

SHAW-OLSON CENTER FOR COLLEGE HISTORY (ST. OLAF ARCHIVES)
ANNUAL REPORT: 2003-04
Gary De Krey, Director
Jeff Sauve, Associate Archivist
June 17, 2004

I. ARCHIVAL ACQUISITIONS AND COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT

Office Statistics:

- Accessioned 139 new collections
- Generated 3513 new electronic records

Major Additions and Accessioning: 30 new boxes received June 1, 2003 to May 31, 2004.

Major additions to the collection

- Seven boxes of H. T. Ytterboe papers received from NAHA
- File cabinet of theater production programs, photos, and records since 1920s from Theater Department
- Two boxes of summer theological conference audiotapes from Janet K. Thompson
- Nine boxes from President's Office
- Six boxes of communications and marketing material from Communications Office
- Initial donation of Harold Ditmanson papers and memorabilia; active solicitation of family members for significant historical materials remaining in their hands
- Several hundred images of athletic teams transferred from Skoglund with assistance of Tom Porter
- Budget purchases of historical St. Olaf souvenir china, athletic postcards, and miscellaneous items from auctions and dealers
- Early band uniform received from David J. Davidson '53
- Received several student scrapbooks from 1904 through 1920s

Major accessioning projects

- Sixty-one boxes of E. Clifford Nelson papers completed
- Over four hundred St. Olaf phonograph records individually accessioned
- Over one hundred boxes of archival material added to online database, including David E. Johnson papers and papers of the Deans of Men and Women
- Nine file cabinets of general historical information added to online database

II. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Providing Assistance to Patrons

- Major assistance to *St. Olaf* magazine editors and writers for articles about NAHA-College Archives online projects and Sidney Rand
- Provided ongoing archival and financial support (College History Fund) to Joe Shaw, Prof. of Religion Emeritus, for his current biography of President Thorbjorn N. Mohn
- Provided materials to Eida Berrio and Bonita Bartholomew for Women's History Month
- Provided assistance and artifacts to Carleton College students preparing exhibit about civil defense in Northfield in the 1960s for Northfield Historical Society
- Major assistance to David Sudermann, working on history of the Way family gift, and to a variety of faculty and staff examining history of faculty status for librarians
- 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 (e-mails, attached photos and documents, faxes, telephone calls, letters)
- Provided research responses to five or more monthly inquires from persons not connected to St. Olaf about a variety of subjects, including family connections to defunct college whose records we hold (e-mails, attached photos and documents, faxes, telephone calls, letters)

Display, Treatment, and Preservation of Historical Artifacts

- Provided new historical signage for the stained glass windows in Rolvaag 525 (Hauge Room)
- Continued transferal of current chapel talks to CDs for archival preservation
- Continued transferal of older recordings to CDs: work done by Language Lab
- Improved arrangement of all music organization recordings and memorabilia
- Improved preservation and rearrangement of all student scrapbooks

Exhibits

- Exhibit of Old Main images from plates, postcards, stationery, and book jackets placed in Heritage Room to mark 125th anniversary of the building's completion, Founders' Day 2003
- Exhibit about life and death of H. T. Ytterboe in Archives/NAHA exhibit case to mark centennial of his death.
- Exhibit about Agnes Mellby moved to Heritage Room.
- Exhibit focusing on history of the "St. Olaf Center" placed online, Founders' Day 2003, at: <http://www.stolaf.edu/collections/archives/shows/stolafcenter/index.html>
- Exhibit focusing on Ladies' Hall and on college's coeducational heritage placed online, Founders' Day 2003, at: <http://www.stolaf.edu/collections/archives/shows/ladieshall/index.html>

Public History

Publications authored by Gary De Krey

- "Remembering the Korean War: How an earlier war defined a generation of St. Olaf Students," *St. Olaf; the Magazine of St. Olaf College*, 50, 3 (Fall, 2003), p. 42.
- "A Tradition of Diversity," *Ibid.*, 51, 1 (January, 2004), pp. 21-29.

Publications authored by Jeff Sauve

- “Play Ball! A look back at early athletics at St. Olaf,” *St. Olaf; the Magazine of St. Olaf College*, 50, 3 (Fall, 2003), p. 3.
- Historical “Tidbits from the Archives” posted in monthly St. Olaf e-newsletter and on the President’s Office web site at: <http://www.stolaf.edu/president/enewsletter/archives.html>
- Additional “Tidbits” circulated on campus e-mail

Presentations made by Gary De Krey:

- “*Forming St. Olaf, 1874-1942*” (slide show): Regularly shown on local access TV
- “*Transforming St. Olaf, 1942-1963*” (power point show): AAAs meeting, Jan. 6, 2004
- *Chapel talk* for Centennial of H. T. Ytterboe’s death

Presentations made by Jeff Sauve:

- “*St. Olaf: A to Z*” (slide show)
 - ✓ Area hall coordinators: August 6, 2003
 - ✓ Orientation for new faculty and staff: August 25, 2003
 - ✓ Kildahl Hall JCs: November 13, 2003
- “*Hats off to St. Olaf*” (power point show)
 - ✓ Alumni Journeys lunch: May 13, 2004
 - ✓ Celebration weekend: May 29, 2004

Presentations made by Joan Olson

- “*Forming St. Olaf, 1874-1942*” (slide show): Mellby Dorm group, February 2004

Historical Consulting

- Documentation about four St. Olaf buildings for inclusion in the Survey of Historic Architecture and Design of the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC)
- Facilities workshop for Waldorf College committee charged with establishing an institutional archive
- Background and historical information for FDR Archives (Hyde Park, NY), National Scouting Museum, Harvard University Archives, and the Harlem Globetrotters
- Database of student names for inclusion on wind chimes for memorial tower and continuing response to inquiries from interested families
- Historical resource for the *Northfield News*, the Northfield Heritage Preservation Committee, and the Northfield Hospital.
- Assistance to Music Department and Jill Ewald in placement of F. Melius Christiansen and P. G. Schmidt portraits in Library Reference Room
- Extensive consultation with Northfield, Randolph, Kenyon, and Minnesota historical societies
- Zumbrota Area Historical Society Board (Sauve)

III. ENCOURAGING STUDENT AND ALUMNI USE OF THE CENTER/ARCHIVES

- Advised/assisted research projects for American Conversations 201, taught by Jim Farrell and DeAne Lagerquist
- Advised/assisted research projects for English 185 (David Wee)
- Co-supervision of public history internship for high school senior Christopher Muessig
- Continuing assistance to *The Manitou Messenger*, and the *Viking* yearbook.
- Assistance to students working on a variety of individual projects including Northfield environmental history and first-generation students at St. Olaf

- Assistance to Mary Loven Holt, Judith Stoutland, and others preparing historical memorabilia for class reunions
- Archives open house for Celebration weekend
- Assisted Todd Nichol, King Olav V Chair, in devising writing assignments using archival records for Norwegian-American history courses

IV. PROVIDING ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO THE CENTER/ARCHIVES

- Two new exhibits placed online as detailed above
- Web site links established to online copies of [Prof. I. F. Grose, Fifty Memorable Years at St. Olaf \(1925\)](#) at the Library of Congress *American Memories* site and at the ancestry.com Web site.
- The on-line collections database under construction was expanded to a current total of 43,893 records. The database now includes approximately 60% of the collection.
- First sixteen years of Alumni magazine issues were scanned by outside vendor for inclusion in Archives online database. Fully searchable text of all articles scanned will become available in 2004-05. Scanning will continue, as budget permits, until all alumni magazine text is available online.
- Discussion with Roberta Lembke, Brad Mikkelsen, Dan Beach and others about creation of the on-line Norwegian-American photographic image database envisaged in current Nygaard grant to NAHA and the Center for College History.

V. ORAL HISTORY

- Continued moderation of the Stories Forum in Café Ole on the Alumni and Family Relations Office web site
- Interviewed Naurine Lennox about her unique St. Olaf ROTC membership as a female student
- Oral history sessions with class of 1954 and other reunion groups
- Trained Mrs. Edward Sovik, who recorded a lengthy interview with Ed about his life and professional work
- Continued the rerecording on CDs of older voice recordings as detailed above.
- Downloaded all Chapel talks on CDs from WCAL web site.

VI. CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Attended Great Plains History Conference, Fargo, ND, October 3-4 (Sauve)

VII. ENDOWMENT FOR THE CENTER FOR COLLEGE HISTORY

- Met with the president, dean, vice-president for advancement, and associate dean for IGS to encourage the College to follow through on its announced intention of raising an endowment of \$1 million to support the work of the Center through budget offset