

Rube Madness

Despite three flawless runs, the sixteen-member St. Olaf Rube Goldberg team was edged out by the University of Wisconsin-Stout to place second at the national Rube Goldberg Competition hosted in late March by Purdue University. Other competitors included Pennsylvania State University

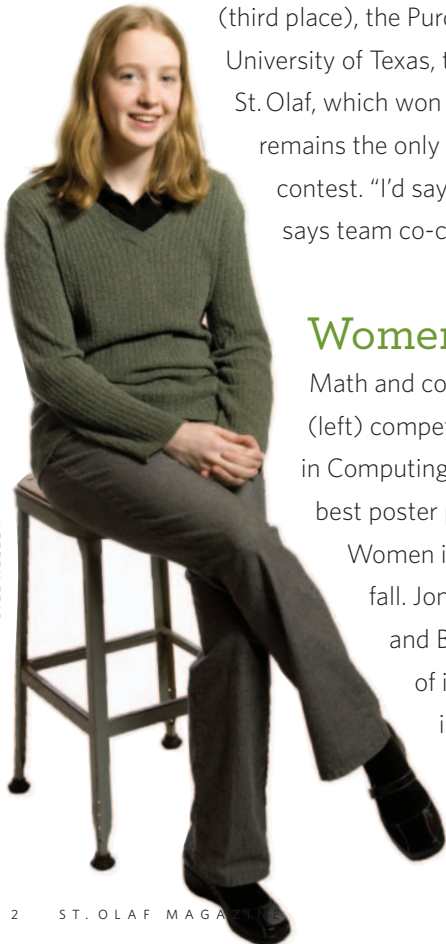
(third place), the Purdue Society of Professional Engineers, the University of Texas, the University of Illinois, and Texas A&M. St. Olaf, which won last year during its first appearance at the event, remains the only liberal arts college to field a team at the annual contest. "I'd say it's the engineering version of March madness," says team co-captain Bryce Danielson '11 (inset).



DAVID GONNERMAN '90

Women in Computing

Math and computer science double major Emily Jones '11 (left) competed at the Regional Celebration of Women in Computing and came home with the undergraduate best poster prize: a trip to the Grace Murray Hopper Women in Computing conference in Atlanta next fall. Jones and her research team — Robert Pieh '12 and Bjorn Wastvedt '12 — worked on a new type of image compression that would allow for image storage in a format other than the traditional .jpg, .gif, and .tif.



BILL KELLEY

National Champ



Senior John Schantzen, a four-year starter for the St. Olaf football team, won the shot put with a school record 17.37-meter effort at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships. Schantzen also holds the school record in the outdoor shot put (17.54 meters). stolaf.edu/athletics

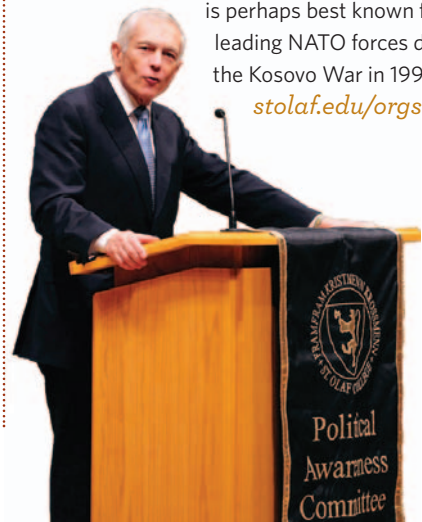
We're No. 1

St. Olaf College is the leading producer of Peace Corps volunteers among small schools (with fewer than 5,000 students). This is the first time that St. Olaf has topped the small school category since the Peace Corps began ranking schools based on the three-tier enrollment system in 2003. Nearly 500 St. Olaf alumni have volunteered for the Peace Corps since the organization was created in 1961. stolaf.edu/news



War & Peace

Retired Army General Wesley Clark discussed war, international politics, patriotism, and the challenges facing today's young adults during a lecture sponsored by the student-run Political Awareness Committee. A Rhodes Scholar and presidential candidate, Clark is perhaps best known for leading NATO forces during the Kosovo War in 1999. stolaf.edu/orgs



BEN HOVLAND '11

LifeHouse

By Catherine Monson '12

PHOTOS BY TOM ROSTER

For the Ole women who live in LifeHouse, a shared investment in an older generation who reside at Northfield Hospital's Long Term Care Center (LTCC) has strengthened their bonds with each other as well as with the elders they serve.

Their goal is to bring happiness and friendship to the lives of LTCC residents who are advanced in age and have experienced many health challenges and life changes. A secondary goal is to "bring awareness of elderly issues to students," says Sally Abell '10, a leader of LifeHouse.

The students who work with music therapist and activity director Mark Burnett have helped expand LTCC activities and programming by organizing two special events each month, from



arts, crafts, and Bingo tournaments to "spa days" and performances by St. Olaf student musicians. While all LifeHouse members design and implement the activities, those who plan to

Long Term Care residents Marilyn Bretzke (left) and Helen Hanek enjoy watercolor painting with Kenzie Huffman '10, Lauren Vandeventer '10, and Emily Raasch '10.

attend medical school make additional weekly visits for some one-on-one time with the residents.

"LifeHouse [volunteers] added a variety of activities and meaningful experiences that have helped support our residents' quality of life," says Burnett, noting that often the students' enthusiasm and creative activities "transforms our residents' spirits."

LTCC resident Marilyn Bretzke is a retired social worker who hasn't missed a single event hosted by the LifeHouse students. "They give their time to entertain us,"

Bretzke says. "It's really been nice, because more people are taking advantage of different things. I think they do a good job."

LifeHouse volunteers all agree that this special connection with their elders has enriched their St. Olaf experience. Kirby Norris '10, a nursing major, feels the rewards of extending her social interactions to a different generation of people. "I love to sit down with the residents and hear stories about their lives," she says. "Many have ties to St. Olaf, and they also have a great sense of humor!"

While not every LifeHouse volunteer intends to pursue a career in health care — their majors range from studio art to Asian studies — many envision themselves continuing this type of volunteer work after they graduate, and they are proud to have started a project that plays a special role in the Northfield community.

The mission of LifeHouse goes beyond its motto of "Learning Life Skills. Improving Long Term Life," says Abell. "We [also] volunteer to let the greater Northfield community know how much we appreciate their hospitality and kindness during our years on the Hill. They welcome us with open arms, and it is our responsibility to give back to them as well."

CATHERINE MONSON is an English major at St. Olaf.



LifeHouse extends the members' circle of friendships while opening the door to a possible vocation. Members include St. Olaf seniors (top row, left to right) Amy Berntson, Kenzie Huffman, Erin Venker, Lauren Vandeventer, Alison Gurley, Sally Abell; (bottom row, left to right) Emily Raasch, Valerie Wilkinson, Kirby Norris. (Not pictured: Maddy Schaefer)



No matter where in the world you live, staying in touch with on-campus events has never been easier.

Not so long ago, the only way to reconnect with St. Olaf was to return to campus for class reunions or college events. Today, the Web gives everyone an instant portal into what's happening on the Hill and offers live online viewing of events that can be seen and heard by anyone, anywhere.

In addition to all major musical ensemble concerts and selected recitals by faculty and guest artists, as well as daily chapel services and the weekly radio program Sing For Joy, Oles can attend special academic presentations, lectures and symposia, as well as home athletic events with play-by-play commentary. All are available for live – and archived – viewing at stolaf.edu/multimedia.

by the numbers*

39,004 people have watched **30,145** hours of streamed events. That's more than three entire years of streaming!

11,150 have watched the wide variety of campus events, including but not limited to the opening convocation, various musical ensemble concerts, and the fall and spring Mellby Lectures.

Nearly **10,000** people received a virtual "Merry Christmas" from St. Olaf as they logged on to view the holiday greeting released by the president's office in December 2009.

7,505 have logged on to hear *Sing For Joy* online, spreading the experience of sacred choral music far beyond the 200 U.S. communities connecting through radio broadcast.

6,581 have logged on to participate in daily chapel services, viewing from as far away as Norway, Germany, and India.

4,810 viewers have watched thirty-four archived athletic events, an average of 142 extra spectators per game joining in the fun of Ole athletics!

With **1,700** online views, viewership for the St. Olaf Choir home concert more than doubled from the capacity crowd (approximately 900) in Boe Memorial Chapel on February 14.

The 2010 St. Olaf Rube Goldberg team shared the fruits of their labor with **1,150** curious fans, quadrupling the number of spectators who watched a demonstration of the machine in Regents Hall in early March.

*For the 2009-10 academic year, as of April 15, 2010.

St. Olaf Honors Its Retiring Faculty Members

The six faculty who are retiring this year have served St. Olaf College for a combined total of 216 years and have touched the lives of thousands of students in countless ways.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY BILL KELLEY

Bill Poehlmann

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF RELIGION

By Anna Stevens '10

Bill Poehlmann never taught the same course twice during his first five years on the Hill — setting the tone for the richly varied career he's had at St. Olaf over the past thirty-six years.

After earning his Ph.D. in New Testament and Christian Origins at Harvard University, Poehlmann was offered a position in the St. Olaf Religion Department. Originally splitting his time between the Paracollege and the Religion Department, Poehlmann's interests in archeology, the sociology and anthropology of religion, and early Christianity shaped his courses and study abroad trips.

It is the interactive side of teaching that he's most enjoyed.

"I enjoy teaching and getting to know [the students] who are coming from all different backgrounds, hearing what they think about things, and finding out what their questions are," says Poehlmann.

He's formed strong connections with his students over the years, both in and out of the classroom — two former students are godparents to one of his children — and he has led ten international study programs to Rome and the Middle East. The off-campus programs have been a highlight.

"It is looking at politics and society and religion 'on the ground,' as it appears in the newspaper or out your front door. I have been very fortunate and really loved being able to participate in international studies," he says.

Retirement will find him continuing with his passions for teaching and travel. He notes he will miss interacting with college students and playfully acknowledges that his teaching and general conversations will mostly be with "an older crowd."



M. Clare Mather

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF FRENCH

By Anna Stevens '10

Clare Mather came to St. Olaf twenty years ago, captivated by a strong community of colleagues and an opportunity to explore a new passion: Quebec theatre. Throughout the years she has engaged students in learning not only the French language, but also more about Quebec's vibrant Francophone theatre and the immigrant literature of Montreal.

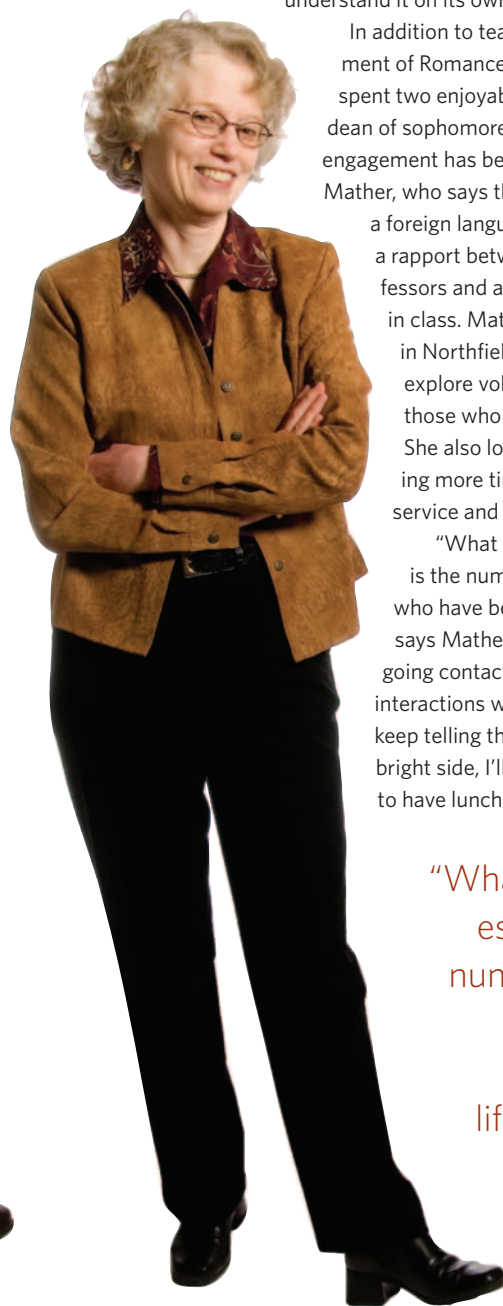
"It is important for students to see a culture from the inside out and to understand it on its own terms," she explains.

In addition to teaching in the Department of Romance Languages, Mather spent two enjoyable years as associate dean of sophomore students. Student engagement has been a constant for Mather, who says that when learning a foreign language there needs to be a rapport between students and professors and an atmosphere of trust in class. Mather intends to remain in Northfield and would like to explore volunteer work with those who are in hospice care. She also looks forward to spending more time in community service and with friends.

"What I appreciate especially is the number of former students who have become lifelong friends," says Mather. "I will miss the ongoing contact with students and my interactions with colleagues, but I keep telling them, 'Look on the bright side, I'll finally have time to have lunch!'"

"What I appreciate especially is the number of former students who have become lifelong friends."

— CLARE MATHER



Jonathan Hill

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

By Linnae Stole '10

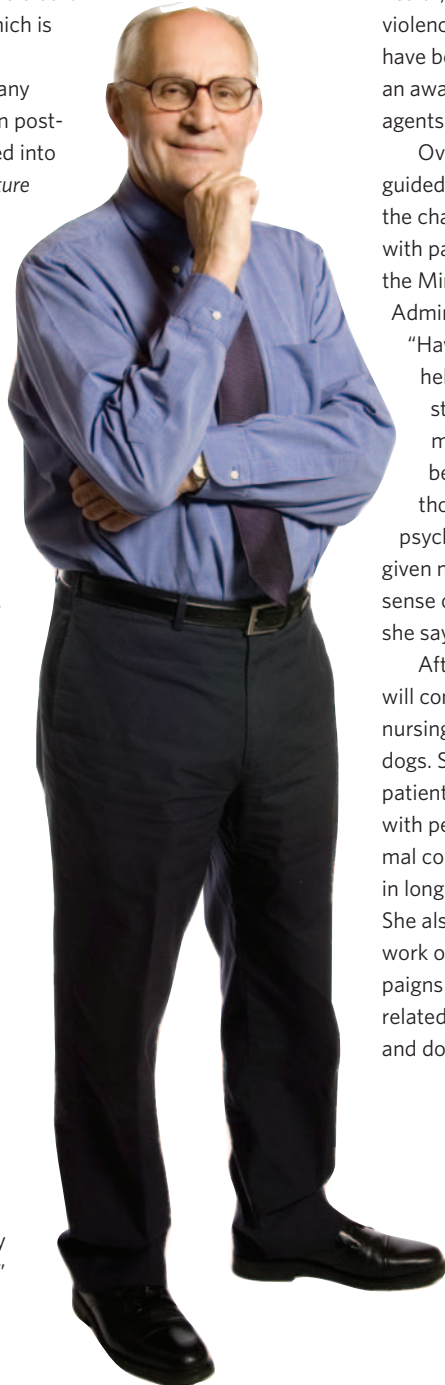
Jonathan Hill found himself at St. Olaf in the fall of 1969 "by a stroke of great good luck." After teaching at University College Dublin and the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, he and his wife Barbara wanted to experience life in the United States for a short time. As he has said many times, he "came for a year and stayed for a lifetime."

The open atmosphere of St. Olaf and the Midwest as a whole is a major reason Hill has stayed for so long. He found Minnesota, with its long-standing tradition of northern European-style liberalism "thoroughly congenial to my own extreme liberalism." He also found the liberal arts system of education, completely foreign to him before arriving in America, rewarding and enlightening. "It gives you a sort of breadth, flexibility, and tolerance, which is quite remarkable," he says.

Hill taught in the Paracollege for many years, where he first piloted a course on post-colonial literature. This he later modified into the Interim study-abroad course *Literature of the Eastern Caribbean*, which he has led seven times. He also has led the *Theater in London* Interim course, the London portion of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest program *The Arts of London and Florence*, a variety of Study Travel programs in the United Kingdom and the Caribbean. Most recently, this past fall, Hill and Barbara led twenty-five students on the Global Semester, which he calls "the Cadillac" of a study abroad experience.

While his teaching and scholarly interests lie in the Romantic literature of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, over the years Hill has taught a variety of classes, from first-year writing to English major survey courses to upper-level seminars. "I cannot recall a single course that I did not enjoy teaching," he says. "If you're like me and you love literature, just give me a good piece of literature and I'll be happy."

As he looks back on his time at St. Olaf, this Englishman from Rugby says he will particularly miss his daily interactions with students. "Some people go into teaching to give their students what they never got themselves. I'm in the opposite group. If I gave my students a fraction of what my teachers gave me, then I'll be satisfied."



Judy Sateren '68

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NURSING

By Catherine Monson '12

When Judi Sateren graduated from St. Olaf in 1968, she had no intention of becoming a teacher. But after doing her graduate work at the University of California-San Francisco Medical Center, she found herself back at St. Olaf — this time as a faculty member. Now, after forty years of teaching and research in the Nursing Department, Sateren is making her final departure from St. Olaf.

"St. Olaf is a special place with bright, committed students and dedicated faculty," she says. "I'll greatly miss the interactions with both, but I know St. Olaf will always be an important part of my life."

Sateren's primary nursing focus has been in psychiatric and mental health, and she was responsible for implementing the study of family violence into the nursing curriculum. "It has been very satisfying to have both nursing and non-nursing majors develop an awareness of their ability to be positive agents for change in this area," she says.

Over the course of her career, Sateren has guided countless St. Olaf students through the challenges and satisfaction of working with patients in mental health services at the Minneapolis Veterans Administration Medical Center.

"Having the opportunity to help students understand more about mental illness and become advocates for those who suffer from psychiatric disorders has given me the greatest sense of accomplishment," she says.

After retirement Sateren will combine her psychiatric nursing skills with her love of dogs. She would like to provide patients in psychiatric facilities with pet therapy, a type of animal companionship for people in long-term care facilities. She also plans to continue her work on local political campaigns and policy issues related to mental health and domestic violence.



Kay Sahlin '66

INSTRUCTOR IN MUSIC, FLUTE

By Linnae Stole '10

Kay Sahlin admits to being one who doesn't often make long-term plans. "I've had a lot of really good things come my way," she says, "but none of them were necessarily part of a grand plan." Sahlin began teaching flute at St. Olaf on a part-time basis in 1979 when Donald Berglund, director of the St. Olaf Orchestra and a flute instructor at the college, retired. The role expanded over time to include advising students, coaching chamber music, and managing the full-flute studio. Career highlights, says Sahlin, have included bringing professional flutists Geoffrey Gilbert, Peter Lloyd, and William Bennett to St. Olaf for weeklong summer masterclasses in the 1980s and '90s.

As she looks toward retirement, it is the interactions with and energy of the students she'll miss most of all. "Teaching and learning are the opposite sides of the same coin," she explains. "As you teach you are learning.

There are countless times I've been in a lesson and I think of a way to problem solve a passage I hadn't tried before."

She also notes the joy of watching flute players develop as musicians.

"It's exciting when I hear students 'get it,' when they really learn to spin a phrase and communicate through their instruments."

With that sentiment, it comes as no surprise that Sahlin doesn't plan to pack away her flute anytime soon.

Even as she leaves St. Olaf this spring she expects to continue teaching private lessons and, of course, continue playing the flute herself.

"It's exciting when students 'get it,' when they learn to communicate through their instruments."

— KAY SAHLIN



Richard Buckstead

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

By Catherine Monson '12

When Richard Buckstead reflects back on the forty-nine years he's been part of the St. Olaf faculty, his classes are a side note to the wide and varied places he's taken students. With a Fulbright in Thailand, several trips to southeastern Asia, conferences in Tokyo, Bangkok, Paris, and Mexico City, and many Interims to Cuba, Buckstead is a genuine globe-trotter. As he succinctly says, "These were wonderful, wonderful trips."

In the summer of 1965, at the height of the civil rights movement, Buckstead facilitated a life-changing opportunity for sixty-five St. Olaf students who participated in the Tuskegee Institute Summer Education Program (TISEP). A TISEP advisor, Buckstead led the innovative summer program in which dozens of Oles teamed up with 500 Alabama college students to teach reading, writing, music, and drama to African American teens living in rural areas. "We had a lot of students who were anxious to serve in some way, to do something worthwhile, to make a difference," he says.

Two years later, Buckstead led St. Olaf students on the second-ever Term in the Far East (now called Term in Asia), a semester-long program initiated by Professor Emeritus of Art Reidar Dittmann '47. "It gave me a much wider horizon and expanse of interest," Buckstead says of the early study abroad programs.

Many of Buckstead's articles on American and Asian literature have been published in literary journals, and, in 1994, St. Olaf students nominated him into "Who's Who Among American Teachers and Educators." Buckstead isn't slowing down in retirement. He currently is completing a book about a violin-making family from Minnesota while continuing his autobiography and a collection of poems. In March he traveled to Thailand with his wife, Methinee Buckstead, and they are also planning a trip to Europe later in the spring.

Yet if Buckstead has learned one thing from his extensive travels, it is the fact that no matter where he travels — be it Alabama, Thailand, or Cuba — he will inevitably want to come back home. "We all like round-trip tickets," he says.

