



PAUL T. JACKSON, Professor

Chemistry Department & Environmental Studies Department
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN USA

Paul spent many of his formative years embedded in the rural farming community of Pine Island, MN, where he was sent to work on his uncles' dairy farms as well as learn the construction trade from his maternal grandfather. Experiences on the farms as well as time spent in Vermont, Alaska, and Wyoming cemented his love of the natural world. Growing up in the Lutheran tradition with interests in science and music he chose to attend St. Olaf College where he received a B.A. in Chemistry in 1992. He went on to work with an interdisciplinary separations science team at the University of Minnesota and received a Ph.D. in Analytical/Organic

Chemistry in 1997. After obtaining his Ph.D., Paul became a Camille and Henry Dreyfuss Postdoctoral Fellow with the Chemistry Department at St. Olaf College from 1997-99. He was later appointed Assistant Professor at St. Olaf and is now a Professor.

At St. Olaf Professor Jackson teaches general, analytical, and environmental chemistry, an integrated biology/chemistry introductory science course, green chemistry literature, introduction to environmental studies, selected environmental topics, environmental integration and application, the environmental studies senior seminar, and first year writing as part of the environmental conversations program. Currently he works with local agricultural practitioners, local governments, NGOs, state agencies, and the Rice Soil and Water Conservation District on a multiyear cover crop-water nutrient study in the Rice Creek watershed. He directs independent undergraduate research related to chemical profiling and watershed level assessments of freshwater habitats, determination of microplastic related substances in surface waters, incorporating green chemistry into the undergraduate science curriculum, and sustainable living in contemporary society. Currently Paul directs the faculty-led Environmental Science in Australia and New Zealand off-campus study program and has offered a research course in rural Japan looking at how institutions and landscapes recover from disturbance. He was a member of the Regents Hall of Natural Science Design Team and the Green Building Team, the building recently received a Platinum LEED rating from the United States Green Building Council. He currently serves as Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Committee at the college.



Paul has been active in the chemical and environmental sciences as a peer reviewer for the following scientific journals and organizations: Journal of Chromatography, Environmental Science and Technology, Analytica Chimica Acta, Advances in Environmental Research, Journal of Chemical Education, ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering, the National Science Foundation, and the American Chemical Society – Petroleum Research Fund. His work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Luce Foundation, Margaret A Cargill Foundation, W. M. Keck Foundation, Merck-AAAS Undergraduate Research Program, National Conferences on Undergraduate Research and St. Olaf College.

Professor Jackson's current interests include: the use of technology in chemical education; environmental health and education; scientific communication; materiality, art and art conservation; sustainability in higher education; diversity within the chemical professions; green building/home improvement; and interpersonal communication. He resides in Northfield with his spouse, Ann Marie Boyle.

SHORT BIOS

Paul Jackson, Ph.D.

Dr. Paul Jackson's professional interests range from chemical analysis and green chemistry to environmental health and sustainability in higher education. The environmental impacts of the material world form a central tenet of his work, and it frequently involves engagement with local units of government, NGOs, and citizen volunteers. He directs collaborative research related to environmental chemical profiling and watershed assessment, green chemistry in science curricula, and sustainable living – from mapping to building design to material (waste) diversion. Jackson served on the design team for Regents Hall of Natural and Mathematical Sciences. He was instrumental in incorporating green chemistry into that building's construction, which resulted in greatly reduced use of toxic chemicals in comparison to traditional laboratories.

His teaching bridges chemistry, environmental studies, and first year conversations programs, and it frequently incorporates civic engagement. Most recently his analytical laboratory program collaborated with the St. Olaf Art and Art History Department to explore the changes to the elemental composition of repeated bronze alloy melting. In addition, Dr. Jackson directs the faculty-led off-campus study semester Environmental Science in Australia and New Zealand, and offers a course in Japan that examines how institutions and landscapes recover from major disturbance.

Dr. Jackson completed his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry at the University of Minnesota, and his B.A. from St. Olaf College. He currently serves as chair of the Environmental Sustainability Committee.

Paul Jackson, Professor of Chemistry & Environmental Studies, St. Olaf College

Paul's professional interests range from chemical analysis and green chemistry to environmental health, ethics, and sustainability in higher education. The environmental impacts of the material world form a central tenet of his work, and it frequently involves engagement with local units of government, NGOs, and citizen volunteers. His teaching bridges chemistry, environmental studies, and first year conversations programs, and it frequently incorporates civic engagement. He directs collaborative research related to chemical profiling and watershed assessment, green chemistry in science curricula, and sustainable living. Paul serves as chair for the college's Environmental Sustainability Committee, directs the faculty-led Environmental Science in Australia and New Zealand off-campus study program, and offers a course in Japan that examines how institutions and landscapes recover from major disturbance. He received his B.A. from St. Olaf College and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.