

35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CARL A. MELLBY LECTURE SERIES

*THE  
MONSTER'S  
PLOT:*

**MEMORY, INTELLIGENCE  
AND TIME IN MARY SHELLEY'S  
*FRANKENSTEIN***



TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 14  
7:30 P.M. | VIKING THEATER

**DIANA POSTLETHWAITE**  
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

# DIANA POSTLETHWAITE

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.

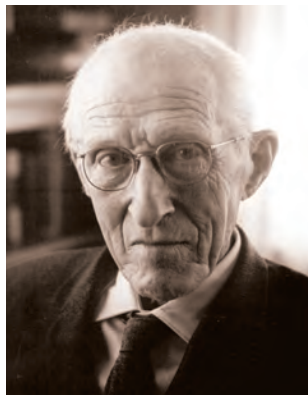


Postlethwaite's greatest academic interests are 19th-century British fiction, and the Victorian period in general, as well as film studies. She has published a book, articles, and reviews on George Eliot and 19th-century scientific psychology, including *Making it Whole: A Victorian Circle and the Shape 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 five trips to London with students and seeing close to 125 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.

When not enjoying page, stage or screen, she can be found singing alto in Northfield's chamber choir *I Cantanti*, where she has sung for 30 years, with her husband Paul Thiboutot in the tenor section.

# CARL MELLBY



In *High on Manitou*, William C. Benson called Dr. Carl A. Mellby “the father of the social sciences.” In *History of St. Olaf College*, Joseph M. Shaw '49 noted the following:

“Dr. Mellby has been regarded as the dean of St. Olaf’s teaching personnel, the prototype of the complete professor, competent, imaginative, congenial, and unaffected.

“His first interest was history, which he taught with phenomenal breadth and perception, lecturing in seemingly casual fashion on the cultural and social interactions of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and especially the modern history of Europe. Mellby also originated and taught the first courses in economics, sociology, political science, and history of art. He is credited with introducing one of the earliest marriage and family courses in the country. He was instrumental in starting the teacher placement bureau, and St. Olaf President John Kildahl in making arrangements to begin the honor system in examinations.

“At one time or another Mellby also taught Greek, German, French, religion, and philosophy. He was acting president for one year and vice president for two years. He wrote the 50th anniversary history of the college, articles for church papers, historical sketches, and numerous resolutions and tributes when the right word was needed for the occasion.”

The Faculty Life Committee of St. Olaf College acknowledges the accomplishments of Dr. Carl A. Mellby, professor and administrator, 1901–49, by sponsoring a lecture series in his name. With this, the Faculty Life Committee also honors his successors among both the junior and senior St. Olaf faculty by inviting them at regular intervals to reflect on the significance of their own scholarly work and on developments in their chosen academic fields.

## *Frankenstein By Mary Shelley*

### **CHAPTER 5**

It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils. With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony, I collected the instruments of life around me, that I might infuse a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet. It was already one in the morning; the rain pattered dismally against the panes, and my candle was nearly burnt out, when, by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open; it breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs.

How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch whom with such infinite pains and care I had endeavoured to form? His limbs were in proportion, and I had selected his features as beautiful. Beautiful! Great God! His yellow skin scarcely covered the work of muscles and arteries beneath; his hair was of a lustrous black, and flowing; his teeth of a pearly whiteness; but these luxuriances only formed a more horrid contrast with his watery eyes, that seemed almost of the same colour as the dun-white sockets in which they were set, his shrivelled complexion and straight black lips.

The different accidents of life are not so changeable as the feelings of human nature. I had worked hard for nearly two years, for the sole purpose of infusing life into an inanimate body. For this I had deprived myself of rest and health. I had desired it with an ardour that far exceeded moderation; but now that I had finished, the beauty of the dream vanished, and breathless horror and disgust filled my heart. Unable to endure the aspect of the being I had created, I rushed out of the room and continued a long time traversing my bed-chamber, unable to compose my mind to sleep. At length lassitude succeeded to the tumult I had before endured, and I threw myself on the bed in my clothes, endeavouring to seek a few moments of forgetfulness. But it was in vain; I slept, indeed, but I was disturbed by the wildest dreams. . . . [then], by the dim and yellow light of the moon, as it forced its way through the window shutters, I beheld the wretch — the miserable monster whom I had created. He held up the curtain of the bed; and his eyes, if eyes they may be called, were fixed on me. His jaws opened, and he muttered some inarticulate sounds, while a grin wrinkled his cheeks. He might have spoken, but I did not hear; one hand was stretched out, seemingly to detain me, but I escaped and rushed downstairs. I took refuge in the courtyard belonging to the house which I inhabited, where I remained during the rest of the night, walking up and down in the greatest agitation, listening attentively, catching and fearing each sound as if it were to announce the approach of the demoniacal corpse to which I had so miserably given life.

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Paul Zorn, Mathematics

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Katherine Tegtmeyer Pak, Political Science  
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Dave Van Wylen, Biology

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Dan Dressen, Music

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and Latin American Studies

Bruce Nordstrom-Loeb, Sociology

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Rebecca Judge, Economics and  
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Mary Titus, English

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and Computer Science

Karen Cherevatuk, English

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David Booth, Religion

Mary Griep, Art/Art History

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Kathleen Shea, Biology  
and Environmental Studies