

HIGHLIGHTS

On Commencement Day 2011, with 92 percent reporting, **two-thirds of the graduating class had accepted a job offer or been admitted to a graduate or professional program.** One-third said they were “still working on it.” Of those with confirmed plans for life after college, one-half had accepted an offer to work in the private, public, or nonprofit sector and one-half were enrolling in graduate or other post-undergraduate programs. Employers range from Target, Epic Systems, and EcoLab to the Department of Defense, the Peace Corps, and Disney World. Twenty-nine members of the class are enrolled in medical school. Others are enrolled in prestigious graduate programs at universities ranging from the University of Washington and Northwestern to Emory and Yale.

St. Olaf College continued to earn accolades for the achievements of its students and faculty and the strength of its academic programs. For the second consecutive year, the Institute of International Education’s *Open Doors 2010 Report on International Educational Exchange* ranked St. Olaf **first among all baccalaureate institutions in the nation in the total number of students studying abroad** for the 2008–09 academic year. During that period, 680 St. Olaf students participated in study-abroad programs.

Moody’s Investors Service announced an upgrade in St. Olaf’s bond rating from A2 to A1, reflecting the College’s “uncommonly strong cash flow margins, healthy liquidity, a reduction in variable rate debt, and stability in market positioning.” Only two other Minnesota private colleges, Carleton and Macalester, had credit ratings at or above A1.

With 24 alumni serving abroad in the Peace Corps, St. Olaf once again earned a **“Top 25” ranking in the number of volunteers the College produces.** St. Olaf ranked second among small colleges and universities (enrollments under 5,000) across the nation.

Nine St. Olaf seniors were named Fulbright fellows for 2011–12, the most students the College has had accepted into the prestigious program in a single year.



2011–12 St. Olaf Fulbright Scholars: (back row, from left) Sara Padula, Steven Braun, Madeline Buck, Lydia Pfothenhauer, (front row, from left) Erin Seybold, Bogdan Conrad, Anna Coffey, (not pictured) Jonathan Christensen, and Annika Tohlen.

A member college of the Davis United World College Scholars Program, the largest international scholarship program for undergraduates in the world, **St. Olaf enrolled eight Davis scholars** who hailed from such locales as Ecuador, Albania, Denmark, and Kenya.

During the summer of 2010, 72 St. Olaf students performed research on campus, examining everything from the presence of metals in storm-water runoff to ethical approaches to Middle English literature. The wealth of research projects on campus during the summer was nothing new at St. Olaf, which is committed to providing undergraduate students with engaging and rewarding investigative experiences. What was new was that all of the summer research was coordinated through **a newly established, centralized program known as Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry or CURI.**

St. Olaf student **Benjamin Simmons '12** was awarded a **Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship** for the 2011–12 academic year. Simmons was chosen from more than 1,000 applicants to receive one of 275 scholarships. Goldwater Scholarships are awarded each year to undergraduate students who have shown significant achievement and potential in the fields of mathematics, science, and engineering. In addition, **Michael Wineman '11** was one of only three students selected nationally to receive a \$10,000 scholarship and be **named a Rossing Physics Scholar.**

In April **the College hosted the 2011 St. Olaf Economic Summit: Crisis, Reform, and the Future.**

Led by keynote speaker Eugene Ludwig, founder and CEO of Promontory Financial Group and former comptroller of the United States currency, a distinguished alumni group of economists, bankers, and business leaders examined the events leading up to the

recent economic crisis; the responses by various government agencies; the business and economic climate going forward; and the implications of the Great Recession for businesses in various sectors of the economy.





Named in honor of O. Jay Tomson '58, former chair of the St. Olaf Board of Regents, and his wife, Patricia McCarthy Tomson '59, **Tomson Hall, the College's newest facility, was dedicated during Honors Day** in May. A much-needed renovation of the 1960s-era Science Center transformed the building into a modern facility that is home to the Education Department and the College's six language departments, as well as the World Languages Center. Tomson Hall also houses a number of offices that serve students, including Admissions and Financial Aid, International and Off-Campus Studies, Residence Life, Health Services, the Registrar, the Dean of Students, and the Center for Experiential Learning. The offices of the President and Provost are located in the building as well.

In Fall 2010, St. Olaf awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters to Karen Georgievich Shakhnazarov, president and general director of Russia's Mosfilm studio, during a special convocation celebrating the 50th anniversary of the College's Russian Language and Area Studies Department. **In Spring 2011, the College awarded an honorary doctor of science to Peter Agre**, Northfield native, winner of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, and president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the nation's largest scientific organization.