

**1983-84**  
Lynn Steen, Mathematics

**1984-85**  
Anne H. Groton, Classics  
Harold H. Ditmanson, Religion

**1985-86**  
Reidar Dittmann, Art and Norwegian  
Devra Westover, Nursing

**1986-87**  
Albert E. Finholt, Chemistry  
Jo Fraatz (Beld), Political Science

**1987-88**  
Samiha Sidhom Peterson, Sociology  
Howard Hong, Philosophy

**1988-89**  
Ted Johnson, Biology  
Carol Holly, English

**1989-90**  
Robert L. Nichols, History  
Anantanand Rambachan, Religion

**1990-91**  
Robert Jacobel, Physics  
Ann Wagner, Dance

**1991-92**  
George C. Helling, Sociology  
Kathleen Fishbeck, Biology

**1992-93**  
Valborg Tollefsrud, Nursing  
Gwen Barnes-Karol, Spanish

**1993-94**  
J. Patrick Dale, Political Science  
John Maakestad, Art

**1994-95**  
Anton Armstrong, Music  
Kristina Huber (MacPherson), Library

**1995-96**  
Fred Stoutland, Philosophy  
Martha Wallace, Mathematics

**1996-97**  
James May, Classics  
Olivia Frey, English

**1997-98**  
Eric D. Weitz, History  
Wendy Allen, French

**1998-99**  
Charles Huff, Psychology  
Alice Hanson, Music

**1999-2000**  
Ed Langerak, Philosophy  
Mac Gimse, Art

**2000-01**  
Eric S. Cole, Biology  
James J. Farrell, History

**2001-02**  
Nancy Paddleford, Music  
Edmund Santurri, Religion and Philosophy

**2002-03**  
Charles Taliaferro, Philosophy  
L. DeAne Lagerquist, Religion

**2003-04**  
David Wee, English  
Amy Kolan, Physics

**2004-05**  
Paul Humke, Mathematics  
Jolene Jacobson Barjasteh, French

**2005-06**  
Steve Reece, Classics  
Gary Gisselman, Theatre

**2006-07**  
Rich DuRocher, English  
David Schodt, Economics

**2007-08**  
Robert Entenmann, Asian Studies and History  
Anne Walter, Biology

**2008-09**  
Charles Wilson, Religion  
Andrea Een, Music

**2009-10**  
Karen Peterson Wilson, Theater  
Paul Zorn, Mathematics

**2010-11**  
Michael Leming, Sociology  
Katherine Tegtmeyer Pak, Political Science  
and Asian Studies

**2011-12**  
Wendell Arneson, Art  
Dave Van Wylen, Biology

**2012-13**  
Jeanine Grenberg, Philosophy  
Dan Dressen, Music

**2013-14**  
León Narváez, Romance Languages  
and Latin American Studies  
Bruce Nordstrom-Loeb, Sociology

**2014-15**  
Rebecca Judge, Economics and  
Environmental Studies  
Mary Titus, English

**2015-16**  
Matthew Richey, Mathematics, Statistics,  
and Computer Science  
Karen Cherewatuk, English

**2016-17**  
David Booth, Religion  
Mary Griep, Art/Art History

**2017-18**  
Diana Postlethwaite, English  
Kathleen Shea, Biology  
and Environmental Studies

**2018-19**  
Jennifer Kwon Dobbs, English  
and Race and Ethnic Studies  
Paul Jackson, Chemistry  
and Environmental Studies

**2019-20**  
Christopher Chiappari, Sociology/Anthropology  
and Latin American Studies  
Jill Dietz, Mathematics, Statistics, and  
Computer Science

## Beings, Relations, and Power: The New Animism in the Highlands of Guatemala



TUESDAY / NOVEMBER 12  
7:30 P.M. / VIKING THEATER

**CHRIS CHIAPPARI**

Associate Professor of Sociology/Anthropology  
and Latin American Studies

## CHRIS CHIAPPARI



Chris Chiappari was born in San Francisco, California, and grew up in the Bay Area. He received his B.S. in biology from Santa Clara University, with a particular interest in botany and ecology. He had the good fortune to do research in freshwater ecology with Dr. Howard Riessen, studying predation and other behaviors of the phantom midge *Chaoborus* and its zooplankton prey. His first encounter with the social construction of reality was in his *Population Biology* course, when Dr. John Mooring explained how the work of biologists who researched social insects like ants and bees illustrated the way in which an object of study can influence the way in which it is studied and theorized. He did not realize this until years later, but it would be an important insight for his future career in anthropology.

As an undergraduate, Chiappari also explored the social, political, and economic aspects of biology as well as other related forms of knowledge and practice. He went on to receive an M.S. in International Agricultural Development from the University of California, Davis, where he became increasingly drawn to cultural anthropology because of its holistic and comparative approach to society and culture. As a result, he moved to Minneapolis to continue his graduate studies in anthropology at the University of Minnesota with Dr. Stephen Gudeman, with whom he went to the field for the first time after his first year in the program. With the support of a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation grant, he conducted 18 months of fieldwork in the highlands of Guatemala. He received his Ph.D. in 1999 and began teaching at St. Olaf in the fall of that year.

Chiappari's research focuses on religious and spiritual practices in highland Guatemala. He initially studied small craft producers, before shifting to the study of conversion to evangelical Protestantism for his dissertation research. Once in the field, his research expanded to include other traditions and practices, especially Maya spirituality. The theoretical framing of his research was significantly influenced by translating Néstor García Canclini's book, *Hybrid Cultures: Strategies for Entering and Leaving Modernity*, a draft of which he completed while in the field. This provided an alternative and more complex way of understanding religious synthesis and innovation, and the dynamics of tradition and modernity, that went beyond that of syncretism.

In the past few years, Chiappari has been developing some new thematic areas and theoretical approaches to his research, including animism and relations between human and non-human beings, subjectivity and subject formation, and the anthropology of the body and embodiment. He is currently working on incorporating these into his book manuscript, *From Ánimas to Animism: Subjectivity and Power in Maya Spirituality and Protestantism in Highland Guatemala*.

## CARL MELLBY



In *High on Manitou*, William C. Benson called Dr. Carl A. Mellby “the father of the social sciences.” In *History of St. Olaf College*, Joseph M. Shaw '49 noted the following:

“Dr. Mellby has been regarded as the dean of St. Olaf's teaching personnel, the prototype of the complete professor, competent, imaginative, congenial, and unaffected.

“His first interest was history, which he taught with phenomenal breadth and perception, lecturing in seemingly casual fashion on the cultural and social interactions of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and especially the modern history of Europe. Mellby also originated and taught the first courses in economics, sociology, political science, and history of art. He is credited with introducing one of the earliest marriage and family courses in the country. He was instrumental in starting the teacher placement bureau, and in 1910 he worked with St. Olaf President John Kildahl in making arrangements to begin the honor system in examinations.

“At one time or another Mellby also taught Greek, German, French, religion, and philosophy. He was acting president for one year and vice president for two years. He wrote the 50th anniversary history of the college, articles for church papers, historical sketches, and numerous resolutions and tributes when the right word was needed for the occasion.”

The Faculty Life Committee of St. Olaf College acknowledges the accomplishments of Dr. Carl A. Mellby, professor and administrator, 1901–49, by sponsoring a lecture series in his name. With this, the Faculty Life Committee also honors his successors among both the junior and senior St. Olaf faculty by inviting them at regular intervals to reflect on the significance of their own scholarly work and on developments in their chosen academic fields.