AUTUMN ON THE HILL
Photo by Tom Roster

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:
“Eastern Venice” (Shanghai, China), by Sarah Pearson ’11.
Harvesting squash at STOGROW.
Classroom photo by Keith Brofksy.
St. Olaf Theatre: Assassins (2010).
Charlotte Darling ’08 used skills she learned at St. Olaf to land this Wyoming rainbow trout.

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Dear Oles,

St. Olaf speaks to the whole person. The experience we offer engages students intellectually, certainly, but it also offers opportunities for them to develop in countless other directions. This issue of our magazine provides some insight into the totality of their St. Olaf experience.

In “A Dramatic Art,” Professor Gary Gisselman’s suggestive statement that “Theatre is not about theatre — it’s about everything else. And the ‘everything else’ is what students learn at St. Olaf” opens the door to an exploration of how the intellectual and artistic purposes of a theatre program nest within a liberal arts curriculum.

“Moral Minority” takes a different direction, generating a rich discussion among our provost, dean of students, and the student president of our Honor Council about how St. Olaf’s Honor Code, in place since 1911, provides occasions for students to shape and develop their personal integrity.

“Catch and Release” opens a window on one of St. Olaf’s gems: Scott Nesbit’s fly fishing class. St. Olaf is unusual among colleges in retaining a two-course physical education requirement, but we are also unusual in offering the opportunity to fulfill it through ballroom dance and fly fishing, two worthy life skills. I hope you enjoy Professor Nesbit’s hints on how to read a river.

We love the partnership between our student farmers and Bon Appétit, our food service. There was a day when many students came to St. Olaf from farms. Most of our students now do not come to us from farms, but those days are not entirely gone. The presence of a farming operation on campus, the taste of the fifteen tons of produce grown there among the Caf’s offerings, and the conversations STOGROW sparks about the organic and sustainable growing practices on campus is shaping our students’ notions about their own healthy eating and about sustainable food production that they will carry forward in their lives after St. Olaf.

St. Olaf has been a national leader in off-campus study for many years. Last year we sent more students to study abroad than any other liberal arts college in America. The stirring photos reprinted here from the Gimse International and Off-Campus Photo Contest reflect just some of the life-changing experiences that study travel offered Oles this past year.

What does this all add up to? The kind of rich and varied experience that nurtured the minds and souls of many readers of this magazine and, in particular, of Chris Lomen ’10 and the recipients of our alumni awards, whose achievements are featured in this issue. The riches of an experience that speaks to the whole person continue to be available to Oles today. We invite you to come to campus or participate in the many campus activities streamed live from our Web page, so that you, too, can join in that experience.

Best wishes.

David R. Anderson
McNair Summer Scholars

After completing high school, Fatima Omar ‘11 wasn’t sure she wanted to go straight to college, and pursuing an education beyond a bachelor’s degree seemed unthinkable. Yet with the support of St. Olaf College’s TRiO McNair Scholars Program, today she’s well on her way to degrees in sociology/anthropology and American racial and multicultural studies.

Omar is one of nine McNair scholars who participated in research internships this summer as part of the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program, a national program that aims to increase the attainment of PhDs by first-generation students and students from underrepresented populations. Summers provide experiential learning experiences for McNair scholars, with internships and research projects that most recently ranged from studies of the American Revolution to HIV/AIDS research to politics in Bulgaria and Romania.

Since 2007 the St. Olaf TRiO McNair Scholars Program has been working to make graduate school a reality for twenty-seven students each year. McNair Scholar selection begins sophomore year and, once accepted, students attend workshops, graduate school fairs, and goal-setting meetings. The summer research project that follows junior year is a crucial stage of the program. While conducting their research, McNair scholars are paired with St. Olaf faculty who guide their reading, experiments, interviews, and analysis.

Omar worked with Professor of History Michael Fitzgerald and Assistant Professor of History Abdulai Iddrisu as part of her independent research project in cultural anthropology, a field she hopes to pursue in graduate school. Her research explored relations between African American and Somali college students in an effort to understand the miscommunication that often occurs between the two populations. “It’s a reality that is widely acknowledged but rarely talked about,” Omar says.

Throughout the entire process, Omar and her McNair scholar peers received support and mentorship from program director Janis Johnson and academic advisor Melissa Hinderscheit ’04. “For them to believe in me was huge,” Omar says. “I didn’t even believe in myself, and they did.”

— CLAIRE CARLSON ’12

stolaf.edu/news

Ask a Philosopher

When an Ivy League university student recently wondered how philosophers would advise her to approach the next step of her life, she turned to a website that connects the masses with scholarly minds.

There to answer her question was St. Olaf College Professor of Philosophy Charles Taliaferro. First, he pointed out that Socrates advised people to care for their souls instead of pursuing only material wealth and power. Then he offered his own advice, urging her to consider the difference between a vocation and a job and recommending a book she could read for further guidance. Finally, Taliaferro wrote, “I suggest the question ‘What should I do?’ is dependent upon a prior question: ‘Who am I?’ To go back to Socrates, he admonished us to care for the soul, but he also put there some vital advice: Know Thyself. I think if you take on that task, the rest will follow.”

This was just one of Taliaferro’s nearly 100 responses to questions asked by the general public at AskPhilosophers.org. St. Olaf Professor of Philosophy and Kierkegaard Library Curator Gordon Marino also contributes to the site, often offering his expertise on questions regarding ethics, happiness, and existence. Taliaferro responds frequently to questions concerning religious philosophy and ethics.

AskPhilosophers.org, launched in 2005 by Amherst College philosophy professor Alexander George, gets nearly 13,000 hits each day. In addition to Taliaferro and Marino, thirty-three scholars — from institutions such as Vassar College, Brown University, and the University of Cambridge — answer dozens of life’s eternal questions posed by curious individuals from around the world. Taliaferro notes that having access to so many philosophers at once is a unique aspect of technological innovation: “The field has never been better for an honest inquirer to have easy access to the best arguments that are around, and then make up his or her own mind.”

Taliaferro says that similar to most areas of academia, it is the more radical or creative philosophical views that receive attention and publicity. Perhaps that’s why this revolutionary, egalitarian approach to philosophy has become popular — or perhaps it is simply the expression of natural human curiosity. We’ll have to ask the experts. — CLAIRE CARLSON ’12

Go ahead... ask him. St. Olaf Professor of Philosophy Charles Taliaferro is a regular at AskPhilosophers.org.
The Class of 2014 will be the largest and most diverse class ever enrolled by the college. Drawn from more than 4,000 applicants, this year’s group of enrolled students represents forty-three states and fourteen countries spanning five continents. The incoming Oles graduated from 486 high schools with classes ranging in size from 1 to 1,418.

The Class of 2014 has 124 U.S. multicultural students — at nearly 15 percent it’s the most ever in an incoming class — and a nearly fifty-fifty ratio of males to females. Academically, the admitted students include five Davis Scholars, thirty-nine National Merit Scholars, three National Hispanic Scholars, and eighty-two Buntrock Scholars. Seventy of the students were ranked first or second in their graduating classes.

EXPERIMENTAL Science

The first-ever Engineering and Physics Camp for Girls: Building a Rube Goldberg Machine brought forty high school-aged girls to campus this summer. The high schoolers worked with St. Olaf physics professors Jason Engbrecht and David Nitz ’73, as well as with St. Olaf students who competed in the national Rube Goldberg Machine contest. The eight teams of participants learned a variety of engineering and scientific principles and techniques as they crafted their own machines.
Ole Athletics  Spring 2010 Highlights

Men’s Tennis
The team was 5–11 overall and 4–4 in MIAC play this spring. The Oles advanced to the MIAC playoffs where they lost in the first round. The team had one All-MIAC honoree, doubles player Knute Gunderson ’12, who went a combined 4–4 in league play between the first and second doubles flights in MIAC action.

Women’s Tennis
The women’s team advanced to its second consecutive MIAC playoffs final behind a solid core of sophomores and juniors. Abigail Ho ’11, Caitlin Harper ’12, and Christine Muller ’12 each earned All-MIAC honors, and Ho and Muller were honored as both singles and doubles players. Ho went 10–4 overall and 8–2 in league play at the number one singles spot. She and Muller, who was 12–2 overall and 9–1 in league play at the number three spot, were 10–4 as a duo at the top doubles flight this spring. Harper posted a 7–3 mark from her second singles spot in conference play.

Softball
The softball team had its best season in nearly fifteen years, posting a 14–8 record in MIAC play (19–21 overall). Ruthie Neuger ’89 was named the league’s coach of the year and Jessica Wilson ’13 was elected MIAC rookie of the year. Ali Berens ’10, a four-time all-league selection, was named to the 2010 Louisville Slugger/National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division III All-Midwest Region Third Team after collecting a .341 average with twelve doubles, five homers, and twenty-six RBIs. The Oles had two all-conference honorable mention selections, Cara Lemmon ’13 and Katie Truax ’11.

Baseball
The team collected its seventeenth-straight twenty-win season with a 22–18 campaign and fourth-place finish in the MIAC. Tyler Jones ’10 was named MIAC player of the year after leading the Oles in average (.430), hits (65), homers (4), total bases (94), slugging percentage (.623), and stolen bases (10). Carson Jones ’10 was also named All-MIAC after he hit .371 with seven doubles, four homers, and a team-best thirty-seven RBIs. Head coach Matt McDonald ’89 surpassed 425 career wins this past spring. Through sixteen seasons, McDonald has compiled a 428–207 (.674) record overall and 235–85 (.734) in MIAC play.

Men’s Track and Field
The men’s track and field team won three events — including the 4x800 relay — on the way to a fourth-place team finish at the MIAC Outdoor Championships in May. The Oles’ Brian Tomlinson ’13, David Anderson ’12, Nathan Swenson ’10, and Reid Gilbertson ’12 teamed to win the 4x800 relay in 7:44.49. Dobuul Ruon ’11 won the 5000 by nearly ten seconds with a NCAA provisional time of 14:43.62. Jon Lambert ’11 added an eighth-place run in the event.

Women’s Track and Field
The women’s track and field team had a win in the mile relay to highlight the team’s seventh-place finish at the MIAC Outdoor Championships in May. The Oles’ NCAA-provisional time of 3:52.06 in the 4x400 came via Callie Knaebel ’12. Kathryn Thompson ’10, Alison Millis ’11, and Becca Neuger ’11. Abby Smith ’10, Jamie Mosel ’12, Brady Pernet ’11, and Millis combined for a third-place finish in the 4x800. The team’s other win in the meet came from Susan Kenzie ’12, who won the triple jump with a mark of 37’1” (11.30 m).

Coach Chris Daymont, an associate professor and the longest-tenured women’s track and field coach in the MIAC, has stepped aside from her duties as head women’s track and field coach. Daymont will continue to coach the St. Olaf women’s cross country team and will expand her teaching and administrative roles in the athletic department. She teaches exercise physiology and is currently developing a course in exercise prescription. Daymont will assist the athletic director with NCAA and MIAC compliance and will administer the men’s and women’s home track and field meets.

stolaf.edu/athletics

ST. OLAF COLLEGE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The St. Olaf Department of Athletics will welcome six alumni into the Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday, October 2 at 6 p.m. as part of Homecoming and Family Weekend. Reserve a seat at this special dinner event by emailing Linda Maus (maus@stolaf.edu) or calling 507-786-3749. The cost is $20 per person.

2010 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Scott Peterson ’89 · Basketball | Jeff Ernste ’89 · Baseball | Justin Bradley ’94 · Swimming
Andrea McCarty ’93 · Swimming | Kenneth Hoffmann ’95 · Track and Field | Jen Kuzma Bachman ’97 · Volleyball

stolaf.edu/athletics
“OLE ROLLER” CHRIS LOMEN ’10 IS SKATING HIS WAY ACROSS THE EASTERN UNITED STATES ON A RECORD-SETTING QUEST TO HELP HAITIAN SCHOOLS.
Chris Lomen hasn’t forgotten about Haiti. “It’s been six months since the earthquake, and millions of Haitians in Port-au-Prince are still homeless and thousands of children have nowhere to attend school,” says Lomen, who is rollerblading 4,000 miles. His goal: to raise $100,000 for the nonprofit organization Outreach International. The money will help rebuild, restock, and revitalize up to ten schools in and around Port-au-Prince.

Averaging forty miles a day, Lomen left Stillwater, Minnesota, on June 29 and headed south toward St. Louis. By early August he had skated north through Vermont and New Hampshire to Bar Harbor, Maine, and began rollerblading down the East Coast, passing through New York City, Washington, D.C., and Boston. His trek will end in Key West, Florida, on September 30. Lomen says it’s a mental test as much as a physical one.

“Otherwise things have gone very well. We’ve met a lot of amazing people along the way, and every day brings new surprises and challenges.”

In Egypt and India, Lomen is acutely aware of the importance of schools and education. “I really feel called to make a difference in Haiti. Education — getting the schools reopened — is the number one priority for setting up the long-term success and vitality of Haiti,” he says. “I’m absolutely passionate about this cause, and I think it’s the most important thing I’ve ever done. The rollerblading is simply a means to making this happen.”

You can follow Lomen’s remarkable 100-day journey on his blog at RollingToRebuild.com and on Facebook.
FROM FARM TO FORK

BY CAROLE LEIGH ENGBLOM

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM ROSTER
**While food may be an “abstract idea” to urban consumers, as author Wendell Berry suggests, making it real is a priority for the students who work at STOGROW.**

Anna Elizabeth Martin ’12 has always understood the fundamentals of sustainability. A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Martin says her mother was an environmentalist and raised Anna and her brothers to “take care of the earth in every way we can, especially by eating healthy, locally grown food.” Healthy living was also a priority in Elizabeth Harness’s family. She and her sister, Emma, participated in a variety of outdoor activities, from camps to mission trips, “played in the dirt,” and ate vegetables that grew in the backyard garden of their Southwest Minneapolis home.

English major Peter Hanson ’11 says his family also had a garden back home in Baldwin, Wisconsin, but his only interaction with it came when he helped his parents with the weeding — and then only with “considerable persuasion.” Micah Marty ’10 grew up in Roseville, a northern suburb of the Twin Cities, and though he has long known the importance of eating healthy food and generally understood some of the environmental impacts of organic farming, “I couldn’t distinguish a tomato plant from an eggplant a few years ago.”

Senior Laura Carpenter became interested in sustainable agriculture after reading *The Omnivore’s Dilemma* by Michael Pollan in an introductory environmental studies class. “Realizing how complex our food system really is and how many problems there are with it, I began to question the system in place,” she says. Joey Fleming ’10, an art major from Alexandria, Minnesota, has always enjoyed the outdoors. He likes the solitude of weeding, the teamwork of harvesting, and watching things grow. It’s as simple as that.

These six students are the backbone of the 2010 St. Olaf Garden Research and Organic Works project, better known as STOGROW, a student-run organization established in 2004 by Dayna Burtness ’07 and Dan Borek ’07. Located at the James Farm House about a mile west of campus in the shadow of the college’s wind turbine, St. Olaf provides students with an acre of fertile soil for vegetables and plenty of surrounding space to grow berries, keep bees and chickens, and train their peers in the art — and business — of organic farming.

“I think it’s important that people know where the food they eat comes from,” says Marty, who graduated this past spring with majors in biology and environmental studies. The complexities of industrial agriculture, the widespread use of chemicals on crops, and the inevitable damage to the environment are issues that concern Marty and all of the students who work at the farm. “One of STOGROW’s key missions is outreach and teaching students about food production,” he explains, noting that he knew little about farming and food before volunteering at STOGROW. “To the extent that we are successful in the latter endeavor, more students like me who don’t really know where food comes from can start to learn about the food they eat.”

Since its inception, STOGROW has strived to increase campus sustainability by providing a source of local, organically grown food, raise agricultural awareness among students, and increase the richness of learning opportunities at the college.

While other colleges have organic gardens, STOGROW is unique because of its relationship with the college’s food provider, Bon Appéit Management Company (BAMC), which uses all of STOGROW’s fresh vegetables in the college’s daily meal plans. At the beginning of each growing season, STOGROW students meet with BAMC General Manager Peter Abrahamson and Bon Appéit head chef Matthew Fogarty and decide on what vegetables to grow.

“We’re privileged at St. Olaf to have such a strong connection with Bon Appéit, a company that is dedicated to bringing healthy, organic food into our cafeteria while supporting Minnesota’s local farmers,” says Martin, a Spanish and sociology/anthropology major who is concentrating in environmental studies. “I love that we are participating in the change that needs to happen by eating locally and organically.”

“Come visit the farm. We’ll show you how your food grows!” The STOGROW crew (and chickens), from left: Peter Hanson, Joey Fleming, Elizabeth Harness, Micah Marty, Laura Carpenter, and Anna Elizabeth Martin (with Harpoon and Sven, the Jaerhons, Regina, the Araucana hen, and Julie, the Plymouth Barred Rock hen).
In addition to planting core crops, students are encouraged by Abrahamson and Fogarty to try new vegetables. In 2008, STOGROW harvested and sold more than 30,000 pounds of fresh produce to Bon Appétit. The numbers for 2009 were abnormally low because an early frost cut the growing season short, but the students expect to reach, if not surpass, their 2008 numbers. The arrangement with Bon Appétit allows STOGROW to be profitable, which in turn means annual growth.

**STOGROW provides students with an acre of fertile soil for vegetables and plenty of surrounding space to grow berries, keep bees and chickens, and train their peers in the art — and business — of organic farming.**

This is Laura Carpenter’s second summer working at STOGROW. An economics and environmental studies major, not only is Carpenter making smarter food choices these days, but STOGROW has also helped her “to understand what it takes to run a successful business, which is a very valuable skill.”

STOGROW employs three lead farmers and two to three interns who are hired each spring. Most, but not all, are majoring or concentrating in environmental studies, biology, or participating in campus sustainability projects. What unites the students, past and present, is a love of the outdoors and a shared passion for sustainability in general and organic gardening in particular. “We work well together, on and off the farm, and that makes the work itself more enjoyable,” says Harness ’13.

Each makes a two-year commitment, with the lead farmers teaching and guiding their protégés throughout the year. When the lead farmers move on, either graduating or ending their term, the interns take over the lead position, and the teaching-learning cycle continues. They rely heavily on the help of volunteers, especially for the fall harvest, and training the volunteers is also part of the job.

“When large groups come out for harvesting, we do our best to delegate tasks and teach people what qualities we’re looking for in the fruits that we harvest — color, size, firmness — so that they can harvest effectively, too,” says Fleming.

Work begins at STOGROW when snow is still on the ground. When the lead farmers needed a place to grow the bulk of their seedlings in early spring, Leif Knecht ’73 didn’t hesitate to offer space in his greenhouses at Knecht’s Nurseries and Landscaping. Two hundred students also raised seedlings in their dorm rooms as part of STOGROW’s new “adopt-a-seedling” program. The carefully nurtured seeds were planted at the end of May, followed by composting, mulching, watering, fertilizing, trellising, weeding, ridding the garden of pesky bugs, and finally, harvesting.

STOGROW has four core crops: eggplants, peppers, squash, and tomatoes. This year the six students planted 340 squash plants, 920 tomato plants, 130 eggplants, and 200 peppers. They’re also growing bushels of beans, sweet potatoes, onions, carrots, radishes, beets, peas, basil, lettuce greens, brussels sprouts, and cucumbers — all grown from seeds and all destined for the St. Olaf cafeteria. An herb garden is filled with oregano, sage, thyme, and dill. Honeybees are new to STOGROW this year, and so are mushrooms (reishi, maitake, shiitake, oyster, and chicken of the woods) and raspberries (patches of June-bearing, ever-bearing, and black-cap).

The students credit local small farmers, Northfield retirees, professors, alumni, and peers for broadening their interests in — and understanding of — organic gardening and for lending support, offering advice, and mentoring them in new ventures. “All of these people inspire us, motivate us, teach us new things, and help us rejuvenate,” says Marty.

Each student’s STOGROW experience, whether short- or long-term, is meaningful to them. Some come away with a better appreciation for fresh food and farming, some reconnect with the land and nature, others take their hands-on education in sustainable agriculture a step further, questioning the way America feeds its people, raising awareness about living healthy and eating locally.

For Peter Hanson, STOGROW has given him something he never expected to find in a garden: “Hope.”

CAROLE LEIGH ENGBLOM is editor of St. Olaf Magazine.
Scott Nesbit casts for brook trout in a creek near campus.
Oles are hooked on the ancient angling art of Fly Fishing.

By Patricia Grotts Kelly ’77
Photographs by Tom Roster
St. Olaf students are required to take two physical education classes, and they must be in different areas. For the past six years, “Fly Fishing 128” has been one of their choices, and it always has a wait list. The lucky fifteen students who make it in spend fifty minutes a week learning to tie flies, another fifty learning to cast, and as many hours as possible fishing in nearby streams — outings usually led by Ole alumni who are former fly fishing students and who also assist Nesbit with hands-on help in the classroom. Local fly-fishing experts also give guest lectures on conservation, winter fly fishing, equipment, and entomology.

On rainy days, students cast in the Tostrud Center field house; on sunny days, they can be seen waving their fly rods and lines all over campus. “We use hula hoops for targets,” says Nesbit. “Or we aim for things like that chair, where that student is sitting.” He grins. “We use yarn flies when we practice. No hooks.”

Every summer, countless Minnesotans head north in pursuit of the walleye, leaving behind a fly-fishing paradise in southeastern Minnesota. Nesbit is happy to see them go: “There are so many streams, so many fish, and so few people to catch them!”

Northfield is at the northern edge of a 24,000-square-mile “Driftless” region, which encompasses northeast Iowa, southeast Minnesota, southwest Wisconsin, and northwest Illinois. Because this region was not overrun by glaciers, it has none of the drift (dirt, gravel, and rock) that glaciers leave behind. Its dramatic cut-limestone gorges, sandstone valleys, and steep hillsides are laced with more than 600 icy cold, spring-fed streams, home to sunfish, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, carp, and trout — rainbow, wild brown, and native brook.

“I’ve done plenty of boat fishing,” says Nesbit, “but fly fishing gets you out there in the cold water where the trout are, and it’s knockdown gorgeous!”

It’s also good exercise. “You walk a lot, sometimes upward of six or seven miles in a day,” Nesbit says. “You’re in the stream, continually balancing in the current, climbing up and down banks, trying to position yourself. And then there’s the movement of the arms. I’m always sore the next day and very tired. But it’s a good kind of tired.”

St. Olaf students can practice casting on the Cannon River right in downtown Northfield, but they travel to smaller, cleaner streams to fish for brown and rainbow trout: Trout Run in Chatfield, Hay Creek in Red Wing, the Whitewater River system, and the South Branch of the Root River. A little-known jewel is Rice Creek, a tiny, pristine stream that runs through a small dairy farm just south of Northfield and whose owner graciously allows St. Olaf students to fish for its native brook trout.

“The brook trout is the canary in the mine,” says Nesbit, “because it can only survive in the cleanest, coldest water. Once the water gets at all warm or dirty, it dies. And these fish are absolutely beautiful.”

Not long after *A River Runs Through It* mesmerized moviegoers with its breathtaking footage of Montana and spurred a huge national interest in fly fishing, Professor Emeritus of Education Jim Holden taught Scott Nesbit how to cast. An instructor in exercise science and head tennis coach at St. Olaf, Nesbit was hooked — fly fishing became his passion. So when Cindy Book, chair of the college’s physical education department, suggested to Nesbit that he teach a class in fly fishing, he jumped at the chance.

Fly fishing students practice casting in the Tostrud Center field house and tie their own flies in the classroom before heading off to nearby rivers and streams.
Fly-fishing students at St. Olaf — an equal number of men and women — come from all disciplines and backgrounds, but most love the outdoors, are conservation-minded, and love a good challenge. Nesbit says the stream is an ideal place to problem-solve, think creatively, and experiment. Tree branches, rocks, rapids — all sorts of things get in the way of putting your fly where you want to put it in the water. You can use basic casting, roll casting, curved casting, side-arm casting, casting into the wind ... as many casts as there are places where the fish are hanging out, facing upstream, waiting for edible tidbits to arrive.

“In fly fishing, you read the water like you read a book,” says Nesbit. “You look for logs or branches in the water. Most fish like to dart out and get their food and then go back into protection. You look for bends in the stream, or pools, or slower ‘runs’ after little rapids with ‘riffly’ water. Trout like riffly water because it’s highly oxygenated, and the bubbles and texture on the water hide them from predatory birds. But it helps us catch them because they can’t see us as well. When they see you, they’re gone! Trout are spooky, and that’s what makes trout fishing extremely challenging.”

Nesbit says two myths keep people from taking up the sport. The first is that it’s expensive. “It can be, but it doesn’t have to be,” he says. “You can still buy an $80 rod and go fly fishing in sandals and shorts. No problem. But the water is cold, so you might want waders.”

The other myth is that it’s too difficult. “To be able to put a fly in a teacup from twenty yards away — very difficult. That takes a lot of practice and luck. But to get your fly in a general area where fish might be — not difficult at all! That’s what we do in our class.”

Nesbit says that tying flies isn’t difficult either — except for the very small ones, which he usually buys. “And a fly doesn’t have to look great,” he says. Fish are attracted to how the fly moves through the water just as much as what it looks like.

At the start of each fly-tying class, Nesbit writes the “recipe” for a fly on the blackboard, and the students hunker down over their vises and bobbins. “It’s like a craft class,” he says with a grin. Each student is responsible for buying and stocking his or her own fly-tying kit with the stuff that flies are made of: yarn, chenille, copper wire, deer and elk hair, turkey and pheasant feathers, synthetic furs, and shimmering bits of chiffon. Nesbit says there are recipes that date back 200 years, for woolly buggers, sand worms, foam beetles, hare’s ear nymphs, scuds, prince nymphs, elk hair caddis flies, and countless more.

Nesbit’s newest fly is made solely from pheasant feathers and copper wire. “I’ve been catching fish with it like crazy!”

On a cloudy, humid day in late July, Nesbit gently lands his pheasant tail nymph on Rice Creek. Trout are partial to mayflies, caddis flies, midges, and unlucky terrestrials — nonaquatic insects that land on the water by accident, such as grasshoppers and beetles. The pheasant tail nymph mimics a mayfly that has just begun its life cycle on the stream.

“Part of reading the stream is to see what the fish are eating,” says Nesbit. “You look at the bugs on the water, the bugs in the spider webs on the side of the stream, you turn over rocks.”

Almost immediately, he hooks a small brook trout. He lifts it up to admire its brown speckled sleekness, its smooth belly the color of pale orange sherbet. He gently releases it beneath the water. A few minutes later, he catches another and releases it.

Catching fish, Nesbit says, is only a small part of the pleasure of fly fishing for St. Olaf students: “When you ask them, ‘How was the fishing?’ it’s not about how much he or she caught. It’s about how much they loved being out there.”

PATRICIA GROOTS KELLY ’77 is a freelance Twin Cities writer and frequent contributor to St. Olaf Magazine.
Recent headlines have provided a sad commentary on the state of honesty in our society. From Ponzi schemes to Bernie Madoff, the message comes that for some people, cheating works — at least for awhile. For some students, it may work just long enough to get through a class.

We hear that a recent survey found that more than three in four U.S. college students admit to having cheated at some time while in high school, and we shake our heads. Little wonder that honor is not especially valued in what we call, with some dismay, the real world.

Among the many responsibilities assumed by colleges such as St. Olaf is the goal of instilling in students a set of high ethical standards. From the moment first-year students walk on the Northfield campus, they are bound by an honor system that has been in effect since 1911.

Now, in what some in higher education are calling a new honor code movement, schools across the country are adopting policies that bring the issue of cheating to the fore in an effort to stem the tide of dishonesty.

What is the cost of success? The question is at the heart of addressing a morality that, at times, seems mocked by the ethics of the broader culture.

BY KIM ODE
“It’s hard to know if kids are really cheating more than they did before,” says Jim May, provost and dean of St. Olaf College. But the national statistics are disturbing, coupled with a sense that some students consider any competitive edge worth the risk.

What is the cost of success? The question is at the heart of addressing a morality that, at times, seems mocked by the ethics of the broader culture.

Yet if any place should have an honor code, it should be a place like St. Olaf,” May says. “We have a moral obligation to our fellow human beings because of the bond we all share through our creation in the image of our Creator.”

Honor codes appear to have an impact on students. A survey by the Center for Academic Integrity in Clemson, South Carolina, showed that only one in four students at colleges with traditional honor codes reported incidents of cheating on exams. That compares with close to half of students reporting in incidents at colleges with no honor codes.

Yet encouraging those reports are, the reality is that, given the opportunity, some students will take whatever advantage they can, perhaps not grasping the ethical implications of their action.

Greg Kneser, dean of students, says that administrators and professors consider cheating “a burning issue. But I’m not sure the students always get that.”

Although the St. Olaf honor code has been in effect for 100 years, the issues of honor, ethics, and moral responsibility have been at the core of the college’s mission since its founding in 1874.

The college’s honor code is a two-part model of ethical behavior. St. Olaf students not only pledge that they will not cheat during a test, but also that they will not tolerate others’ dishonesty.

“It’s a two-way street,” says Hal Halvorson ’11, who will serve this year as president of the St. Olaf Honor Council, a student-run group that fields all reports of cheating during exams. More to the point, it’s a self-policed policy; professors routinely leave the classroom during exams. “It holds students accountable and says that honor is virtue,” Halvorson says. While in high school in Spokane, Washington, Halvorson had been involved in a student–faculty “disciplinary” council. That St. Olaf uses the word “honor” to describe a similar group “makes it more personal,” Halvorson says. “It’s more profound.”

Competitive pressures are one thing, but professors and administrators note another equally powerful influence: technology.
This statement, taken from the St. Olaf Honor Code, is on the cover of each blue book exam. Before leaving the classroom, professors routinely pause first to write “Pledge” on the board as a reminder that students need to sign off on the statement before handing in their exams. If a student doesn’t sign the pledge, the professor first determines if the student simply forgot or if the absence of a signature was intentional. If intentional, the matter goes to the Honor Council, which investigates if the student witnessed a violation. If there was an incident of cheating, then the accused student is interviewed.

Halvorson notes that the council doesn’t use the word “guilty,” instead, students are found “responsible for violating the honor code.” As with the case of calling something a matter of “discipline” or “honor,” the phrase is a fine point of language emphasizing that cheating is a choice someone makes.

A common consequence for violating the code is being given a “zero” for the exam or a portion of the exam. Repeated incidents may result in a student being expelled, although Halvorson says he can’t recall such a serious conclusion during his three years on the council.

“But there are big implications that we try to keep sight of,” Halvorson says. What if failing a test means that student will fail the entire course? What if he or she may not be able to afford to take the class again? What if a grade of zero would keep them from getting into medical school?

“We understand that students make mistakes, and we tend to be forgiving,” he says. “We’re all learning, and we try to be a safety net for students before they enter the real world.”

Having said that, though, Halvorson notes that cheating is more than an issue of being able to sleep well at night. In the case of someone training to be a doctor, he said, cheating to get through a course can, for a future patient, “become a life or death issue.”

As more schools across the country are adopting honor codes, many are using what are known as “modified” codes, in which students only pledge that they themselves will not cheat. They need not report others’ behavior, as the St. Olaf pledge asks.

“When we’ve had these philosophical discussions, I think of the people at Enron and in the Petters organization,” says Kneser, noting the Texas corporation whose accounting fraud cost employees and stockholders billions, and Minnesota businessman Tom Petters, recently sentenced to fifty years in prison for overseeing a Ponzi scheme.

“People saw illegal behavior going on and said nothing, which caused real harm to others,” Kneser says. “There’s no shortage of dishonest people who choose to say nothing, that being [the] acceptable behavior within that organization.

“But we’re saying that part of being a person of integrity means you step up and you say that isn’t right. The world would be a better place if we all held each other accountable.”

“The borrowing of an idea doesn’t undermine my respect for the idea, as long as you note that it’s borrowed.” PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR ED LANGERAK

Honor codes have been part of American higher education almost as long as there’s been a United States. Thomas Jefferson, serving as governor of Virginia in 1779, oversaw the establishment of an honor code policing the students at his alma mater, the College of William & Mary.

Honor codes spread throughout colleges and universities along the Eastern seaboard, and most were rooted in the precepts of intellectual honesty. Some codes, though, delved into other aspects of human behavior, such as pledging not to smoke, cheat at cards, or insult ladies, according to a history of codes published in the University of Virginia Magazine.

The story of how Virginia got its honor code speaks to how such codes, while most often played out in the classroom, apply to broader, even essential, aspects of life. According to the university Web site, in 1840 the school began reinventing the behavior of its students, most of whom came from privileged backgrounds. One student, apparently resentful of such boundaries, shot and killed a popular professor of law. Stunned students agreed to report misbehavior among themselves. The faculty, in turn, agreed to trust students when they pledged they had “neither received nor given assistance” on exams.

Today, more than half of college students surveyed admit to at least one serious incident of cheating within the past year, and two in three acknowledge that their behavior may have entered an ethically gray area, according to the Center for Academic Integrity. But cheating isn’t a tactic that students suddenly decide to employ once they arrive at college.

Writing in Inside Higher Ed, educators Donald McCabe and Gary Pavela state, “Unfortunately, it appears many students view high school as simply an annoying obstacle on the way to college, a place where they learn little of value, where teachers are unreasonable or unfair, and where, since “everyone
A particularly notorious incident in 2001 involved, of all places, the University of Virginia. A physics professor realized that students in his introductory class had, over the course of almost two and a half years, been turning in the same 1,500-word paper. Because of the class’s huge enrollment — between 300 and 350 students each semester — he hadn’t stumbled on the scheme.

Using a computer program that tracks similarities, he found that more than 150 students appeared to have plagiarized their papers. Each of the students had, of course, agreed to follow the school’s honor code. Eventually, forty-five students were expelled, and three graduates had their degrees revoked. More than half of the colleges in the United States now use services that check to see if students cut and paste others’ work from the Internet and claim it as their own research, according to the New York Times.

Ed Langerak is a professor of philosophy at St. Olaf who teaches other professors how to develop classes about ethics within their curriculums. He says that in his forty years of teaching, he’s never detected a case of cheating on his essay exams; he has found plagiarism in papers, and he’s growing increasingly concerned with what he calls “a willingness to be sloppier with documentation. There’s a looseness that is not a character defect, but a change in the notion of borrowing, as though what’s on the Internet is everyone’s property.” Langerak says this is why the St. Olaf Handbook’s “Academic Integrity” policy now includes a statement about plagiarism.

The issue has led to some interesting discussions. Langerak says he tries to convey to students that their borrowing of an idea “doesn’t undermine my respect for the idea, as long as you note that it’s borrowed. Actually, arranging borrowed ideas in a logical and reasonable fashion may be about as original as many of us can get.”

Provost Jim May makes a similar point. “Some students don’t have a clear understanding of what it means to do things illegally,” he says, whether it’s downloading songs or other materials. “It’s so easy, and the temptations are great.”

Halvorson, a senior with a double major in biology and chemistry, said cell phones also can be game-changers. “Texting each other during exams isn’t as prominent at St. Olaf as I’ve heard it is at other schools. But I’m getting the sense that over the years, cheating has become acceptable because it’s infiltrated the public sphere.”

He knows some students who treat cheating almost like “a macho thing,” challenging themselves to get by with as much as they can. He added that some students quite innocently see any behavior or tool not explicitly identified as forbidden as then allowable, even if it gives them an advantage. That issue led to a recent addendum to the honor code stating that students can’t use materials not explicitly approved by the professor.

Any discussion of honor codes eventually comes around to a more philosophical question of why we, as human beings, need to be told that there are right and wrong ways to behave.

Are we intrinsically dishonest? Is ethical behavior something that must be taught? What does it mean to listen to our gut?

“Why do we need to be told there are right and wrong ways to behave? Are we intrinsically dishonest? Is ethical behavior something that must be taught? What does it mean to listen to our gut?”

As much as they can. He added that some students quite innocently see any behavior or tool not explicitly identified as forbidden as then allowable, even if it gives them an advantage. That issue led to a recent addendum to the honor code stating that students can’t use materials not explicitly approved by the professor.

Are we intrinsically dishonest? Is ethical behavior something that must be taught? What does it mean to listen to our gut?

“In a way, that’s an empirical question: What is human nature like?”

Langerak says. “My experience is that it’s a mixed bag. Some people will never cheat because that’s how they were raised. It would be a violation of character. A more realistic view is that there always will be some cheating that goes on.

“Yet if for no other reason than fairness to the non-cheaters, it must be clear that cheating will be discouraged and will be punished.”

Langerak says he has found that the vast majority of students believe they are morally required to report those who violate the honor code, even among friends: “Friendship should not trump honor, and you agree to do that when you become a student at St. Olaf.” That said, Langerak says some students have admitted they didn’t report on friends even when they knew they should.

Educational experts will be looking closely at the current generation on college campuses, according to McCabe and Pavela. Dubbed “millennials,” these students are the beneficiaries of, for good or ill, “intense parental attention,” they write, “with results that appear to justify the effort.” This particular closeness with parents is coupled with a great involvement in community service, political activities, and academic opportunities. They are, despite the projections of the depressed job market, “more optimistic about the future.”

Does this translate into their being more honorable and ethical? Or will the importance they place on peer relationships prove troubling if asked to monitor their friends’ ethics?

When it comes to bemoaning the Madoffs and Petters of the world, it’s worth remembering that actions make headlines when they go against the norm. Thousands of students, credit by credit, will never cheat. Millions of employees, day in and day out, play by the rules.

For Jim May, honor codes are a means for talking about how to live the rest of your life, long after the blue books are turned in. The realization that success at any cost can carry an unforeseen price is something that often comes too late.

May’s goal is to teach that lesson now: “What we try to instill in students is that life is more than a livelihood.”

Kim Ode is a longtime staff writer for the Star Tribune and a frequent contributor to St. Olaf Magazine.
Antigone (1952)
ST. OLAF THEATRE MAJORS CARRY THE COLLEGE’S MESSAGE OF CREATIVE EXCELLENCE AROUND THE NATION THROUGH PERFORMANCE AND ARTISTIC EXPRESSION.

A DRAMATIC ART

BY SUZY FRISCH

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF KAREN PETERSON WILSON '77, BRIAN BJORKLUND, AND THE SHAW-OLSON CENTER FOR COLLEGE HISTORY
It took more than a little moxie for two fresh-out-of-college theatre enthusiasts to pull off a production of *Don’t Dress for Dinner* in the theater-rich Twin Cities. But Peter Christian Hansen ’97 and Carl Schoenborn ’97 were up to the challenges of lining up space for the production, building sets, rehearsing their cast, and attracting an audience to the basement of a suburban Greek restaurant in 1998.

The pair were old hands at stage production. Years of immersing themselves in St. Olaf College’s theatre world — on stage, in classes, and behind the scenes — provided Schoenborn and Hansen with the knowledge and experience they needed to stage a student-run show of *Little Shop of Horrors* during their senior year at St. Olaf. It gave them the confidence to pour their proceeds from *Don’t Dress for Dinner* into their own start-up company, the Gremlin Theatre in St. Paul.

Hannah Sorenson ’10, another Ole active in theatre, is taking her degree on the road to Yale University, where she will pursue a master of fine arts from its prestigious School of Drama. She had the agonizing decision of choosing between the country’s top programs at Yale, Harvard’s American Repertory Theater, and New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts.

Sorenson finds herself equipped to take on the best in theatre thanks to her St. Olaf education. “The training we get from professors is such a great blend between the intellectual and the artistic, the scholarly approach and the practical,” she notes. “So I was well prepared with all the tools I needed for the audition and for the experience at Yale.”

Hansen, Schoenborn, and Sorenson represent the full spectrum of what St. Olaf offers students who are interested in theatre: a liberal arts education paired with hands-on theatre experience. Hansen pursued his passion for history and Latin while Schoenborn studied speech, theatre, and fine arts; both immersed themselves in acting and stage production, dually preparing themselves for lasting careers in the arts. Today, Hansen serves as the artistic director of the Gremlin Theatre while also appearing frequently on Twin Cities stages; Schoenborn is the Gremlin’s technical director as well as a working actor. Sorenson started off as a pre-med student before switching to theatre. She played the title role in *Eurydice* and acted in other productions while studying a wide range of subjects — from biology and mathematics to philosophy and Norwegian.

For nearly ninety years St. Olaf has enabled students to develop their craft on stage and behind the scenes. Simultaneously, students earn a solid liberal arts education that makes them excellent communicators in fields from the ministry to law, and avid patrons of the arts.

This two-pronged approach helps the college develop smart people, not just smart actors. Gary Gisselman thinks there is a world of difference between the two, and he should know. St. Olaf Theatre’s artist-in-residence and a longtime director at the Guthrie Theater, Gisselman has directed more than 200 plays during his career while serving as founding artistic director of the Chanhassen Dinner Theatres and artistic director at the Arizona Theatre Company and the Children’s Theatre Company in Minneapolis.

“Theatre is not about theatre — it’s about everything else. And the ‘everything else’ is what students learn at St. Olaf,” says Gisselman.

“The more you know about life, the more you know about how to represent it. And to live up to our motto at St. Olaf, we prepare students not just for careers as artists but for lives as artists.”

“Theatre is not about theatre — it’s about everything else. And the ‘everything else’ is what students learn at St. Olaf.” — GARY GISELMAN

Though St. Olaf has a fruitful history of matriculating well-educated, talented students who work across the country in all aspects of the performing arts, it wasn’t always the case. The dramatic arts actually took a while to succeed in any serious fashion on the Hill — nearly fifty years to be precise.

From its earliest days, St. Olaf shone most of its fine arts limelight on music. There was a brief window from 1889 to 1899 when student groups staged a handful of plays, including the farce *The Mouse-Trap* by W. D. Howells and *Rip Van Winkle*. Students also performed an occasional pageant or dramatic reading in the early 20th century, while Norwegian students stuck to their native language when performing.

According to a historical account written by 1912 alumna and St. Olaf Dean of Women Gertrude Hilleboe, two factors worked against those whose passion was theatre: the college didn’t have a facility fit for staging plays, and students battled an attitude that theatre was not appropriate at a college of the church.
That didn’t stop a one-woman show named Elizabeth Walsingham Kelsey, who studied dramatic arts at Northwestern University and taught at the Minneapolis School of Oratory and Dramatic Art before joining the St. Olaf English faculty in 1920.

“St. Olaf Theatre really was developed by Elizabeth Walsingham Kelsey,” says St. Olaf Professor Emeritus of Theatre Patrick Quade ’65, former chair of the Speech-Theatre Department and director of International and Off-Campus Studies. “She taught in the English Department, and she was adamant that theatre needed to be part of the St. Olaf experience. She single-handedly built the program of theatre productions each year starting in the 1920s.”

From 1889 to 1899 student groups performed a handful of plays outdoors, in Norway Valley. The first major play staged at St. Olaf was Kelsey’s *The Merchant of Venice* (1921), beginning a long-standing tradition of staging Shakespeare productions. Before St. Olaf renovated the old gymnasium, plays were held in the basement of the old Ytterboe Hall, known as the Cellar Stage.

Attitudes toward the dramatic arts also began changing with the hiring of several new St. Olaf professors from the East Coast, including Ivy Leaguer George Weida Spohn, who became chair of the English Department. Kelsey happened to live next door to Spohn, who shared her belief that theatre was a worthy pursuit. Eventually Spohn convinced college administrators that theatre was an important part of a St. Olaf education.

After St. Olaf built its gymnasium in 1920, students finally had a place large enough for theatrical productions. Kelsey directed the first major
play at St. Olaf — *The Merchant of Venice* — in 1921, establishing not only an early tradition of offering annual Shakespeare productions, but also opening participation in productions to the entire student body.

St. Olaf was typical of colleges and universities in Minnesota at that time, when many schools first introduced theatre through productions, adding courses when the art form became recognized as an integral part of a liberal arts education.

During the theatre program’s earliest years, Kelsey taught courses in theatre history, dramatic expression, and production. The classes, geared toward future high school drama teachers, covered the fundamentals of acting, sets, lighting, makeup, and the staging of one-act plays. It wasn’t until Ralph Haugen joined the St. Olaf faculty in 1949 — becoming the first professor dedicated solely to theatre — that the department began to take shape.

Charged with taking the college’s theatre productions to another level, Haugen exceeded expectations. Throughout his 41-year tenure as a teacher and master director, Haugen championed work by new playwrights, brought fresh insight and analysis into classic productions, and worked tirelessly to advance the theatre curriculum. He was also determined to get theatrical productions and classes into a more suitable building. For years students had been lobbying for a theatre, even launching a petition drive in 1948 to “fulfill a long-felt void in the educational background of the speech major or minor who has previously been at a disadvantage due to the lack of experience.”

Despite inadequate performance space, theatre students at St. Olaf still managed to do great things with their productions under Haugen’s leadership. In addition to staging productions in the old gym, students also performed in the basement of the old Ytterboe Hall, known as the Cellar Stage. It wasn’t an ideal spot for plays, recalls Quade. “We had all the students living upstairs, and if they decided to have a party on the night of a performance, there would be all sorts of noise coming from up there.”

It wasn’t until 1968 that St. Olaf, reflecting a growing student interest in the performing arts, evolved the Department of Speech into the Department of Speech, Communication, and Theatre Arts. Haugen also got some much-needed help in 1968 when alumnus Quade joined the theatre faculty. A speech and history education graduate who was active in theatre, Quade played a critical role in the development of theatre at St. Olaf.

“From the beginning, we felt that theatre arts — both in terms of an academic major and as a performance opportunity for the campus community — was a significant contribution to the liberal arts,” says Quade. “It uses critical thinking in approaching texts, equips students to enhance their communication skills, reveals values and truths in ways that often are more effective than ‘textbook’ study, and provides an experiential opportunity to engage in aesthetics.”

The 1970s were arguably the most formative
years in the development of theatre at St. Olaf. Theatre was added as a major in 1973 and there were more co-productions with the Music Department. It was a natural pairing of two strong disciplines, with the first collaboration being the opera *Pirates of Penzance*, followed by *Godspell*, which was named by the Kennedy Center's American College Theater Festival as one of that year's Top 10 college productions in the country in 1974.

“It was a really exciting period of time for us — we had a great cast, and it was a wonderful production,” says Quade, who directed the musical. “It established St. Olaf in the 1970s as a college that was doing theatre work that was judged to be at a very high level. And we were still in the basement of Ytterboe at the time.”

*Godspell*'s ensemble cast featured Gary Briggle ‘75, who went on to a stellar career in opera, television, and theater; Nancy Ringham ‘77, who has made a name for herself on Broadway; Karen Peterson Wilson ’77, a veteran St. Olaf theatre professor; and David Ellertson ’75, currently the resident assistant scenic designer for the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. The college’s small theatre staff and a cadre of very involved students served two purposes, Ellertson believes. Without a professional technical director, costume designer, or scenic director, students took on many of those roles and learned all aspects of play production. Ringham, a flutist who happened to try out for *Godspell* just to keep a friend company, earned a role in the production singing *Bless the Lord*. Ultimately she turned her first musical theatre experience at St. Olaf into a major career on Broadway in the 1980s and 1990s.

Ringham credits St. Olaf’s supportive environment, strong work ethic, and high standards for preparing her for the rigors of Broadway. “There’s a level of excellence there and people were so supportive,” she says. “I had an incredible education and a lot of opportunities. I learned that your life experience and education are the most important parts of what you bring onto the stage.”

Haugen and Quade achieved the impossible dream when, in 1977, St. Olaf renovated the old women’s gymnasium into the Speech-Theater Building, allowing the department to stage many more productions and better quality shows. It also became an impetus to hire more theatre faculty and staff. In honor of Elizabeth Kelsey, the new proscenium performance space was named Kelsey Theater; in 1990, the flexible-space studio theater was renamed the Haugen Theater.

More recently, St. Olaf’s nationally accredited theatre studies program has proven time and again that its approach to the dramatic arts works wonders for alumni. Graduates succeed in all aspects of the performing arts after building a strong foundation in understanding the historical and social context of plays and mastering the art of bringing theatre to life.

“Our goal at St. Olaf was not to train professionals in theatre — although that certainly did occur — but to use theatre to further the aims and mission of the institution in unique ways,” says Quade. “We always believed that theatre study needed to be infused with a deep understanding of the collective nature of the art endeavor coupled with a desire for all majors to experience all aspects of the art; in short, to provide a comprehensive and holistic view of theatre as performance.”

Put into practice, this well-rounded approach to theatre means that majors take classes in all the disciplines, from acting and directing to scenic design, lighting, and costuming. They also study theatre history and the cultural context.
HUMMINGBIRD (Ecuador)
Mathew Brutger ’12, Spanish in Ecuador
Each year, hundreds of St. Olaf students take advantage of international and off-campus study programs that offer profound, often life-changing experiences.

This past year, 835 students participated in international and off-campus study programs at one of fifty-five international sites and five domestic sites during a semester or year-long program or at one of twenty-two international and six domestic sites during January Interim. Far from home, exposed to social, religious, political, economic, and cultural norms that differ markedly from their own, photography is one way that St. Olaf students come to terms with such diversity.

As part of their re-entry into campus life, students are invited each spring to submit their photos in the Gimse International and Off-Campus Studies photo contest. This year, winning entries include pictures from Benin, China, Ecuador, Egypt, England, Ghana, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal, Thailand, and Turkey.

For comments from the photographers and to see more photos, visit stolaf.edu/international/photocontest
WHIRLING DERVISHES AT SUNSET (Istanbul, Turkey)
Anna Schattauer '11, Term in the Middle East

COLORS OF LIFE (Cairo, Egypt)
Tenzin Waleag '12, Global Semester

SALAM ALIUM (Asilah, Morocco)
Katherine Todd '11, Term in the Middle East

SNOWY TRAVELER (Mt. Takao, Japan)
Daniel Haywood '11, Arts and Culture in Japan Interim

L'ESSENZA DI VENEZIA (Venice, Italy)
Arielle Johnson '12, Religion, Art, and Culture of Rome Interim

AIR CONDITIONED RIDE TO THE MONASTERY (Petra, Jordan)
Adrienne Rowell '10, Bogazici University in Turkey
A SHEEP’S SERENITY (Western Ireland) · Sonja Tosteson ’10, Modern Irish Literature Interim
GIRL AT PLAY (Mahabalipuram, India) - Anna Lehn ’11, Global Semester

WISHES (Toshogu Shrine, Tokyo) - Sara Padula ’11, ACM Japan Study

RESIST (Athens, Greece) - Eric Erfanian ’12, Classical Studies in Greece Interim

DOLL ON A ROOFTOP (Dakar, Senegal) - Sarah Jacobson ’10, CIEE Senegal

BENINESE GAS STATION (Abomey, Benin) - Martina King ’10, CIEE Ghana
Lives of Worth and Service

The strength of the St. Olaf College community is reaffirmed once again in the outstanding accomplishments of the 2010 alumni award recipients. During the Founders Day celebration on Friday, November 5, seven alumni will receive recognition for their lifelong achievements and professional contributions that embody the values of a St. Olaf education turned into action.

By Alyssa Anne Lynne '12

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Russell A. Anderson '64
Hopkins, Minnesota | Retired Chief Justice
Minnesota Supreme Court

During a four-decade long legal career, Russell A. Anderson attained an exceptional reputation not only as a gifted and ethical attorney, but also as a fair-minded and intellectually talented judge. Anderson epitomizes many of the values of St. Olaf College: competence, integrity, and compassion.

He credits St. Olaf’s emphasis on liberal arts in preparing him for his career. “I believe in liberal arts education. It prepares you for a richness of life beyond any occupation. I’ve carried St. Olaf’s emphasis on service with me throughout my life,” says Anderson.

After earning his Juris Doctor from the University of Minnesota in 1968, Anderson served in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General’s Corps (JAG) during the Vietnam War, rising to the position of base legal officer in Sasebo, Japan, during a three-year tour of duty. Later, while working in Washington, D.C., Anderson earned a Master of Laws in international law at George Washington University. Returning home to Bemidji, Minnesota, Anderson added private practice to his experience, as well as service as a Beltrami County attorney from 1978 to 1982. He was subsequently appointed as a district court judge in Minnesota’s Ninth Judicial District, a position he held with distinction until 1998, when he was appointed an associate justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court by Governor Arnie Carlson. In 2006 Anderson’s career reached its apex when Governor Tim Pawlenty named him chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Anderson’s dedication to improving the judicial system is evidenced by his work with former Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz on restructuring the trial and appellate courts into a single, state-funded third branch of Minnesota government. Anderson continues to promote multicultural diversity and fairness in the courts and has long had a special interest in addressing and preventing domestic violence.

Anderson has supported the college in numerous ways, from being an active participant in his class reunions to his financial support of the college as well as an important networking resource for St. Olaf graduates. He has been an active member of the Lutheran Church throughout his life and has a deep and abiding love for both St. Olaf and his family, all Oles – his wife, Kristin Ostby Anderson ’66, Rebecca ’90, John ’91, and Sarah Anderson Harriss ’98 – who have been an integral part of his life and career.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Linda Olson Keller ’74
Eagan, Minnesota | Clinical Associate Professor
University of Minnesota School of Nursing

Linda Olson Keller has been a clear, consistent voice for public health over the past three decades, serving in both practice and educational sectors. She is nationally recognized for her unique ability to translate research and theory into practice. Currently a clinical associate professor at the University of Minnesota, Olson Keller spent twenty years of her career at the Office of Public Health Practice at the Minnesota Department of Health, where she focused on redefining population-based public health practice in an era of health care reform. Her model, known as the Public Health Intervention Wheel, can be found in nursing textbooks and nursing education programs (including St. Olaf’s nursing program) and is often utilized as a framework for organizing services provided by public health departments.

Olson Keller’s exemplary reputation stems from her years of practical work improving the health of communities through public health nursing initiatives. She has received more than $2.7 million in grants in the past decade to enhance public health nursing practice, education, and leadership development. Olson Keller has also published a significant body of work and frequently presents to state, national, and international audiences, often drawing on St. Olaf experiences to make her point. “My years at St. Olaf developed my critical-thinking skills and commitment to social justice,” she says. “I discovered my passion for public health nursing during my senior Interim experience working in Cary, Mississippi, at the height of the civil rights movement.

She was inducted as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing in 2007, a select honor given to only a small number of American nurses in recognition of their outstanding achievements in the profession. Olson Keller was also selected for the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Leadership Fellowship and continues to serve as a board member and treasurer of that organization’s alumni association. She currently serves as chair of both the American Public Health Association’s Section of Public Health Nursing and the Minnesota Public Health Association Leadership Committee.

Olson Keller contributes her professional expertise to local projects committed to improving public health, such as the Henry Street Consortium and the Elderberry Institute Living at Home Block Nurse Program. As a member of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Nursing Consortium Advisory Committee, Olson Keller served as a consultant in the recent revision of the St. Olaf nursing curriculum and regularly offers professional opportunities to St. Olaf College faculty. Olson Keller is married to an Ole, David Keller ’74, and their two sons are also Oles, Matthew ’02 and Peter ’12.
**ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**Helen Piwnica-Worms ’79**  
St. Louis, Missouri | Professor, Research Scientist  
Washington University School of Medicine

ELEN PIWNICA-WORMS’S RESEARCH HAS REVOLUTIONIZED the tenets of molecular biology for advancing cancer treatment and established her as a top cancer cell cycle researcher. Her many contributions at higher educational institutions cement her status as an innovative cancer researcher and a superb teacher.

Piwnica-Worms earned her Ph.D. at Duke University in 1984. While completing her postdoctoral fellowship at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, her discoveries on how certain mutations cause cancers led to her position as an assistant professor of physiology at Tufts University Medical School. During her time at Tufts, Piwnica-Worms uncovered crucial mechanisms of cell cycle regulation, prompting Harvard Medical School to recruit her in 1992.

Following her time at Harvard Medical School and the Beth Israel Hospital, Piwnica-Worms joined the Washington University School of Medicine faculty in 1994 as an associate and then full professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Physiology. She has played an instrumental role in building the Molecular Oncology Program at Washington University, which promotes basic-to-clinical translational studies in cancer research and provides training for graduate students, M.D./Ph.D. students, physician scientists, and postdoctoral research fellows.

In 1996, Piwnica-Worms began her efforts at Washington University to establish the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center, a research center now considered one of the country’s foremost comprehensive cancer centers. She works tirelessly on behalf of the center where she is now associate director of Basic Science. She leads the Siteman Cell Proliferation Program. She also is a member of the Siteman Cancer Center Executive Committee and the Cancer Biology Pathway Selection Committee.

Piwnica-Worms was a Damon Runyon Fellow and Pew Scholar of the Biomedical Sciences and earned the American Cancer Society Junior Faculty Research Award and the American Heart Established Investigator Award. In 1994, she became an associate of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and in 1998 was named a full investigator. In 2001 she received the Spirit of Health Award for cancer research from the American Cancer Society and was elected a fellow of the Academy of Science of St. Louis. She is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She recently completed a three-year term on the board of directors of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Her work has the potential to improve the lives of cancer patients, and her mentorship of young and future scientists has set her apart as an exemplary professional. Piwnica-Worms is truly among the elite investigating the biochemical and cell biological complexities of cancer cell research.

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**ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**Charles W. Bates ’52**  
Waconia, Minnesota | Retired Commissioner of Social Services  
Westchester County, New York

CHARLES W. BATES HAS A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER as a social worker in both the private and public sectors. After graduating from high school in his native Willmar, Minnesota, Bates enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Korea. This overseas military service brought him a keen awareness of cultural and racial differences. After returning to the states, he used the opportunity and resources provided by the G.I. Bill to enroll at St. Olaf College.

A hitchhiking trip to New York City’s Harlem neighborhood the summer after his junior year at St. Olaf deepened his interest in service. Housed in a settlement facility, Bates worked with African American children in a day camp operated by the Red Shield, a branch of the Salvation Army. These weeks spent in the inner city helped define his vocation. Interest in child welfare led Bates to a position in Baudette, Minnesota, near the Canadian border. Close daily contact with the young and elderly in Baudette shaped the caring style he would later use at large private agencies as well as state welfare departments.

After earning his master’s degree in social work at Louisiana State University, Bates returned to Minnesota and spent the next four years as a child welfare consultant and field representative before being named director of case work for a private children’s home in Cincinnati. In 1964, he became executive director of Milwaukee Child Care Centers, where he excelled at bringing together small day-care providers into a more efficient organization and greatly expanded the center’s programs.

The Child Welfare League of America recognized his creativity and talents, which led to a move to New England and a new position as executive director for Boston Children’s Service, one of the oldest and most prestigious voluntary child welfare agencies in the nation. In 1972, Bates accepted a position as director of the Ohio Department of Public Welfare and was one of only two or three people in the country who headed a state welfare department having a graduate degree in social work.

His work in Ohio prepared Bates for his next position as commissioner of social services in the County of Westchester (just north of New York City). There he encouraged his employees to enroll in graduate coursework, a program that many other counties in New York State began to imitate. By 1985, nearly 300 county employees had participated in the program through Pace University and earned a Master of Public Administration degree, Commissioner Charles W. Bates among them.

In retirement, Bates moved back to Minnesota and found time to teach evening classes at Winona State University as well as serve on both the local Lutheran Social Service Board and the Zumbro Lutheran Church Council in Rochester. Throughout his life he has held fast to the conviction that “I am my brother’s keeper.”
ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Robert M. Fossum ’59
Champaign, Illinois | Professor Emeritus of Mathematics
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Robert Fossum has exemplified the benefits of a liberal arts education throughout his academic career, contributing not only to his field of algebra but also to interdisciplinary areas of the natural sciences. His most recent collaborative research resulted in new algorithms for real-time face recognition in a new area of mathematical research associated with computer vision and face recognition. Fossum’s expertise in algebra and algebraic geometry helped solve some of the most challenging engineering problems and has allowed him to make contributions far beyond pure mathematics.

Fossum, who was raised in Northfield, majored in mathematics and physics. With his father managing the St. Olaf Bookstore, his mother teaching mathematics in Farmington, and many family friends who were members of the St. Olaf faculty, the college campus was his second home. “I spent a lot of time on weekends and in the summer exploring the [St. Olaf] library,” says Fossum. “I believe I read every book in the children’s section.”

Fossum earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Michigan and began his career as a mathematician in 1964 when, prior to completing his Ph.D. thesis, he was hired as an instructor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He became a full professor in 1972.

In 1968, Fossum was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Oslo. His international work has informed his research, teaching, and mentoring of graduate students at the University of Illinois. Fossum’s contributions to the field of mathematics led to his election to the sciences section of the Royal Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters and the Center for Advanced Study at the University of Illinois and becoming a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He also served from 1989 to 1999 as secretary of the American Mathematical Society, an organization devoted to advancing mathematical research, and oversaw its expansion into an international organization of more than 30,000 members.

Outside of his mathematical endeavors, Fossum has served as chair of the University Faculty Senate, chair of the University of Illinois Charitable Fund Drive, sat on the board of directors for Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois, and served as treasurer of the Spurlock Museum Guild.

He is currently president of Trønderlag of America, an organization of immigrants and their descendants from the Trønderlag region of Norway, and has retired to Chetek, Wisconsin, with his wife Robin. They have four children: Karen ’86, Kristin Fossum Griffith ’89, Jonathan, and Erik.

St. Olaf grants three distinct awards each year. For information and nomination forms, visit stolaf.edu/alumni/awards or call 888-865-6537.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Rev. Charles D. Anderson ’56
Shirley Wilson Anderson ’56
Red Wing, Minnesota | Retired Pastor and Bishop; Retired Nurse

Charles and Shirley Wilson Anderson, who met at St. Olaf on a blind date fifty-eight years ago, show their deep commitment to the college with Grandparent Ministry, a scholarship fund that frequently brings them back to the Hill. With fifty-three “adopted St. Olaf grandkids” on campus during the 2009-10 academic year and an estimated 400 to 500 Ole grandkids adopted since their scholarship fund began, Chuck and Shirley are busy “grandparents.”

They began their Grandparent Ministry after their three children graduated in the 1980s, explaining, “The main goal of the scholarship was to give back all the direct and indirect aid our family received while at St. Olaf. Education-wise, it’s hard for us to imagine anything better than St. Olaf.”

Their goal — to have the Charles and Shirley Anderson Endowed Scholarship reach $75,000 by their 75th birthdays — was accomplished, and the scholarship’s current value is more than $100,000. A recent decision to deed a major portion of their lake property to St. Olaf College will increase the size of their scholarship threefold and serve even more students who have financial need.

While the Andersons have contributed so much to St. Olaf College, their gifts as adoptive grandparents have been among the most unique the college has ever seen. This commitment includes making the thirty-eight-mile trip to Northfield to support students in events big and small, from speaking in chapel or performing in a concert to meeting the new boyfriend or having lunch in the Kings Room. This past July, the Andersons even went to Norway to attend the wedding of two of their Ole grandchildren.

“Connecting with past, present, and future St. Olaf students is the main engine driving our hope for the future,” they say. In 2006, they also reached out to former classmates through their volunteer work, helping to make their 50th class reunion a success. They are also active at Holden Village, Gustavus Adolphus College, and Luther Seminary. The Andersons have represented Holden Village on many college campuses and given presentations about its ministry for numerous congregations. Both have extensively served the ELCA, especially the Southwestern Minnesota and Saint Paul area synods.

The Andersons are steadfast in their enthusiasm and willingness to help society, their community, and the alma mater they love so dearly.

http://stolaf.edu/alumni/awards
Nearly fifty years after the generosity of others made it possible for Mark ’64 and Sue Head Hermodson ’61 to attend St. Olaf College, they’re committed to making sure current and future Oles have access to a world-class education on the Hill.

In addition to their consistent support of Partners in Annual Giving, the Hermodsons created an endowed scholarship for St. Olaf students and included the college in their estate planning. They’ve also volunteered for their class reunions, and Sue currently serves as the co-chair of the Gifts Committee for the Class of 1961 50th Reunion.

“St. Olaf not only prepared us well for our professions, but also had an impact on how we dealt with all of the other aspects of our lives,” says Sue, who majored in religion and served as an assistant to the bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America before retiring. “This is our way of saying thank you to St. Olaf.”

The Hermodsons inherited a deep appreciation for education from their parents. Mark, a first-generation college student who grew up in rural Minnesota, took a chemistry course at St. Olaf while in high school through a program funded by the National Science Foundation. That course, and the tutelage of Professor of Chemistry Albert Finholt, cemented Mark’s decision to attend St. Olaf and major in chemistry and math.

“Scholarship money for science students was readily available in that era,” says Mark, who went on to earn his doctorate and enjoy a long career as a professor of biochemistry at Purdue University. “That kind of support is much less available today, and college costs have escalated dramatically. I have a particular concern about first-generation college students who may not have the cultural and financial resources to pursue a college education.”

Providing current students with the same support they received while at St. Olaf is important to the Hermodsons — and is one way that they’re repaying the generosity that made their own experience on the Hill possible. “We look forward to meeting the students who will be recipients of our scholarship,” Sue says.
A Letter to Jackie

Prior to their 45th class reunion, Oles from the Class of ’65 were asked to answer survey questions for their reunion booklet. In response to the question “What were the significant events that happened during your time at St. Olaf,” nearly everyone said “the Kennedy assassination.”

 Campus Pastor Clifford Swanson’s sermon from that Sunday following the assassination was printed in the January 1964 issue of the St. Olaf Alumnus. Swanson wrote, “We crowded into the chapel because we knew of no place else to go. Throughout our country the picture was the same. Millions of people made their way, silently, to churches of every size and description, and each person prayed in his own feeble way... we all shared the grief of our nation’s first family. We were caught up in an historic moment of community in suffering. We couldn’t talk much about it, but we knew.”

Condolence letters to President Kennedy’s young widow and family poured into the White House. A letter written by Gretchen Lundstrom Farwell ’65 was among them. Last November, out of the blue, Gretchen received a phone call from researcher, Sarah Thorson Little, who was working for historian/author Ellen Fitzpatrick.

“She asked if I was the Gretchen Lundstrom who attended St. Olaf College in November 1963,” says Gretchen. “She asked me if I remembered writing a letter to Jacqueline Kennedy.”

She did remember:

“It was a cloudy day, not too cold. On Friday, our American history class with Henry Fritz in Holland Hall had let out around 12:15 p.m., and most of us hurried across campus to the Union for lunch. I was joining my roommate and fellow Mellby junior counselor Ginny Hall. As I ascended the west staircase, Dave Minge (who graduated in 1964 and who would later become a U.S. Congressman from Minnesota), came running down and said as he passed, “Kennedy’s been shot!” My initial response was “Kennedy who?” Meanwhile, Ginny was already inside the cafeteria when the loudspeaker came on to announce: “The president has been shot, and he is not expected to live.” Everyone at her table assumed that the new president of St. Olaf, Sidney Rand, was the victim.
and the wonderment over who would shoot a college president is one of Ginny’s sharpest memories of the day. Ginny and I headed back to Mellby, where the only dorm television set was tuned to Walter Cronkite and the continuous coverage of what was happening in Dallas and the reverberations around the world.

That night it seemed like the entire campus gathered for a memorial service at Boe Chapel. Classes were cancelled, and for the next four days, we, like most students on campus, spent interminable hours watching repetitive black and white images — the first round-the-clock televised coverage of a national tragedy. After the memorial service I called home sobbing to my mother — crying for the dead JFK and his family and upset that the unknown (to me) Texan, Lyndon Johnson, would now be the president of the United States.

When Jack Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald on Sunday, our Mellby TV set was still tuned to CBS, which soon was playing endless loops of the second assassination. Monday was declared a national day of mourning. We sat with the rest of the nation to watch the funeral procession, service at St. Matthew’s Cathedral, and burial at Arlington, which etched enduring visual memories of our national loss.

By Tuesday, November 26, I felt compelled to put my pen to paper and write to Jackie and the Kennedy family, wanting them to know of the grief being expressed in a small Minnesota college town. I naively believed that Mrs. Kennedy would actually see my letter, not realizing that 800,000 cards and letters arrived at the White House that first week, and the outpouring would eventually become more than a million personal expressions of condolence.”

...  

Gretchen received a thank you note from Jackie Kennedy’s secretary, a keepsake that she tucked away. Forty-six years later, Sarah Thorson Little re-read Gretchen’s eloquent condolence letter. Of the 1.5 million letters and notes sent to Mrs. Kennedy, 20,000 letters were re-read, and 250 were selected to be included in Ellen Fitzpatrick’s book Letters to Jackie: Condolences from a Grieving Nation (Harper Collins, 2010).

Gretchen’s letter is one of them.
Project for Peace

Grassroots organizer Monica Southworth ‘10

The small fishing village of Saadani, located north of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, depends on water for its revenue and survival. But the village is struggling. The fishermen don’t catch enough fish, the agricultural workers cannot effectively access water, and polluted water has contributed to malnutrition.

Monica Southworth ‘10 came up with an idea to help the people of Saadani. A political science major with concentrations in Middle Eastern studies and statistics, Monica applied for and received a $10,000 grant from Projects for Peace, an initiative inspired and funded by Kathryn W. Davis that supports undergraduates who create grassroots projects that promote peace. This summer she has been working with Logan Stuck ‘09 to implement her idea, the Saadani Water Project, by installing wells and micro-irrigation pumps as well as two 5,000-liter reservoir tanks that will provide the village with clean water.

“Something I learned from grassroots organizing is that the idea and the solution need to come from within the community, and it needs to be something that everyone wants and will strive for,” said Monica, who is also writing a pump maintenance manual for the villagers and teaching English at a local school. “We can’t just swoop into [Saadani] and throw money at the problem. We need to work with them to make their village a better place.”

Monica, who plans to establish a letter exchange program between Saadani schoolchildren and schoolchildren in her hometown of Dutch Harbor, Alaska, is optimistic about the long-term effects of the Saadani Water Project, noting the improvements are not only in water quality, accessibility, and sustainability but, ultimately, in overall health and education. “The benefits are endless,” she said.

Living the Sustainable Life

By Elizabeth Braaten Palmieri ’04

It was an early September evening in 2007 when I first visited the farm of Robbi Bannen ‘81 and her husband Ted Fisher ‘82. We drove along the bluffs of the Mississippi River, through quaint towns and down dirt roads toward Stockholm, Wisconsin. There were no signs pointing to our destination. We parked off the gravel road behind dozens of other cars that had made the same journey. What did we all have in common? Pizza. Not just any pizza — pizza that is made almost completely from ingredients grown on their farm.

Inspired by the hardworking farmers with whom he had grown up in Iowa, Ted never forgot the childhood stories told by his parents and grandparents about the importance of community and how families and neighbors worked together in the fields. “I felt a longing, almost an ache for the experience of old-time farming, even though I never imagined I would actually do it. There is something satisfying about knowing where your food comes from,” says Ted.

Robbi and Ted work the farm every day, gardening, milking, baking, and preparing for one quality evening of pizza madness. The pizza crust is made from wheat milled on their land, the sauce is made from their home-grown tomatoes, garlic, and herbs. They also raise their own pigs and smoke their own meat. The only imports are some of the cheeses and olives but little else.

They have created both a business and a simple lifestyle they enjoy sharing with their three children, family, friends, and customers. “Sustainable living is thoughtful, resilient living,” Robbi says.

Ted and Robbi’s farm, A to Z Produce & Bakery, is open on Tuesdays from 4 to 8 o’clock in the evening and can be found off a dirt road on N2956 Anker Lane, between Maiden Rock and Stockholm. Although they do not have a Web site, information can be found online under “A to Z Produce.”

Learning from the Laureates

This summer, when Nobel Laureates met in Lindau, Germany, with more than 650 young researchers selected from around the world, Michael Marty ’10 was among them. The annual Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings has been held each summer since 1951 and provides a globally recognized forum for the “transfer of knowledge” among generations of scientists, and also provides an opportunity for young scientists to participate in cross-cultural dialogue with their future peers in the sciences.

“While the focus is generally on one specific area — chemistry, physiology, or physics — this year’s conference [brought] in scientists from all three disciplines,” says Michael, a chemistry and math major from Monticello, Ill. After a January internship at the Environmental Protection Agency’s Green Chemistry Program, Michael realized the importance of chemistry in shaping public policy.

“I hope the conference gives me a broader perspective of the relationship between science and society, and helps direct my research in the future to relevant and exciting areas,” says Michael, who is pursuing his master’s degree in analytical chemistry at the University of Illinois and hopes either to teach at the university level or work in government. “There is a lot of interesting research going on in the national labs, and good chemists are needed to make policy at all levels of government.”

Michael Marty ’10

ELIZABETH BRAATEN PALMIERI ’04 is a pizza farm enthusiast and freelance writer who is teaching at the Twin Cities Stages Children’s Theatre.
Composition Honors

Matthew Peterson ’06 has received his second BMI Student Composer Award, which is given to young composers in recognition of outstanding creative talent. Winning the BMI award once is an honor. Winning it twice is rare. But Peterson says the recognition is special for more important reasons.

“The winning piece, Reflections on the Death of the Beloved, was my most personal, emotional, and adventurous work. It is also a work for band, and band works have rarely, if ever, been awarded,” says Peterson, who lives near Stockholm, Sweden.

Reflections was created on commission from the Miles Johnson Endowment for the St. Olaf Band in 2007 and was premiered during the Celebration Weekend band concert this past May. “I’m very proud and grateful to be a small part of the band’s legacy, and I hope to write again for this truly special ensemble,” he says.

Peterson, who graduated from St. Olaf with B.M. degrees in double bass performance and music composition, served as principal bassist with the St. Olaf Orchestra and toured as bassist with the St. Olaf Choir. He began composing music during his second year at St. Olaf and was a student of Timothy Mahr ’78, Justin Merritt, and Mary Ellen Childs. He received a Fulbright fellowship to Sweden in 2008 and has studied composition with Swedish composers Per Mårtensson, Henrik Strindberg, and Sven-David Sandström. He’s currently teaching at the Gotland Composer School in Visby and his new chamber opera Voir Dire will be premiered in Sweden in early 2011.

“I received a BMI student composer award in 2007 for The Binding of Isaac, a chamber opera that was written with librettist Jason Zencka ’06 and performed during my senior year at St. Olaf College,” says Peterson. “It’s only fitting that my second award was for a work that I wrote on commission for the St. Olaf Band in 2008. I should keep writing for St. Olaf musicians. Good things seem to happen.”

Ole Fulbrights

Seven St. Olaf alumni have been named Fulbright Fellows for 2010–11: Shoshana Blank ’10, Sarah Dorman ’09, Sarah Jacobson ’10, Caitlin Marine ’10, Alex Schmidt ’10, Katherine Henly ’07, and Maija Witte ’10.

Their projects are diverse and will take them to Austria, China, Egypt, Germany, India, Norway, and South Africa. Blank will work with a nongovernmental organization in India to reduce health and environmental problems. Dorman plans to study Arabic for nine months at the Arabic Language Institute of the American University in Cairo. Sarah Jacobson will study gender and sexual health in Cape Town, South Africa, where she will work with the Hospice and Palliative Care Association.

Caitlin Marine will combine scientific research, outdoor education, and conservation by studying grouse populations in Norway. Alex Schmidt will return to Xining, a city in China’s Qinghai Province, where last year he studied the societal effects of environmental change. His Fulbright research will look at the factors that push members of minority groups to attend college and influence their post-graduate decisions. Maija Witte plans to teach English at a gymnasium in Elsbethen, Austria.

Katherine Henly’s Fulbright project will take her to Germany. The seven young Fulbright project will take the college’s Fulbright total to 70 since 1995.

CLASS REUNION NEWS

TRADITIONALLY, class reunion anniversaries have been held over two special college weekends: Homecoming & Family Weekend in the fall -- when the 5-, 10-, 15-, and 20-year reunions are celebrated, and Celebration Weekend in the spring -- when the 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, and 70th reunions are celebrated.

ALL OF THAT IS ABOUT TO CHANGE!


Anticipated events are all centered on campus, including special class gatherings, an all-alumni worship service, an alumni convocation, a 5K run through the natural lands, a few rounds of campus golf, a Kids Camp for children of returning alumni, an “Alumni College” day, and – special to Reunion Weekend 2011 – the 100th anniversary of the St. Olaf Choir.

FOLLOW REUNION WEEKEND PLANS AT stolaf.edu/alumni AND SAVE THE DATES NOW!
Opening a window to the world through theatre happens regularly in the classroom and on stage, when students examine the larger context of a play’s setting, characters, and historical themes. It also occurs when students intern at Twin Cities theaters or when they study abroad and immerse themselves in dozens of plays during the Theatre in London Interim.

“Hundreds of students participate in our program every year. Students from all majors become stage managers, designers, directors, or actors, and gain direct experience in theatre.”

— KAREN PETERSON WILSON ’77

Erik Wallin ’03, associate manager of international programming at the Kennedy Center, incorporates that global perspective, his St. Olaf education, and experiences like Theatre in London into his work every day. Each year, for the past five years, he has helped coordinate an extensive month-long international festival of the performing arts at locations including China, Japan, and around the Arab world. He also coordinates other performances by international artists on the Kennedy Center’s nine stages.

“Certainly my liberal arts education is something that allowed me to do what I’m doing now, to look at theatre not just as a craft,” says Wallin, a theatre major. “What is so strong about the St. Olaf program is [it makes] you look at the larger cultural context of what the work means. Students also take classes that give them a deeper understanding of the world. Ultimately that’s what drives me.”

St. Olaf continues its long-running tradition of offering students a breadth of experience in the performing arts, whether it’s the annual Quade One Act Festival; the Interim course Producing Theatre, in which students mount a major production performed during the regular theatre season; or New Plays on Campus, in collaboration with The Playwrights’ Center in Minneapolis.

“We were involved in the creation of this national program and the first college to participate in it,” says Wilson. “It really helps students gain a better understanding of the role of that ‘hidden’ person in the theater: the playwright.” The program brings playwrights on campus to work directly with students, provides opportunities for them to see their plays fully realized on stage, and offers opportunities for students to interact with playwrights via rehearsals, classes, and post-show discussions. In turn, the college’s talented graduates are contributing significantly to the arts and beyond, all across the country.

“I remember coming here in 1980 to direct a show and thinking that the students were impressive,” says Gisselman. “I’m not sure what’s in the water here, but there is definitely something different about St. Olaf students. They have a commitment and a sense of responsibility to quality. That tradition of excellence has always been strong.”

SUZY FRISCH, a Twin Cities freelance writer, is a frequent contributor to St. Olaf Magazine.
1930
On her birthday five years ago, Ruth Knudstad Stewart lived out a longtime fantasy of riding a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. This year’s celebration in Stoughton, Wisconsin, was a bit more subdued — just lunch and a margarita at Coachman’s restaurant and cake with family. But that’s understandable when you’re 105 years old. Ruth, who was profiled by the Wisconsin State Journal on July 4, her 105th birthday, has been alive for every president elected in the 20th and 21st centuries, received a birthday card from President George W. Bush on her 100th birthday, and one from President Barack Obama this year. She says in the article, “Singing in the St. Olaf Choir as a student was the highlight of her life. It was rare then for a woman to go to college. Until just three years ago, Ruth lived on her own. Now she’s at the Skaalen Home in Stoughton, where staff members call her “everyone’s sweetheart.” She loves music, the Green Bay Packers, telling jokes, and getting kisses from men. Asked how she’ll celebrate her 110th birthday, she responded with a typically feisty comeback: “You mean 115th?” (The article can be found at host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/article_637458f9-d8be-5e89-a69f-bf37cebddd68b.html)

1933
Philip Peterson celebrated his 100th birthday in January with 35 relatives and friends. A highlight of the day, hosted by Philip’s daughter Kendra and son-in-law David St. Aubin, was Philip’s rendition of “Um Yah Yah” with Pastor Rolf Olson ’76 of Richfield Lutheran Church.

1940
Members of the Class of 1940 and friends reunited during Celebration Weekend. A fun and lively group, everyone had a wonderful time and continued visiting long after lunch ended. Pictured, from left (back row): Rusk Dalton Anderson, Gladys Bernsten Brinson, Thelma Nitz Lee ’41, Elsie Ronken Flock; (front row) Lorraine Kingstad, Emilie Larson, Juliann Johnson, and Valborg Maland Teig.

1950
Writing from Bonita Springs, Fla., Len Bunge says that the U.S. Tennis Association ranked him No. 1 nationally in the 2009 “eighties division doubles.” Len says he has finally found the secret to winning doubles: “Pick a good partner!” After 16 years of volunteer service, Mary Janke Middleton was awarded the first-ever Crystal Baton Award by the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra (KSO). The award recognizes longterm patronage, commitment, and service to the KSO and Northern Kentucky. Mary served on KSO’s board for six years and on its gala committee since 1994. Her extensive volunteer service also includes the Salvation Army Auxiliary, St. Luke Hospital Auxiliary, the Northern Kentucky Heritage League, Interfaith of Northern Kentucky, and the Rosedale Nursing Home. Mary and her husband, Clyde, have lived in Northern Kentucky since 1957.

1952
Bob Tengdin just returned from his honeymoon after marrying Dorothy Halvorson Hanson ’51. They were married on Bob’s birthday, June 25th, 2010, and spent their honeymoon at Wimbledon: two days on the grounds and two days centre court where they got to watch the mens finals.

1953
Asia is “a continuing experience” for Betty Stromseth and her husband, Walt Stromseth ’50, who enjoyed the last issue of St. Olaf Magazine and its focus on Asia. Betty and Walt, a professor emeritus of philosophy at St. Olaf, led the college’s Term in Asia twice (1972-73 and 1992-93). Walt and Betty also led Global Semester in 1988-89. Several of their Global group had their 20th reunion last October at the Stromseth home in Northfield. “With the help of Christy Rohren ’89, we contacted everyone in the group and asked them to write an update about their lives since Global. The stories were incredible,” says Betty. “They have lived and worked all over the world: Poland, London, Brazil, Cyprus, India, Japan, China, Costa Rica, Kenya (Peace Corps), Italy, Turkey, Sweden, British Colombia, Israel, Bolivia, and Hong Kong.” Those who made it to the reunion...
chophysiology, the study of mind-body interaction.

Eerdman’s essays, including the book of Isaiah entry in the Dictionary of the Bible.

Our goal was Platinum. We are there.

In 2009 (“on the road to retirement.”) She’s now teaching half-time in the writing department. The article is archived at mlive.com/living/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/04/profile_missionary_kid_author.html.

$400,000 NSF project involved faculty from 52 colleges in 27 states. “It was a partnership approach,” says Howard. “We were working [together] to improve science education in America.”

1966
Attorney Gary Gandrud, who was appointed Honorary Consul General for Norway in Minneapolis, was honored with the “Going Viking” Award by the nonprofit, Minneapolis-based Norway House as part of its annual Midsummer Celebration. Norway House provides a way for present and future generations of the Norwegian-American community in the Upper Midwest to stay connected with the heritage, culture, and future of Norway.

1967
Barbara Ottheim Brocker was a clinician/instructor at the International Handbell Symposium in Osaka, Japan, where she also performed a solo. This past summer, Barbara both performed at the Regional Handbell Festival in Rochester, Minn., and also served as a clinician. Catherine Frierichs, an author and professor whose parents were Lutheran missionaries in Papua New Guinea, was profiled in the Grand Rapids Press (Minn.). Catherine is a professor of writing at Grand Valley State University where she also directed the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center, stepping down in 2009 (“on the road to retirement.”) She’s now teaching half-time in the writing department. The article is archived at mlive.com/living/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/04/profile_missionary_kid_author.html.

1968
Thomas Burtch, who was ordained an ALC pastor in 1973 and served for 28 years in one parish, became Roman Catholic in 2007. He tells us he is now an “extraordinary minister (a specific term in Canon Law) in a parish of the Archdiocese of St. Paul (Minn.) and was recently recognized in a letter from the Vatican’s Secretariat of State on behalf of Pope Benedict XVI, delivered by the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, D.C.”

Clarification: Carolyn Dolen’s two books, Brain Injury Rewiring for Survivors: A Lifeline to New Connections and Brain Injury Rewiring for Loved Ones, are published by Idyll Arbor (2010). A review by Jodith Janes, Cleveland Clinic Fdn.

Lib., Library Journal, notes, “Both books offer in-depth explanations of how to get the most from health-care professionals and educate readers about treatment, recovery, postinjury rehabilitation, and adaptation. Chapters focus on a specific aspect of therapy: spiritual, cognitive, emotional, nutritional, physical, social, and vocational. Survivors is a powerful testament to how courage and spirit can aid in recovery and, like Loved Ones, equips readers with knowledge and understanding to help with the many problems accompanying head injuries.” Learn more at rewiring.org.

1969
John Lang continues to teach at Emory & Henry College (Va.) where he directs the college’s annual literary festival and its annual Lecture-ship in Poetry and edits The Iron Mountain Review, which publishes the proceedings of both festivals.

1971
Rebecca Gangstead Hanson retired this year from her career as a high school English teacher. She and her husband, Warren Hanson, are living in Spring, Texas.

1972
Beth Versen McCrindle has retired after 35 years of teaching speech and English and says she is “looking forward to shorter mornings and traveling with family and friends.” Kevin McCrindle has been appointed state chair for Iowa of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, and he is listed in Best Lawyers in America.

1973
Leif Knecht, owner of Knecht’s Nurseries and Landscaping, was named by the Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce as businessperson of the year for 2010. Leif has donated hundreds of trees to area parks and has been integral to establishing St. Olaf’s natural lands for more than 20 years.

1974
Eric Nye, a Victorian scholar for the University of Wyoming’s Department of English, received the Ellbogen Meritorious Classroom Teaching award, established to “foster, encourage, and reward excellence in classroom teaching at UW.” His colleagues note that Eric “believes in the power of literary inquiry to shape students into informed citizens who will pursue the social good.” Eric joined the UW faculty as an assistant English professor in 1983.

1959
Joseph Everson retired from California Lutheran University and is now a professor emeritus of religion. Joseph joined the CLU religion faculty in 1990. His primary academic work has been in the prophetic literature of the Old Testament and, in particular, in research on the book of Isaiah. He has authored a number of scholarly essays, including the book of Isaiah entry in Eerdman’s Dictionary of the Bible.

1961
The U.S. Green Building Council has awarded Larry Christensen’s Dallas home LEED Platinum status. Larry writes, “We wanted a contemporary one-story, 2,400 square foot home within our budget. A reduced carbon footprint [was] important, implying reduced utility costs and energy saving construction process. Water conservation [was] accomplished with rain water harvesting, low-flow fixtures, xeriscaping, and drip irrigation, [and] construction techniques and materials played an important role. Our goal was Platinum. We are there.”

1963
St. Olaf Professor of Psychology Howard Thorsheim has completed a six-year project that introduced community college instructors to psychophysiology, the study of mind-body interaction that is not commonly taught in community colleges. In one stage of the project, funded by a National Science Foundation grant, Howard developed a “National Workshop Support Model” that introduced teachers to psychophysiology lab experiments and served as a model for teaching those skills to other instructors. Overall, the

1968
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1976

Mark Harbold, Lombard, Ill., writes: “During my four-month stay in India in the fall of 2009, as Visiting Professor of Music at Madras Christian College, I was introduced to Mike Swift and Anne Walter, St. Olaf biology professors who had just arrived at MCC to supervise the students doing the St. Olaf biology semester in India. As is often the case in India, chance meetings lead to the most wonderful contacts and events. In this case, it led me right back to St. Olaf!”

1977

Leslie Moore writes: “My daughter, Jessie, and I have been living in Sydney, Australia, since 2003. We now hold dual American/Australian citizenship. I am the general counsel of the professional services firm of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu in Australia, and I lead a team of 15 lawyers and other professionals. Jessie is entering year 7 [in school]. I am rediscovering year 7 math and science, neither of which I’ve thought about for years. If you travel Down Under, please let me know. Life in Oz is very good.”

1978

Grant Aaseng was one of the stars of Alt For Norge, which aired in Norway in April. He says that when TV Norge producers sought out Norwegian-Americans who did not know their Norwegian ancestry and had never been to Norway, his daughter, Marit Aaseng ’14, urged him to apply, and he was selected. Similar to American reality shows, the final is to meet his or her relatives in Norway and receives a copy of their genealogy. Check out maxdome.net/main.aspx?level=altfornorge (Grant is in the first row on the right).

1979

Connie Jaarsma Marty was profiled in Metro Lutheran for her lifetime work in social justice. A member of Nativity Lutheran Church in St. Anthony Village, Minn., Connie is director of outreach programs at Plymouth Congregational Church. She works with leaders of 15 separate programs and more than a dozen Minneapolis faith communities; all have similar commitments to serving the poor and have formed Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness. Friends can read Connie’s story at metrolutheran.org/2010/04/when-did-i-see-you-homeless-and-offer-a-home-. Mark B. Peterson has been appointed an adjunct director for the Edina (Minn.) law firm of Moss & Barnett where he practices business law.

1980

Stephen Hage writes that 10 Oles “appeared in the Minneapolis-based Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company’s March production of The Sorcerer: (first row) Laurel Schone ’08, Katie Lutes ’08, Hayley Wender ’07; (middle row) Lara Trujillo ’01, Doug Scholz-Carlson ’00 (director), Dionne Laviolette ’07 (director), Lauren Drasler ’08; (back row) Stephen Hage ’80, Jean Orbison Van Heel ’80 (rehearsal accompanist), and Jason Vogen ’04.”

1983

Tammy Metcalf-Filzen has retired as head women’s basketball coach and associate professor of physical education, athletics, and recreation after 13 seasons at the helm of the Carleton College women’s basketball program. The winningest coach in program history, she is stepping aside to devote more time and energy to her family.

1985

Steve Jecha was “lured out of retirement to play goalie for the U.S. National Team in the Bandy/Russian Hockey World Championships in Moscow, Russia. I had retired in 1999 after the World Championships in Arkhangelsk, Russia, where we played in -30 degree weather and I almost lost my toes to frostbite! This was a grueling week on a 46-year-old body, as the other goalie, former NHLer Robb Stauber, got injured early in the tourney, and I had to play the entire tournament against some of the top athletes in the world. The highlight was our match on Russian national television (getting beat 19–5 by the Russian national team) and being the Team USA representative at the press conference afterward. I’ve come a long way since playing hockey for the Oles back at The Structure in Northfield 25 years ago!”

1981

Mark Henke has succeeded longtime Northfield Hospital & Clinics president and chief executive officer Ken Bank ’67, who retired this past April.
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1986

Susan Root Peterson was named a partner of Henningson & Snoxell, Ltd. Susan is chair of the firm’s estate planning department and practices in the areas of estate planning, probate and estate administration, and elder law. For the past three years she has received the “Rising Star” designation by Minnesota Law & Politics.

1986

Thom VanHorn, vice president of global marketing for Application Security, Inc. in Boston, was a finalist for the Chief Marketing Officer of the Year Award by the Chief Marketing Officer Institute.

1990 20th CLASS REUNION October 1-3, 2010

Tracy Bertelson Wiese was promoted to senior vice president of management services at the Center for Diagnostic Imaging in Minneapolis, where she is responsible for growing CDI’s consulting and management services group nationally.

A Family of Volunteers

Erik Hembre ’90 signed up to be a long distance planning committee member for his 20th reunion with little idea that he was not the only reunion planner in his family. Erik's parents, Jim '60 and Ruth Mandsager Hembre ’61, and brother-in-law Dan Rustad ’95 are planning their respective upcoming reunions. Pictured, from left (front row): Hatti Hembre (married to Leif), Kate Howe Hembre (married to Erik), Jim and Ruth Hembre, and Anna Lisa Hembre Rustad ’96. (back row) Leif Hembre ’93, Erik Hembre ’90, Turi Hembre Conditt ’87, Calvin Conditt (married to Turi), and Dan Rustad ’95.

Each year about 100 volunteers help organize and execute class reunions. They plan and arrange events, encourage classmates to attend, and make arrangements for off-campus gatherings.

1991

David Rykken writes from Washington, D.C., “After spending several years living overseas doing international development work for the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention as well as other organizations, I have returned to D.C. to work in the Office of the Secretary in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a senior public health analyst. I am a senior project officer for the ASPR OPEO Hospital Preparedness Program in Regions 8 and 10 in the Western United States.”

1993

Kris Layon launched a national higher education Web designers conference, MinneWebCon, two years ago and just finished directing the third-annual meeting of this conference on Web standards and social media. As a result of his leadership, Kris has had a book proposal accepted by New Riders, one of the top publishers of Web design and technology books. He also taught design workshops in Minneapolis and Phoenix as part of the Two Apps Per Day workshop series he launched in June: (twoappsperday.com).

1994

Susan Jedlicka-Burns writes that she was married in July 2008 and later moved to Scotland. Susan and her husband returned to Wisconsin this summer, where they both served as chaplains and cooks at a Bible camp.

1995 15th CLASS REUNION October 1-3, 2010

Alexander Cunningham has been promoted to supervisory entomologist within the USDA. He writes, “I work in the animal and plant health inspection service, specializing in mass rearing and understanding a recently imported pest. The Light Brown Apple Moth may threaten California’s fruit and wine industries, as well as other crops and native plant species. Living in Santa Cruz on the northern edge of Monterey Bay, I enjoy the area and its biodiversity and climate very much, as well as visiting San Francisco and my favorite Oles who live there.”

1999

Lawrence Wiliford writes, “My debut solo CD was released and is a classical vocal recording on the ATMA Classique label, containing a programme of Benjamin Britten’s repertoire for tenor and harp. This is a significant CD as it features the world premier recordings of several Britten works, something very unusual as we approach the composer’s 100th birthday. I now reside in Toronto with my wife Katie Larson ’00. She is a professor of English at University of Toronto, and I am a professional classical soloist with an international career.” (lawrencewilford.com)

2000 10th CLASS REUNION October 1-3, 2010

Elvis Buckwalter was granted tenure and promoted to the position of associate professor at the Université de Paris X where he teaches economics and American civilization.

Sarah Krumsieg Underhill is singing with the professional choral group, St. Charles Singers (stcharlessingers.com).

2001

About 18 months ago, Chris Koza set an almost ridiculously daunting musical goal: to record and release four full-length albums in one year — one for each season. Under the new full-band nom de plume Rogue Valley, the spring and summer albums (“Crater Lake” and “The Bookseller’s House”) have already been released, and the next two installments will be out in November and February. Before adopting the Rogue Valley identity, Chris released four albums under his own name between 1994 and 1998, each building on the success of the last. Consistent radio play, local Twin Cities performances, and national touring have led to ever-widening recognition, but now the group has shifted its focus.

With a new name, a new mission, and a new stack of records in the making, Rogue Valley is poised for breakout success on the national level. (lostinroguevalley.com/RV)

Chris Koza ’01 (second from left) and Rogue Valley
2002

Rich Kurhajetz was selected as one of 20 finalists for a Minneapolis-based award, One Man Minneapolis. ■ Peter Olsen, a fourth-year medical student at the University of Minnesota Medical School, received the Medical Student Award for Contributions to Family Medicine Award from the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP). ■ Brian Sprout, who was in the Los Angeles Dodgers farm system for more than two years and, most recently, played three seasons with the St. Paul (Minn.) Saints where he was a two-time all star, is the new head coach for East Ridge High School in Woodbury, Minn. When asked why he decided to hang up his spikes, Brian said, “It was time. The Saints and I both knew it. I always want to win and I want to compete. The Saints allowed me to do that and stay close to home for a few years.” Brian teaches social studies at Oltman Middle School and lives in the district with his wife, Lynn, and their three-month-old son Ryne, named for Brian’s idol, Chicago Cubs icon Ryne Sandberg.

2003

The American Composers Forum recently notified Jocelyn Hagen Takach that she is one of four Minnesota composers to receive a McKnight Composition Fellowship. The awards, which include $25,000 in unrestricted funds for each recipient, acknowledge excellence in the field of music composition.

2004

Takach is interested in music composition, an interest she developed as a member of the St. Olaf College’s Chamber Singers. “I had been singing in choirs from a very early age,” she said. “It was music that brought me through college and that led me to this fellowship.”

2005

The 25th Class Reunion October 1–3, 2010

Katherine Mabuce graduated in May with an MBA from Washington University in St. Louis. She writes, “I am very excited to return to Minnesota and am working at General Mills, effective July 2010.”

2006

Eric Neuville performed in Seattle Opera’s Young Artists’ production of Richard Strauss’s Ariadne auf Naxos. His performances as Harlequin were his last as a baritone — he began singing tenor roles the summer of 2010 when he performed Beppe in I Pagliacci at Chautauqua Opera. Next year he’ll perform on Seattle Opera’s mainstage in the tenor roles of Normanno in Lucia di Lammermoor and the First Priest in The Magic Flute. ■ Max Wojtanowicz was featured in the Minneapolis Musical Theatre production of Mame. Max has appeared onstage with various theaters in the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota, including the Children’s Theatre Company, the Guthrie Theater, and Minneapolis Musical Theatre. ■ Thomas Rusert received the Master of Divinity and the David Allan Weadon Award in Sacred Music from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Class of 1960 / Class of 1985

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Books by St. Olaf alumni, faculty & friends

I paid my debts … A Norwegian-American Immigrant Saga of Life on the Prairie of North Dakota (Minneapolis: Lutheran University Press, 2009), by Lloyd Svendsbye (former St. Olaf dean; lutheranupress.org)

Feeding the Five Thousand: Studies in the Judaic Background of Mark 6:30-44 Par. and John 6:11-15 (Studies in Judaism; Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2010), by Roger David Aus ’62 (amazon.com)

Desires of the Heart: A Daughter Remembers Her Missionary Parents (Nashville: Cold River Studio, 2010), by Catherine Frerichs ’67 (catherinefrerichs.com)

Love or Lust (Minneapolis: Two Harbors Press, 2009), a book of poetry by Ott Lukk ’68 (ottlukk.com)

Six Poets from the Mountain South (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2010), by John Lang ’69 (www.lsu.edu/lsupress/bookPages/9780807135600.html)

The Missing Element: A James Becker Mystery (Scotts Valley, CA: CreateSpace, 2010), by John L. Betcher ’80 (amazon.com)

A Night in Santa’s Great Big Bag (New York: Viking Press, 2010), by Kristin Kladstrup ’83 (amazon.com)


Presidents and Political Thought (University of Missouri Press, 2010), by David J. Siemers ’91 (amazon.com)

ColitiScope (Duluth, MN: Pfeifer Hamilton, 2009), by Andrew Tubesing ’92 (colitiscope.net)

Designing iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad Applications with Web Standards (Berkeley, CA: New Riders, 2010), by Kris Layon ’93 (aesthetesoftware.com)

Education and the Culture of Print in Modern America (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2010), edited by Adam Nelson ’93 (uwpress.wisc.edu/books/14522.htm)


EDITORS’ NOTE: St. Olaf Magazine does not review books written by alumni, faculty, or friends of the college, nor does it promote any publication. The publication of books written by alumni will be included in “On the Shelf” as information to be shared with classmates and to encourage interested Ole readers to learn more. Books by Ole authors may also be available in the St. Olaf Bookstore.

Back to the Future

Bilal Alkatout ’07, an MPH candidate at Emory University, writes, “As colorful umbrellas opened and the drizzle turned to heavy rain, I took my gaze away from the open drains that line the streets of Accra, Ghana, to see a melding of my past and present. Before me was a lime green trotro with the word “OLE” painted in yellow.”

“I began to wonder if this was a reminder of why I am here. I have wanted to work abroad for some time, even before attending St. Olaf. I am here with the help of the Center for Global Safe Water at Emory University and the Environmental Health Platform in Ghana, performing an observational study on water and sanitation exposures to use for my public health master’s thesis. But it was my St. Olaf foundation and study abroad experiences that brought me to this place and time in my life. “Sitting in the James Town neighborhood listening to highlife music blasting from shack markets that line the streets, watching children play football in the rain, and talking to some of the friendliest people I have ever met, I wanted to share this image and thoughts with other Ole alumni and friends.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: Do you have a story to share about your study abroad experiences while at St. Olaf? Send them to St. Olaf Magazine (magazine@stolaf.edu). High resolution (300 dpi) digital photos also are welcome. Stories should be no more than 250 words and will be edited for length and clarity.

2007

Benjamin Heidgerken received the Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Michelle Vigen graduated from the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Policy with a Master of Public Policy. She has been working with the Clean Energy Resource Teams, an organization with the University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, the Office of Energy Security, and other nonprofits, and she will remain on staff in their St. Paul office as their full-time campaign and metrics coordinator.

2008

Amanda Barrett Botnen graduated from Montana State University with an M.S. in athletic training.

Kenneth Qian Vigne received his Masters of Music in Organ Performance from...
the University of Oklahoma, studying under alumnus Dr. John D. Schwandt ’94. Bradley Wagenaar reports that he implemented and organized large seminars to train motivated individuals as village peer health educators in Cameroon, Africa. Brad served two years in the Peace Corps, where he helped build four wells and an elementary school and raised more than $14,000. He’s back in the United States in September and will attend Johns Hopkins in the masters program in global epidemiology.

2009

Elizabeth Linn is a Peace Corps Volunteer in Azerbaijan (north of Iran and east of Turkey). Her two-year commitment will expire in late December 2011. Her blog is salammeanspeace.blogspot.com. Camryn Reynolds has joined the apprentice acting company at Minneapolis’ Children’s Theatre Company (CTC). CTC, which has a Tony Award for Best Regional Theater in America, auditions nationally to find their apprentice company and takes only one female actor into its program. Camryn was chosen for the honor. She is the third Ole to be awarded this apprenticeship in the last decade. Her predecessors are Kristina Mitchell ’02 and Max Wojtanowicz ’06.

2010

Linnae Stole accepted a position through the ELCA to teach English abroad, either in Slovakia or Poland. She says, “The ELCA sends teachers by request of the Lutheran Church in Slovakia, and I’ll be over there for at least a year, with the option to extend indefinitely. I leave the states on August 15, will have two weeks of in-country teacher training, and start teaching classes on September 1.” When John Schantzen heads to medical school at Des Moines University this fall, he’ll take with him an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. Schantzen, a four-year starter for the St. Olaf football team and a national champion shot put specialist for the track and field team, was one of 58 spring sport athletes in all divisions to receive the $7,500 scholarship. A native of Stillwater, Minnesota, he has earned top honors in football and track and field while double majoring in biology and chemistry.
**babies**

Richard Viken ’76 and Mary Waldron, twin sons, Jon and Nils
Kim and Dave Larson ’85, a daughter, Eliza
Carla and Bill Hagen ’87, a daughter, Julia
Gary and Judy Thon Jones ’87, a daughter, Naomi
Tom Solstad ’89 and Ceci Jalisko, a son, Jacob
Kristen and Thomas Atwood ’91, a daughter, Ella
Rosie and Brent Cataldo ’92, a son, Charles
Katherine and Michael Boehm ’94, a son, Luke
Richard and Leslea Davison Lehoucq ’94, a daughter, Natalie
Nancy O’Neil Nelsen ’95 and Karl Nelsen ’95, a daughter, Samantha
Megan Gramling Grommes ’96 and Ben Grommes ’96, a son, Erik
Janet House Boie ’96 and Brian Boie ’96, a son, Logan
Andrew and Kate Jones Young ’96, twins, a son, Abel, and a daughter, Eliana
Sarah Crawford Cledwyn ’97 and Lloyd Cledwyn ’97, a daughter, Helen
Deirdre Hinz ’97 and Abbey Weiss, son, Nadav
Benjamin and Alison Johnson Zwart ’97, twin daughters, Julia and Clara
Kenya and Bryan Ladislav ’97, a daughter, Sarita
Maria and Nate Beaudin ’98, a son, Jack
Anna Leighton Ster ’98 and Jeremy Ster ’98, a daughter, Caroline
Dorothy Porter ’98, a son, Andrew
Katharine Anderson Hein ’99 and Benjamin Hein ’99, a daughter, Sophie
Sarah McClimon ’99 and Rahman Abdur, a son, Noah
Greg and Jamie McRaith Cottom ’99, a son, Colton
Kambria Schroder Johnson ’99 and Ben Johnson ’00, twin boys, Rainer and Shepard
Kim and Joe Ward ’99, a son, Dawson
Josh and Jessica Wilson Hern ’99, a daughter, Eleanor
Cathrine Hoelstad ’00 and Torstein Monsen, a son, Johannes
Colleen Kelly Evans ’00 and Kevin Evans ’99, a daughter, Gwendolyn
Nathanael and Sarah Krumseg Underhill ’00, a daughter, Mary
Doug and Vanessa Merchant Addison ’00, a son, David
Mike and Traci Taylor Kiss ’00, a daughter, Harper
Juan and Laura Sullivan Salazar ’01, a son, Levi
Luke Anderson ’02 and Kelly Banks Anderson ’03, a daughter, Miriam
Matthew and Jodie Beilfuss Jackson ’02, a daughter, Ava
A.J. and Jamie Bown Leterski ’02, a son, Drew
Nathan and Julia Johnson ’02, a son, Ethan
Alfredo and Kristiana Ringquist Corona ’02, a son, Alec
Samuel and Natalia Theimer Terfa ’02, a daughter, Layla
Brian and Bryn LeVasseur Oswall ’03, a son, Thomas
Melissa Ohm Halvorsen ’03 and Andrew Halvorsen ’04, a daughter, Ava
Andy and Kimberly Pangrac Olson ’04, a son, Gavin
Mikk Stenlenkamp Helvig ’04 and Karl Helvig ’04, a son, Tobiah
Laura and Adam McDougall ’05, a son, Elijah
Nate and Vanessa Velie Christoff ’05, a daughter, Evelyn

**weddings**

Susan Eastman ’65 and Carl Lacy, June 21, 2009
John Stoltenberg ’66 and Joseph Hamilton, April 6, 2010
Rebecca Gangstad ’71 and Warren Hanson, Feb. 6, 2010
Sarah Bowen ’96 and Jeffrey Hecox, Dec. 27, 2009
Elizabeth Musselman ’97 and Liam Palmer, Aug. 29, 2009
Nate Beaudin ’98 and Maria Douville, June 24, 2007
Sabine Guggemos ’98 and Andreas Zwick, July 18, 2009
Amy Rudser ’00 and Joshua Gumm, Sept. 26, 2009
Laura Schmerse ’00 and Daniel Mays ’01, Feb. 26, 2010
Claire Campbell ’01 and David Prestwood ’01, Aug. 8, 2009
Kriste Marshall ’01 and John Hardt, June 27, 2009
Lisa Baldwin ’03 and Darren Bennett, Dec. 31, 2009
Allison Quetel ’03 and Neil Hall, Feb. 6, 2010
Miriam Gustafson ’04 and James Dawolo ’05, Aug. 1, 2009
Emily Howell-Little ’04 and Josh Christiansen ’06, Aug. 1, 2009
Sarah Cornell ’05 and Joel Ihrie ’06, Aug. 29, 2009
Jennifer Ester ’06 and Ken Walls, June 19, 2009
Chelsey Rodd ’06 and Dain Thu ’06, July 19, 2008
Lindsey Thoreson ’06 and David Hansen ’06, June 26, 2009
Amanda Barrett ’08 and Craig Botnen ’07, Jan. 9, 2010
Megan Delain ’08 and George Jimenez ’08, Aug. 15, 2009

**deaths**

‘George Ramseth ’31, Redwood Falls, Minn., March 4, 2010
Dorothy Johnson Gloyer ’34, Gibsonia, Penn., April 1, 2010
Ardis Olsen Higgins ’35, San Luis Obispo, Calif., Jan. 12, 2010
‘Paul Duckstad ’36, Duluth, Minn., April, 2, 2010
Evelyn Ellefson Kieffer ’37, Faribault, Minn., March 22, 2010
Judith Hagebak Liden ’37, Seattle, April 10, 2010
Jeanette Hagestande Sprague ’37, Edina, Minn., March 14, 2010
 Lois Druse Harvey ’38, West Allis, Wis., April 4, 2010
Kermit Gordon (K.G.) Egertson ’38, Mount Vernon, Wash., May 3, 2010
Marvin Gulsrud ’38, Spokane, Wash, April 19, 2010
Sanford Haugen ’38, Northfield, Minn., March 18, 2010
June Engelstad Grundahl ’39, West Bend, Wis., Jan. 15, 2010
Caryl Murwin Thronson ’39, Edgerton, Wis., March 10, 2010
Franklin Steen ’39, Alexandria, Minn., Feb. 22, 2010
Valborg Ellersden Fure ’41, Northfield, Minn., April 20, 2010
Herriet Finsand Peterson ’41, Golden Valley, Minn., April 7, 2010
Robert Tebbe ’41, Lakeland, Fla., Feb. 20, 2010
Eunice Govig Gronbeck ’42, Henning, Minn., April 21, 2010
‘Edward Hammerbeck ’42, Alexandria, Va., May 1, 2010
Muriel Sass Torgerson ’42, Adams, Minn., March 26, 2010
‘Janet Scarslet Johnson ’42, Rhinelander, Wis., March 14, 2010
Sylvia Vathing Anderson ’42, Sun City, Ariz., Feb. 15, 2010
‘Orville Crawford ’43, Enumclaw, Wash., March 23, 2010
Marguerite Maricle Iverson ’43, Colfax, Wis., Oct. 1, 2009
‘Clinton Redstone ’43, Warwick, R.I., March 3, 2010
Muriel Strand Seal ’43, Olympia, Wash., Jan. 25, 2010
Clifford Jensen ’44, Billings, Mont., March 6, 2010
Susanne Tjernlund ’44, Fergus Falls, Minn., Feb. 8, 2010
Maxine Christensen Downs ’45, May 6, 2010
Charles Foelsch ’45, Tequesta, Fla., Jan. 28, 2010
Ragna Hompland Bartosic ’45, Appleton, Wis., Feb. 3, 2010
Elsie Hotvedt Thronson ’45, Ferndale, Wash., Feb. 26, 2010
Audrey Wang Routh ’45, Youngtown, Ariz., Feb. 28, 2010
Vernal Skogen ’46, Easton, Minn., April 19, 2010
Margaret Strunk Saetre '46, Thief River Falls, Minn., March 20, 2010
*Robert McKibben '47, Valley City, N.D., April 10, 2010
Mary Nelson Ryland '47, Scottsdale, Ariz., March 23, 2010
Marjorie Pierson Garrison '47, Baton Rouge, La., April 26, 2010
*Arthur Fredrickson '48, Minneapolis, May 21, 2010
Betty Groth Syverson '48, Minneapolis, March 24, 2010
Ortha Weingartner Williams '48, Brainerd, Minn., March 12, 2010
Aase Andersen Schjerven '49, Oslo, Norway, Feb. 18, 2010
Harriet Ede Kins '49, Altoona, Wis., Feb. 5, 2010
Joann Estrem Handahl '49, Spicer, Minn., May 18, 2010
Loren Halvorson '49, Minneapolis, Feb. 15, 2010
*Harlan Mathison '49, Moorhead, Minn., March 3, 2010
Lorraine Weigler Brynildson '49, Buffalo, Minn., March 17, 2010
*Elsworth Buskirk '50, State College, Penn., March 28, 2010
Beverly Carlson Bergson '50, Rudolph, Wis., April 20, 2010
*Robert Harter '50, Northfield, Minn., Feb. 25, 2010
*Robert Johnson '50, Ridgecrest, Calif., May 6, 2010
*Glenn Reichel '50, Stewartville, Minn., May 15, 2010
*Mark Rostvold '50, Hinsdale, Ill., April 22, 2010
Rebecca Anderson Morgenson '51, Oxford, Ohio, March 17, 2010
Fernadna Malmin Daniels '51, Rochester, Minn., Jan. 25, 2010
Bert Tolfe son '51, Sioux Falls, S.D., Jan. 19, 2010
Donald Danielson '52, East Grand Forks, N.D., March 13, 2010
Nan Tilseth Cheney '52, Madison, Wis., April 30, 2010
Delores Henneman Willi '54, Hudson, Wis., Feb. 23, 2010
JoAnn Ladd Sheafor '54, Janesville, Wis., May 16, 2010
Donald Solum '54, Rochester, Minn., Feb. 13, 2010
D. Robert Helekson '55, Bismarck, N.D., April 18, 2010
Elizabeth Haaland '56, Midlothian, Texas, Dec. 13, 2009
Gregory Heimarc '56, Leonia, N.J., April 27, 2010
Willard Larson '56, Woodbury, Minn., Feb. 9, 2010
Deanna Thompson Sahs '56, Hazelhurst, Wis., Dec. 23, 2009
Arthur Anderson '58, Big Lake, Minn., March 16, 2010
Henry Offen '58, Carpinteria, Calif., April 25, 2010
David Saari '58, Ironwood, Mich., April 8, 2010
Mary Lou Stie Julien '58, Isle, Minn., Nov. 18, 2009
*Robert Huber '59, Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., March 31, 2010
Nathan Schiotz '59, Menahga, Minn., Nov. 18, 2009
*Abe Fox '60, Bismarck, N.D., Feb. 25, 2010
Richard Koch '60, El Dorado Hills, Calif., Feb. 23, 2010
Jon Lien '62, Portugal Cove-St. Philipps, Canada, April 14, 2010
Mary Hinderlie Ager '63, Palo Alto, Calif., April 23, 2008
*Jeffrey Larson '64, Austin, Minn., March 25, 2010
Bruce Halvorsen '65, Morgan Hill, Calif., March 12, 2009
Ronald Nelson '70, Minneapolis, Feb. 13, 2010
Nora Baker DeMaster '74, Dundas, Minn., March 21, 2010
Gary Saxton '75, Plymouth, Minn., April 16, 2010
Daniel Foss '85, Bloomington, Minn., May 2, 2010
Richard Rollins '03, Daytona Beach, Fla., Feb. 22, 2010
* VETERAN

### Remembering Professor Alice Burton

Professor Emerita of Biology Alice Burton died on April 23, 2010, at her home in Northfield. She was 75. Burton joined the St. Olaf faculty in 1970 and became the college’s first full professor in biology in 1988. She also served in the Paracollege. Burton performed research through the Research Corporation and National Science Foundation grants and directed the college’s Howard Hughes Medical Institute program, which used a major grant to better prepare students for graduate and medical schools. She was considered a pioneer in the sciences and remembered for her efforts to help St. Olaf increase the number of women on the faculty. By 1991, half of the St. Olaf biology faculty were women, one of whom chaired the department — a fact that Burton cited at the time as “unusual for a college.” During her 1996 Honors Day address (the year she retired), Burton called students her chief source of “rock solid support” and encouraged listeners “to be alert to what we can contribute to the progress of others.” Memorials received by St. Olaf College will go to the Alice Burton Endowed Biology Fund.

### Remembering Professor Lloyd Gunderson ’53

Professor Emeritus of Classics Lloyd Gunderson ’53 died of complications from esophageal cancer on July 4, 2010, at his home near Northfield. He was 78. After graduating from St. Olaf with a double major in history and Norwegian, Gunderson entered Luther Seminary in St. Paul, graduating in 1957. He served several churches in New York City and earned his masters degree at Columbia University, where he met his wife, Connie. They subsequently moved to Madison, Wis., where he earned his Ph.D. in classical literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Gunderson joined the St. Olaf faculty in 1967. “He was a complex person who had a love of many things,” Provost and Dean of St. Olaf James May told the Minneapolis Star Tribune. “He relished the challenge presented by [classics], and students responded in a positive way.” Gunderson retired in 1994 and is survived by his wife and their three sons, Karl, Konrad, and Martin.
Dipping into Dolphin History

By Jeff Sauve

Last summer I received a phone call from a church quilting club member who had found a large blue curtain with white stars and a yellow moon pinned on it at a garage sale. The person holding the sale said this blue curtain might have been used as a backdrop for a long-ago St. Olaf Christmas Festival concert. Although I could not confirm the story, it intrigued me enough to investigate further. As it turned out, the blue cloth was indeed from St. Olaf College and was first used as a scenery backdrop for the St. Olaf Dolphin Swim Club’s 1946 water pageant, “Ten Little Indians.”

Historically, synchronized swimming pageants were promoted by the American Red Cross under Commodore W. E. Longfellow. His crusade to “entertain the public hugely while educating them gently” about water safety made a great impact, evidenced by the declining number of drownings over the years. Many colleges and universities, including Colorado State, Berkeley, and Michigan State, formed women’s swim clubs during that time. In 1952 Carleton College followed suit, also naming their club “The Dolphins.”

The St. Olaf Dolphin Swim Club, founded in 1939, was an extension of the Women’s Athletic Association, which first presented its annual spring water pageant in 1931. Synchronized, carefully choreographed swimming, staged with costumes and accompanying music, the pageants ranged from “A Fishy Tale” and “The Sultan’s Pearl” (the Dolphin’s debut pageant in 1939) to “Toyland” (1957) and “From Jungle to Jazz” (1957).

The programs, better known at St. Olaf as “water ballet,” showcased the aquatic talents of more than twenty young women who practiced every Thursday in the pool, which then was located in the basement of the old gymnasium.

One Dolphin member, Marian Sattre Kark ’45, remembers, “We had to run to our classes after practice — there were no hair dryers in those days. We put on scarves over our wet hair, but our hair was frozen around our faces by the time we reached our class. It was miserable, but we enjoyed it spite of everything.”

For St. Olaf women, the Dolphins offered an opportunity to participate in a sport when few existed on campus. The swim club encouraged its members to meet other students and express their creative abilities.

“We interpreted the music into swimming movements and learned it through our bodies — a kind of wet version of dance, so it was intellectual, physical, emotional — a true liberal arts project,” says former Dolphin Mary Wee Maxwell ’57.

Although dancing on the ground was not permitted at St. Olaf until 1961, performing in the water was encouraged. In addition to the annual pageant, every other year two members of the St. Olaf men’s swim team were asked to swim in a number with two Dolphins. Karen Strand Dismer ’63 met her future husband, Mike Dismer ’63, in the pool when they were partnered to do a “double dolphin” for the program. Karen shared this memory of her Dolphin days: “While floating on our backs, Mike hooked his feet around my neck and did a back summersault pulling me along behind, under water, and back up again. It wasn’t much fun, and I got a lot of water up my nose.”

The early modest green swimsuits were ill-fitting and borrowed, as there was no money to purchase any. Clad with white caps, Sindy Lier Tellekson ’57 recalls how her straps broke during one of the acts. She finished the routine, she says, with one arm holding the suit up and the other arm doing the strokes.

For many Dolphins, the memories are like a patchwork quilt filled with memories of a camaraderie shared both in and out of the water. Some members continued performing in water shows after graduation, while others became Red Cross water safety instructors. The Dolphins finally disbanded following the 1969–70 academic year. Four years later, the St. Olaf women’s swim team took the place of the swim club.

Dolphin alumnae Betty Andersen Stromseth ’49 and Mickey Matzke Monsen ’49 have this favorite memory from the 1946 pageant “Ten Little Indians”: “To this day,” says Stromseth, “whenever we hear ‘Song of India,’ our arms want to reach the beginning strokes of the routine.”

Jeff Sauvé is the associate archivist at the Shaw-Olson Center for College History. Oles can share their stories with him by emailing sauve@stolaf.edu.
For many years, St. Olaf College has offered Christmas Festival tickets to parents, donors, and alumni at no charge. While the college receives generous donations in support of the festival from many who attend, these donations do not cover the full costs of the endeavor. The national broadcast of the Christmas Festival every four years on public television, beloved by millions, adds an additional layer of cost. Because these costs are all borne by the college’s annual operating budget, the gap between the actual cost of the Christmas Festival and donations received to support it is being filled by the tuition dollars paid by current students and their families.

In search of a better way to support the Christmas Festival financially, the college will begin charging for tickets this year. In taking this step for the coming season, St. Olaf joins other Lutheran colleges in charging admission for Christmas programming. Ticket prices for the 2010 Christmas Festival performances will be $30 each. Details on how to obtain tickets will be sent out to parents, donors, and alumni in September. As in the past, ticketing will be done online.

Tickets for parents of current students go on sale October 4, followed by donors to the college on October 11, and all others October 25.

Skoglund Center Auditorium
Thursday, December 2, 7:30 p.m. · Friday, December 3, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 4, 7:30 p.m. · Sunday, December 5, 3:30 p.m.

Pre-order your copy of the 2010 Christmas Festival CD at stolafrecords.com
“All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small...” — Cecil Frances Alexander

SUN SPOT FROLIC (Castlerigg Stone Circle, Lake District, England). Once home to William Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter, the Lake District is storybook England. When Oles take a break from their coursework — whether at Oxford University, Lancaster University, the University of Sheffield, the University of East Anglia, or London School of Economics and Political Science — they sometimes forego the excitement of London for the green hills, moors, lakes, and tarns of the ancient English countryside. PHOTO BY BRIANNA HALL ’10, UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA