

SPRING 2023

ST. OLAF

M A G A Z I N E



ON THE COVER

A lone Dall ram stands high above Denali National Park in fall colors. "This ram had just left the rest of the herd to search for some lichen in the rocks — a tasty treat for these alpine ungulates," says photographer Sergius Hannan '20. Read more about his work in "Wild Alaska" on page 24.

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A painting of David R. Anderson '74 was added to the collection of presidential portraits in Rolvaag Memorial Library and unveiled during a reception on May 4. Read more about the legacy Anderson leaves upon his retirement on page 2.



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Akinola



Brown



Garcia



Pak



Students (from left) Sebastian Pham '23, Chau Truong '24, Gretchen Ellis '23, and Fenton Krupp '24 present welcome gifts to St. Olaf College's 12th president, Susan Rundell Singer (fourth from left). Read more on page 12.

ST. OLAF

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Chang Dao Vang '11 is the director of TRIO Student Support Services for Students with Disabilities (SSSD) at St. Olaf, a program that supports students with documented disabilities in both academic and personal development. In April he was named the Student Organization Advisor of the Year for his outstanding commitment to and investment in the Hmong Ole Student Association.

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Warren



Vang

A Lasting Legacy

One of the longest-serving presidents in St. Olaf's history, David R. Anderson '74 retires this spring after leading the college for 17 years. He leaves a visible and lasting legacy on campus.

By Kari VanDerVeen

PHOTOGRAPHED BY
Fernando Sevilla





David R. Anderson '74, known for his love of cooking and good food, pictured in the kitchen of the new residence hall that opened in the fall of 2022 as part of the Ole Avenue Project.

When David R. Anderson '74 arrived on campus in the summer of 2006 to become St. Olaf College's 11th president, one of the first big decisions he faced was a looming question about how to proceed with the construction of a new science facility.

Planning for a state-of-the-art complex was already well underway, but fundraising for the project was lagging. So much momentum had been lost that one option on the table was to construct the building in stages, leaving large portions of the building's interior unfinished until a later date.

Forget about a \$64,000 question — this was a nearly \$64 million question. For a new president who had never led a college, finding the right answer could have been daunting. Yet for Anderson, the path forward was clear.

He rolled up his sleeves and hit the road, visiting supporters of the college across the country to make a compelling case for the new science facility. St. Olaf had long been a leader in science and mathematics education, he noted, and the college needed a facility that matched the excellence of its academic programs. The proposed science complex was designed to support interdisciplinary teaching and research, facilitate close student-faculty interaction, and provide technology-rich classrooms and laboratories for the natural sciences. It would take St. Olaf's already strong science and mathematics programs to the highest level.

His message resonated with alumni who knew firsthand the power of a St. Olaf education. "With David's help, we were quickly back on track," says John Benson, a parent of two Oles and a former member of the St. Olaf Board of Regents who co-chaired the college's campaign for the future of math and science.

Regents Hall of Natural and Mathematical Sciences opened in the fall of 2008, and it has cemented St. Olaf's status as a leading liberal arts college in STEM. Over the last 15 years, thousands of students have taken classes, conducted innovative research, and worked alongside expert faculty in the world-class facility, and scores of Oles have gone on to develop distinguished careers and become leaders in their fields.

In many ways, Anderson's approach to Regents Hall in the early days of his presidency served as a harbinger of how he would prioritize his work over the course of the next 17 years.

With a deep commitment to ensuring that campus facilities match the excellence of the St. Olaf experience, he oversaw a dramatic transformation of the physical spaces on the Hill. The construction of Regents Hall was followed by significant renovations of Tomson Hall, Holland Hall, and Steensland Hall, the construction of an on-campus ice arena and investments in athletic facilities, and a \$60 million student housing project, among a number of other smaller-scale renovations across campus.

He placed an emphasis on expanding resources for high-impact experiences like student-faculty research, internships, conversation programs, and study abroad. He provided a data-driven focus on the outcomes of a St. Olaf education



Anderson in Regents Hall of Natural and Mathematical Sciences, the first of many transformative projects completed during his tenure.

and oversaw an overhaul of the college's career services. And to provide weight, gravity, and permanence to key elements of the St. Olaf experience, Anderson led the establishment of a number of centers of excellence on campus: the Piper Center for Vocation and Career, the Institute for Freedom and Community, the Taylor Center for Equity and Inclusion, the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community, and the Smith Center for Global Engagement.

To support all of this work, Anderson kept a laser-sharp focus on the financial health of the college. He led a seven-year comprehensive campaign that raised more than \$250 million and worked to significantly increase the college's endowment so that today it funds more than 20 percent of the college's operating budget. He also steered the college to a new admissions model that positioned St. Olaf among the leading liberal arts colleges in the country and enabled the college to compete more effectively and aspirationally for students. The result is a significantly more national, international, and diverse student body. Today, as many colleges are facing financial and enrollment challenges, St. Olaf is on firm footing.

"I'm proud that, due to the good work of many people and the generous support of many others, it's been overall a period of steady and consistent improvement," Anderson says. "St. Olaf was a very fine college when I became president. Together we've been able to build from that in ways that make it even stronger."

A LONG-SERVING LEADER

A former English professor whose expertise is 18th-century British literature, Anderson majored in English at St. Olaf and went on to earn his doctorate in English from Boston College. He also studied at Harvard University's Institute for Educational Management and Capital University's Center for Dispute Resolution. Anderson taught English at St. Olaf and at the University of Kansas before serving in administrative capacities at Florida Atlantic University and Texas A&M University. He was vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college at Luther College and served as provost at Denison University before returning to St. Olaf to serve as president.

Addison "Tad" Piper chaired the presidential search committee that selected Anderson in 2006. "What made David stand out among the other candidates was a passion for the job, a good understanding of the challenges ahead, and a vision for how to meet those challenges," Piper says.

Anderson has gone on to become the longest-serving president of St. Olaf since Sidney Rand, who also held the position for 17 years, from 1963 to 1980. The only other presidents who have served the college longer are Clemens Granskou (20 years, from 1943 to 1963), Lars Boe (24 years, from 1918 to 1942), and Thorbjorn Mohn (25 years, from 1874 to 1899).



"At St. Olaf we believe that the deepest learning happens in community with other learners," Anderson noted at the dedication of the Ole Avenue Project.

"We have, in many ways, rebuilt the campus, preserving its architectural beauty while renewing older spaces and adding important new ones."

— President David R. Anderson '74

As he reflects on his long tenure leading St. Olaf, Anderson points to a favorite quote from Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard: "Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards."

Throughout the course of nearly two decades as president, Anderson says, he worked with other campus leaders to develop a strong strategic plan and remain nimble in responding to challenges. Only now is the full impact of that work coming into focus.

"We were bold and opportunistic, and the result was that the bets we placed in the first decade led to and enabled major successes in the second decade," Anderson says.

Vice President for Advancement Enoch Blazis says the college is in a far stronger position than it was 17 years ago.

"All of these accomplishments had challenges and were not easy. I think it is remarkable that he had the drive and the stamina to successfully be at the helm this long," Blazis says. "His impact on St. Olaf has been consequential, and he is leaving the institution ready for the next big leap under President Susan Rundell Singer."

THE SUCCESSES OF THE LAST 17 YEARS

Highlights

FROM PRESIDENT DAVID R. ANDERSON'S PRESIDENCY

Regents Hall of Natural
and Mathematical
Sciences



Physical Enhancement of Campus

Under President Anderson's leadership, the physical infrastructure on campus has been dramatically transformed to serve a new generation of students. Investments have included:

► **Regents Hall of Natural and Mathematical Sciences:**

Since opening in the fall of 2008, the nearly 200,000-square-foot science complex has become an invaluable teaching tool for the nearly 40 percent of St. Olaf students who pursue a major or concentration in the natural sciences or mathematics.

► **Tomson Hall:** With the opening of Regents Hall, an extensive renovation in 2011 transformed the old 1960s-era Science Center into a modern facility that encourages connections between academic and administrative functions and promotes cross-disciplinary interactions.

► **Holland Hall:** A \$13 million renovation in 2017 made the interior of Holland Hall as beautiful as its exterior, which is modeled on the Mont Saint-Michel abbey in France. The building now combines classic architecture and adaptable classrooms filled with modern teaching technologies.

► **Ice Arena:** The \$8 million modern indoor ice arena, which opened in 2019, is connected to the Skoglund/Tostrud athletic complex. It features an NHL-size rink, 804 individual stadium chairs, seven men's and women's locker rooms, state-of-the-art video broadcasting capabilities, and media boxes.

► **Investments in Athletic Facilities:** Other investments in athletic facilities include the addition of synthetic turf on both the football and soccer fields, a golf program facility inside Skoglund Center, and an updated training and performance center inside Tom Porter Hall.

► **Steensland Hall:** After a substantial \$1.5 million renovation, the long-vacant Steensland Hall reopened in the fall of 2021 as a new space for the Hong Kierkegaard Library, home to the largest collection of works by and about the 19th-century Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard outside of Denmark.

► **Ole Avenue Project:** In 2022 St. Olaf celebrated the completion of the Ole Avenue Project, a \$60 million investment in campus housing that features a new residence hall and townhouses along St. Olaf Avenue, as well as a new residence for the St. Olaf president located south of Regents Hall. 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.



Tomson Hall



Holland Hall



Anderson in the St. Olaf Ice Arena



Steensland Hall



The Ole Avenue Project

Creation of Centers of Excellence | To provide weight, gravity, and permanence to key elements of the St. Olaf experience, President Anderson led efforts to establish centers of excellence on campus.

► **The Piper Center for Vocation and Career:**

Established in 2012, the Piper Center helps students explore careers, gain experience outside of the classroom, and pursue meaningful post-graduate work, service, and education.

► **The Institute for Freedom and Community:**

Established in 2014, the mission of the institute is to encourage free inquiry and meaningful debate, explore diverse perspectives, and foster constructive dialogue. The institute hosts public programs and supports academic offerings including the Public Affairs Conversation (PACON), a two-course public affairs series with an option for a funded internship.

► **The Glenn and Myretta Taylor Center for Equity and Inclusion:** Established in 2018, the Taylor Center aims to foster an inclusive environment across the

intersections of race and identity that students bring to St. Olaf. Services include dedicated programs for students of color, international students, and LGBTQIA+ students, as well as campus-wide speakers and public events.

► **The Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community:** Established in 2018, the Lutheran Center encourages the interreligious exploration of faith, values, and vocation in ways that enrich relationships within and beyond the St. Olaf community.

► **The Smith Center for Global Engagement:** Launched in the fall of 2022, the Smith Center supports students in developing global and intercultural skills through study abroad and study away programs in the U.S. and around the world, as well as through Academic Civic Engagement (ACE) courses in local communities.



The Piper Center's 2017 New York Connections Program featured Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Gretchen Morgenson '76.

Successful Comprehensive Campaign

Over the course of the seven-year *For the Hill and Beyond* campaign, 25,485 donors gave an incredible \$252,242,402 to create transformative impact for current and future Oles. This was far beyond the \$200 million goal, and was the largest amount raised during a single campaign in St. Olaf's history. The campaign, which concluded in 2020, increased financial aid and access, added more high-impact learning opportunities like faculty-mentored research and the Conversation Programs, and supported academic innovation.

Growth of the Endowment

When Anderson took office in 2006, the college's endowment was valued at \$260 million. At the end of January 2023, the endowment was valued at \$702 million, a growth of more than 200 percent. During that time, more than \$200 million has come from new gifts, estate distributions, and matured planned gifts. More than \$100 million has come from year-end allocations and reinvestments. Investment returns have totaled more than \$400 million. In 2007 endowment support for college operations was \$6.5 million, or just over 6 percent of the operating budget. In 2022 endowment support for college operations was \$26.4 million, representing over 20 percent of the college's operating budget.

Focus on Outcomes

At the height of the economic recession in 2008, Anderson and campus leaders recognized that students and families increasingly wanted to see a connection between their four years of study at St. Olaf and their lives after graduation. So they launched the Outcomes Initiative, which aims to clearly outline the return on investing in a St. Olaf education by measuring student success and making that information readily available online. The work earned national attention, with Anderson sharing the college's approach at conferences and speaking to media outlets like *The Wall Street*

“This is our college, and our mutual investment in the institution and in one another as Oles empowers us to do great things for our college. St. Olaf is bigger than all of us.”

DAVID R. ANDERSON '74 in his inauguration address on October 6, 2006

Journal and *U.S. News*. The initiative continues today with significant support from the Piper Center — and it shows that 98 percent of 2022 graduates are employed, in graduate school, or engaged in full-time service work.

Diverse Campus Community

Recognizing the importance of becoming a more diverse college, Anderson set goals for recruiting and retaining students, faculty, and staff of color. In 2012, 81 percent of St. Olaf students were white, 14 percent were students of color, and 5 percent were international students. In 2022, 67 percent of students were white, 22 percent were students of color, and international students made up 11 percent of the student body.

Support for Student and Faculty Success

In the last year, Anderson led the launch of an initiative that will invest more than \$2 million on programs focused on student success. To support this initiative, Anderson announced that St. Olaf will reduce the annual teaching load for most faculty from six to five courses, providing them with greater capacity for advising and mentoring students. This change will be supported through the newly established David R. Anderson '74 Fund for Teaching Excellence, a \$12 million endowment funded with donations in Anderson's honor.

Reflections

FROM COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS



“David has spoken in chapel 34 times during his presidency. On one occasion, Pastor Katie and I offered a two-part series on Jonah. One of us spoke from the perspective of Jonah and the other from the perspective of God. David asked if he could add to the series and speak from the perspective of the fish. It was great! It was funny, engaging, and deeply theological. He is also committed to attending chapel whenever he is on campus. Most days he is sitting on the right-hand side, around five pews from the front. Like most people, he has a ‘spot.’ It is fun for me to see him come in and sit with students. They say good morning, they small-talk, and they worship together. He has connected with many students this way and they have connected with him. Bobby Isbell '21 was a regular chapel attendee. I will never forget the day that he came to chapel so excited to tell David that he was accepted into Harvard University Law School. David shared in this excitement. The two knew each other from sitting together and now they were able to share in this important moment. Members of worshiping communities know that it’s the day-to-day interactions that often leave the deepest impact, and David is engaged in the day-to-day chapel life.” **MATT MAROHL** | *St. Olaf College Pastor*

“In David’s inaugural address as president, he said that St. Olaf would reflect the increasingly heterogeneous America of the 21st century. Indeed, through the teamwork of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and our Board of Regents, the St. Olaf College of 2023 is a much more diverse community in terms of gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation and identity, socioeconomic status, and religious perspectives. It has been David’s steady leadership of this vision that has resulted in its realization.”

ANTON ARMSTRONG '78 | *Tosdal Professor of Music, Conductor of the St. Olaf Choir*

“One advantage of having a president who started his career as a faculty member is his awareness of the pressures and the joys of teaching, and how these unfold over the academic year. David has a full appreciation of the role that the faculty have in crafting and delivering the core college experience: a high-quality education.”

MARCI SORTOR | *Provost and Dean of the College*

“St. Olaf has thrived as it has evolved from a small regional college to embrace a national and global reputation. Outstanding leadership and vision have been present at St. Olaf over the decades. It is especially evident over the past 17 years under David Anderson’s presidency. The next administration will inherit a fine, well cared for physical campus, a strong financial position, a substantial endowment, and most importantly a student body of 3,000 proud Oles.”

O. JAY TOMSON '58 | Board of Regents Chair 2006–10

“I’ve so appreciated David’s integrity and moral compass. Anyone in a leadership position is faced with difficult situations and having to make decisions that we know are not going to be popular. He’s had to make some of those. He always keeps sight of what’s the ‘right’ thing to do, not what the ‘easy’ thing might be to do. He’s also been known to comment ‘Is this something that I could explain to my mother?’”

JAN HANSON | Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

“You learn a lot about leaders in a crisis. True character gets revealed. I was a year into my role as chair of the St. Olaf Board of Regents when the pandemic hit. There are two types of leaders: those who run to a fire, and those who run away from a fire. David runs to a fire. He quickly focused on how the college needed to respond to the pandemic and got his team aligned on it. He had to make decisions fast, but he also had to make sure everyone felt included and involved in the decision making. One of the reasons why St. Olaf fared so much better than so many other colleges was that leadership. I have so much admiration for him and how he leaned into things.”

JAY LUND '81 | Board of Regents Chair 2018–Present

St. Olaf College
Commencement,
May 2021





Director of Student Activities Brandon Cash '16 takes a photo of Anderson and former Student Government Association President Andy Nelson '23 as they cheer on the St. Olaf football team.

“In my time here, David has been a wonderful advocate for Ole Athletics. We’ve been able to do a number of facilities projects, highlighted by the on-campus ice arena, that David fully supported and that truly made a difference in the lives of our students. He believes very strongly that our student athletes should have a great experience and that we should support that as best we can.”

RYAN BOWLES | *St. Olaf Athletic Director*

“As a member of the search committee that chose David, I recall there were several outstanding candidates — but none matched David’s affinity for St. Olaf. Most of the candidates were driven to be a college president. David’s ambition was more focused — namely, to be St. Olaf’s president.”

JOHN BENSON P'93, P'96

“When David was hired in 2006, we were at a standstill on some enrollment issues and fundraising. David knew admissions and financial aid — its opportunities, challenges, and implications — from his years as provost at Denison University. And we knew Denison in particular because of our mutual membership in the Colleges That Change Lives consortium. David was keen to learn how we ‘did’ our admissions and aid program and was also eager to see St. Olaf separate from some of our more local competition. He wanted to see St. Olaf compete more effectively and aspirationally for students, and he led the conversation on adjusting our admissions process to accomplish that. The result is we now recruit and enroll a more national, international, and diverse student body. We are stronger because of his leadership on this work.”

MICHAEL KYLE '85 | *Vice President for Enrollment and College Relations*

“When I think about what I have appreciated most about David’s leadership, three things come to mind. The first is his ability to drive change while staying committed to St. Olaf’s values. The second is his capacity to learn. I’ve worked on a number of different boards with a number of different leaders, and David, in my mind, was special because of his willingness to keep learning. And the third is his tenacity. Even when we ran into headwinds, he would persist and find a way to get things done. David cares tremendously about St. Olaf, and it’s hard to overstate how important that is.”

B. KRISTINE OLSON JOHNSON '73
Board of Regents Chair 2013-16

“One of the most impactful accomplishments for us was David’s working relationship with Carleton President Steve Poskanzer. David and Steve developed an extraordinary working relationship and friendship over many years that resulted in multiple benefits for each college. Through their efforts, efficiencies and cross-collaboration were realized in several key areas including ‘back-office’ systems, libraries, security, food service, and more.”

SANDY AND SALLY OLSON BRACKEN '71

“At the end of my son’s sophomore year at St. Olaf, he got into the Chapel Choir. Our family immediately made reservations to go to Christmas Fest. Our youngest daughter was not at all interested, but she walked out transformed, wanting to sing in a choir, and wanting to go to St. Olaf. I had gotten involved with the St. Olaf Alumni and Parent Relations Office, which at the time was located across the hall from the Office of the President. I kept thinking I wanted to pop in and tell President Anderson just how wonderful Christmas Fest was. But I didn’t presume. Later, I emailed him to tell him, and I mentioned that one just didn’t presume to drop in on the president of a college. He emailed back and encouraged me to ‘presume.’ So the next trip, I presumed, emailed, and asked if he had time for a cup of tea with a parent. We’ve met for tea many times since over the last 15 years. What I have learned is that presidents of colleges are just folks like me. I appreciate that much of the job of a president is to raise money for the college, and I appreciate even more that David took time to chat with an ordinary parent who does not have a ton of money to donate.”

ROBIN WOOLUMS P'10, P'13, P'17

“David is an exceptionally mature leader who exhibits a calm and confidence-inspiring demeanor. He is aware of his strengths and weaknesses. He is a wonderful and inspirational communicator. He approaches problems objectively, seeks input, makes decisions, and moves on. He accepts responsibility and holds himself to high standards. Over his tenure, he became very good at listening to others and accepting feedback. Above all, he always has the best interests of the college uppermost in mind.”

LARRY STRANGHOENER '76 | St. Olaf Board of Regents Chair 2016-18



Anderson serves a meal in Stav Hall with Carleton President Steve Poskanzer in 2010.



Anderson with Ole the Lion at the annual Major Declaration Celebration, a festive gathering for St. Olaf sophomores.



Anderson tries his hand at juggling with St. Olaf students in 2012.

Anderson is married to Priscilla Paton, a writer and scholar whose most recent work is a series of mystery novels set in the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul area. They had a little free library modeled after Steensland Hall installed outside the President’s House — a fitting move by two literary scholars.





INTRODUCING PRESIDENT

Susan Rundell Singer

By Kari VanDerVeen

Photographed by Steven Garcia '20 and Victoria Campbell

St. Olaf College's 12th president is Susan Rundell Singer, an experienced leader in higher education who has led national efforts to advance undergraduate teaching and learning.

"I've admired St. Olaf for many years. Grounded with a clear sense of mission and values, St. Olaf provides a holistic, residential liberal arts education that prepares students for successful lives, rich with meaning and purpose. I am thrilled to work with everyone who is part of the St. Olaf community to create together the next chapter of the college's history," says Rundell Singer, who is the first woman to serve as president of St. Olaf.

Rundell Singer comes to St. Olaf from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, where she was the vice president for academic affairs and provost as well as a professor in the Department of Biology. Before joining Rollins in 2016, Rundell Singer served as the director for the Division of Undergraduate Education at the National Science Foundation (NSF). She was recruited to that role after she led a study for the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) on effective undergraduate learning and teaching. While at the NSF from 2013 to 2016, she led efforts to advance undergraduate STEM education across 14 federal agencies, overseeing a \$350 million annual budget and investment portfolio of \$1.2 billion.

While these roles have taken Rundell Singer across the country for the last decade, her Minnesota – and Northfield – roots run deep. She served as the Laurence McKinley Gould Professor in the Biology and Cognitive Science Departments at Carleton College for 30 years, where she also directed the Perlman Center for Learning and Teaching. She's looking forward to bringing her passion and expertise back to the Northfield community.





“A holistic, residential liberal arts education is simply the very best preparation for life and a meaningful career. St. Olaf offers an abundance of learning opportunities in and out of the classroom, opportunities for every Ole to create their own pathway, guided by wise and caring advisors and mentors,” Rundell Singer

“I am so eager to be part of a campus that is centered in a community I have long called home.”

— Susan Rundell Singer

said in remarks to students, faculty, staff, and alumni who gathered for a special chapel service February 21 to welcome her. “Underlying all of these elements of the student experience is the foundation of Lutheran faith that is both rooted and open. I love that everyone is invited into conversation to explore faith, never

compelling belief. St. Olaf’s core values provide a true north, even when we encounter challenging situations. This is a community that genuinely wants every student, faculty member, and staff member to thrive, to belong. Not an easy aspiration, but essential. Telling St. Olaf’s story will be a joy.”

Rundell Singer’s scholarship focuses on partnerships and networks of organizations collaboratively advancing undergraduate STEM education, with an emphasis on diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. Equitable and excellent undergraduate education is a signature element of her successes at Carleton, NSF, national organizations, and Rollins.

“In Susan, we have found a president with a national reputation, local ties, impeccable credentials, and the experience to lead St. Olaf to new levels,” says Board of Regents Chair Jay Lund ’81. “Our search committee put their hearts into this process, and we couldn’t be more thrilled with the result.”

▲ As Susan Rundell Singer visited St. Olaf on February 21 for a series of welcome events, the Student Government Association hosted a reception in the Buntrock Commons Crossroads that featured music from the St. Olaf Jazz ensemble, celebratory snacks, and, of course, Ole the Lion. Student leaders presented Rundell Singer with gifts that included a #12 St. Olaf hockey jersey — which she promptly put on — and Oles of all ages gathered to say hello and take selfies with the college’s next leader.

Rundell Singer earned her bachelor’s degree, master’s degree, and Ph.D. in biology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York. She and her husband, Gary, have three grown children and a new puppy, Emmy.

“I look forward to co-creating St. Olaf’s future with faculty, staff, and students. I plan to listen and learn, and to get to know people across the campus,” Rundell Singer says. “Look for me on the Hill. Stop and introduce yourself. Share your dreams for this remarkable college with me and let me know when we can do better.” 🦁

Look for a further introduction to our new president in the fall issue of St. Olaf Magazine.



A POWERFUL VOICE *for* Refugees

Mary Maker '23 is the newest United Nations Goodwill Ambassador | [By Moyo Akinola '23](#)

OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, Mary Maker '23 has worked with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to raise awareness about the refugee crisis and ensure that refugees have access to education. This March, two days before International Women's Day, Maker was appointed an official United Nations Goodwill Ambassador. This new appointment gives Maker the opportunity to work with high-profile celebrities, government officials, and policymakers all over the world to continue her advocacy work on a larger, global scale.

"I get to work with people like Cate Blanchett, Kat Graham, and Angelina Jolie. Most of the people on the Goodwill Ambassador team are changemakers in the world — they are actors, they are Olympians, they are models — and I get to be in this team to raise awareness of the growing number of refugees in the world," Maker says. The UNHCR notes that there are more than 100 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, and 32.5 million of those people are refugees. It's a number that has grown over the past 10 years, making the work of Goodwill Ambassadors like Maker more critical than ever.

"I have lived the experience of being in a refugee camp, of staying there, stuck," says Maker. "As a child refugee who came into the camp at the age of 2 or 3 years old, I have

a different experience than most of the Goodwill Ambassadors, so I'm glad I get to have a voice at the table of policymakers."

While Maker is quick to note that her experience as a refugee provides just one perspective out of millions, the focal point of her advocacy is the importance of refugee education. Maker and the UNHCR have identified that the lack of access that refugees have to education and information is of particular global importance. The number of refugees worldwide who have access to higher education is 6 percent, and the UNHCR's goal is to increase that number to 15 percent by 2030.

As a South Sudanese refugee in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, Maker struggled to obtain the right documentation to legally attend school. She spent four years applying for and getting rejected from scholarship programs. "By the time I got my scholarship to come to St. Olaf,

◀ Mary Maker '23 with actresses Brooke Shields (left) and Cate Blanchett at the TIME Women of the Year Gala on March 8, 2023 in Los Angeles. PHOTO BY KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES FOR TIME

most of my friends had already graduated,” Maker says.

Maker has been a pioneer for refugee education long before her appointment as a Goodwill Ambassador. In 2018 she gave a TED Talk titled “Why I fight for the education of refugee girls (like me).” In April 2021, she founded Elimisha Kakuma, a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide refugee students with opportunities to go to college abroad. The organization’s work is off to a strong start: seven refugee students supported by Elimisha Kakuma are finishing their first year of college, and another nine students will begin this fall, eight with full financial aid from their college or university. Her long-term goal for Elimisha Kakuma is to encourage

a global ripple effect so there are more organizations that are able to prepare refugee students to attend colleges and universities.

Maker says a lack of access to information and education leaves many refugees feeling stuck. “Refugees flee with so many skills, and all of a sudden you get reduced from Mary to Mary the Refugee, and most people don’t know the power you bring into the refugee camp,” she says. “You have talent in the refugee camps — you have doctors, you have philosophers, you have people who were contributing to their countries who have fled and have now become refugees. You come to the camp for one year, that one year turns into 10, into 20, and you realize you’re stuck.”

Maker says her goal as a Goodwill Ambassador is to ensure that refugees don’t forget their dreams and talents.

“How am I able to use this platform — working with celebrities, working with presidents and prime ministers and companies like Google and all these big people I get to be in front of — to ensure that refugees in those camps feel like they have been seen and heard?” she says.

Maker’s powerful voice has an immense impact on the global stage, but she also uses her voice for advocacy closer to her home on the Hill. For her senior theater capstone project, she wrote and directed a play titled “The Choice” that highlights parts of the refugee experience. “Most of my characters are grappling with the idea of home — what is home? And the struggle with immigration, with documentation and having to retell your story over and over again,” Maker says.

Her play aims to engage the audience in thinking about what it is like to be a refugee. “If you were to lose your home today, what would you take with you? How would you like to be treated? It’s just bringing the audience along to actually get them to understand ‘Who is a refugee?’ — and honestly speaking, it’s you, it’s me,” Maker says.

The play’s name — “The Choice” — is ironic, Maker notes. “You don’t get to choose to become a refugee — it just happens. No one wakes up in the morning and says ‘I want to be a refugee,’” she says, noting that most people become refugees as a last resort, as an escape. “No one decides to go on a boat that might sink. You don’t walk across border lines seeking safety in a different country knowing very well that you are going to be rejected, knowing very well that you are going to lose your identity and become this new thing called ‘refugee.’”

Above all, Maker wants to tell stories, and she wants to create platforms to empower other refugees to share their stories as well. “Refugees bring so much to communities,” she says. “They are bringing culture, they are bringing food, they are bringing different lifestyles that people can benefit from, they are bringing community, and this is a big thing that I really want to champion.” 🦋

“How am I able to use this platform — working with celebrities, working with presidents and prime ministers and companies like Google and all these big people I get to be in front of — to ensure that refugees in those camps feel like they have been seen and heard?” — MARY MAKER '23



Maker in the February 2022 St. Olaf Theater production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*
PHOTO BY FERNANDO SEVILLA

Scan this QR code to read more about Maker’s work on and off campus at St. Olaf News.





As inflation soared in recent years, the United States Federal Reserve took steps to stabilize the world's largest economy. Meet some of the Oles at the heart of that work.

M O N E T A R Y P O L I C Y M I N D S

By Peter Warren

Over the past year, inflation in the United States soared to the highest levels since the 1980s — and consumers felt the pinch of steeper prices everywhere from the grocery store to the gas pump.

This 40-year inflation high has started to ease in recent months. That is due in large part to the fact that central banks around the world — including the Federal Reserve in the U.S. — have taken aggressive measures to tighten monetary policy.

It's not easy work. To bring down inflation, the Federal Reserve has been raising interest rates, which makes borrowing more expensive and leads families and companies to spend less money. This, in turn, causes prices to stop rising so rapidly. But as *The New York Times* noted last summer, "It is very hard for the Fed officials to get the balance right." They are trying to cause a large enough decline in spending to reduce

inflation but not such a large decline that the economy falls into a recession, says St. Olaf Assistant Professor of Economics Marcus Bansah. And the measures the Fed has taken to curb inflation can also have unintended consequences, as evidenced by the threat of turmoil in the national and global banking systems.

This balancing act requires leaders at the Federal Reserve to not only analyze complex data, but also anticipate the impact of global events and the actions of political leaders and private companies. They need the ability to think critically, evaluate an issue from a wide range of perspectives, and communicate effectively with a large swath of the general public that doesn't understand the complicated nuances of macroeconomics. In many ways, it's the perfect line of work for graduates of the liberal arts.

A number of St. Olaf alumni have roles in the Federal Reserve System. While their work and roles vary, their goal is all the same: to support a stable financial system for the world's largest economy.

Elizabeth Holmquist '05 was in the inaugural class of St. Olaf College's Center for Interdisciplinary Research (CIR), which brings statistics students and Oles from a range of majors together to work on research projects. For her project, Holmquist examined similarities between counties that experienced employment shocks and rebounds. She believes that opportunity was instrumental in her career path.

"I went to the Federal Reserve after St. Olaf, and I think that research experience was a big factor in how I got my position there," Holmquist says. "The fact that as an undergraduate I had some experience doing this type of research showed that I was personally motivated and had some initiative."

Her first job with the Federal Reserve was as a research assistant, mostly studying housing and real estate. She originally planned to pursue a Ph.D. in economics. But Holmquist soon changed her mind. "I found that I just really loved the fast-paced policy and data work," she says.

She has stayed at the Federal Reserve for almost her entire career, working her way up from research assistant to financial analyst to senior financial analyst to lead financial analyst. She also spent a year as an economist at the International Monetary Fund before returning to the Fed.

In her current role, one of Holmquist's main projects is working on a quarterly

statistical release called the Financial Accounts of the United States. The report includes information on asset acquisitions across sectors of the economy, how those assets are funded, and more.

The data from these reports are used by others both in and outside the Federal Reserve to make forecasts, analyze the economy, do research, and complete additional work. A highlight of working on these reports has been creating a breakdown of the household balance sheet by wealth distribution. She's now working on using financial accounts

Elizabeth Holmquist '05
Lead Financial Analyst, Federal Reserve
Board of Governors · Washington, D.C.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY CHRISTOPH HODEL '20



data to look at which sectors are lending or borrowing with other sectors by financial instrument.

"I don't know anybody who could walk in the door knowing how to do this job," Holmquist says. "There's no school that would teach you all the skills and facts that you would need to be productive. You have to be skilled at learning, synthesizing complex information, and communicating, and you have to be comfortable with that. That's what I feel like a liberal arts education prepares you to do."

Sarah Rodman '21 had never taken an economics class before her first year at St. Olaf. But after taking a course with Professor Emerita of Economics and Environmental Studies Rebecca Judge, she realized she loved thinking about economics as a lens to understand the world. It combined her math skill set with her interest in social issues and desire to answer important questions for society.

Just a few years later, Rodman is in Washington, D.C., working as a research assistant for the Federal Reserve. She's part of a team that works to research and forecast government spending and government employment. It's a small part of all the forecasting done by the Fed, Rodman says, but she finds it fascinating to see how each group's work combines to produce the materials sent to the Federal Open Market Committee. The committee, led by Fed Chair Jerome Powell, meets eight times a year to determine U.S. monetary policy and assess the risks to its long-run goals of price stability and low unemployment.

Rodman started with the Federal Reserve last August just as the national debate about inflation started to become an everyday topic. She said joining this organization at this time has quickly made her realize how impactful the work is to people around the country.

"It makes the work feel a lot more important, especially because it's being talked about all over the news and among lots of different people in my life," Rodman says.

She believes her St. Olaf education has helped prepare her for success in the field and has given her advantages from the beginning.

"I had opportunities to do research and to gain very deep technical skills, especially coding," Rodman says. "But then I also got more of the soft skills – communicating, critical thinking, synthesizing information from various perspectives, and adaptable learning. That's one of the strengths that I see from my St. Olaf education in my work at the Fed – that balance of both of those types of skills. It sets me apart from others and has allowed me to quickly contribute valuable work to my team."

Sarah Rodman '21

Research Assistant, Federal Reserve
Board of Governors · Washington, D.C.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY CHRISTOPH HODEL '20



By the time Scott Thomas-Forss '85 retired from the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis in April, he was leading the operations of a division that includes more than 100 research and policy economists, research analysts and assistants, local and national research consultants, visiting scholars from around the world, and a team of highly trained operations support staff.

It was just one of the many leadership roles he held since joining the Fed in 1988. Over the course of his 35-year career with the central bank, he led teams in human resources, treasury retail operations, enterprise risk management, and business continuity, and he chaired the bank's LGBTQ employee resource network. He also oversaw the training and communications for a large-scale project that standardized and modernized the national Federal Reserve System's check-processing equipment and software onto a common operating platform.

A social work major at St. Olaf, Thomas-Forss didn't set out to develop a lifelong career at the Federal Reserve when he took a job there a few years after college. But an appetite for lifelong learning — and a willingness to seek out and take

on new challenges — led to an impressive tenure at the Fed.

“We have a very collaborative culture throughout all of the Federal Reserve districts across the country. We try to work together as a Federal Reserve System not just on monetary policy, but on all kinds of projects,” Thomas-Forss says. “A liberal arts degree from St. Olaf prepared me for working in that kind of environment because you learned to work on complex projects in groups, you learned to work with people who are very different from you, and that transfers well to a career at an organization like the Fed.”

He also notes that, like many Fed employees, he found satisfaction in knowing that his work was supporting the U.S. economy and the public's best interest. “Each Federal Reserve district is independently operated and has their own board of directors, but we're all working toward the same centralized mission. It's a very service- and mission-driven organization, and many of our employees stay because they believe in the mission,” he says. “They're supporting a stable economy in customer service roles, technology roles, finance, HR, bank examiners — all of those positions play a role in maintaining the stability of the economy within the United States.”

Scott Thomas-Forss '85

Vice President of Research Support and Information Services, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

PHOTOGRAPHED BY STEVEN GARCIA '20



A New Major in Quantitative Economics + Research Fellows Program

While St. Olaf has long prepared Oles for successful careers in economic research, finance, banking, and regulatory affairs, the college now offers a new quantitative economics major with a sharpened focus on those fields. Launched in 2020, the new major requires a higher level of foundational mathematics as well as several courses that include quantitative research in economics.

The major has grown rapidly, thanks in part to a core group of young faculty members hired in the past few years: St. Olaf Assistant Professor of Economics Allison Luedtke, Assistant Professor of Economics Marcus Bansah, and Tomson Family Assistant Professor of Law and Economics Colin Harris. This fall they will be joined by Naafey Sardar, who has experience working with the Central Bank of Pakistan and will be teaching the popular *Money and Banking* course that examines monetary theory and policy and the role that Federal Reserve plays in the U.S. economy.

To help students connect what they're learning in these courses with real-world applications, in 2021 Bansah and Harris also created the Economics Research Fellows Program. The program provides Oles with opportunities to conduct research alongside faculty members in the Economics Department throughout the academic year. There are 15 fellows this year, and interest has remained high.

"A lot of the projects deal with data-driven issues, which is exactly the type of work our graduates will do if they take internships or jobs with consulting firms, like Analysis Group, or the Federal Reserve," Harris says.

The Economics Research Fellows Program augments a number of other research opportunities available to St. Olaf students, from the Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (CURI) program that provides in-depth faculty-mentored research experiences in the summer to the St. Olaf Center for Interdisciplinary Research (CIR), which enables cohorts of students to collaborate with experts in problem-based investigations on statistics-related issues.





“When you have this quality of students who are willing to learn and you are able to work with them, they are getting training that is going to take them far.”

— Marcus Bansah

Assistant Professor of Economics Marcus Bansah teaches *Contemporary Issues in Macroeconomics*, *Macroeconomic Theory*, and *International Economics*, and he’s spoken to several media outlets in the last year for stories with headlines like “When should we worry about inflation?”

Currently in his third year at St. Olaf, Bansah enjoys teaching students how to connect the theories they’re learning in the classroom to the impact it has on the lives of the people around them. “There’s some inner joy that comes with the job as you sit down and talk about the issues of the day,” he says. “My role is to see our students grow in whatever they do and love it.”

In courses like *Macroeconomic Theory* and *Contemporary*

Issues in Macroeconomics, students are introduced to monetary policy and its role in stabilizing the economy. They then combine the theory of what they are learning about inflation, economic growth, unemployment, recessions, and income inequality with current real-world examples. Students come to class ready to debate and analyze the topics through different lenses to achieve further understanding, and they learn how to write policy papers. Bansah says the level of economic analysis his students are doing is impressive, and their classroom discussions will help them when they land jobs in the real world or attend graduate school.

“When you have this quality of students who are willing to learn and you are able to work with them, at the end of the day, they are getting training that is going to take them far,” Bansah says.

In her *Macroeconomic Theory* and *Money and Banking* courses, Assistant Professor of Economics Allison Luedtke teaches students to code using programming languages like Python.

“I think it’s really important for economics students to gain experience using computers to solve economic problems, because many if not most economics jobs require this,” she says.

Luedtke has published papers on financial networks as well as the pedagogy of incorporating programming into economics courses. At St. Olaf, she puts her expertise in both areas into practice. This summer Luedtke will lead a Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (CURI) project that will give St. Olaf students hands-on experience using Python to analyze models of interbank lending and identify characteristics of lending relationships that make the financial sector more or less vulnerable.

“Financial networks have become even more relevant in recent months with the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank. People are concerned that their collapse will lead to cascading bank failures,” she says. “And if that doesn’t happen, what is different this time? Why were there cascading bank failures in 2008 when Lehman Brothers failed but not in 2022 when cryptocurrency exchanges collapsed? Which relationships protect or disrupt the financial stability of these networks?”

This summer, St. Olaf economics students will program the models and run simulations to look for those answers. 🐍



For more information on economics at St. Olaf, including news and additional features about faculty and alumni, scan the code above or visit stolaf.edu/economics



Allison Luedtke, Assistant Professor of Economics
PHOTOGRAPHED BY EVAN PAK '19



WILD
ALASKA



Stunning images of iconic Alaskan landscapes and wildlife, captured by nature photographer Sergius Hannan '20, have attracted widespread attention and a devoted following.

STORY BY EVAN PAK '19

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SERGIUS HANNAN '20 AND EVAN PAK '19

Evan Pak '19 recently ventured north to Alaska to photograph wildlife alongside his longtime friend and fellow photographer Sergius Hannan '20. He shares what he learned about their work and its role in helping people connect with and preserve the natural world.

I WAS IN THE MIDDLE of a serene morning of wildlife photography with my friend Sergius Hannan. We had risen with the sun, then hopped on the first bus into the restricted section of Denali National Park. As we rumbled down the gravel road, we discussed our plans to photograph the Dall sheep that we had spotted the previous evening. Before long, we disembarked and began following game trails up the side of a mountain. After an exhausting trek, we reached the herd of sheep. Creeping to a good vantage point, we settled to the ground, cameras clicking away. An hour later, just as the sheep seemed to have grown accustomed to our presence, they jumped to their feet, staring at the ridgeline above us. Then, from over my shoulder, I heard Sergius whisper “It’s a LYNX!”

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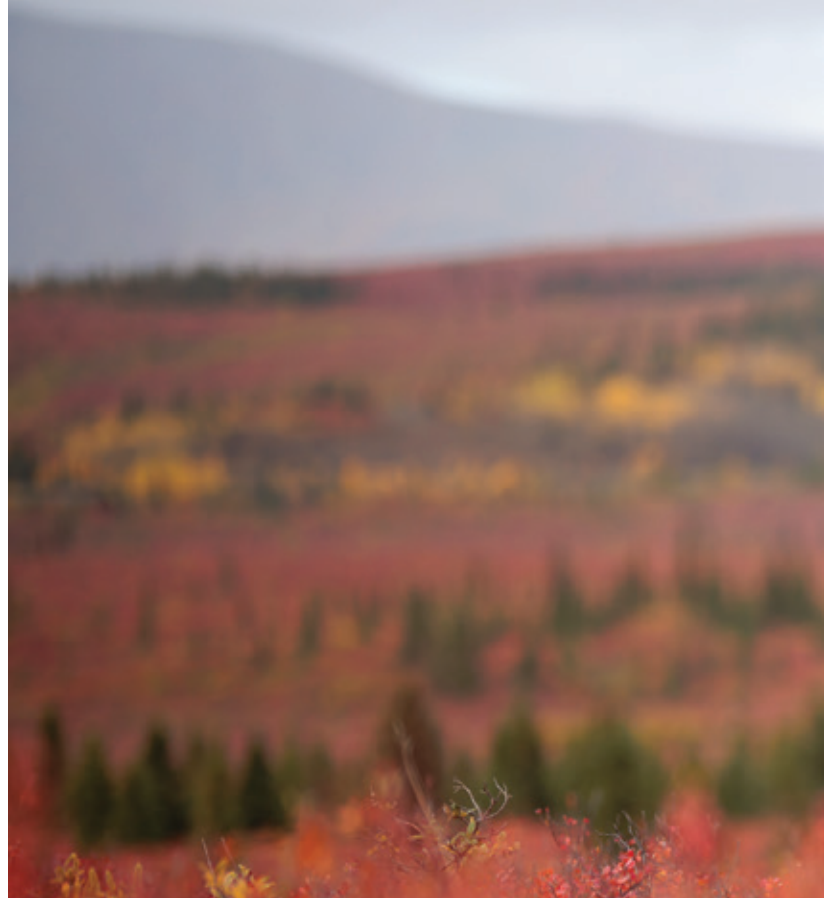
SERGIUS AND I MET FOR THE FIRST TIME in the fall of 2017, when we sat next to each other in an environmental studies class at St. Olaf College. Our friendship came naturally, given that we shared a budding interest in wildlife photography. Both of us found our interests in photography as children. Sergius was inspired by the fauna found right in his backyard in Homer, Alaska — especially kingfishers. Those easily spooked birds had provided him with the perfect introduction to the patience and persistence required for wildlife photography.

Beyond our time together in class, we also explored the campus and the surrounding area on photo shoots together. The St. Olaf Natural Lands were a valuable asset in our photographic journeys. When a five-minute walk takes you from your dorm to a mature maple forest or sprawling prairie, it’s easy to forge a connection with the natural world. Many of our environmental studies classes emphasized the importance of developing a connection with local ecosystems. St. Olaf made it easy to develop that connection outside of the classroom.

The following semester took Sergius away from the Hill — and nearly around the globe — to New Zealand and Australia as part of a study-abroad program. His experience there focused on environmental studies and biology, both in and out of the

Preceding page: A bull moose rests in the Chugach Mountains after a long morning of fighting with other bulls during the fall rut. These bulls hardly eat during this time period as they fight to establish dominance and attract a harem of cows.

PHOTO BY SERGIUS HANNAN



“A large barren-ground bull caribou approaches me through the dwarf birch during peak fall colors in Denali National Park,” says Hannan. “This bull followed behind a smaller bull who had seemed to approve of our presence before walking within 30 yards of us.”



Sergius Hannan photographs
caribou in Denali National Park.
PHOTO BY EVAN PAK



An aerial perspective of
Taylor Bay's river delta
at the southern tip of the
Kenai Peninsula. PHOTO
BY SERGIUS HANNAN

“THERE’S ALWAYS PRESSURE TO FIND NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, BUT THE PEOPLE OF ALASKA NEED TO MAKE THE CLEAR DECISION TO VALUE WILDLIFE AND PRISTINE ENVIRONMENT.” – SERGIUS HANNAN ’20

classroom. By developing his knowledge of the natural world, from individual animals to entire ecosystems, Sergius found himself better able to predict when and where the best photos would be. He took full advantage of his time outdoors, photographing animals from koalas to seals and landscapes from the raging Huka Falls to the serene Moeraki Boulders.

While he saw wildlife photography as a hobby prior to his travels, his time abroad truly kick-started his love for the craft. Spending a week in New Zealand’s Fiordland National Park, he decided to embark on a multi-day hiking trip.

“Eventually I broke the treeline, which was the highlight of the trip. I was completely by myself at the top of the mountains, where there were incredibly beautiful keas hanging out with me,” he says. Taking advantage of their curiosity and intelligence, he approached and photographed the keas, a species of parrot found in the forests and alpine regions of Southern New Zealand, even occasionally switching to wide angle lenses. This interest in wide angle wildlife photography has grown in the years since, forming one of his trademark styles.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic during the spring of his senior year abruptly sent Sergius home. The opportunities waiting there served as a silver lining to the pandemic. Homer, nicknamed “the end of the road,” is a town with just 5,500 residents located 200 miles south of Anchorage on the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Surrounded by wilderness and ocean, it’s also known as the Halibut Fishing Capital of the world. While his family had lived in Homer for years, Sergius had spent significant time away in both high school and college, leaving him with a feeling of missing out. He now had an opportunity to reconnect.

“I wanted to fully experience an Alaskan year and be in tune with the seasons,” he says. At the time, it was simply a desire to immerse himself in the land he loved. “I went out because I had time and a longing. It was my peace during the quarantine and pandemic.”

He began capturing stunning images and videos of some of Alaska’s most iconic wildlife — bald eagles, Kodiak bears, caribou, moose, and many more species — and sharing them on Instagram. That passion for both experiencing and sharing the outdoors quickly developed into a full-time career that has attracted widespread attention.

The Instagram account that Sergius created now has more than 130,000 followers, and a video he created showing how he captured a photo of a Great Gray Owl has more than 750,000 reactions on the social media platform. He sells a steady stream of prints and calendars featuring his photographs. He won *Alaska* magazine’s 2021 photo contest Grand Prize and took first place in the Alaska Life category. And he offers photography workshops in a way that only an Alaskan photographer can, by taking students to places like Chugach State Park and the Kenai Peninsula to get hands-on lessons in capturing images of bull moose, bald eagles, and other wildlife. At the heart of his work is a simple goal: to inspire people to connect with their environment, and ultimately understand why it’s so important to preserve and protect our natural world.

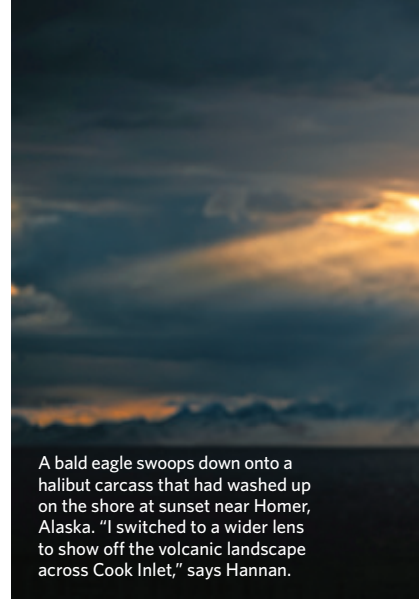
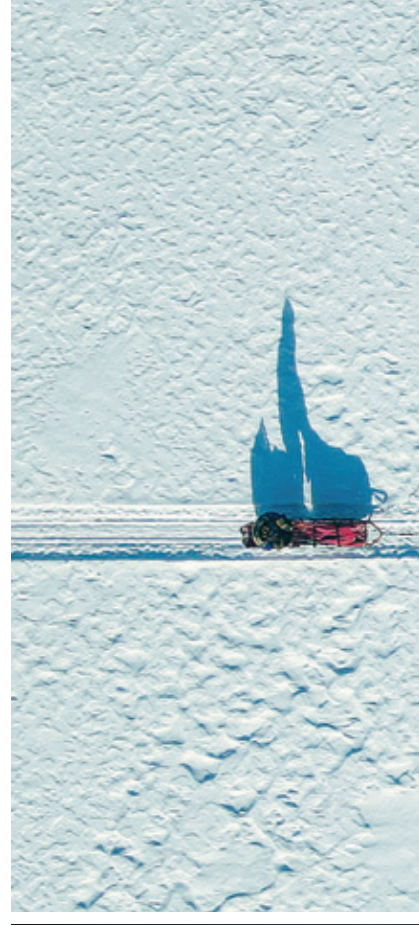
Throughout this time, I watched Sergius’s progress with serious admiration. Seeing his work and talking about photography inspired me to take more photos of my own. Daydreaming of a trip to Alaska turned into active planning when I was invited to join Sergius for a road trip to Denali National Park in the fall of 2022. I booked my airline ticket, then settled in for one of the most difficult waits of my life.

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MY TRIP TO ALASKA was planned so far in advance that Sergius and I managed to fit in a Minnesota photography excursion in the meantime. In April 2022, we headed north to explore the Sax-Zim Bog — a location that is home to 240 species of birds, and is nationally known as a great place to see the Great Gray Owl, Boreal Owl, and Northern Hawk Owl in the fall and winter months. Fellow bird nerds and environmental enthusiasts may be



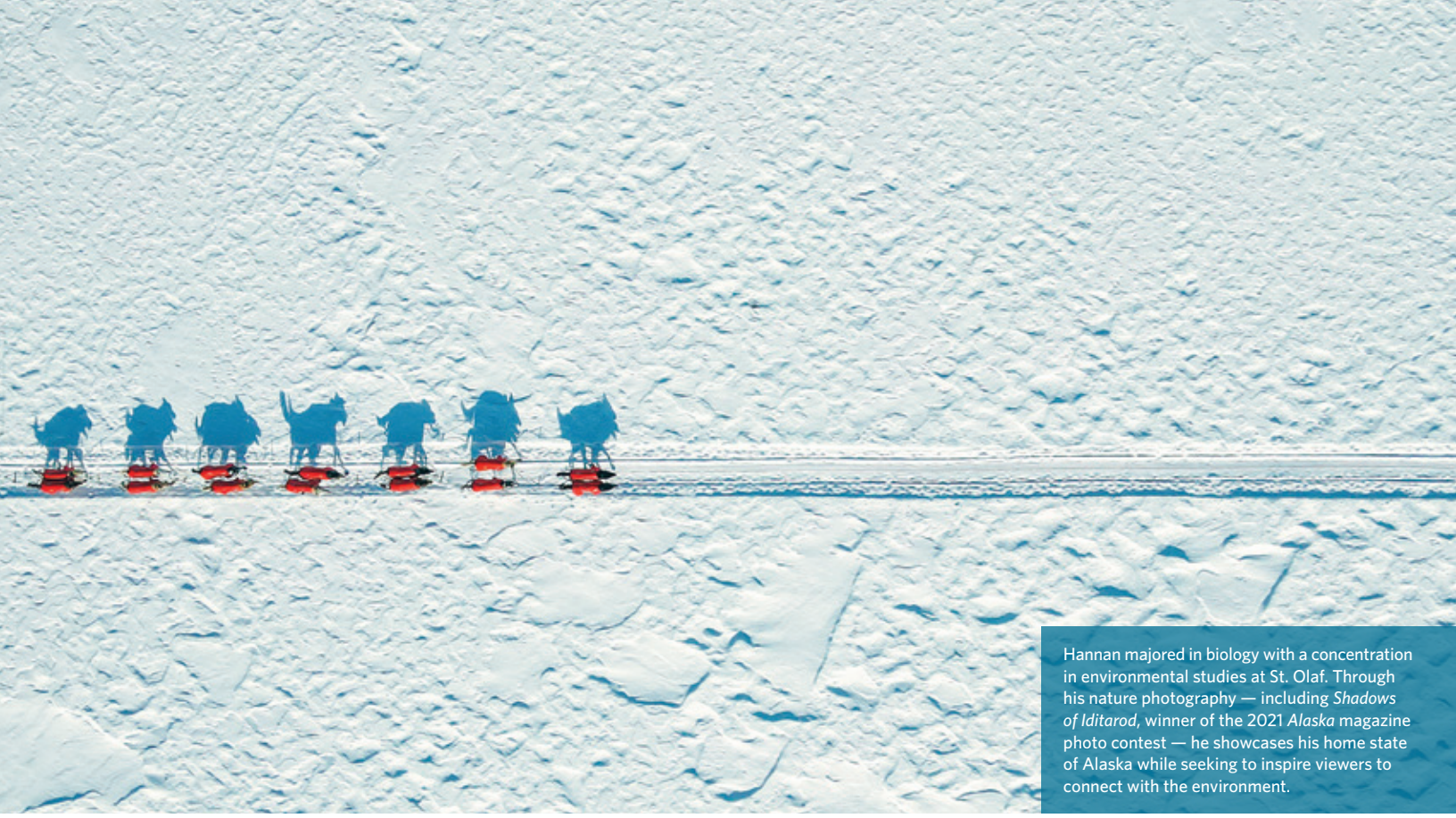
Scan this QR code to see more of the stunning photos that Sergius Hannan '20 captures — along with behind-the-scenes videos — on his Instagram page. You can also view his work at sergiushannan.com



A bald eagle swoops down onto a halibut carcass that had washed up on the shore at sunset near Homer, Alaska. “I switched to a wider lens to show off the volcanic landscape across Cook Inlet,” says Hannan.



The Cook Inlet night sky. “I stitched six photos together in order to show off the Milky Way rising to the south as well as the opposing Northern Lights,” says Hannan.



Hannan majored in biology with a concentration in environmental studies at St. Olaf. Through his nature photography — including *Shadows of Iditarod*, winner of the 2021 *Alaska* magazine photo contest — he showcases his home state of Alaska while seeking to inspire viewers to connect with the environment.



A Kodiak brown bear patrols the river in the early morning in search of spawning pink salmon.
PHOTO BY SERGIUS HANNAN



A tufted puffin flies back toward its nest after a successful dive in Kachemak Bay.
PHOTO BY SERGIUS HANNAN



Sockeye salmon run thick in the Russian River in Chugach National Forest. "I used an underwater housing for my camera and a dome port to show off the action underneath the water as well as some of the greenery above," says Hannan.

familiar with the Sax-Zim Bog, but most people questioned our decision with a "You're going *where?*" You could hardly blame them. After all, a remote bog in rural northeast Minnesota hardly screams "ideal trip destination." But once we shared our photos of mist-shrouded landscapes, soaring raptors, and hunting owls, I found that interest grew substantially.

Sergius and I both find that one of the most important aspects of nature photography is the ability to raise interest in, and instill an appreciation for, conservation and environmental issues. Although Minnesota and Alaska differ in many ways, each state holds substantial mineral wealth, contributing to conflicts between wildlife and natural land conservation, fragile ecosystems, and economic goals. Alaska's proposed Pebble Mine has drawn opposition similar to Minnesota's proposed Twin Metals mine. In both cases, the ore deposits sit near areas of considerable ecological importance: Bristol Bay in Alaska, and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota. The Bristol Bay watershed in southwestern Alaska, which sits on top of a massive gold and copper deposit, supports the largest sockeye salmon fishery in the world and is a sanctuary for grizzly bears. The remote Boundary Waters in northeast Minnesota is one of America's most beautiful and pristine wilderness areas, accessible only by canoe. "There's always pressure to find new economic opportunities, but the people of Alaska need to make the clear decision to value wildlife and pristine environment," Sergius says.

With my departure for Alaska finally upon me, I lugged two cameras, five lenses, and piles of assorted accessories onto a plane from Minneapolis to Anchorage. Once there, I boarded a much smaller plane to make the hop to Homer. Short flights like that are a way of life in Alaska, thanks to the limited road network and rough terrain. We flew through clouds for most of the 45-minute trip, but as we made our final approach, I started to recognize landscapes from Sergius's photos. Seeing them in person helped me realize just how effectively he showcases Alaska.

The next day, we dove straight into photography. Greeted by the first of what would become many rainy days, we headed down to Homer's harbor. Immediately, we saw a variety of wildlife. Sea otters and harbor seals rode the waves,



Hannan prepares to photograph sockeye salmon. "This was our second day at the Russian River. It had been raining on and off and we hadn't sighted any bears — our main purpose for the stop — so we decided to take some underwater shots," says Pak.

while various birds circled overhead. We spent that first day searching beaches up and down the Kenai Peninsula. Sergius said that we had fewer wildlife sightings than usual, but I was still blown away by the variety of animals we encountered. Knowing that we could do even better, he reached out to a boat tour operator that he had previously worked with and arranged for us to ride along on an outing the following day.

As promised, the sightings from that boat put the previous day to shame. Although we were only on the water for a few hours, we filled our memory cards with thousands of photos of everything from puffins and cormorants to seals and porpoises. When not busy with my camera, I marveled at the incredible landscapes surrounding Kachemak Bay.

Following our boat tour, we set off on our road trip to Denali National Park. Our first stop on the trip lay along the Russian River, midway up the Kenai Peninsula. Sockeye salmon filled the river, moving toward their spawning grounds. At times, it felt like the river was more fish than water. Firsthand experiences are hard to top, but after seeing Sergius's photos from those days at the river, I feel that they convey an understanding of the role these salmon play in the greater ecosystem.

The next leg of our trip took us along winding highways leading toward Anchorage. At one point, we looked out over the ocean to our left, spotting the ghostly white figures of beluga whales occasionally appearing in the waves. As a Minnesotan, I'm used to spotting plenty of wildlife while driving, but whale watching from the highway was certainly a new experience.



A belted kingfisher waits patiently for a fish to reveal itself at high tide on Kodiak Island. PHOTO BY SERGIUS HANNAN



Hannan photographs a grizzly bear from the transit bus in Denali National Park, right on the bridge over the Teklanika River. PHOTO BY EVAN PAK

Watching the mist-shrouded mountains roll by, we saw fall colors start to spill across the landscape, and the plants shifted from deep greens to rolling swaths of jewel-like red, orange, and yellow. As we rolled into the park, we were itching to photograph animals among those colors. However, we only found a few extremely distant moose before the fading light and our rumbling stomachs sent us back to camp for the night.

The next day allowed us to truly dive into the park. Taking a bus as far as we could, we spotted a bear walking the braided Teklanika River before hitting the jackpot with a herd of caribou picking their way through a plain filled with red foliage. Running through a shallow gully to get into position paid off as the herd passed by, practically posing for our cameras. Once back on the bus and still riding the high of that experience, Sergius and I chuckled about how hard it would be for the following days to top that experience. Little did we know just how Denali would prove us wrong.

• • •

THE FOLLOWING DAY brought us that incredible experience with the lynx. After Sergius's whisper, I hefted my camera, training it upon the tan figure picking its way down the mountainside. Once I had it in my viewfinder, my finger barely left the shutter button. The herd of Dall sheep regrouped on a

hillside opposite our position, providing the perfect framing as the lynx paused to analyze its chances at successfully taking one down. After a while, it decided to not take the risk. Steadily slinking down the mountain, it eventually disappeared from our sight. Only then did we lower our cameras. We couldn't believe what had just happened. Although the following hours brought some phenomenal photos of the Dall sheep, we both only had the big cat on our minds. After picking our way down the mountain, we couldn't contain our enthusiasm, eagerly showing our camera screens to anyone who wanted to look.

The encounter overshadowed more than just that afternoon. Even watching a massive bull moose dwarf the cars that passed by couldn't compete. As my trip was wrapping up and Sergius and I said goodbye, I could only think about seeing those lynx photos on a big screen for the first time. I was far from alone in this sentiment — Sergius says that experience has been the highlight of his entire wildlife photography career to date. Hearing that, I felt incredibly lucky — not only to have also seen the lynx for myself, but to have shared the experience with such a close and talented friend. 🐾

Learn more about Sergius Hannan's work in a video by Evan Pak and Fernando Sevilla. Scan this QR code or visit stolaf.edu/news/wild-alaska



A large male Canada lynx stalks a herd of Dall rams high up in the mountains of Denali National Park before moving along in search of more fitting prey. "The lynx didn't stand a chance against these healthy rams, but that didn't stop him from looking for any weaknesses in the group," says Hannan, who captured this stunning photo.

Henry Dorn will start as conductor of the St. Olaf Band at the beginning of the 2023–24 academic year.
PHOTO: MATTHEW MITCHELL

Henry Dorn named next conductor of the St. Olaf Band

By Connor Boritzke Smith

CONDUCTOR AND COMPOSER HENRY DORN has been named the new conductor of the St. Olaf Band, and he will take the reins of the award-winning ensemble at the beginning of the 2023–24 academic year. Dorn will succeed Timothy Mahr '78, who is retiring after leading the ensemble for 29 years. Along with conducting the St. Olaf Band, Dorn will join the St. Olaf Music Department faculty and teach classes in composition and conducting.

“As both a conductor and composer, I couldn’t have asked for a better combination of roles and opportunities than at St. Olaf College,” Dorn says. “This place has such a storied history with music and the band program especially. I feel like this position has been handed to me on a silver platter, and want to continue to uphold the musical excellence that Timothy Mahr and the band have built.”

Dorn began his musical journey growing up in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he discovered music at an early age. He went on to earn a bachelor of music in composition at the University of Memphis and a master of music in composition and wind conducting from the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University before continuing his doctoral studies at Michigan State University (MSU). Dorn comes to St. Olaf most recently from MSU, where he earned a doctor of musical arts (DMA) degree in conducting, and is finishing his DMA in composition this spring.

An experienced conductor and sought-after composer, Dorn has served as an assistant director to the Memphis Area Youth Wind Ensemble and as director to the Nu Chamber Collective. He has also worked with musicians from the United States Army Field Band and the United States Air Force Band, and has guest conducted the United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own.” He has received

multiple awards for his unique style, including the Future of Music Faculty Fellowship from the Cleveland Institute of Music, and the 2010 American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) Foundation’s Morton Gould Young Composer Award.

“I’m often asked if I’m a conductor who composes, or a composer who conducts. I try to be both,” says Dorn. “That’s why I feel coming to St. Olaf is such a perfect fit.”

Dorn’s compositions have been performed by a wide range of noteworthy ensembles, including the Minnesota Orchestra, the Grammy Award-winning Harlem Quartet, Aizuri Quartet, the Elysian Trombone Quartet, Argento Ensemble, the Sanctuary Jazz Orchestra, and the Dallas Wind Symphony. Upcoming concerts showcasing Dorn’s work include performances of his piece *Transitions* by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in early January 2024, and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in February–March 2024.

Last fall Dorn had the opportunity to guest conduct the St. Olaf Band and lead classrooms in instruction, engaging with many of the students he’ll work with next academic year. “I love that St. Olaf students have the opportunity to experience music at an incredibly high level regardless of their major or background,” says Dorn. “Conducting the St. Olaf Band was one of the most energizing rehearsals I’ve ever been a part of. I was pushing them, and they were pushing me. There’s no greater joy than the interaction I get with students and finding those special ‘aha’ moments with them in the classroom or during rehearsal.”

Dorn will move from Michigan to Minnesota this summer with his wife, Alicia, and daughter, Harper. He looks forward to bicycling throughout the state, experiencing the foodie culture of the Twin Cities, and getting to know the greater St. Olaf community in Northfield and beyond. 🐾

Patricia Kinsumby '23 (center) and dozens of other Oles teamed up for a collaborative hackathon at St. Olaf in early March.



ALL OLES CAN HACK IT

A ST. OLAF TEAM CREATED OLEHACKS TO NOT ONLY PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH THE HANDS-ON CODING EXPERIENCE THAT COMES WITH AN AROUND-THE-CLOCK HACKATHON, BUT TO ALSO INCREASE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN COMPUTER SCIENCE.

By Anna Brown '23 | PHOTOGRAPHED BY EVAN PAK '19

It's a Saturday afternoon, and several classrooms in Regents Hall of Natural and Mathematical Sciences are filled with the hum of activity and anticipation.

As the sounds of clicking keyboards and dry erase markers squeaking across whiteboards echo throughout the room, formulas and calculations slowly overtake every inch of available writing space on the walls. In the middle of it all, students huddle together deep in conversation, surrounded by computer monitors displaying their coding work.

As the hours creep by, the students rapidly work together on coding projects that can address real-world needs. One team creates an app that uses U.S. Department of Transportation information to answer questions about air travel. Another develops a digital world simulator to increase knowledge about ecosystem sustainability. Yet another creates an app that centralizes St. Olaf campus safety resources.

All of this work is part of the inaugural OleHacks — an around-the-clock, 36-hour hackathon organized and led by women in computer science at St. Olaf. Dozens of students from St. Olaf, Carleton College, Macalester College, and the University of Minnesota spent the weekend in Regents Hall participating in OleHacks. At the conclusion of the hackathon they pitched their projects to their peers and a team of industry experts, who awarded a total of \$2,000 in prize money to a winner, runner-up, and two honorable mentions.

BRINGING OLEHACKS TO OLES

OleHacks began as the brainchild of Jiwon Moon '24. She had planned to use a gap year after high school to see the world. Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit and cut her travels short. As she settled back in at home in Seongnam-si, South Korea, she discovered an online Java course and decided to self-learn coding. Soon she was writing code, creating interactive web content and applications, and participating in virtual hackathons. She was hooked.

By the time Moon arrived at St. Olaf as a first-year student, she knew she wanted to major in computer science. She also knew that she wanted her fellow Oles to experience the excitement of the hackathons she had grown to love.

“I had a lot of fun because I got to meet new people and it was fun to stay up all night and build something cool,” Moon says. “I wanted to bring this to Northfield because we don't have many hackathons in the state of Minnesota.”

Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science Sravya Kondrakunta provided the perfect support network for Moon. A frequent participant in hackathons herself, Kondrakunta understood

that this could be a powerful way for St. Olaf students to sharpen their coding skills in a fun, hands-on learning environment. Together with Moon and Patricia Kinsumbya '23, they created OleHacks. They quickly received strong support for their idea from the St. Olaf Piper Center for Vocation and Career, the Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science (MSCS), and the Linux Ladies — a student organization focused on supporting women and under-represented groups in computer science and STEM.

Besides strengthening students' technical skills, one of the major goals of OleHacks was to provide a space for women, BIPOC, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other traditionally marginalized communities to be represented within and have access to the computer science field. Computer Science is a heavily male-dominated field. In the United States, women earn 18 percent of computer science bachelor's degrees. At St. Olaf, 30 of the 103 St. Olaf students who are majoring in computer science are women.

“There's a small number of students who major in computer science, but there are even fewer women. By opening this hackathon, we're hoping to target more marginalized communities at St. Olaf so they can see themselves represented in computer science,” says Kinsumbya, who, along with Moon, serves on the executive board of the Linux Ladies.

Kondrakunta agrees, noting that she often felt lonely in graduate school because there were not many women in the program. “One thing that I'm very passionate about is trying to increase the women population in computer science. Computer science is bad at gender diversity right now, so for that reason, this hackathon was organized and led by all-female students,” she says. “When the participants come in, they get to see female students in managerial positions, which might encourage others to push through and see that there is a place for them in the program and they can thrive in the field.”

Computer science major Jiwon Moon '24 started OleHacks after getting hooked on coding and participating in virtual hackathons.



THE POWER OF HANDS-ON HACKATHONS

Once they came up with the idea for the hackathon, Moon and Kinsumbya connected with Piper Center Associate Director Meghan McMillan about supporting their work. From these conversations, OleHacks became part of the Piper Center's Ole Career Launcher, a program that helps students pair skills that they learn inside and outside the classroom with applied skills that they can immediately use in situations they'll encounter when they enter the workforce. OleHacks complemented the AlgoExpert coding certification, which is a technical prep program for computer science offered this year through the Ole Career Launcher.

"Increased diversity benefits both the field and society in general, as it brings fresh insights and viewpoints."

— Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science Sravya Kondrakunta

OleHacks served as an opportunity for participants and other individuals interested in technology to utilize the skills they learned in AlgoExpert to create their own projects. In addition to co-hosting the event, the Piper Center helped make connections with employers and sponsors who supported OleHacks, including Dev10, Netspi, and Securian. The hackathon also included talks from University of California-Santa Cruz Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering Leilani Gilpin and industry expert Dustin Dannenhauer, in addition to a panel session with St. Olaf alumnae in tech.

FROM IDEA TO APP

Rain Hartos '25 enjoyed applying her coding skills in a new setting as her team — which also included Zachary Novak '25 and Piers Hanson '24 — worked to create a digital world generator to increase knowledge about ecosystem sustainability. "I have the ability to apply my skills somewhere I usually wouldn't be able to, so having that type of opportunity is really great, and I'm happy to be able to code with people I enjoy working with," she says.

The OleHacks team of Kaz Matsuo '24, Jonathan Young '25, Ashton Altmann '23, and Pavel Karasek '26 created a multi-lingual, instant translating chat room in ChatGPT using the natural language processing technique of artificial intelligence — an idea that earned their team an honorable mention. Young joined the hackathon because he wanted to utilize his skills to bring to life a new, innovative idea. "You have a time limit to put all your effort in and figure something out within that time and present it at the end, so having a strict deadline is intimidating but it encourages you to work hard and hopefully at the end have something really good," he says.



OleHacks organizers include (from left) Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science Sravya Kondrakunta, Piper Center Associate Director Meghan McMillan, Jiwon Moon '24, and Patricia Kinsumbya '23.

The team of Dhesel Khando '24, Swagat Malla '24, Peter Fortier '24, and Evan Wiebe '24 won this year's OleHacks for their Ole Safe app, which centralizes St. Olaf campus safety resources and enables rapid communication with authorities. The runner-up was the team of Alyssa Romportl '23, Theresa Worden '24, Keegan Murray '24, and Ethan Jones '23 for their DOTbot that serves as an all-in-one flight and travel assistance chatbot.

Kinsumbya, Moon, and Kondrakunta hope to make OleHacks an annual event. Moon notes that she would love to have more alumni involvement, from individuals coming in for tech talks to more industry sponsors to more networking opportunities to help students find mentors within the field. Kinsumbya aspires for people to be able to "work on bigger, more crazy, more ambitious projects" and for OleHacks to "become more influential." Kondrakunta is excited to see both the participants and organizers grow as people and the ideas students will come up with.

Most of all, they hope OleHacks will continue to be a space for creativity, innovation, and inclusivity.

"I strongly believe that diversity generates new ideas and perspectives, enabling a field to expand in various directions," Kondrakunta says. "Increased diversity benefits both the field and society in general, as it brings fresh insights and viewpoints." 🦄

Learn more about each of the projects on the OleHacks website: olehacks.devpost.com



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

1950s

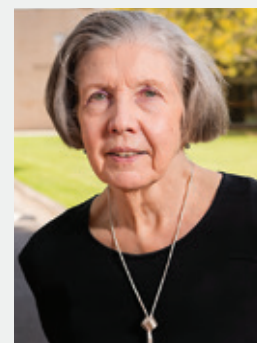
Sig Arnesen '51 writes, "On Dec. 23, 2022, a huge tree fell on our dwelling, making it unlivable. My office, which I had just vacated, was demolished. Had I been there I, too, would have been 'unlivable.' In February we moved to a Continuing Care Retirement Community in Catonsville, Md., joining the 'old folks' for the next chapter." ❶

1960s

Peter Sethre '60 shares a photo of a group of 1960 St. Olaf graduates who have met for lunch three to four times a year for 25 years. "We have many great memories of our years there," he writes. Pictured (left to right): **Peter Sethre '60, Dave Nycklemoe '60, Karle Erickson '60, Jim Enestvedt '60, and Dave Holm '60.** ❷ Another regular of the group, **Phil Roe '60**, died in 2020. ■ **Nan Henderson Lopatka '61** writes, "In December I moved from Hudson, Wis., to Caledonia, Mich., south of Grand Rapids, where one of my daughters lives. A new adventure awaits me!" ■ **Marilyn Miller Chapman '66** writes to share that a group of Oles from the nursing Class of 1966 held a mini-reunion in Prescott, Wis., last fall. Pictured: (seated, L-R) ❸ **Lois Anderson '66, Marilyn Miller Chapman '66, Bonnie Haugen Holtz '66, Linda Peterson**

Remembering Kristine Moore Gebbie '65

Kristine Moore Gebbie '65 passed away on May 17, 2022, in Adelaide, Australia, at the age of 78. A nursing major at St. Olaf, Gebbie earned her master's degree in community mental health from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1968, and her doctorate in public health from the University of Michigan in 1995. She served as the Oregon State health administrator and the Washington State secretary of health, and was a member of two national panels formed by President Ronald Reagan seeking to cope with the emergent AIDS epidemic. In 1993 President Bill Clinton appointed Gebbie as the country's first coordinator of AIDS policy. *The New York Times* notes that in that role, she worked to "devise prevention strategies, offer resources to states and communities to establish their own programs, and reconcile the efforts of federal agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Public Health Service, and the National Institutes of Health." In addition to this work, Gebbie was a professor of nursing at the Columbia University School of Nursing and director of Columbia's Center for Health Policy; dean of the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing; and a teacher at Flinders University's Torrens Resilience Initiative and the University of Adelaide Nursing School in Australia. In 1979 she received a Distinguished Alumni Award from St. Olaf. She is survived by her sister, Sina Ann (Fernando) Mercado; her children, Anna Gebbie (Robert Guay), Jason (Jessica) Wright, Sharon Eileen Gebbie (Carla Barnwell), Nathan Wright, and Eric (Lindsay) Gebbie; 10 grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; her nephew, Kevin Kellogg; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



Seppanen '66, (standing, L-R) **Karen Jenke Altpeter '66, Linnea Stanius Graff '66, Susan Schamber Uhlig '66, Vivian Hansen Aarestad '66, Vicki Robertson Jess '66, Susan Houts Arnold '66, Sharon Hovland Dyste '66, Mary Jo Handeland Arndt '66, and Jeanice Overbo Sauter '66.** ■ **Richard T. Johnson '66** received the 2023 Morris B. Hayes Lifetime Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association (WCDA). The annual award, which recognizes significant contributions to choral music, was presented on Jan. 13 at the WCDA convention in Appleton, Wis.

1970s

Charles "Chip" Peterson '70 and his wife, Sally Phillips, who both hold Ph.D.s in clinical psychology, co-authored "Freud's Cognitive Style: It's a Surprise," which appears in *Free Associations*, a U.K. journal that publishes work relating psychoanalysis in culture, media, and politics. ■ **Robert T. Anderson '74** was inducted into the Conestoga High School Athletic Hall of Fame in recognition of more than 40 years of service to the school's ice hockey program. ❹ The induction ceremony



in Berwyn, Pa., was held on Sept. 24, 2022. As an Ole, Anderson was a four-year varsity hockey goaltender and senior co-captain. During the early part of his career as a boy's varsity coach, his teams won ICSHL League Championships in 1983, 1984, and 1985, and won the Pennsylvania State Championship in 1985. Later, Anderson coached boy's varsity as an assistant to his former players from the state championship team. For the last 17 years, he has been an assistant coach on the girl's varsity team, training each of their goaltenders since the beginning of that program. Anderson's lasting legacy includes coaching and inspiring seven other Conestoga varsity ice hockey coaches.

■ **Linda Olsvig-Whittaker '75** writes, "I just published my first book, and I retired from nature conservation work in Israel at age 60 and began an encore career as an archaeologist here. Now I can say I am a real archaeologist!" ■ **Jane Lanford '77**, a retired CPA, discovered what became a lifelong pursuit and passion after graduating from St. Olaf: competitive distance running. ❶ In 2022, traveling from her home in Fairbanks, Alaska, she finished an 11-year quest to run a marathon in all 50 states. She has run more than 1,000 races in her 42-year running career, including 125 marathons and six ultramarathons, and she's not done yet. For her past two birthdays, she ran the 135-mile Denali Highway in Alaska and the 65-mile Top of the World Highway in the Yukon. Lanford runs year-round outside, including during Fairbanks winters, and sometimes on snowshoes. She figures she's run more than 65,000 miles. Next goal: running a marathon in each of the Canadian provinces and territories. ■ **William Taufic '77** has a portrait exhibit at the Minnesota State Capitol through June 30 titled "Our Austin, Our America." ❷ Through photography and personal narratives,

Carlsen Named Social Worker of the Year

Mary Carlsen '79, the Oscar and Gertrude Boe Overby Distinguished Professor in the Department of Social Work and Family Studies at St. Olaf, was named the Social Worker of the Year by the Minnesota chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

After majoring in social work at St. Olaf, Carlsen earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Washington, Seattle, with specializations in health care and aging. She has worked in health care social work in hospital, nursing home, hospice, and home care settings for nearly four decades, and her primary research areas are end-of-life decision-making/advanced care planning, social work practice in end-of-life care, and global social work.

Carlsen has served on the ethics committees of the Minnesota chapter of the NASW and the Northfield Hospital, and she continues to consult with local agencies, particularly Northfield Hospice, HOPE Center, and the Northfield Community Action Center. Her professional experience includes helping to develop Clinic 42, an HIV/infectious disease clinic in Minneapolis, where she worked with people with HIV disease, their partners, and family members.



the exhibition tells the story of how immigrants, refugees, and other newcomers from around the world have made Austin, Minnesota, their home — and how community members have welcomed and assisted them. Taufic, the son of an immigrant, grew up in Austin. After graduating with a degree in psychology, he has spent the last 41 years as a professional photographer in New York City. Yet as his hometown dramatically changed, he felt compelled to tell its story. He moved back to Austin to begin compiling a book of photographic portraits that documents the experiences of the immigrants and refugees from more than 50 countries who now call

the small town of 25,000 people home. Along the way, Taufic discovered a group of strategic-minded stakeholders, key organizations, and committed immigrants and refugees who came together to visualize and shape the future of the community. Learn more about his work at ouraustinouamerica.com. ■ **Chris Hill '79** just retired from Our Savior's ELCA of Cloquet, Minn. to the Mille Lacs Lake (Minn.) and Sacheen Lake (Washington) areas. He writes, "They all asked, 'What are you going to do?' I said, 'Hike more, ski more, ride more Harley, golf more, read more stuff I don't have to; then maybe contemplate consulting on Ministry Transitions.'"

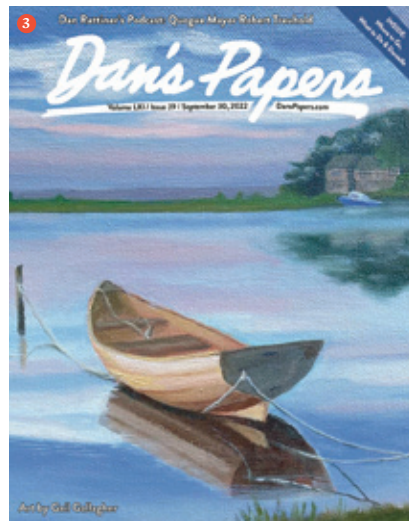


Jane Lanford '77 celebrated her 66th birthday in 2021 by running the entire 135-mile length of Alaska's Denali Highway.



1980s

Gail Hedblom Gallagher '80 is honored to be named a *Dan's Papers* **3** cover artist. ■ **Lizabeth Erickson '81** writes, "Since graduating, this loyal group has met each year for a Christmas celebration in the Twin Cities. This year, we moved the gathering to warmer climes as we were hosted for several days at the Santa Barbara home of **Laura Stenback Berghoff-Hadland '81**. As always, laughter and conversation were mainstays of our time together!" **4** Pictured: **Karen Speerschneider Alsup '81, Eileen Scallen '81, Julia Albers Blenkush '81, Barb Henjum '81, Liz Erickson '81, Laura Stenback Berghoff-Hadland '81, Kim Holland '81, Kristin Anderson Tripp '81, Elaine Coolidge Park '81, and Meegan Anderson '81.** ■ **Barry Friswold '84** writes, "In celebration of our Class of '84 basically all hitting age 60 in 2022, a few of us decided to gather on the Oregon Coast to do some hiking. **5** While we started gathering as Five Guys at 50 hiking in Maine and then 5 hit 55 in Wisconsin, we all brought our spouses to hike in Oregon to celebrate 60. Lifelong St. Olaf friendships continue to flourish." Pictured (L-R): **Dan Paulson '84, Jeff Travis '84, Barry Friswold '84, Dave Swenson '84, and Mark Hayward '84.** ■ **Kristin Carlson Stets '84** shares that a group of 10 Oles from the classes of 1984 and 1985 who have been friends for more than 40 years took the trip of a lifetime together last fall to walk the Camino. From the beginning of their journey in Portugal to arriving at the Cathedral of Santiago De Compostela in Spain, they walked roughly 75 miles over the course of seven days. "With this group, there was never a shortage of conversation," she writes, noting that seven of the group's members were some of the first participants in the college's Great Conversation program (now known as the Enduring Questions program). Their ties to St. Olaf and each other have deepened over the years, and eight of their 14 children went on to become Oles. "We raised our children together, and the kids always referred to the group as 'the village.' The last child (Daniel) graduated from St. Olaf in May of 2022, and in September of



Holtz Earns Scientific Excellence Award in Medicine



Timothy Holtz '86 received the American College of Preventive Medicine Board of Regents' inaugural Scientific Excellence Award. This award honors outstanding preventive medicine physicians who exemplify scientific excellence in advancing the field of preventive medicine to improve health. As the deputy director of the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health, Holtz provides scientific leadership, including policy development and program management, for the NIH HIV research program. His work aims to end the HIV epidemic and improve the health of people with HIV. Holtz was promoted to Rear Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service and an Assistant Surgeon General in 2020. Prior to his current appointment, Holtz worked for nearly a decade in global HIV and tuberculosis prevention and control programs overseas, as a country program director for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Division of Global HIV and TB.

"While preventive medicine is not a large specialty, it is a critical component of one of our research priorities — to reduce the incidence of HIV, including through robust prevention research," Holtz says. "As I saw in my research and programmatic roles overseas at the CDC and now in a research leadership role at the NIH, preventive medicine is essential to the pursuit of scientific advancement."

2022 'the village' was walking the Camino. A true gift from 40 years of friendship!" Stets writes. Pictured in front of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela **6** (left to right, by couples): **Justin Stets '85 and Kristin Carlson Stets '84** (parents of Oles **Rachael '14, Emily '15, Aaron '16, and Abby '18**), **Mark Sundby '84** and **Barb Gronholm**

Sundby '85, Jeff Halloin '85 and **Karla Slosser Halloin '85** (parents of Ole **Annie '18**), **Ansis Viksnins '85** and **Ann Sturtz Viksnins '84** (parents of Ole **Krista '17**), and **Barret Lane '85** and **Pam Stalheim Lane '85** (parents of Oles **Ben '19** and **Daniel '22**). ■ **Ron Anderson '85** recently retired from Minnesota State Colleges and Universities,



Sutton Wins 2022 Berryman Award for Cartooning

Ward Sutton '89 was awarded the Clifford K. & James T. Berryman Award for Editorial Cartoons at The National Press Foundation's annual gala on Feb. 23, 2023, for his editorial cartoon work created last year for *The Boston Globe*. He shared the stage with Robin Roberts, co-host of *Good Morning America*, Scott Simon of NPR, and many other notable journalists. Ole friends from across the country flew in for the celebration at the Waldorf-Astoria in Washington, D.C., and St. Olaf received quite a shout-out from the stage! Oles can learn more at nationalpress.org/award-story/ward-sutton-wins-2022-berryman-cartoonist-award. Pictured: (top row, left to right) **Rachel Palermo '15**, Amy Shroads, Patrick Shroads, **Ward Sutton '89**, **Agen Schmitz '89**, **Kevin Lapp '89**, (bottom row, left to right) Colby Moore, **Jean Strohm Parish '88**, **Sue Unkenholz '89**, **Aana Vigen '90**, and **Kari Thorstensen '89**.



after 26 years serving in a variety of roles including senior vice chancellor and president of Century College. ■ **Saholy Razafinarivo-Schoreisz '85** writes, "I Just wanted to share that my latest book *Prévenir l'obésité infantile, c'est facile!* (*Preventing Childhood Obesity is Easy!*), published in Switzerland in 2020, has gained media attention because the subject is vital. I hope to find an editor to publish an English version soon." ■ **Paul Roback '89** writes, "The 1988-89 'Boe House crew' still gets together 3-4 times per year. In January 2023, [some of us] volunteered to pack meals for Feed My Starving Children in Burnsville, Minn. Pictured looking fashionable in our hairnets ❶ (L-R) are: **Shawn Welch '89**, **Tom Kleven '89**, **Rick Emerson '89**, **Rick Skare '89**, and **Paul Roback '89**."

1990s

St. Croix Hospice Chief Medical Officer **Andrew Mayo '90** has recently been named one of "110 CMOs to Know" in the country. Andrew is the only hospice executive who made it onto the 2023 *Becker's Hospital Review* annual list. As chief medical officer, he provides clinical direction for St. Croix Hospice, a rapidly growing, Minnesota-headquartered organization that serves 10 Midwest states. His leadership has played a large role in the nationally recognized success of St. Croix Hospice, with the agency being one of only six nationwide to earn the highest four rings recognition for quality care from the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in both 2021 and 2022. ■



Ryan French '94 was named chief operating officer of the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis.

■ **Rita Schumann Raverty '94** ❷ was named Wisconsin Family Physician of the Year for 2021 by the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians.

■ **Nathan Krahn '97** has started a new position as corporate counsel at Imperative Care, Inc., a California-based medical device company that makes products to treat strokes and blood clots. Krahn was also named the 2023 recipient of the South Suburban Conference Distinguished Alumni Award. The award, presented in April 2023, honors a graduate of a South Suburban Conference member school for significant accomplishments in humanitarianism, education, research and development, public or military service, law, medicine, or business. ■ **Karl Johan Uri '99** writes, "I have been named the executive director of the Sun Valley Culinary Institute (SVCI). SVCI is a one-year U.S. Department of Labor apprenticeship program designed for students to enter the foodservice industry competently and confidently with little or no debt. This all happens in the beautiful resort towns of Ketchum and Sun Valley, Idaho."

2000s

Kelly Hyun Kim '00 writes, "Some friends got together and revisited the campus on Nov. 5, 2022, after graduating in May 2000. All of our circle of lifelong friends lived at the St. John's Honor House in 1998-99, although one friend graduated in 1999." Pictured (left to right): ❸

Ganame Bati '00, **Jenny Nelson Andreasson '00**, **Askar Askarov '99**, **Tia Fink Hartzell '00**, **Kelly Hyun Kim '00**, and **Nozomi Sakakibara '00**. ■ Composer **Timothy Takach '00** and librettist Caitlin Vincent have received the 2024 SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music Awards Pellicciotti Prize for their new opera, *Computing Venus*. The opera provides a fascinating glimpse into the life of astronomer Maria Mitchell, a groundbreaking historical figure who paved the way for women in STEM in the 19th century. The opera follows Mitchell's efforts to cultivate the next generation of women astronomers, even as growing movements threaten to close the world of science to women forever. Takach and Vincent will receive a \$25,000 commission to complete the new work, which will premiere in Fall 2024, with a full production at The Crane School of Music by the award-winning Crane



Opera Ensemble and Orchestra. ■ **Elizabeth Flack Baller '02**, who earned her M.B.A. in August 2022 from St. Mary's University, credits her yearlong study-abroad experience while at St. Olaf to be invaluable during her master's degree coursework. She continues working in the International Center at Mayo Clinic with Spanish-speaking patients from Spain and Latin America who are seeking medical care in Rochester, Minn. ■ **Christina Hansen Cohen '02** recently founded Therapy Suites, a co-working office for mental health professionals in Minnesota. Designed for social workers, marriage and family therapists, psychologists, and psychiatrists, the office features nine HIPAA compliant offices, two telehealth offices, and a play therapy room. "I wanted it to be a space that created an environment where therapists have the ability to grow and teach, a space where therapists can treat with ease in a professional and safe environment, a space that offers collaboration and a high level of mental health care for our clients," says Cohen, a psychologist. And there's an Ole connection: the office is located in The E building in Edina, Minn., which is overseen by City Center Retail Partners Executive Vice President **Eric Anderson '86**. ■ **Branden Grimmitt '03** is co-producing the new Broadway musical *New York, New York*, which features 13 new songs written by Lin-Manuel Miranda and John Kander. ■ **Kristi Achor Pursell '03** was elected in November 2022 to serve District 58A in the Minnesota House of Representatives, which includes the city of Northfield and the student populations at St. Olaf and Carleton Colleges. ■ Composers **Jocelyn Hagen Takach '03** and **Timothy Takach '00** have been named the inaugural composers-in-residence for the

Grammy Award-nominated True Concord Voices & Orchestra. The duo is highly regarded in the choral world as composers, singers, and for their performing duo, Nation. Their two-year residency with True Concord involves commissions and performances, adjudication of True Concord's annual Stephen Paulus Emerging Composers Competition, assistance in the development of True Concord's 2023-24 20th Anniversary Season, and an ever-deepening relationship with Tucson's musical community and the True Concord community. ■ **Tim Kraack '09** is the new director of choral activities for St. Paul Academy (SPA) in St. Paul, Minn. In his new role, Kraack will direct two middle school choirs, two upper school choirs, and two musical theater productions. Earlier in 2022, Kraack accompanied the premiere of his new choral work, *This is the Small Song I Sing*, with the SPA Community Chorale, and premiered his original full-length musical, *The Logic Pit*, with Twin Cities Theater Camp ■ **April Wright '09** received tenure as an associate professor in biology at the College of Science and Technology at Southeastern Louisiana University.

2010s

Alicia Reuter Barevich '10 is running Cadmus Publishing, a full-service self-publishing house, with her husband. Cadmus is a growing service that has helped hundreds of people who have otherwise lacked the opportunity share their stories. ■ **Rachel Kitze Collins '11** was named a partner at Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP, where she litigates complex civil cases in the firm's environmental, business, political, and employment law groups. ■ **Clara Mattucci '11** has been named chief operating officer of Slice Communications, a public relations agency based in Wilmington, Delaware.



On the Shelf

BOOKS BY ST. OLAF ALUMNI



Life Unfolding (Zion Publishing, 2021) by **Karla Klinger Michelke '56**



Little Tadpole (Beaver's Pond Press, 2022) by **Darlene Messner Hand '61**

The Planet You Inherit: Letters to My Grandchildren When Uncertainty's a Sure Thing (Broadleaf Books, 2022) by **Larry Rasmussen '61**



You Paid for this Program (Page Publishing, 2022) by **Richard Hanson '65**

Lidar Engineering: Introduction to Basic Principles (Cambridge University Press, 2023) by **Gary Gimmestad '68**



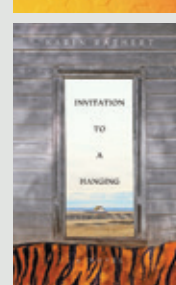
Devotional Thoughts on the Lord's Supper, the Offering, and Prayer (Basic Bible Truths Publications, 2023) by **Ronald Johnson '71**

Landscape Archaeology in the Near East: Approaches, Methods and Case Studies (Archaeopress, 2023) by **Linda Olsvig-Whittaker '75**



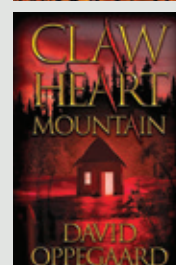
Prof Notes: Wry Observations on Academic Life (Poppy Anna Press, 2022) by **Melissa Anderson Dunn '77**

Astronomy: The Human Quest for Understanding (Oxford University Press, 2022) by **Dale Ostlie '77**



An Introduction to Modern Astrophysics, 2nd Edition (Oxford University Press, 2017) by **Dale Ostlie '77**

Join the Longevity Revolution: A Guide for Financial Advisors and their Clients (Longevity Revolution Press, 2022) by **Bradley Jenson '78**



The Artifice of Intelligence: Divine and Human Relationship in a Robotic Age (Fortress, 2023) by **Noreen Herzfeld '78**

The Eunuch (The Gabbro Head Press, 2022) by **Charles Fischer '86**

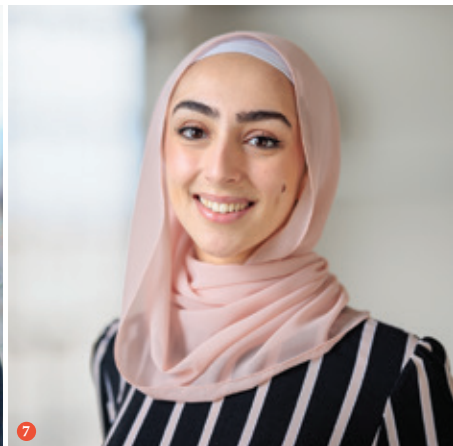
Is This Right? (Beaver's Pond Press, 2023) by **Paul Magnuson '88**

Invitation to a Hanging (Atmosphere Press, 2023) by **Karin Rathert '89**

Virgin Territory: Configuring Female Virginity in Early Christianity (University of California Press, 2022) by **Julie Lillis Kelto '04**

Singleness: Living Faithfully (P&R Publishing, 2021) by **Jenilyn Swett '04**

Claw Heart Mountain (CamCat Books, 2023) by **David Oppegaard '02**



With the recent acquisition of GillespieHall, Slice has expanded the firm’s capabilities in public relations, crisis communications, media training, executive communications, and creative design. ■ **Eden Ehm '13** writes, “My article ‘The Hardanger Fiddle: A Tour of the Instrument and its Traditions’ was published in Vol 20, No 2 of *Vesterheim Magazine*. ❶ It will also appear in an upcoming issue of *The Sound Post*, the journal of the Hardanger Fiddle Association of America. The article was written for readers unfamiliar with the Hardanger fiddle and is an introduction to the instrument and its music, history, and traditions.” Ehm has also been awarded a Coho Data Science Fellowship for 2023. ■ **Cianna Bedford-Peterson '14** completed her Ph.D. at the University of Oregon in social/personality psychology. ❷ Her dissertation examined how our personalities influence the decisions we make on social media platforms like Twitter. She will continue her research career as a user experience researcher in the Reality Labs division of Meta, working to improve consumer experiences in the Metaverse. ■ **Becca Hart '14** ❸ is playing “Mama/Digit” in the world premiere of *An American Tail the Musical*, a production commissioned and performed by the Children’s Theatre Company in Minneapolis. The production, based on the beloved animated film, runs through June 18. Since graduating from St. Olaf, where she was involved in theater, Hart has had roles in productions at a variety of theaters, including *Annie*, *The Hobbit*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Ride the Cyclone*, *Georgiana & Kitty*, *The Wolves*, *Mary Poppins*, *Something Rotten*, and *All American Boys*. ■ **Sarah Krolak '14** was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA,

last August. ■ **Lindsey Lee '14**, who received her Ph.D. in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology from the University of Colorado-Boulder, is currently a scientist at Edgewise Therapeutics in Boulder. ■ **Gina Tonn '14** ❹ joined the litigation boutique Greene Espel PLLP and was welcomed to its team of litigators, counselors, and investigators, who noted that Tonn brings significant clerkship experience to bear in her work with clients, offering insight into the ins and outs of the federal court system. Before joining Greene Espel, Tonn clerked for The Honorable Jane Kelly at the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals as well as The Honorable John R. Tunheim at the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota. ■ **Andy Reiter '16** is the co-founder of SprkCharger, which recently released the SprkCharger Battery Wallet, a thin and powerful wallet and battery combined that gives users a way to charge their phones on the go. “The market was saturated with big, bulky power banks that could charge phones multiple times over,” says Reiter. “We saw a need for a more compact option that people don’t mind carrying and could still charge your phone enough to accomplish what you need to do. Our goal is to ensure whenever you need an extra charge, all you need to do is use your wallet.” ■ **Tyler Rice '17** ❺ is co-founder and chief operating officer of the Digital Wellness Institute. Rice, who completed coursework through Stanford’s “Idea 2 Market” business incubator, is in the midst of receiving his master’s degree in public administration and social innovation at New York University. Rice recently traveled to Lake Como, Italy, to present at the 2023 World Happiness Summit (March 24–26) alongside some amazing leaders and speakers in

the field (worldhappinesssummit.com). Rice writes, “[Keynote speaker] Nobel Prize Laureate in economics Daniel Kahneman wrote the econ book that I studied from while at St. Olaf. I was the most junior person presenting and hosted a panel describing my company and the role that digital wellbeing (healthier screen usage habits) plays in employee happiness, productivity, and retention.”

2020S

■ **Eli Tan '21**, ❻ a graduate student at Columbia University School of Journalism, will work as a business reporting intern this summer at *The Washington Post*, participating in one of the most prestigious journalism internship programs in the country for undergraduate and graduate students. Those who participate in the program work alongside some of the most accomplished journalists in the industry and are oftentimes offered a permanent position at *The Washington Post* once the summer is completed. ■ **Iya Abdulkarim '22**, ❼ a biologist, designer, and researcher, spoke in February at the 2023 TEDxUTAustin conference. TEDxUTAustin is an independent, student-led TED event known for new ideas and for fostering an intellectually curious community eager to grow their impact on the world. As a trilingual speaker with an upbringing influenced by two cultures, Abdulkarim’s background affords her a unique understanding of some of the intricacies of linguistic and cultural contexts. As such, she is adept at building bridges and views the challenge of doing so as an invitation in her work as an interdisciplinary innovator. 🦋

Remembering Ruth Kelly Hustad '55

Ruth Kelly Hustad '55 passed away on January 14, 2023, at the age of 89 in Eden Prairie, Minn. A trailblazer and role model whose smile could light up a room, she founded and operated the real estate brokerage firm Hustad Real Estate at an early age. Together with her husband, **Wallace (Wally) Harlan Hustad '55**, the couple also owned Hustad Development Corp. and Hustad Land Co., pairing their real estate and land development expertise to develop hundreds of acres in Eden Prairie, and creating beautiful neighborhoods while maintaining careful stewardship of the land. They shared a mission to serve their community by donating substantial amounts of land dedicated to open space and parks.

The Hustads met and fell in love at St. Olaf; they married six weeks after graduating and raised four children while building a remarkable life together. Ruth Hustad believed strongly in making an impact for good on the people and places around her, including St. Olaf. Contributing her time and financial resources to St. Olaf, she served on her class reunion committees in 1990, 1995, and 2000, co-chaired her 2000 reunion gift committee, and served on the St. Olaf Board of Regents. In 2001 she received St. Olaf College's Distinguished Alumni Award.

During her tenure on the Board of Regents, Hustad co-chaired with St. Olaf Regent **John Benson P'93, P'96** the fundraising campaign *Beyond Imagination: The St. Olaf Campaign for the Future of Math + Science*. This campaign resulted in the construction of Regents Hall of Natural and Mathematical Sciences, which was completed in 2008. In addition to her immeasurable contributions to St. Olaf and her extensive professional accomplishments, Hustad also served as vice chair of the Metropolitan Waste Commission, was a founding member of the Eden Prairie Foundation, and served as president of the Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce. She helped improve health care for Minnesotans as trustee and chair for Fairview Southdale Hospital and served on the Fairview Board of Directors for 20 years. Active in stewardship at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie, Hustad acted on the belief that one person can make a difference and that each person is responsible to bring good to the community, the church, the family, and the world. Her strong faith and her church community were always an integral part of her life.

Hustad's kindness, generosity, and commitment to service is remembered by her many friends, family, and Oles whose lives she touched. She is survived by her children: **Susan Hustad Seeland '78** (Michael), **Wallace Hustad '81**, **Kelli Hustad Hueler '81** (**Gregory '81**), and Elizabeth Hustad; eight grandchildren, Anders Seeland, Kirsten Seeland Sherline, Maren Seeland, Drew Hueler, **Griffen Hueler '18**, Payton Hueler, **Matt Simenstad '08**, and Stephanie Griffin; seven great-grandchildren; three sisters, **Genevieve Quarberg '54**, Virginia Kelly, and **Joan Kelly '64**; and her nieces and nephews. Wally preceded her in death in 2007.



Remembering Ruth "Tulla" Froiland Hansen '45

Ingeborg Ruth "Tulla" Froiland Hansen '45, known as St. Olaf's "grandma," died on Christmas Day 2022, her 100th Christmas. She was 99 years old.

As the daughter of a pastor and a church choir director, St. Olaf graduates **Rev. Hjalmar "H.S." Froiland (a 1905 graduate of St. Olaf)** and **Clara Grunhuvd Froiland (a 1912 graduate of St. Olaf)**, Hansen acquired an early love of music, learning, and entertaining. She met the love of her life, Erling W. Hansen, in high school and then enrolled at St. Olaf while he served in the Army Air Force. Graduating with majors in music education and history, Hansen taught high school music, history, and English. She served in parish ministry at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Grove City, Minn., Mount Hope Lutheran Church in West Allis, Wis., and First Lutheran Church in St. James, Minn., and was a consummate director of worship, of choirs, of events, and of family. The H.S. Froiland Endowed Scholarship was established by the Froiland family and friends to support St. Olaf religion and/or music majors with a focus on Lutheran service.



In 1968 the Mount Hope congregation gifted the Hansens with a study tour to the Holy Land. This transformative experience led to Hansen's passion for Biblical archaeology and history, for travel, and for the people of Palestine/Israel. She led 21 tours back to the Holy Land, and led additional tours around the globe over the next 40 years. She became a frequent guest lecturer, a regional coordinator for ELCA SEARCH Bible studies, an instructor for the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium, and a co-founder of Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel. The Hansens retired to Northfield in 1991, where they were active members of St. John's Lutheran Church.

In 2008 Hansen received the Distinguished Service Award from St. Olaf. For more than 30 years, as 10 of her grandchildren attended St. Olaf, she invited them and their classmates to her home for dinner and conversation about world affairs, earning her the affectionate title of "grandma."

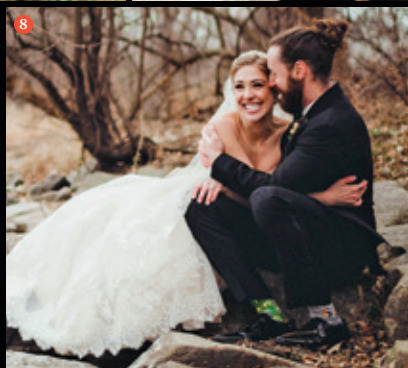
She is survived by her brother, **Rev. Phil (Marilyn) Froiland '50**; five children: **Jo Hansen Franklin '72** (**Dan '69**), **Julie Hansen Zdenek '77** (Dave), **Tim Hansen '82** (**Lisa '82**), **Pam Hansen O'Hara '84** (**Doug '84**), and **Mary Kay Hansen Bougie '87** (Patrick); 16 grandchildren: **Jessica '98** (Grant), **Erika '00** (**James '00**), **Dave '00** (Andrea), **Emily '03**, **Kirstin '03** (Dolph), **Kai '11** (**Kathryn '13**), **Karin '14** (Mubzy), **Emeline, Devon '18**, **Anders '18** (**Hoda '18**), **Nick, Jack '20**, Megan, Kira, Dan, and Sarah (Jordan); and 10 great-grandchildren.

Remembering Martha Ann Rossing Robert '53

Martha Ann Rossing Robert '53 passed away on Jan. 26, 2023. A prominent Boston-area businesswoman and restaurateur, Robert was the co-owner of the beloved family-run French restaurant Maison Robert for more than three decades. "Maison Robert, with Ann Robert at the desk, represented a kind of effortless elegance that few restaurants attain," former *Boston Globe* restaurant critic Alison Arnett wrote in the paper's remembrance of Robert. "Her welcoming smile



made it clear that this restaurant was an extension of her home. Almost more than the food, going to Maison Robert was an experience." The *Globe* noted that Robert also helped found a Boston chapter of the French-American Chamber of Commerce, the Ecole Bilingue in Newton, the Culinary Historians of Boston, and the Women's Culinary Guild, and she was "a guide to younger women in the restaurant industry and food historians with their research." She received the St. Olaf Distinguished Alumni Award in 1983 in honor of her accomplishments. She is survived by her daughter Andrée (Tom), son Jean (Laird), son Pierre (Maryellen), and son René (Gina), as well as grandchildren India, Petra, John, Ava, Lydia, and Brooke.



Future Oles

Erin Ancheta Goltz '06 and Caleb Goltz '06, a daughter, Edna ¹
 Emily Moen '06 and Jesse Lava, a daughter, Juliet
 Kristen Mundahl Flaherty '07 and Tom Flaherty, a daughter, Dela ²
 Andrea Gelle '07 and Moriah Novacinski '14, twin sons, Arlo and Bergen ³
 Sara Van Demark Erie '08 and Drew Erie '08, a son, Thomas
 Kirsten Brown '10 and Jared Peck, a son, Gabriel ⁴
 Christopher Morgan '10 and Amber Morgan, a daughter, Madison
 April Best Chiasson '11 and David Chiasson, a son, Evander ⁵
 Amy Click '11 and Mickey McCauley, a daughter, Winnie Mae
 Mat Deram '11 and Nora Deram, a daughter, Willa ⁶
 Francine Boylan Kuplic '11 and Andrew Kuplic '11, a daughter, Ruby ⁷
 Katie Seltz Moher '12 and Alex Moher, a daughter, Margaret ⁸
 Lauren Behr Wadzinski '12 and Patrick Wadzinski '09, a daughter, Millie ⁹
 Ryan Abdella '13 and Alicia Abdella, a son, Leif ¹⁰
 Kristen Nelson Brophy '13 and Chip Brophy, a son, Quinn ¹¹
 Rachel Dahlen Hardin '13 and Matt Hardin, a daughter, Grace
 Kaia Preus '13 and Michael Langseth '13, a son, Bodie Paul ¹²
 Rebecca Gobel Menssen '14 and Ryan Menssen '14, a son, Henry ¹³
 April Xiong Saydee '14 and Shadrach Saydee '14, a son, Cedric ¹⁴
 Rebekah Thomas Cochrane '18 and Maddy Cochrane, a daughter, Talis ¹⁵
 Sarina Wolbeck Desmond '18 and Jeremiah Desmond, a daughter, Vivie
 Julia Walter Lalor '21 and Justin Lalor, a daughter, Josephine

Weddings

Karin Anthonisen Noerenberg '95 and Scott Noerenberg, July 30, 2022 ¹
 Daniel Schwandt '99 and Emily Bird, Oct. 21, 2022
 Kjersten Johnson Hewes '04 and Josh Hewes, Sept. 23, 2022
 Kirsten Meyer Zaryky '07 and Edward Zaryky, Aug. 27, 2022
 Kate Helmich '10 and Chris Thomas, May 14, 2022 ²
 TaKeyah Dominique Grove '13 and Matt Grove '13, Sept. 16, 2022 ³
 Ellen Hawley '13 and Anton Hesse '15, Sept. 24, 2022 ⁴
 Julie Fergus Parker '13 and Noah Parker, Sept. 3, 2022
 Lauren Hagen '14 and Thomas Churchill '14, Nov. 12, 2022
 Joel Jaeger '14 and Julie Kubelka, Oct. 30, 2022 ⁶
 Ashley Belisle '15 and Michael Wegter '18, October 15, 2022 ⁵
 Maria Coyne Churchill '15 and Andrew Churchill, July 2, 2022 ⁷
 Katherine Fitzgerald O'Neill '15 and Matt O'Neill, Dec. 18, 2021 ⁸
 Sadie Ingersoll '16 and Allison Sager '16, Aug. 27, 2022
 Kathryn Brunstein Scott '16 and Zachary Scott, Nov. 12, 2022
 Annie Weinheimer '16 and Henry Raether '15, May 29, 2022 ⁹
 Ben Stevens '17 and Cortney Mabry, June 24, 2022
 Sarina Wolbeck Desmond '18 and Jeremiah Desmond, June 2, 2018
 Anna Moore Helmken '18 and Markus Helmken '18, Sept. 3, 2022
 Jane Vezina West '18 and Fred West '17, Dec. 10, 2022 ¹⁰
 Julia Walter Lalor '21 and Justin Lalor, June 12, 2021 ¹¹

Deaths

Dorothy Carlson Collins '43, Brainerd, Minn., Dec. 21, 2022
 Elaine Hjortland Feroe '43, Northfield, Minn., Nov. 10, 2022
 Lucille Sweeney Sohns '43, Sister Bay, Wis., Oct. 6, 2022
 Margaret "Solveig" Moe Velde '43, Northfield, Minn., Sept. 17, 2022
 Roscelia "Rose" Kjendalen Lease '44, Galesville, Wis., Jan. 16, 2023
 Lyle Lieder '44, Rochester, Minn., Dec. 6, 2022
 Ralph Rolland '44, Athol, Idaho, Dec. 14, 2020
 Ingeborg "Tulla" Froiland Hansen '45, Northfield, Minn., Dec. 25, 2022
 Lois Larson Leighton '46, Edina, Minn., Sept. 21, 2022
 Betty Liggett Lieder '46, Rochester, Minn., Jan. 23, 2023
 Beryle "Ruth" Racek Lee '47, Huxley, Iowa, Jan. 15, 2023
 Lois Holmquist Mickelson '47, Bloomer, Wis., Jan. 18, 2023
 Fern Stahn Anderson '48, Bellville, Ohio, Dec. 27, 2022
 Gertrude "Trudy" Moe Bangsberg '48, Sarona, Wis., Oct. 25, 2022
 Mary Ann Doerr Haugen '48, Cannon Falls, Minn., Dec. 15, 2022
 Shirley Johnson Opsal '48, Minneapolis, Oct. 7, 2022
 Joyce Reppien Reynolds '48, Crookston, Minn., Feb. 5, 2023
 Betty Lee Sutterer '48, Eaton Rapids, Mich., Nov. 2, 2022
 Constance "Connie" Lovaas Beck '49, St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 12, 2022
 Evelyn Refling Freeman '49, St. Cloud, Minn., Nov. 13, 2022
 Martha Olson Lunstrum '49, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Sept. 13, 2022
 Mildred "Mickey" Matzke Mosen '49, Minneapolis, Dec. 21, 2022
 Arvilla Roheim Reichel '49, Chatfield, Minn., Jan. 18, 2023
 June Kronlokken Rude '49, Cape Canaveral, Fla., Oct. 9, 2022

Deaths [continued]

*Anne Westergaard Bidne '50, North Oaks, Minn., Feb. 8, 2023
 *Einar Birkelo '50, Wahpeton, N.D., Dec. 18, 2022
 Dolores Marcks Fleming '50, Plymouth, Minn., Sept. 25, 2022
 John Holum '50, St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 27, 2023
 *Donald "Don" Nelson '50, Northfield, Minn., Jan. 13, 2023
 Harold "Bill" Sands '50, St. Cloud, Minn., Feb. 3, 2019
 *Carl Arneson '51, Madison, Wis., Nov. 27, 2022
 *Folkvard "Tack" Braaten '51, Junction City, Kan., Sept. 26, 2022
 Dean Goplerud '51, Richmond, Va., Oct. 11, 2022
 *Charles Henderson '51, Woodbury, Minn., Nov. 13, 2022
 Ingolf "Ing" Dahl '52, Forest Lake, Minn., Nov. 27, 2022
 Donna Lenz Erickson '52, Dodgeville, Wis., Oct. 7, 2022
 Ione Hanson Fischer '52, Lynchburg, Va., Nov. 30, 2022
 Olga "Polly" Reppien Marshall '52, Mankato, Minn., Feb. 11, 2023
 Joyce Lemon Oberg '52, Bemidji, Minn., Jan. 18, 2023
 Roland Rasmussen '52, Nisswa, Minn., Oct. 15, 2022
 Joan Ollig Rasmusson '52, Sioux Falls, S.D., Feb. 16, 2023
 Eleanor Pieper Sandquist '52, Wayzata, Minn., Jan. 23, 2023
 Ann Andersen Hoven '53, South St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 26, 2022
 Dale Krueger '53, Kalamazoo, Mich., Sept. 22, 2022
 Melvin Lavik '53, Overland Park, Kan., Sept. 23, 2022
 Paul Lee '53, Santa Cruz, Calif., Dec. 1, 2022
 Ronald Sylling '53, Round Rock, Texas, Aug. 31, 2022
 *Wallace "Wally" Cole '54, Prescott, Ariz., Jan. 16, 2023
 Gordon Jorgenson '54, Northfield, Minn., Dec. 22, 2022
 Delores Juhl Larsen '54, Des Moines, Oct. 3, 2022
 Edith Peterson Livingston '54, Excelsior, Minn., Dec. 4, 2022
 *George Madsen '54, Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 14, 2022
 Helen Lommen Moors '54, Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 27, 2022
 Lois Simonson Mosing '54, Huntington Beach, Calif., Sept. 27, 2022
 Gloria Emstad Porter '54, Northfield, Minn., Feb. 16, 2023
 Lajla "Elisabeth" Slen Hammill '55, Kent, Wash., Sept. 13, 2022
 Phyllis "Fiz" Schwartzau Hetzler '55, Golden Valley, Minn., Nov. 12, 2022
 Ruth Kelly Hustad '55, Eden Prairie, Minn., Jan. 14, 2023
 *Russell "Russ" Jensen '55, Peoria, Ariz., Nov. 13, 2022
 *Willard "Will" Mesna '55, Minneapolis, Jan. 24, 2023
 Barbara Spande Overby '55, Columbia, Mo., Oct. 20, 2022
 Caroline "Carolyn" Ermland Van Every '55, Minneapolis, June 25, 2022
 Ruth Paulson Vollbrecht '55, Seattle, Nov. 28, 2022
 Sharon Sleeper Anderson '56, Neenah, Wis., Oct. 23, 2022
 Margaret Houg Fay '56, Hutchinson, Minn., Oct. 11, 2022
 James "Jim" Smestad '56, Chicago, Nov. 19, 2022
 Clarice "Clare" Kleven Wilson '56, St. Cloud, Minn., Jan. 8, 2023
 *Ronald Christensen '57, Albuquerque, N.M., Dec. 24, 2022
 *James "Jim" Harten '57, Northfield, Minn., Dec. 26, 2022
 Donna Pooley Knox '57, Oskaloosa, Iowa, Nov. 14, 2022
 John Nielsen '57, Rockville, Md., May 12, 2022
 Barbara "Barb" Bjorkman Peterson '57, Bloomington, Minn., Jan. 10, 2023
 *Gerald "Jerry" Sletten '57, Marshall, Minn., Jan. 30, 2023
 Reider Andersen '58, Burbank, Calif., April 13, 2022
 Orville "Orv" Bratland '58, Shoreview, Minn., Feb. 21, 2023
 Karen Peterson Ek '58, Spooner, Wis., Oct. 10, 2022
 Salley Carlsten Flood '58, Milledgeville, Ga., Jan. 12, 2023
 Herbert "Herb" Iverson '58, San Bernardino, Calif., Jan. 22, 2023
 *Richard Sjolseth '58, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Sept. 20, 2022
 Carol Anderson Skrade '58, Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 13, 2023
 William "Bill" Wyatt '58, Rapid City, S.D., Sept. 15, 2022
 Sandra Dvorak Aalbers '59, Minneapolis, Sept. 28, 2022
 *Ronald "Ron" Flugum '59, Sioux City, Iowa, Nov. 9, 2022
 Roland "Boots" Froyen '59, Minneapolis, Jan. 20, 2023
 Zona Simcox Kees '59, Hudson, Wis., Oct. 16, 2022
 Stanton "Stan" Newton '59, Mission Viejo, Calif., Dec. 10, 2022
 Sylvia Lee Sabo '59, Mankato, Minn., Oct. 26, 2022
 Carolyn Hobel Thompson '59, Catonsville, Md., Feb. 1, 2023
 Robert Buehler '60, San Diego, March 6, 2022
 Nancy Peabody Doutre '60, Crystal, Minn., Sept. 20, 2022
 Miriam Peterson Haines '60, Minneapolis, Jan. 22, 2023
 William "Bill" Kuehl '60, Northfield, Minn., Oct. 13, 2022
 Joyce Zimmermann Leslie '60, Marine on Saint Croix, Minn., Feb. 8, 2023
 Earl Currie '61, St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 26, 2021

Deaths [continued]

- John "Greg" Peterson '61, Bloomington, Minn., Dec. 24, 2022
 Roger Petrich '61, Dongola, Ill., Oct. 6, 2022
 Christine "Chris" Carlson Fouser '62, Kewanee, Ill., Nov. 7, 2022
 Gary Hampe '62, Laramie, Wyo., Oct. 12, 2022
 Eugene Hildreth '62, Prior Lake, Minn., Dec. 30, 2022
 *Madelon Morner Brown '63, Albuquerque, N.M., Aug. 8, 2022
 Richard Bunt '63, Hudson, Ohio, Oct. 4, 2022
 Philip "Phil" Nasset '63, Roseburg, Ore., July 1, 2022
 Janet Berg Snyder '63, Graceville, Fla., Dec. 14, 2022
 Anne Swan Johnson '63, Savanna, Ill., Jan. 28, 2023
 Kathryn "Kathy" Huss Dougherty '64, Saratoga, Calif., Aug. 27, 2022
 *Mary Hetland Funk '64, Anoka, Minn., Dec. 12, 2022
 Kathleen "Kay" Anderson Johnson '64, Little Canada, Minn., Oct. 29, 2022
 Adelaide "Addie" Cassity McManus '65, Oakland, Calif., Sept. 5, 2022
 Daniel Nye '65, Ishpeming, Mich., Oct. 30, 2022
 Virginia "Ginny" Hall Smith '65, Medical Lake, Wash., Nov. 29, 2022
 James "Jim" Sockness '66, Rice Lake, Wis., Oct. 22, 2022
 Charles Ellertson '67, Durham, N.C., Dec. 22, 2022
 *Steven "Steve" Hoyme '67, Augusta, Wis., Nov. 14, 2022
 Eric Johnson '67, Silverthorne, Colo., Oct. 27, 2022
 *David Johnston '67, Chicago, Jan. 3, 2023
 David Martin '67, Minneapolis, Feb. 11, 2022
 Suzanne Gilmore McLaughlin '67, Millbrook, N.Y., Jan. 20, 2023
 Mary Ostenson Broude '68, Tustin, Calif., Nov. 8, 2022
 Donna Howard '68, Duluth, Minn., July 31, 2022
 Patrick "Pat" Mieritz '68, Colorado Springs, Colo., Oct. 24, 2022
 *Arne Moe '68, Grand Rapids, Minn., Nov. 8, 2022
 Terese Ratchford '68, Rochester, Minn., June 29, 2022
 *Robert "Bob" Rydland '68, Minneapolis, Dec. 14, 2022
 Marsha Dalaska Stoltzmann '68, Plymouth, Minn., Nov. 12, 2022
 *Carl Gulbrandsen '69, Madison, Wis., Oct. 17, 2022
 Carolyn Krapf McPherson '69, Great Falls, Mont., Dec. 22, 2022
 Carol Hintzman Schefers '69, Maple Grove, Minn., Feb. 12, 2023
 *Robert Elder '70, Chicago, Nov. 10, 2022
 David Bailey '71, Elk Grove, Calif., Feb. 10, 2023
 Jane Lauthen Allen '72, Huntington Beach, Calif., Nov. 25, 2022
 Duane Benson '72, Douglas, Ga., Nov. 21, 2022
 Joyce Jondahl Richards '72, St. John, Ind., Jan. 24, 2023
 Paul Fogelberg '73, Excelsior, Minn., June 26, 2019
 Laurelynn "Laurie" Allard Haskins '73, Cape Coral, Fla., Oct. 25, 2022
 Richard "Dick" Hawke '73, Roseville, Minn., Aug. 8, 2018
 Douglas "Doug" Sill '73, Forest Lake, Minn., Dec. 14, 2022
 Thomas "Tom" Sparrow '73, Faribault, Minn., Sept. 27, 2022
 Keith Stende '73, Des Moines, Nov. 19, 2021
 Cathryn Textor '73, Wayzata, Minn., Jan. 24, 2023
 Nancy Triplett '73, Olympia, Wash., Aug. 4, 2018
 Randall "Randy" Christensen '74, Billings, Mont., Nov. 1, 2022
 Karl Schwichtenberg '74, St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 10, 2023
 John Shand '74, Danbury, Wis., Nov. 1, 2022
 Cassandra "Sandy" Olson '75, Aurora, Colo., Dec. 4, 2022
 Deborah "Debbie" Ingram '76, Edina, Minn., Dec. 23, 2022
 *Bruce Jensen '77, Northfield, Minn., Jan. 28, 2023
 Richard "Dick" Sethre '77, Minneapolis, July 17, 2022
 Jane Simenstad Sherman '78, Minnetonka, Minn., Sept. 29, 2022
 Thora Johnston '79, Falmouth, Maine, Oct. 15, 2022
 Glen Peterson '79, Northfield, Minn., Oct. 3, 2022
 Mary Kay Pershern Polashek '81, Ames, Iowa, Nov. 21, 2022
 Elaine Sorum Wabbel '82, Pahump, Nev., Feb. 11, 2023
 William "Billy" Saetre '83, Hamburg, Germany, Oct. 30, 2022
 Maria Kitinoja '84, Woodland, Calif., May 1, 2022
 Jolene Roehke Partain '84, St. Louis Park, Minn., Nov. 2, 2022
 Troy Nelson '85, Burnsville, Minn., Jan. 21, 2023
 Kip Groettum '86, Pine Island, Minn., Oct. 7, 2022
 Mary Quam Herbers '86, Rochester, Minn., Oct. 31, 2022
 James "Jim" Nynas '88, Minnetonka, Minn., Dec. 28, 2022
 Sara Goetsch '90, Minneapolis, Nov. 9, 2022
 Ann Keller Burtis '94, Woodbury, Minn., Oct. 4, 2022
 Matthew Dahl '00, Tempe, Ariz., Jan. 22, 2023
 Kelly Fulton '05, Bozeman, Mont., Oct. 8, 2022
 Theodore "Ted" Mitka '16, River Forest, Ill., Oct. 5, 2022

* VETERAN

Remembering Don Nelson '50

Donald "Don" Henry Nelson '50, whose gifts to St. Olaf have provided resources for active environmental stewardship of the college-owned Natural Lands and related academic activities, passed away on Jan. 13, 2023, at the age of 97.

Born in Minneapolis in 1925, he grew up near Lake Nokomis and graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1943, then served in the European campaign of the U.S. Army until discharged in April 1946. That fall, he enrolled at St. Olaf College, his mother's alma mater. There he was joined by his siblings, **Joan Nelson Bell '50** and **Richard "Dick" Nelson '52**. In 1948 he transferred to the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry and earned his DDS in 1952, followed by his master's degree in orthodontics and physiology in 1957. Over the next three years Nelson established a private practice in Minneapolis, and in 1960 he moved to Rochester to take a position at the Mayo Clinic, from which he retired in 1986. He was a member of the Zumbro Valley Dental Society for many years and on the Board of Directors of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry from 1965-70, serving as board president in 1970.



During his childhood, Nelson enjoyed regular visits to a farm near Nerstrand that had been in the family since 1880. Soon after his move to Rochester, he spent many evenings exploring the countryside, rekindling his attraction to farming. He soon purchased a farm on the east side of Rochester, where he lived for many years, and later bought a second farm southwest of Rochester. In 1982 Nelson and his brother, Dick, bought the family farm near Nerstrand to keep it going.

Nelson devoted his retirement to philanthropy and his passions for conservation, his farms, and his trees; he planted thousands of seedlings. By the time he reached his 80s, Nelson wanted his farms to be used for conservation, public enjoyment, and environmental education. He worked with the Trust for Public Lands, Minnesota Land Trust, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to convert his farms to three Wildlife Management Areas that total 860 acres. Nelson donated proceeds from the sale of the farms to St. Olaf College, Luther College, and Northfield Shares to create endowments that support land-based stewardship, research, and education programs long into the future.

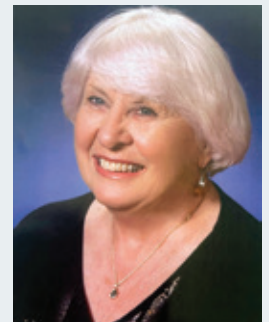
Nelson created the Henry and Agnes Nelson Family Endowment for Natural Lands and Environmental Science at St. Olaf to honor his parents, Henry and Agnes Suphammer Nelson, a member of St. Olaf Academy Class of 1912. It supports the restoration and maintenance of St. Olaf natural habitats, promoted sustainable agricultural practices on St. Olaf land, enables faculty and student research, enhances curricular initiatives and course offerings, and supports student naturalists and natural lands technicians as well as running the business of STOGROW.

The far-reaching impact of Nelson's generosity will be felt for generations. He is survived by his siblings and seven nieces and nephews.

Remembering Gloria Kay Porter '54

Gloria Kay Porter '54 passed away in Northfield on Feb. 16, 2023. Porter established the Tom and Gloria Porter Family Endowed Scholarship at St. Olaf to honor her husband, professor emeritus of physical education and head football coach from 1958 to 1990

Tom Porter '51, when he passed away in 2013. Tom Porter also coached baseball, track, and hockey during his tenure at St. Olaf, and the athletic training hall on the east edge of campus was named in his honor. Gloria Porter worked as a dental hygienist for 40 years, then retired to a second career in real estate. She is warmly remembered for nearly 40 years of behind the scenes support for Tom, Ole athletics, and generations of student athletes. She is survived by her children: **Mark Porter '78 (Jane Arvesen Porter '79)**, **Todd Porter '80 (Karen)**, **Anne Porter Tessien '82 (Bob Tessien '83)**, **Laura Porter Engwall (Eric Engwall '88)**; and 11 grandchildren: **Jacob '06 (Michelle)**, **Nathan (Molly)**, **Samuel (Meagan)**, **Scott '11 (Heather)**, **Rebecca**, **Margaret (Andrew)**, **Sarah '10 (Andrew '10)**, **Hannah (Greg)**, **Emma**, **Carl**, and **Anders**.



Remembering Richard “Dick” Bodman



Associate Professor Emeritus of Chinese and Asian Studies Richard “Dick” Wainwright Bodman died on March 28, 2023, at the age of 75.

Bodman earned his bachelor’s degree from Harvard University and his master’s degree and doctorate from Cornell University before joining the St. Olaf faculty in 1980. Having spent part of his childhood in Taiwan, Bodman drew on his early background to introduce Chinese language and culture to St. Olaf students. He played a central role in establishing an exchange agreement

between St. Olaf and East China Normal University (ECNU) in 1985, and he directed the ASIANetwork China faculty seminar, helping faculty from colleges across the country develop competence in Chinese studies. On campus he served as a member of the Fulbright Committee and directed the Freeman Foundation faculty seminar. “It’s hard to imagine Asian studies here without him,” Professor Emeritus of History and Asian Studies Robert Entenmann wrote in a tribute to Bodman upon his retirement.

A meticulous collector of books, posters, art, and other materials about China, Bodman donated a collection of prints to the college several years after his retirement. In 2013 the Flaten Art Museum hosted a student-curated exhibition of the collection titled *Mixed Messages: Twentieth Century Chinese Prints*. In 2015 he donated thousands of volumes from his private library to St. Olaf, creating the Bodman-Lang East Asian Collection in the Rolvaag Library Special Collections.

Bodman is survived by his wife, Hongyuan Lang; daughter, Jiao Zhang; grandson, Ben Wang; sister, Anne Bodman; and friends around the world.

Remembering John Schade

St. Olaf Magazine has recently learned that former Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies John Schade, 54, who taught at St. Olaf from 2005 to 2015, died on March 26, 2021, after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

After leaving St. Olaf, Schade continued his work in climate research and education at Woodwell Climate Research Center in Falmouth, Mass., and the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C., where he served as a program director in the Division of Environmental Biology (DEB). His final work examined the impacts of fire and permafrost thaw on carbon and nitrogen cycling in southwest Alaska. Schade was a respected biogeochemist, an inspirational mentor, a beloved colleague, and a tireless advocate for the ecology research community.



Throughout his career, Schade was deeply committed to student-led research and collaboration, and he developed an extremely effective undergraduate training experience through his

collaborative work on the Polaris Project, which included his leading several St. Olaf students to the Siberian Arctic to research the impacts of climate change in the Arctic ecosystem. At the time of his passing, Schade held an appointment as a distinguished visiting scientist at the Woodwell Climate Research Center (formerly known as the Woods Hole Research Center), where the Polaris Project is based.

In 2022 the Polaris Project established the John Schade Memorial Scholarship to honor his dedication to mentoring young scientists and reflecting his values of mentoring, education, leadership, equity in the sciences, and advancing Arctic and environmental science to mitigate climate change.

Schade was particularly valued by his colleagues and many friends across NSF for engaging in deep and sincere dialogues about ecological science, education, and their role in society. Schade was appreciated for his great sense of humor, wry wit, and strong sense of mischief. He often had a “glint in the eye” and was involved in numerous escapades and adventures. He could find fun in almost any situation, and approached life with curiosity, wonder, and joy.

Schade’s family invites friends and colleagues to find more memorial information at the Woodwell Climate Research Center (woodwellclimate.org) and on the DEB blog: deblog.nsfbio.com/2021/04/01/remembering-our-friend-and-colleague-john-schade.

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.



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

Journey to Antarctica: The White Continent
January 6-19, 2024 | Led by Bob Jacobel

Colombia 101: History, Nature & Culture in the Gateway to South America | March 1-13, 2024

Soccer in London | April 1-8, 2024
Led by Ryan and Sarah Bowles

Exploring Peru: Land of the Inca
April 13-20, 2024 | Led by Kris Cropsey

A Literary and Arts Tour of Gay Paris
June 22-30, 2024 | Led by Juliet Patterson and Rachel Moritz

Wilderness Adventure in the Boundary Waters
July 14-20, 2024 | Led by Judy Tegtmeier and Wes Braker



Hmoob Nyob Saum Roob

Celebrating 30 Years of Hmong Oles | By Chang Dao Vang '11

"I really liked that I was able to connect to people who have been in the same situation that I am currently in. I did not think there were as many people who have already been through this college process at St. Olaf. It turns out that there is a long history of Hmong Oles, and I am very happy for that to be the case."

— JonJeng Thao '24

LAST NOVEMBER, ST. OLAF HOSTED its inaugural Hmong student and alumni gathering in St. Paul, bringing together an inspiring group of 63 Oles representing 30 years of shared history on the Hill. As one of the organizers, I felt a strong sense of accomplishment in shaping this event, designed to celebrate the accomplishments, contributions, and experiences of Hmong students, alumni, and staff at St. Olaf.

The gathering featured insightful presentations by Hmong students highlighting the importance of identity and alumni engagement. We ensured that the event provided ample opportunities for meaningful conversations, establishing new connections, and strengthening existing relationships in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Current and former TRIO staff who were an integral

part of the Hmong Ole experience were also present, exemplifying their commitment to fostering inclusive spaces at St. Olaf.

It was crucial that an authentic outreach effort was

led by Hmong staff members, including SSSD Advisor Pдах Vang and Director of Government, Foundation, and Corporate Relations Valeng Cha '95, in collaboration with Alumni and Parent Relations. At the heart of this, we aimed to foster a greater sense of belonging for all Hmong individuals who have ever called the Hill their home by creating an intentional space for current students and alumni to connect, exchange ideas, and offer mutual support. This approach is very much attuned to the communal value celebrated within the Hmong culture of being a "big sister/brother/aunt/uncle." In addressing the unique experiences of BIPOC alumni, we were mindful of the importance of ensuring that their connection to St. Olaf was not further marginalized.

As the inaugural St. Olaf Hmong student and alumni gathering came to a close, the message was clear: our work has just begun. The event's success has paved the way for continued efforts to engage Hmong alumni and students to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment on the Hill. Through ongoing initiatives, we aim to nurture a strong sense of belonging for all, honoring the diverse experiences and contributions of our students and alumni. We hope that the insights gained from ongoing engagement with Hmong alumni will inform broader diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts across the college.

"Hmoob nyob saum roob," a phrase reflecting the Hmong people's historical ties to the mountains and hilltops of Laos, resonates profoundly with the Hmong community. Fifty years after arriving in the United States, in the small rural town of Northfield, Hmong students find themselves on another Hill — one that presents new possibilities and opportunities. 🍀

"What an exciting time to recognize all Hmong Ole alumni. There definitely needs to be more of these opportunities to engage the network and to bring us to campus as well. There are many great alumni doing amazing things. This event speaks to us and our existence, and it mattered that we were represented."

— Pa Ku Lee '11



◀ Valeng Cha '95 (left) and Seng Lor '23 lead the gathering in a Hmong song. PHOTOS BY MARCEL HONES '22



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PARTING SHOT



MAJESTIC IN THE SPRING MIST | Old Main, framed by Steensland Hall and Regents Hall of Natural and Mathematical Sciences, creates a picturesque scene as students walk to class. PHOTO BY FERNANDO SEVILLA