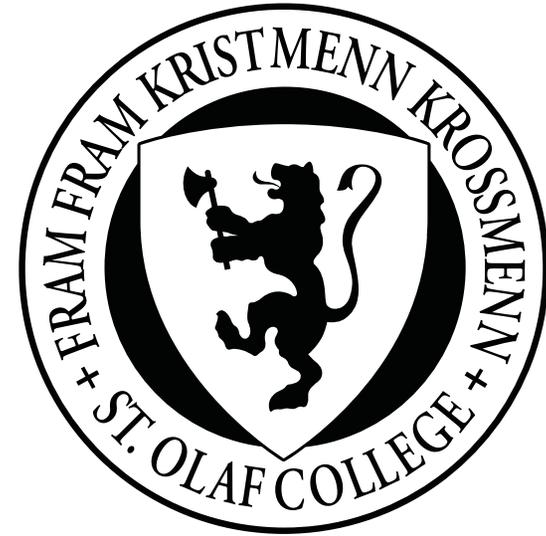


# THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

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.



## OPENING CONVOCATION ST. OLAF COLLEGE

BOE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

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

Matthew Marohl, College Pastor

## HYMN

*Touch the Earth Lightly* (See insert)

## WELCOME

Devon Dyer Nielsen '20, St. Olaf SGA president

## THE ADDRESS

*What Sort of Excellence?*

David Booth, Associate Professor of Religion

## COLLEGE HYMN

*Fram! Fram! St. Olaf!* (See insert)

## BENEDICTION

Katherine Fick, Associate College Pastor

## RECESSIONAL

(Please stand as the faculty recesses.)

*Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals*

Sigfrid Karg-Elert, transcribed by William Rhodes

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The St. Olaf Band  
Timothy Mahr '78, Conductor

Catherine Rodland '87 and James E. Bobb, Organists

# ABOUT THE SPEAKER

## David Booth

*Associate Professor of Religion*

David Booth earned his B.A. in the comparative study of religion at Harvard College in 1978, and his Ph.D. in theology from the University of Chicago in 1984.

He came to St. Olaf in 1985 to teach in the Religion Department and the Paracollege. He found brilliant friends and mentors in the Religion Department. And in the Paracollege he found an exhilarating community of faculty devoted to interdisciplinary, student-centered scholarship and teaching. Through collaborations with Para-folks, he settled into a practice of teaching that places students' questions at the center of improvisations in pedagogy and method. Following the closure of the Paracollege, he was the first director of the St. Olaf Center for Integrative Studies (CIS). In that role he developed the structure for individualized majors, including reflective "web portfolios." Under his direction, the CIS sponsored linked courses, team-taught courses, and pilots for emerging programs, including computer science and neuroscience.

He has continued to champion the college's interdisciplinary programs. He has taught in the Great Conversation, the Science Conversation, Environmental Conversations, and in the Women's and Gender Studies program. He has served on most of the college's standing committees, on the recent mission statement task force, and on the GE task force. The greatest blessings of his professional life have come in these collaborations with colleagues in nearly every department of the college.

His scholarly interests focus on the dynamics of religious communities that ostracize internal enemies. He has published on the world-views of Christian witch-hunters, who once rationalized the persecution of unassimilated women as "handmaids of the devil." He has published on world-views that today dehumanize and disparage sexual minorities and gender non-conformers. During the run-up to Minnesota's historic 2012 vote on marriage equality, he published several brief pieces presenting the fruits of scholarly discussion about theology, sexuality, marriage, and justice.

In recent years he has taught courses about religion and environmentalism. His theme, "What Sort of Excellence?" connects St. Olaf's treasured tradition of excellence to the challenge of contemporary ecological crises.