

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 10, 2026
11:10 A.M.

THE PROGRAM

President Susan Rundell Singer, Presiding

Procession *Fanfare and Grand March*
by Timothy Mahr '78
The St. Olaf Band
Henry L. Dorn, Conductor, Assistant Professor of Music

Invocation Sarah Semmler Smith '04, Associate College Chaplain

Hymn *For the Splendor of Creation*
by Carl Daw Jr.
The St. Olaf Band
Henry L. Dorn, Conductor, Assistant Professor of Music
Catherine Rodland '87, Organist, Artist in Residence

Welcome Lily Spoerke '27, St. Olaf Student Government
Association President

Address *Good Questions*
Dana Gross, Professor of Psychology

College Hymn *Fram! Fram! St. Olaf!*
Arr. Travis Cross '99
The St. Olaf Band
Henry L. Dorn, Conductor, Assistant Professor of Music
Catherine Rodland '87, Organist, Artist in Residence

Benediction Matthew Marohl, College Chaplain

Recession *Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals*
by Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Transcribed by William Rhoades
The St. Olaf Band
Henry L. Dorn, Conductor, Assistant Professor of Music
Catherine Rodland '87, Organist, Artist in Residence

Please stand as the faculty recesses

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dana Gross
Professor of Psychology

Dana Gross, a first-generation Minnesotan, grew up in Minneapolis. After graduating from high school, she headed to Massachusetts and majored in psychology at Smith College. She returned to Minnesota for her graduate studies, earning a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota.

A member of the St. Olaf College Psychology Department, she is affiliated with several interdisciplinary programs (Applied Linguistics, Family Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Nordic Studies). As Associate Dean of Interdisciplinary and General Studies from 2013 to 2019, Gross worked closely with the Office of International and Off-Campus Studies (now the Smith Center for Global Engagement) and was a member of the General Education Task Force. Other positions she has held at the college include coordinator of St. Olaf's U.S. Student Fulbright Program and director of the Individual Major Program. Gross was the 2021–24 Paul and Mildred Hardy Distinguished Professor of Science and received a Melvin George Faculty Recognition Award in 2022–23. She is currently a member of the Advisory Committee for the Svoboda Center for Civic Engagement and chair of the Curriculum Committee.

In teaching, research, and scholarship, Gross is fascinated by the interplay of nature and nurture, cultural contexts, practical applications of research findings, and policy considerations. She has co-authored and contributed to textbooks in developmental psychology and is the author of *Infancy: Development from Birth to Age 3*. In community-based research with students, she has partnered with the organizations Growing Up Healthy, Healthy Community Initiative, and the Rice County Early Learning Coalition (Ready for K).

Incorporating study abroad and global learning into the psychology curriculum is another major theme in her work. In addition to her January Term courses in India, China, and Norway, Gross co-authored and co-edited scholarly books that include *Faculty as Global Learners: Off-Campus Study at Liberal Arts Colleges* and *Internationalizing the Undergraduate Psychology Curriculum: Practical Lessons Learned at Home and Abroad*.

Gross lives in Minneapolis with her husband, John, an architect. They are the proud parents of two Ole alumni, Rolf Bergford '16 and Simon Bergford '19, and Suni, a cat.

For the Splendor of Creation



1. For the splen - dor of cre - a - tion that draws us to in - quire,
2. For the schol - ars past and pres - ent whose boun - ty we di - gest,

for the mys - ter - ies of knowl - edge to which our hearts as - pire,
for the teach - ers who in - spire us to sum - mon forth our best,

for the deep and sub - tle beau - ties which de - light the eye and ear,
for our ri - vals and com - pan - ions, some - times fool - ish, some - times wise,

for the dis - ci - pline of log - ic, the strug - gle to be clear,
for the hu - man web up - hold - ing this no - ble en - ter - prise,

for the un - ex - plained re - main - der, the puz - zling and the odd:
for the com - mon life that binds us through days that soar or plod:

for the joy and pain of learn - ing, we give you thanks, O God.
for this place and for these peo - ple, we give you thanks, O God.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944)

Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

Reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net #A-703883

THAXTED

13 13 13 13 13 13

Fram! Fram! St. Olaf



1. Krist - menn, Kross - menn in mis - sion blessed,
2. Grant that spir - it to lead us still

Led by the spir - it of truth, Run - ning the race, pur -
on - ward as a - ges un - roll, Caught by the Kross - menn

su - ing our quest, Filled with the song of youth.
shrined on the hill, Steep - led to lift the soul.

Found - ed in faith to ren - der light,
Give us a - gain the heart a - glow,

Ra - diant to - day it crowns the height,
Stirred by the songs of Ma - ni - tou.

Ris - ing glor - ious and, un - der God, vic - to - rious,
Ev - er glor - ious and, un - der God, vic - to - rious.

Refrain

Fram! Fram! St. Ol - af! Im - pelled we sing, sing to thee.

Fram! Fram! St. Ol - af! The hill - tops ring: Fram! Fram! Free!

Text: Oscar R. Overby '21, alt. James E. Bobb

Music: F. Melius Christiansen