



OPENING CONVOCATION
ST. OLAF COLLEGE



BOE MEMORIAL CHAPEL
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2018
11:10 A.M.

THE PROGRAM

President David R. Anderson '74, Presiding

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

The St. Olaf College Faculty

(Please stand as the faculty processes.)

Fanfare and Grand March

Timothy Mahr '78

INVOCATION

Katherine Fick, Associate College Pastor

HYMN

Praise the Source of Faith and Learning (Please see insert.)

WELCOME

Sarah Freyermuth '19, St. Olaf SGA president

THE ADDRESS

Prove All Things

Paul Zorn, Professor of Mathematics

COLLEGE HYMN

Fram! Fram! St. Olaf! (Please see insert.)

BENEDICTION

Matthew Marohl, College Pastor

RECESSATIONAL

(Please stand as the faculty recesses.)

Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals

Sigfrid Karg-Elert, transcribed by William Rhodes



The St. Olaf Band

Timothy Mahr '78, Conductor

Catherine Rodland '87, Organist

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Paul Zorn

Professor of Mathematics

Paul Zorn, a Lutheran missionary kid, grew up in the then-verdant hills of South India, where he graduated from Kodaikanal International School. He holds an A.B. degree in mathematics and English from Washington University in St. Louis, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in mathematics from the University of Washington in Seattle. In 1981, he joined the faculty of St. Olaf's Mathematics Department, which later became the Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science (MSCS) Department. Zorn has taught courses in mathematics, science writing, first-year writing, and the Great Conversation. Zorn has chaired the MSCS Department for six years, in two stints. In 2014, he was awarded the Marie M. Meyer Distinguished Professorship. The fact that Marie Meyer was a professor of English literature, not mathematics, made this a special honor for Zorn.

Zorn is the author of many publications, including the three-volume textbook series *Calculus from Graphical, Numerical, and Symbolic Points of View*, which he co-authored with his late colleague Arnie Ostebee. Ponderous title notwithstanding, these texts have remained in use in various forms and editions for over 20 years. The second edition of Zorn's singly authored textbook, *Understanding Real Analysis*, appeared in 2017. Zorn's 1986 article "The Bieberbach Conjecture," published in *Mathematics Magazine*, won an Allendoerfer Award for expository excellence from the Mathematical Association of America. In his most recent publication, Zorn analyzes mathematical elements in the austere still life paintings of Juan Sánchez Cotán, a 17th-century Spanish painter and Carthusian monk.

Mathematics Magazine, by happy coincidence, was edited and significantly reinvented in the 1970s by Zorn's late MSCS colleagues Lynn Steen and J. Arthur Seebach. Zorn himself served five years in the late 1990s as chief editor of the same journal. Continuing his useful practice of imitating Lynn Steen, about 20 years later, Zorn also served in 2011 and 2012 as president of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA). He now chairs the MAA's Science Policy Committee.

Over a long career at St. Olaf, Zorn has served on various committees and organizations, including Phi Beta Kappa, the Board of Regents (as the faculty observer), and the Faculty Governance Committee (*nee* Review and Planning).

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

The traditional academic procession introduces many of the more formal and significant events at St. Olaf, as it does on most college and university campuses. Although the history of wearing distinctive apparel as an indication of scholarship and academic rank dates back to 1321, the practice was not adopted throughout the United States until about 1900.

The cap worn almost universally in academic processions is the Oxford cap, better known as the mortarboard. It is always black. A different style, called the Cambridge cap, resembles a large beret. The use of a dark robe in academic processions is thought to have arisen from the clerical practice of wearing a cape or mantle in religious processions in the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities arose from cathedral schools.

Traditionally, gowns are also black. However, a number of universities have adopted alternate gowns that use their traditional school color. The academic hoods, worn around the neck and down the back of the gown, are lined with the official colors of the college or university conferring the degree. The binding or edging of the hood is usually distinctive of the subject to which the degree pertains: economics, copper; education, light blue; fine arts, brown; humanities, white; law, purple; library science, lemon; medicine, green; music, pink; nursing, apricot; philosophy, dark blue; physical education, sage green; science, golden yellow; social science, cream; social work, citron; speech, silver gray; theology, scarlet.

