



*Step back as you read this issue of our magazine and experience the reach of our college.*

DEAR OLES AND FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE,

This issue of *St. Olaf Magazine* reminds us of the reach of St. Olaf College.

Amy Gage's eloquent evocation of her first experience of India in the company of 26 other travelers on a journey sponsored by the Center for Lifelong Learning reminds us how intimately a global perspective is incorporated into the St. Olaf experience not just for students but also for faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the college. The meeting Amy describes of the CEL travelers with 28 St. Olaf students on the Global Semester at the Ecumenical Christian Center in India represented an intersection of different ages, experiences, purposes and faiths. Such intersections are the sites of learning. Meg Rooney '07, a student on Global, reminds us that, at its best, travel affects everything we do after we return. As Meg says, "You have to go home and act."

Mark Dimunation '74 stewards our nation's most precious documents in his role as chief of the Rare Books and Special Collections Division at the Library of Congress by preserving and interpreting core documents of our American heritage. How does one prepare for such a responsibility? Mark describes how St. Olaf taught him to think critically, to write analytically, to transcend disciplinary boundaries and to learn in community. Such an education, as I like to remind prospective students and their families, equips you to flourish in a number of different futures, most of which as a first-year student you don't foresee. Mark Dimunation did not come to college to major in curating America's intellectual treasures, but his St. Olaf education enabled him to find and embrace that role. We're glad that this responsibility is in the hands of an Ole.

Assistant Professor of Biology Diane Angell and student volunteers from the St. Olaf Environmental Coalition exemplify the admonition to "act locally." Through their good work Northfield elementary school students locate themselves in and learn to appreciate the beauty of the landscape where they have been planted. The St. Olaf natural lands are the classroom where these children learn to "process the natural world." The education they receive from Oles is all about the immediate, the concrete, the sensory and the local. By tramping the natural lands with St. Olaf students, these Northfield youngsters are able to claim that part of their birthright connected to the place that helps to define their identity and sustains them as they grow.

Global, national, local: The reach of St. Olaf extends near and far, to old and young, to Christians and other believers, from bugs and blades of grass to the grandest ideas upon which America was founded, to our connections with and responsibilities to those with whom we share this globe. Step back as you read this issue of our magazine and experience the reach of our college.

It's a good thing. 🦁

*David R. Anderson*