

**SHAW-OLSON CENTER FOR COLLEGE HISTORY
(ST. OLAF COLLEGE ARCHIVES)
NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ARCHIVES
ANNUAL REPORT: 2007-08**

*Gary De Krey, Director
Jeff Sauve, Associate Archivist
May 30, 2008*

I. ARCHIVAL ACQUISITIONS AND COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT

Office Statistics:

- Accessioned 37 new College Archives collections
- Generated 4448 new electronic collection records (College and NAHA), bringing *Fram* (College Archives searchable database) to over 100,000 electronic records
- Created 1288 full text *St. Olaf* alumni magazine records

Major Additions and Accessioning: 40 or more new boxes received June 1, 2007 to May 30, 2008, including:

- History Distinction Papers
- Biology in South India Papers
- Music Department
- President's Office
- Flaten family Papers
- Stolee family collection (NAHA)
- Lokensgard family correspondence (NAHA)
- Ruth Crane family collection (NAHA)

II. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Providing Assistance to Patrons

- Major assistance to *St. Olaf* magazine editor and contributors and to the Communications-Marketing Office on a variety of historical topics
- Routine assistance to Alumni and Parent Relations Office in responding to historical queries from alumni, reunion committees, and parents
- Provided research responses to fifteen or more monthly inquiries from faculty or staff about records in our care (e-mails, attached photos and documents, faxes, telephone calls, letters)
- Provided research responses to five or more monthly inquires from St. Olaf alumni or alumni descendants about family connections to St. Olaf
- Provided research responses to fifteen or more monthly inquires about a variety of subjects, both College and NAHA-related, from persons not connected to St. Olaf.
- Provided assistance to twenty or more monthly visitors to the two archives including:
 - Lori Lahlum, Dept. of History, Mankato State Univ.
 - Laurann Gilbertson, Textile Curator, Vesterheim Museum
 - Per Inge Boe, Norwegian Emigration Center, Stavanger
 - Wendy Swallow, Prof. Emeritus (Journalism), American University
 - Berit Nersten, Master's Degree candidate, University of Bergen
- Historical assistance to Twin Cities Public Television for Christmas Festival introduction
- Historical assistance to Prof. Odd Lovell, for his Norwegian-American newspaper history
- Historical assistance to Prof. Joe Shaw, for his biography of President Kildahl
- Historical assistance to Music Dept. (1909 Band West Coast tour, Christmas Festival)
- Leadership in initiating chapel service for dedication of new wind chime for Ruth Norvold (Sauve)

- Provided research assistance to grandson of Lars Vigness, whose family is considering donation of private Vigness papers to St. Olaf (Sauve)
- Implementation of new filing system to track patron requests and responses
- Numerous meetings with potential or actual donors of material to College and NAHA archives, including:
 - Joanne Englund: Skreia Loge, Sons of Norway (DeKrey)
 - Mary Flaten: Arnold Flaten papers and art pieces (DeKrey)
 - Barbara Nelson: F. A. Schmitt family materials
 - Carla Griebel: Papers of Julia Langness & Conrad M. Christiansen
- Tours of NANA Archives provided for:
 - Norwegian teachers group
 - Norwegian tour group
 - NAHA board
 - Norwegian ambassador to US, Wegger Chr. Strommen

Display, Treatment, and Preservation of Historical Materials

- Outsourced over 50 old reel-to-reel recordings for transfer to CDs and DVDs
- Harald Farseth glass plate photographic images (1906-20) printed on paper
- Significant progress in re-boxing, re-folding, and re-labeling of NAHA collection
- Continued transfer of current chapel talks to CDs for archival preservation
- Completion of online climate control course from Upstate History Alliance (DeKrey)
- Online ContentDM Webcast instruction (DeKrey)
- Implementation of regular humidity level monitoring in College Archives vault
- Introduction of new NAHA visitor registration and security system

Exhibits

Display from previous royal visits for Princess Astrid

Display of NAHA materials for Wegger Chr. Strommen, visiting Norwegian ambassador (Sauve)

Public History

Authored by Jeff Sauve:

Historical *Tidbits from the Archives* posted in St Olaf e-newsletter & circulated on campus e-mail

- Sept. 2007: The St. Olaf Rock
- Oct. 2007: Minnesota 150
- Nov. 2007: Take a Seat
- Feb. 2008: The Secret Revealed
- Mar. 2008: The Lord's Supper
- April 2008: Old Flag, Old Friends
- May 2008: Discovering St. Olaf: What's in your Basement?

Contribution to Vesterheim Museum Magazine:

“Helping Hands: The Efforts of American Relief for Norway” *Vesterheim*, 5, 2 (2007), 34-40.

Newspaper and newsletter contributions to:

Zumbrota News and Goodhue County Historical Society

Presentations made by Gary De Krey:

- *A St. Olaf Primer* for new faculty and staff (August 2007, February 2008)
- Silent films of *1925 Norse Centennial* & *1930 Choir Tour to Norway* for Norwegian Heritage Day (May 2008)

Presentations made by Jeff Sauve:

- Northfield Historical Society Cemetery Walk (portrayal of Ole Felland)
- *Ytterboe the Dog: A Community Tale*, with H. Scriven, Northfield Hist. Soc. (May 2008)
- Interviewed by TPT (Northfield history show) & by student creators of *Ytterboe the Dog*

Presentations made by De Krey and Sauve together:

- *Ole Reels* (showing of silent St. Olaf films) for Celebration week-end (May 2008)

HISTORICAL CONSULTING

- Liaison with Minnesota Historical Society for inclusion of St. Olaf in Minnesota Sesquicentennial exhibit (Sauve)
- Liaison with Minnesota Civil Rights Commission: preparation of information about early St. Olaf graduates of color and distinguished graduates of color for Sesquicentennial project (DeKrey)
- Liaison with American Field Services Archives to secure copies of papers of St. Olaf graduate in World War I ambulance corps (Sauve)
- Liaison with Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle for exhibit about 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exhibition exhibit (Sauve)
- Transfer of 1950s sickle cell anemia film from St. Olaf to Sickle Cell Disease Association of America collection (Sauve)
- Significant involvement in Northfield Historical Society (Sauve):
 - Member, NHS archives and publication committees
 - Editor, NHS newsletter, *Scriver Scribbler*, including article about Maryls Boone '35, forgotten first African-American St. Olaf female graduate from Northfield family
- Liaison with Northfield History Collaborative Project (Sauve)

III. ENCOURAGING STUDENT, STAFF & ALUMNI USE OF THE ARCHIVES

- Assisted with projects for AmCon 201, taught by J. Kutulas and E. Fure-Slocum (Fall 2007)
- Assisted with projects for Art 271, taught by C. O'Malley (Interim 2008)
- Assisted with projects for Environmental Studies 222 taught by J. Farrell (Spring 2008)
- Historical assistance to Alan Norton and judicial investigator in WCAL legal process
- Historical assistance to Stephanie Tanner and Jessica Steinback, St. Olaf history interns at Northfield Historical Society for documentary, *Ytterboe the Dog: A Community Tale* (Sauve)
- Archives open house for Celebration weekend
- Assistance to Class of 1958 50th anniversary committee
- Continuing assistance to *The Manitou Messenger* and the *Viking* yearbook.

IV. PROVIDING ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO NAHA & THE CENTER/ARCHIVES

- Revised NAHA Archives web pages (DeKrey)
- Redesigned *Leif*, NAHA search engine (Sauve)
- *Leif* extended to include catalog entries of collections not yet databased (Sauve)
- Began creation of an archival image gallery with IIT and Library staff
- Worked with metadata librarian to launch digital edition of the *Manitou Messenger*.
- Worked with metadata librarian to prepare digital editions of Joe Shaw's *Centennial History of St. Olaf College* and *Dear Old Hill*.
- Worked with metadata librarian to create online edition of early O. Rolvaag writings (Sauve)
- Worked with NAHA volunteer to create online index of Norwegian-American press
- Expansion of Archives database to 57,848 records, or about 89% of the collection
- Brought total of NAHA electronic finding records to 12,965, or about 77% of the collection

- Brought an additional 2000 index records created by volunteer L. Rokke into *Leif*, the electronic search engine for NAHA
- Scanning project for *St. Olaf* alumni magazine completed through 1969: fully searchable text of all scanned articles now available on the Archives web site, with plans to continue, as budget permits