



Northfield Trivia

St Olaf Christmas Festival, founded in 1912, now broadcasts around the world and is the world's longest running holiday festival.

The Princeton Review ranked Carleton College's radio station, KRLX, as one of the best in the nation.

St. Olaf regularly ranks as one of the top 25 small colleges and universities in the nation (5,000 students or fewer) in the number of graduates who serve in the Peace Corps.

Carleton's Laurence McKinley Gould Library was named winner of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) "2008 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award" as the nation's top college library.

Awards for Ames Mill

- First in the state to turn out new process flour

- First patented flour used in St. Paul was from the Ames Mill

- Received highest ranking of any straight flour at the International Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876

St. Olaf has had nine Rhodes Scholars. Since 1996 the college has produced more Rhodes Scholars than any other liberal arts college in the nation.

St. Olaf's fight song, "Um! Yah! Yah!" is the only college fight song sung in three-quarter, or waltz, time.

In 2006, Just Food Co-op in Northfield was noted for creating an "Eat Local Challenge" encouraging community members to increase their support of the region's many local farmers and producers. A year later in 2007, co-ops throughout the Twin Cities were following Just Food's model and today it is used nationally by the National Cooperative Grocers Association.

Adelbert Ames (early owner of Ames Mill) is noted as the last general officer of the American Civil War from either side of the conflict to die, dying at age 97 in 1933.

Ian Barbour, who worked in the religion department at Carleton was awarded the Templeton Prize in 1999 for progress in bringing science and religion together. Mother Teresa is among previous recipients.

O.E. Rolvaag, author of the novel *Giants in the Earth* as well as other language textbooks, novels,

essays, and poems about the Norwegian-American immigrant experience, taught at St. Olaf. *Giants in the Earth* and *Peder Victorious* received international acclaim as accounts of immigrant pioneer life on the Dakota prairies.

Carleton College has been called "A Hothouse for Female Scientists" due to the rates at which its female grads go on to get Ph.D.s in the sciences.

Laurence McKinley Gould, part of Admiral Richard Byrd's first expedition team to Antarctica, was a professor of geology at Carleton and college president at Carleton 1945-62.

Northfield founded a Lyceum in 1856 (with a building completed in 1857). It served as a debating society, reading room and library, with both men and women participating.

A national record was made when the Carleton basketball team won 64 consecutive home games from Dec. 7, 1926 until Jan 11, 1935. This is still a state record today.

Academy Award Winner, Barry Morrow, who wrote the screenplay for "Rain Man," was one credit shy of graduating back in 1970. He submitted this work for credit in 1989 and St. Olaf awarded him his degree.

Carleton instructor, Max J. Exner, is credited with introducing the new sport of basketball to Carleton in 1892, just one year after the game was invented by his friend, James Naismith, at a YMCA in Springfield, Mass.

Local lore has it that Mark Twain supposedly signed the guest book at the Northfield YMCA in 1886 when he was in town researching for the book, "Life on the Mississippi."

In November of 1922, St. Olaf's radio station, WCAL broadcasted excerpts of a student performance of Shakespeare's "As You Like It." This is thought to be the first time a play was ever broadcast by students.

In May of 1948, Carleton's Nourse Little Theater was the site of the world premiere performance of German playwright Bertolt Brecht's play, "The Caucasian Chalk Circle."

Carleton is credited with being the first college to create librarian trading cards, now used throughout the country.

The term "conspicuous consumption" was introduced by economist and sociologist Thorstein Veblen in his 1899 book, *The Theory of the Leisure Class*. Veblen was a Carleton College graduate.

Carleton and St. Olaf played the first and only metric NCAA-sanctioned football game in September of 1977, gaining national recognition. St. Olaf won 43-0 before 9,000 spectators.

In 1913, Sayles-Hill gym at Carleton hosted the first state high school basketball tournament, held there until 1923.

Carleton's 1.65 megawatt wind turbine began operating in fall 2004, the first utility-grade wind turbine in the country to be owned by a college.

From the late 19th century to the end of the World War II, Carleton's Goodsell Observatory kept the time for every major railroad west of the Mississippi, including Northern Pacific Railway, the Great Northern Railway, the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad, and the St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Manitoba railroads. Goodsell also served as the headquarters of a state weather service from 1883 to 1886. The observatory is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Several of Carleton College's buildings were designed by world-renowned architect, Minoru Yamasaki.

Lincoln "Link" Fey was an automotive pioneer that built four automobiles in Northfield between 1897 and 1905.

The Boys' Brigade and Mustang Patrol, founded in 1908, later merged to become the first Boy Scouts troop in Northfield in 1910. This was one of the first Boy Scout troops to be chartered in the United States and the original groups were likely the first of their kind.

Sources:

St. Olaf College and Carleton College Web sites and Archivists

Northfield's Community Guide

Northfield Historical Society

AbsoluteAstronomy.com

Elvin Heiberg

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Northfield, The History and Architecture of a Community