



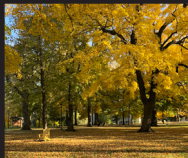
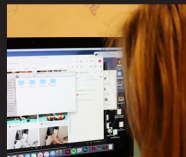
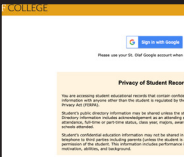
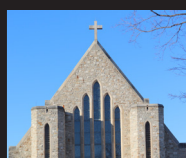
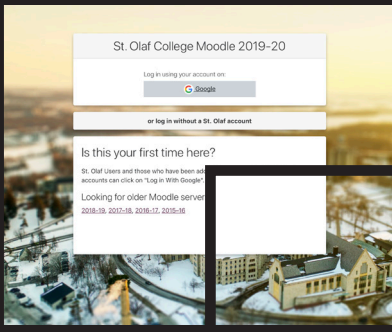
# MANITOU MESSENGER

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## Inside surveillance at St. Olaf

*Few limits on institution's access to web traffic, Google accounts, detailed Moodle activity*



Photos by Claire Strother  
Graphic designed by Kailey Favaro

By Sam Carlen & Iain Carlos  
Editor-in-Chief & Senior Correspondent

When a St. Olaf student was summoned to a January Honor Council hearing for a suspected Honor Code violation, they were perplexed by the council's accusation — that the student had accessed a class document during a November exam, information which their professor found by checking the student's Moodle history.

The incident provides a window into the College's vast surveillance capacity: if it so chooses, the institution can gather community members' web traffic, access all emails and content stored in Google accounts and obtain granular data on students' Moodle activity.

Moreover, few limits exist to curb the scope of surveillance. Anyone that uses College networks or technology "automatically consents to the monitoring of their activities in the course of systems maintenance or security related investigations," the Information Technology (IT) computing policy states.

St. Olaf's General Council Carl Lehmann '91 has unilateral authority to approve the search of a community member's digital content and data, which is sometimes requested for investigations into potential crimes or policy violations.

Alongside the legality of the request, Lehmann determines whether a student's actions violate College computing policy — an area with ample room for interpretation. While the document describing "Appropriate Use of Campus Technologies"

bars straightforward infractions — such as copyright infringement and "breaking system security" — it also prohibits aiding "unethical" behavior or posting material that is "offensive, pornographic, libelous, or intended to harass."

The College has no obligation to alert a community member when it searches their data, unless it does so at the request of an attorney or judge, Lehmann said.

Only a handful of data search cases reach Lehmann's desk each year, Information Security Officer Kendall George said. Lehmann did not immediately respond to a request for records on past data search requests.

At the end of the day, most restrictions on College surveillance are self-imposed. Based on Lehmann's understanding of Minnesota state privacy laws, institutions must respect reasonable privacy expectations, like not putting cameras in locker rooms or dorm rooms. Electronic privacy is not included in these expectations, and "all information on St. Olaf servers, desktop computers or on computer storage medias, including electronic mail, is considered college property," according to the "Privacy of Employee Electronic Files" policy statement.

### "Google is forever"

Anything a community member creates or uploads using their St. Olaf Google account is fair game for the College to search, said Chief Information Officer for Libraries and IT Roberta Lembke. This is a broad range of data considering Google Drive's capacity to save a wide variety of file types. Moreover, even if

a community member leaves St. Olaf, the College retains all of their information.

"Google is forever," Lembke said.

Regarding Google's own access to the College's data, the company is unable to collect or disseminate individual students' data because of privacy-related provisions in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

But Google can use student data in the aggregate — data based on summary statistics in place

**"All information on St. Olaf servers, desktop computers or on computer storage medias, including electronic mail, is considered college property," - Privacy of Employee Electronic Files policy statement**

of individual observations. For example, Google can use students' accounts to determine what products students might be interested in purchasing, Lehmann said.

Unlike with Google, St. Olaf's partnership with Moodle states that students' data, even in

the aggregate, stays within the College. St. Olaf could share this data with Moodle or a similar third party educational service like some other colleges and universities do — as the sharing of student data for legitimate educational purposes is permissible under FERPA — but the College has not discussed doing so, Lembke said.

St. Olaf faculty are able to see if and when students open documents posted on Moodle, and can share this information with other professors or the Dean of Students Office for educational purposes, Lehmann said.

Professor of Religion DeAne Lagerquist uses Moodle in this capacity to avoid class discussions about readings most students haven't accessed. She also might use this Moodle feature to tell if a student with low attendance and participation has been accessing class documents, Lagerquist said.

Associate Professor of English Rebecca Richards, on the other hand, doesn't use Moodle to track student participation.

"I don't believe in surveilling my students," Richards said.

### Locations, web-traffic

The College reserves the right to determine individual community members' and visitors' locations and web traffic when they are connected with St. Olaf's Wi-Fi, though they do not actively track community members unless an investigation has been approved, George said. The College also reserves the right to access printing data.

Omara Esteghlal '21 saw these tracking capabilities first-hand. After downloading a pirated copy

of "The Wolf of Wall Street" in the early hours of June 19, 2019, Esteghlal awoke to an alarming email from George, who told him that the College had been notified of copyright infringement which they traced using Esteghlal's IP address and other digital markers.

Esteghlal immediately called George, who explained that the email was simply a notice that would not go on his transcript or carry any other negative repercussions, as per the "[Peer-to-peer] File Sharing Action Plan" policy statement.

He went on to recommend that Esteghlal delete the pirated files.

For Lehmann, St. Olaf's surveillance capacities are justified because electronic communications policies are listed on the College website.

"With regard to electronic communications and electronic data, one of the things that we do is make it clear in our policies when we reserve the right to access data so that people can know that," Lehmann said. "We don't get at odds with them in terms of what they can expect could be kept private and what won't be."

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## Lutheran Center, Events Office get new locations

By Jacob Maranda  
News Editor

The Events Management Office and Lutheran Center for Faith, Values and Community moved into new spaces in Buntrock Commons (BC), transitioning from their previous locations during January.

Before this change, the Lutheran Center, which was founded during the past academic year, occupied a temporary office space in Holland Hall. The Center was moved to BC 146, the space previously occupied by the Camps, Conferences, and Events Office, to serve as a more permanent location.

Due to this conversion, the Camps, Conferences, and Events Office joined with the College Events Office, which was previously located in Alumni Hall, into a renovated space in Buntrock. The combined Events Management Office is now located in what was previously the Heritage Room.

The first Lutheran Center office in Holland was shared between Academic Assistant Fiona Carson '18 and Director of the Center Deanna Thompson '89, in a space meant for only one occupant. With an office for each

and a common area for students and visitors, the new location can serve as a space for both meetings and informal gatherings.

"We keep the door to the common space open, and are enjoying the way so many members of the St. Olaf community are coming in to our space to check it out, to say hello, to have coffee or lunch," Thompson wrote in an email to the Messenger. "We hope members of the community find the space a welcoming one to meet or hang out or study."

Aside from simply serving as a gathering place, the larger office will help the Lutheran Center better fulfill its mission of engaging students from all faith backgrounds, "to connect with one another, explore the big questions of life, and be nourished in mind, spirit, and body," Thompson wrote.

The Events Management Office is responsible for the production of many of the campus-wide and externally facing events the College plans and hosts, Associate Director of Events Management Brienne Jans wrote in an email to the Messenger. The merging of the two offices into the new space in Buntrock has been a positive change for the Office, Jans wrote.

The Lutheran Center is using

its new space in Buntrock to improve engagement with religious organizations from around campus and expand its own reach.

"We are in the process of hiring two student Interfaith Fellows for next year, and look forward to working with them on how the space can be utilized by students," Thompson wrote.

The Lutheran Center will hold an open house in its new office on Tuesday, March 31 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. for members of the St. Olaf community to engage with the new space.

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Steven Garcia/Manitou Messenger

The renovated Lutheran Center is now located in Buntrock Commons 146.



# NEWS

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## Public Health Club hosts coronavirus Q&A

By Laras Kettner  
Contributing Writer

The Public Health Club hosted a lecture by Dr. Angela Ulrich '09 on the coronavirus last Wednesday, Feb. 26. Ulrich is an infectious disease expert and current professor at the University of Minnesota (UMN).

In her discussion, she stated that the common symptoms for this particular virus are fever, cough and shortness of breath. Dr. Ulrich also mentioned statistics, such as that 80 percent of the coronavirus cases were mild and 20 percent were severe – where patients had to be hospitalized. The current coronavirus also goes by the name COVID-19.

Ulrich explained public health strategies used for disease containment, including the need to understand the mode of transmission of the disease. The public must be informed, and know to visit the doctor when they feel sick. In return, the hospital system and staff must be well-trained and prepared to provide care for people with this disease. Doctors are currently

working to find a vaccine for COVID-19, but it will take a year before it's ready to be distributed to the public, Ulrich said.

The World Health Organization (WHO), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and UMN Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy are good websites to use to find more information. Also, citizens should work to reduce stigma and discrimination about the disease, Ulrich said.

"We must expect that there will be potentially many more cases in the U.S.," Ulrich said.

In the question and answer session, questions that were raised by audience members included: Why are young people not as affected? What ways are people being treated? Are masks helpful? Pros and cons of closing borders? And, what are airlines doing to help prevent the spread?

In response, Ulrich said that young people, so far, have milder cases of the disease. Currently, people with the disease are being treated with support-

ive therapy. The general population also does not need to be wearing a mask to protect themselves, Ulrich said. This is important because there may be a mask shortage, and masks are needed for healthcare providers.

There is also not a lot of good scientific evidence that closing borders will lower epidemics, Ulrich said. Instead, it merely delays the inevitable spread of the disease. In reference to airlines, they have canceled some flights. When thinking about spring break travel from a public health perspective, there is no concern that the influx of spring break will have an impact on the progression of the disease.

People can protect themselves by washing their hands, covering their cough, not touching their faces and staying home when they're sick, Ulrich finished.

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Graphics by Alexia Nizbny

## Senate approves switch to hiring of Pause Co-Coordinators

By Jacob Maranda  
News Editor

The Student Government Association (SGA) Senate passed a resolution that will make the Pause Co-Coordinator positions hired rather than elected. The resolution passed on a vote of 13 yes, 4 no and one abstain on March 3.

Senate failed to pass the resolution at their previous meeting on Feb. 25, but were forced to re-vote March 3 due to the rules of order concerning abstaining votes. With fewer proxy senators in attendance, the resolution subsequently passed at the following meeting.

Current Pause Co-Coordinator Julia Pritchard '20 introduced the resolution at the Feb. 25 meeting and fielded questions from senators in attendance. Due to one of the questions posed, the resolution was amended at this meeting to specify that candidates for the hired position must be current St. Olaf students.

For the re-vote on March 3, International Student Senator Zhanat Seitkuzhin '22 motioned to vote anonymously, which was approved. The vote was subsequently carried out through slips of paper passed to SGA Vice-President Ariel Mota Alves '20 for counting and pronouncement of the final verdict.

At the March 3 meeting, Senate also voted to confirm Sakura Honda '21 as the new Gender and Sexuality Senator following the resignation of previous senator Jacob Boettcher '22. Honda secured the position due to her finishing as the runner-up in the special election held Nov. 19, 2019.

The primary disagreement with the switch from an election to a hiring process for Pause Co-Coordinators was raised by several senators who were concerned with administrative overreach into a space that is supposed to be "run by students, for students."

Pritchard referred to the resolution's stated explanation in response, that "the responsibilities associated with managing both a business and such a large number of employees mean it is imperative to carefully consider selection of the Lion's Pause Co-Coordinators," for which a hiring process provides, Pritchard said.

The first iteration of the hiring process is set to occur this spring, with the deadline for applying April 1.

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## Student Life to charge RAs for single rooms

By Lydia Bermel  
Senior Reporter

Effective next fall, resident assistants (RAs) will be charged \$1,000 a semester, as well as room and board fees, to live in singles. Having a single room was previously included as a perk of the position.

This new policy was formed to make space for those in need of singles for medical purposes. Within the last year, St. Olaf has seen an increased demand for medical singles, with the College being 15 beds short this fall. To offset the shortage, Residence Life looked to RA housing.

"We anticipate the need growing, so our only remaining beds that are singles are in RA rooms," Assistant Dean of Students for Programming and Assessment Joshua Lee said.

The compensation for Residence Life staff will increase next year with RAs and junior counselors (JCs) receiving \$4,000 a year – a \$250 increase from this year. This increase will help offset the rooming change.

RAs will be able to choose their roommate and will not have to participate in room draw. However, living with another member of Residence Life won't be ideal due to the distribution of Residence Life staffing across dorms. Due to how RAs are distributed in dorms, it's not always possible for two RAs to live in one room, Lee said.

While they understand the cause of the change, student Residence Life staff members are concerned about the implementation and the safety of both RAs and residents.

"There's a safety concern, because this

means that RAs will have roommates that aren't ResLife staff members, and they aren't compensated despite the fact that they will be woken up when someone is at the door at 3 a.m.," said Student Hall Coordinator Jonah Schmitz '20.

Schmitz highlighted the importance of having a single room for RAs to decompress and a space to relax outside of work – a space where roommate troubles are non-existent. He emphasized that being an RA doesn't make you a good roommate, and it's concerning

**"By removing the perk of having your own room, there's less and less incentive and it's a really demanding job"**  
- Jonah Schmitz '20

that RAs' attention could be taken away due to roommate troubles.

Eva Knee '20, Area Coordinator (AC) for Kittlesby and Hilleboe Halls, is a former RA with a roommate, and while her roommate was former Residence Life staff, Knee felt like having a roommate worked. She also acknowledged that upperclassmen normally don't need the same amount of support as first-years, which lowers the amount of students who require staff assistance.

"As an RA, a lot of students are just very self-sustaining," Knee said.

"They have their support groups already, they have the people that they need to see, and so a lot of people don't really come to you as much,"

To ease possible concerns, Lee hopes this new change can allow former Residence Life staff to room with current staff. This will help current staff members to understand the role and to potentially serve as a proxy for interim, Lee said.

However, Schmitz believes that staff members are losing incentive to do a demanding job.

"By removing the perk of having your room, there's less and less incentive and it's a really demanding job, where you have to sacrifice a quarter of your pay," Schmitz said. "I understand they have limited options. I would have hoped they would have pursued other options."

With Residence Life applications due March 1, Lee stated that numbers have been on track. If RAs choose not to pay for a single and cannot find a roommate to share a double, Residence Life does not intend on assigning random roommates. However, they will work with the staff member to find a good roommate.

With potential for additional housing on the horizon, Residence Life will continue to evolve.

"As housing accommodations change in the future, we will make decisions that are best suited for our campus, student body and staff," Lee said. "Nothing is out of the question."

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## New bus route, Northfield to Fairbault

By Hannah Martens  
Contributing Writer

On March 2, Hiawathaland Transit launched a new bus route connecting Northfield to the neighboring city of Faribault. The additional line was created after a survey of transit users showed that Faribault was their most requested location.

The new line runs between the city halls of Faribault and Northfield and operates Monday through Friday between the hours of 6:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. Riders can utilize local transit routes to reach their points of transfer. The red and blue routes in both cities stop at their respective city halls.

St. Olaf students can ride the Faribault line for free this year with a student ID. For non-St. Olaf students, a single ride costs \$3.50. Tokens to ride will be available for students in the Office of Student Activities (OSA), and all Hiawathaland Transit vehicles are handicap accessible.

Associate Director of Student Activities Brandon Cash described the new line as a reflection of a larger pattern of travel within the St. Olaf and greater Northfield community.

"More and more you're seeing students that a) have a medical or specialist appointment or b) have an internship in the area," Cash said.

St. Olaf's location in Northfield can pose many transportation difficulties. The "St. Olaf Extra" email alias often has requests for rides to neighboring towns such as Dundas and Faribault. For a largely residential campus

where not everyone has a car, lack of public transportation can be greatly limiting. The new line gives students access to a larger selection of medical care and specialist options, as well as more opportunities for employment, internships and volunteer work.

"It will expand the footprint of where you can get to from campus," Cash said. Although Faribault is only slightly larger than Northfield, students will have more options for shopping and eating.

Faribault features a Walmart Supercenter, Goodwill and Joann Fabrics. Restaurants in the city include 1st of Thai, Gran Plaza Mexican Grill and Crooked Pint Ale House. The city also has several parks and trails, as well as the Rice County Historical Society Museum.

The Faribault shuttle line is the first completed project in a series of potential plans that aim to expand Northfield's public transportation. The Minnesota Regional Passenger Rail Initiative seeks to expand passenger rail travel throughout the state and beyond. The proposed southern corridor would utilize an existing track that runs through

Northfield, connecting the Twin Cities area to southern areas in the state. Main stops would include cities such as Albert Lea, Owatonna and Rochester. The railway plan also intersects with the Amtrak system, connecting Minnesota with other states around the country such as California, Colorado and Texas.

The next step for the railway is a feasibility study of the Albert Lea-Northfield passenger rail corridor. Supporters of the plan have requested funding from the state government for the study, and a bill has been introduced in the Minnesota House of Representatives that would authorize the needed finances.

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Photo by Grace Peacore  
Graphic by Katley Favaro