

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION:

The traditional academic procession introduces many of the more formal and significant events at St. Olaf, as it does on most college and university campuses. Although the history of wearing distinctive apparel as an indication of scholarship and academic rank dates back to 1321, the practice was not adopted throughout the United States until about 1900.

The cap worn almost universally in academic processions is the Oxford cap, better known as the mortarboard. It is always black. A different style, called the Cambridge cap, resembles a large beret.

The use of a dark robe in academic processions is thought to have arisen from the clerical practice of wearing a cape or mantle in religious processions in the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities arose from cathedral schools. Traditionally, gowns are also black. However, a number of universities have adopted alternate gowns that use their traditional school color, such as crimson for Harvard, blue for Yale, maroon for Chicago, and orange hash-marks and lining for Princeton.

The academic hoods, worn around the neck and down the back of the gown, are lined with the official colors of the college or university conferring the degree. The binding or edging of the hood is usually distinctive of the subject to which the degree pertains: economics, copper; education, light blue; fine arts, brown; humanities, white; law, purple; library science, lemon; medicine, green; music, pink; nursing, apricot; philosophy, dark blue; physical education, sage green; science, golden yellow; social science, cream; social work, citron; speech, silver gray; theology, scarlet.

Customs concerning academic processions vary. At St. Olaf the procession is led by the President and the Provost, followed by the convocation speaker and the SGA president. As the group processes and recesses, the audience is asked to stand in place and observe a respectful silence.



OPENING CONVOCATION ST. OLAF COLLEGE



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2014, 11:10 A.M.

BOE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

THE PROGRAM

President David R. Anderson '74, Presiding

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

The St. Olaf College Faculty
Please stand as the faculty processes.

Fanfare and Grand March
by Timothy Mahr '78

The St. Olaf Band
Timothy Mahr '78, Conductor

INVOCATION

Matthew Marohl, College Pastor

HYMN

Morning Has Broken

WELCOME

RACHEL PALERMO '15
St. Olaf SGA President

THE ADDRESS

The Fiction Universe
Diana Postlethwaite
Professor of English

COLLEGE HYMN

Fram! Fram! St. Olaf! (insert)
by F. Melius Christiansen and Oscar Overby '61
Arr. Travis Cross '99

THE BENEDICTION

Katherine Fick, Associate College Pastor

RECESSIONAL

Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals
by Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Transcribed by William Rhoades

Organists: Catherine Rodland and James Bobb

Please stand as the faculty recesses.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Minnesota native Diana Postlethwaite graduated *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard University and earned a doctorate from Yale University in 1975. Postlethwaite taught at Yale, the University of Chicago, and Mount Holyoke College before joining the St. Olaf English faculty in 1988. She was St. Olaf's Boldt Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Humanities from 2006 to 2009 and during that time was instrumental in bringing a Film Studies program to St. Olaf. She also served as chair of the English Department from 2010–13.

Postlethwaite's greatest academic interests are novelist George Eliot in particular and Victorian fiction in general, as well as film studies. She has published a book, articles, and reviews on George Eliot and 19th-century scientific psychology, including *Making it Whole: A Victorian Circle and the Shape of Their World* and "George Eliot and Science" in *The Cambridge Companion to George Eliot*. Her English courses range from a survey of *Romantic/Victorian/Modern Eras* to a seminar on *Jane Austen, George Eliot and Virginia Woolf*. Her Film Studies courses include *American Film History*, *Monsters: Myths and Movies and Literature and Film*. In addition to having taught in The Great Conversation, she teaches a First-Year Writing course on storytelling via *Page, Stage and Screen*. Postlethwaite's current research involves connections between the earliest days of narrative film and Victorian fiction. She has also led the college's Interim course *Theater in London*, logging four trips to London with students and seeing close to 100 plays.

A prolific reviewer of contemporary fiction and films, Postlethwaite's movie reviews aired on St. Olaf's National Public Radio affiliate WCAL; her book reviews have appeared in publications that include *The New York Times Book Review*, the *Washington Post Book World*, *The Women's Review of Books*, *The Nation*, and the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. She was a finalist in the National Book Critics' Circle Award for Excellence in Criticism, a contributing editor for *The Hungry Mind Review: A Midwestern Book Review*, and a member of the National Book Critics' Circle.