

BY THE NUMBERS

Numbers also tell the story of campus life as seen in the academic, athletic, artistic, and co-curricular pursuits of St. Olaf students in 2008–09. Here are just a few:

1st place finish for the St. Olaf team in the national Rube Goldberg Machine Contest held at Purdue University. The St. Olaf students spent thousands of hours designing and engineering a machine that took 239 steps to change a light bulb. St. Olaf is the first liberal arts college ever to compete in the contest.



2 students earned prestigious Fulbright fellowships to conduct post-graduate research abroad: Sarah Hendrickson '09 in India and Whitney Waters '09 in Mexico. They are the College's 71st and 72nd Fulbright recipients since 1993.

4th place finish for the St. Olaf men's swimming and diving team at the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships. Nelson Westby '09 won the 200 individual medley, his third straight national title in the event. The Oles' fourth-place finish was the best in school history, matching the efforts of the 1986 and 1987 teams.

5 students spent Interim in Geneva, Switzerland conducting a comprehensive review of HIV/AIDS literature in order to determine the disease's prevalence among people over the age of 50. The students' research culminated in a 45-minute presentation to a group of epidemiologists from the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

8 performances in seven days kept the St. Olaf Choir busy in their first-ever concert tour of England, Wales, and Ireland. Along the way, the choir performed at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, University Church in Oxford, and Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin.

10 piano students participated in a five-day Texas tour with stops in Waco, Dallas, and Fort Worth. This was the first year that St. Olaf piano students traveled outside of Minnesota on their tour.

19 NCAA tournament appearances. The baseball team reached that benchmark by earning the MIAC conference's automatic qualifying bid for the third time in the last four years.

20 young leaders under 20 named by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* included St. Olaf's Antonio Jennings '11. Jennings was recognized for his

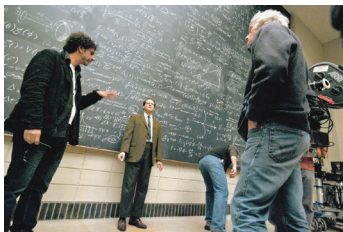
work with the Each One Reach One Impact Project, a nonprofit he launched that assists at-risk young and single mothers who are struggling to educate their children.

20 “curious” words were released on buttons, one each week, beginning in September as part of the first Curious-Word-of-the-Week Contest put on by Rølvaag Library staff. Contestants were challenged to incorporate words such as “pukka,” “oology,” and “frigorific” into a limerick or haiku.

25 students in Assistant Professor of Sociology Ryan Sheppard’s quantitative research class presented their research at the Midwest Sociological Society’s annual meeting, constituting an unusually large number of undergraduate presenters.

71 new members were elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Invitation to membership in Phi Beta Kappa is a reflection of outstanding academic achievement. Only 10 percent of the nation’s institutions of higher learning have Phi Beta Kappa chapters.

75 film students and faculty attended a behind-the-scenes presentation on the filming of Joel and Ethan Coen’s movie *A Serious Man*. Several scenes from the movie were shot on location in St. Olaf’s old Science Center during two days in October. The film’s executive producer also spoke to members of the St. Olaf Film Club and local community members who gathered to watch *No Country for Old Men*, another Academy Award-winning film directed by the Coen brothers.



376 students contributed to five major productions in the Kelsey and Haugen theaters and the One Act Play Festival. Students participated as actors, assistant directors, and production staff involved in scenery, costumes, lighting and sound, and marketing.

838 students studied off-campus during the 2008-09 academic year. Of those, 488 participated in 22 Interim courses abroad ranging from perennial favorites such as *Historical Geography and the Bible* in Greece and Turkey to new courses such as the joint *Island Biology and Drawing from Nature* in the Bahamas.

77,000 hours of community service were logged by St. Olaf students, including the annual Ole Spring Relief trip that continues to help Gulf Coast communities recover from Hurricane Katrina. The students’ contributions led to St. Olaf College being named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.