence as well as the old honor houses, which were former faculty homes. Student boarding establishments with names like the Busy Bees, the Bird Cage, or the Wasp Nest are all but a memory.

Gone too from bygone days are the alumni gardens showcasing stunning multi-colored peonies, sky-blue larkspur and radiant poppies, and yells of joy as Oles on large wooden coasting sleds named Comet and Coquette hurtled down Ole Avenue.

For its relatively flat, straight grade, the street is steeped in memories. From processions, parades, and protests, to housing, horseplay, and handholding, stories abound. For instance, in 1900 students were told by Professor Halvor Ytterboe, "Don't skate, play ball, slide, ski, or toboggan on Sundays. But you may take a walk." Over generations, the tree-lined promenade became a favorite for leisurely strolls and coffee dates and cinnamon rolls at the Ole Store.

In Northfield's early days of passenger rail service, incoming students walked from the depot, up Ole Avenue, shouldering their heavy baggage. Few could afford a hired carriage or cart. It paid to ask for directions. In 1888 North Dakotan Harold Kildahl made his



From top: the alumni garden on St. Olaf Avenue in 1912, a view of St. Olaf Avenue in August of 1911, and a group of intrepid Ole Ave sledders in February of 1911. PHOTOGRAPHED BY ST. OLAF PROFESSOR OLE G. FELLAND

way to Carleton College thinking it was St. Olaf. He didn't realize there were two institutions in town. When he rapped on a door, it was answered by a woman who took him for a peddler and motioned for him to go away.

Kildahl blurted that he desired to meet the "owner of the college" so that he could secure a room and start his formal learning. Finding him rather amusing, she ushered him into a large sitting room where he was told to wait while she sought "the owner." Soon Carleton President James W. Strong, a tall, kindly man with long chin whiskers, appeared before him. Kildahl thought this couldn't be St. Olaf's president, Thorbjørn N. Mohn, as he had seen a picture of him before without a beard.

"So, I asked him," recounted Kildahl, "if he had raised that beard lately?" Strong said he had had it for quite some time. "You're not Mohn then?" Strong asked. "No" came the reply. After the misunderstanding was cleared up with a hearty laugh, Strong pointed the way to Ole Avenue. Home away from home awaited him down the lane, where the journey began for him and for countless others who followed. 🐉

A photograph of Richard Steen '69, an older man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored, patterned button-down shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a thoughtful expression. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and foliage. A large, dark, diagonal graphic element is overlaid on the image, containing the text 'MAKE AN IMPACT'.

# MAKE AN IMPACT

Richard Steen '69 included a gift in his will to help Oles research links between music and other fields with faculty. Opportunities like these help Oles persist and excel — 43.6% of Oles participate in mentored research before they graduate, something we hope to expand.



What will you make possible? Explore your options. Visit [plannedgiving.stolaf.edu](https://plannedgiving.stolaf.edu) or call 1-800-776-6523.





1520 St. Olaf Avenue  
Northfield, MN 55057  
*stolaf.edu*

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TWIN CITIES, MN  
PERMIT NO. 27370

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

---

PARTING SHOT

---



**HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND** | Ole the Lion, accompanied by Maya Azevedo '26, had a rip-roaring good time welcoming hundreds of St. Olaf families and alumni to campus this fall. PHOTO BY EVAN PAK '19