

December 2007

Dear Ole Parents,

St. Olaf students came to campus this fall excited, perhaps a little nervous, but nonetheless geared up to begin a new year on the Hill. I know that each time we dropped off our daughter, Allison '05, she was more than ready for summer to be over and ready to begin classes. But our good-bye hugs lasted a little longer each year as we approached her eventual graduation and foray into the “real world” outside St. Olaf.

This fall, I arrived on campus excited and a little nervous. I came here—not to study—but to begin a new job at St. Olaf after having spent 25 years at Purdue University. Like our new and returning students, I, too, was energized and eager to get to work. But I have even more in common with your Ole sons and daughters: For the past three months, I was blessed to live in an apartment in the Hilleboe-Kittelsby (Hill-Kitt) residence hall in anticipation of my wife joining me in Northfield. Although I was a bit of a curiosity the first few days, students quickly took me under their wings. There were lots of late nights, pizza deliveries, and soulful conversations. I taught guys how to tie a tie, proofed more than a few English compositions, and provided occasional advice to the lovelorn. My expertise even extended to explaining how to avoid the dreaded “pink underwear” that is sometimes the result of washing clothes in the basement machines!

My three months of life in a residence hall left me with one particularly strong impression. As a parent, I always sensed that St. Olaf was a very caring place. As a resident of Hill-Kitt, I had my impression confirmed. Nothing has changed. St. Olaf is a place where students are tolerant, supportive, and caring; hugs are very much a part of campus culture. Students who would oftentimes fall through the cracks at a larger institution are embraced here, and their achievements and diversity are celebrated.

As parents, all of us have already made an investment in our children’s education. We have also seen firsthand the impact that St. Olaf has had on their lives. My wife and I began supporting St. Olaf’s mission while our daughter was still a first-year student, and we hope you’ll join us now by giving to Partners in Annual Giving, the St. Olaf annual fund.

Your gift today will enable the college to continue to offer the kind of college experience that St. Olaf students and their families have come to expect. A gift, at whatever level, helps insure the value of a St. Olaf degree—whether for past, present or future Oles. To partner today with thousands of other parents, alumni, and friends, please go to [stolaf.edu/giving](http://stolaf.edu/giving), call 800-733-6523, or use the enclosed envelope to make your gift. Thanks for your help!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Stitsworth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Stitsworth P'05  
Vice President of Advancement and College Relations