

NEWSLETTER

Department of Scandinavian Studies

University of Wisconsin-Madison

A Message from the Chair, Professor Kirsten Wolf

As this newsletter is being mailed out, students are writing final essays and preparing for exams, while faculty and staff are getting ready for busy weeks of grading. Our annual gløgg party in the middle of December will mark the last week of instruction, and we look forward to good cheer.

The fall semester has been a joyous one. We have had the pleasure of including among our faculty Visiting Fulbright Professor Per Krogh Hansen from the University of Southern Denmark, who has taught a highly successful course on "The New Realism in Danish and Norwegian Literature and Cinema." We have thoroughly enjoyed having Per as a colleague.

Another highlight of the semester has been the establishment of the "Max, Hedwig and Vera F. Croner Scholarship," which is a permanently endowed scholarship fund with annual distributions to be awarded in the form of travel grants for undergraduate and graduate students, scholarship awards for undergraduate and graduate students, conference travel awards for graduate students, and graduate student recruitment awards. The Department is deeply grateful to the members of the Croner family for their generosity.

The newsletter committee has impressed upon me the need for brevity. Many announcements detailing the endeavors of the Department's faculty, staff, and students could be made. About some of these, we invite you to read the following pages.

FALL 2010

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Esben Langkniv Visits Department

Students and staff alike dropped by Van Hise on the evening of September 29th to hear Esben Langkniv perform in concert. For those who weren't able to make it to the concert, you missed out on a real treat. For those of you who were there, I imagine you'd probably agree. He entertained the crowd by telling the story from his CD "I Myrens Tegn," or "Under the Sign of the Ant."

The story follows the immigrant Daniel Olsson from his home in Denmark, aboard the ship to America, and ultimately to where he ends up in Minnesota. Along the way he meets plenty of

Continued on Page 8

Visiting Fulbright Professor Per Krogh Hansen



Per Krogh Hansen, thanks to Fulbright funding, has been a cheerful, stimulating presence in our department in fall 2010, along with his wife, Anke, and their three children: Ester (9),

Frida (12) and Gustav (15). A former punk rock guitarist who continues to play, with only slightly less energy, Per is an Associate Professor in the Institute of Literature, Media and Cultural Studies at the University of Southern Denmark. A distinguished, innovative, and wide-ranging scholar of contemporary narrative, Per also reviews books prolifically for the Danish Press.

Accustomed as he is to journalistic inquiry, Per kindly consented to answering a series of questions about his life and work.

Q: When and where were you born, where did you grow up?

A: I was born in the north of Jutland, in Aalborg, 1968. When I was ten, my family moved to Randers – an hour south of Aalborg – but I returned to Aalborg in the late 1980s, when I started studying. We (my wife, our three children and I) have been living in Kolding since 1999, but I still consider myself a ‘nordjyde’ [person from northern Jutland]: Most of my relatives live in or around Aalborg, and a couple of years ago, my younger brother bought my late grandmother’s house in Nørre Tranders, just east of Aalborg. So it seems like I will keep on having close connections to this part of Denmark.

Q: How/when/where did you come to study Scandinavian literature, and what are your accomplishments thus far in that regard?

A: I come out of a rather conservative family, and studying liberal arts was never really an option talked about. When I finished high school, the student counselors were giving us sincere warnings against studying humanities since the unemployment rate was terrible in the late 1980s. We should, they claimed, go for engineering instead. So I did in 1987 – and I hated it! But it brought me in contact with students in the humanities, and since my only real interest in high school had been literature, media and culture, I decided to study Danish at Aalborg University. My deep interest in these things quite quickly made it clear to myself and my professors that I should go for a PhD, so after four years of study (including a semester in Bergen, Norway), I entered the PhD-program and earned the degree in 1999. I was appointed Assistant Professor at a new Danish-program at the University of Southern Denmark (SDU) the same year and have been there since.

My main interest within this field is literary and narrative theory. My dissertation was on the concept of ‘character’ in literary theory and interpretation, and I have since written numerous articles on different narrative aspects: narration in contemporary literature, metafiction, Hans Christian Andersen’s fairy tales, film musicals’ use of narrative, unreliable narration, backwards narration, corporate storytelling, etc. As you see, I tend not to stick to literary studies, but have a general interest in what the function of narrative is in different media and genres. I am directing a research center at the SDU, Center for Narratological Studies, and I am on the steering committees of two European narratology-networks: The European Narratology Network and The Nordic Network for Narrative Studies.

Visiting Fulbright Professor Per Krogh Hansen, continued

This, however, does not mean, I have left Danish literature behind. My main focus here is the 20th century with special interest in the strong Realist-tradition – Jacob Paludan, Anders Bodelsen, Jakob Ejersbo, Jan Sonnergaard, etc.

Q: What are you teaching this fall at UW?

A: I am teaching a course on 'The New Realism in Danish and Norwegian Literature and Cinema'. The aim is to give the students insight in contemporary Danish and Norwegian culture – but also to make them reflect upon the theoretical issues involved: When is something real in fiction? What is the role of literature and art in society nowadays? What is 'reality' after all?!

Q: What is the focus of your current research?

A: Ah well... I have to finish bits and pieces I have promised to people in weak moments. So for the time being it is a bit...well...'multidirectional'. Before leaving for Madison I finished a co-authored article on 'unreliable narration' in third-person narratives. We were looking into Isak Dinesen and Henry James. I also finished a piece on the Danish author Helle Helle, whom I have written on in several other articles. Two colleagues and I are collecting an anthology on her, and I have written the introductory article, placing her in contemporary Danish literature. I also got to finish a text-book-piece on what narratives do in business-communication. And another one on filmic narration. So, as you see: It goes in different directions, but it all has to do with aspects of narrative and storytelling.

My main interest for the last years, however, has been 'unreliable narrators' – that is untrustworthy first person narrators as they

are found in the works of Nabokov or – to name a Dane – Blicher. Recent research has proved that the determination of a narrator's reliability to a high degree depends on the reader's cultural or historical context. I have dealt with these reader-dynamic perspectives in a series of articles and tested my ideas in relation to literature, cinematographic narration and news-broadcasting. I hope to be able to compile and revise these articles into a book in the near future.

Q: Please give some sense of the experiences you and your family are having in the USA, Madison, and at UW?

A: We find Madison wonderful! Great city of a nice size, wonderful nature and terrific weather! Not to mention the brats and the beer!

As I mentioned earlier, I am here with my wife and our three kids. My wife is here as a visiting scholar at the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, and the children are spread out over elementary, middle and high school. So we are getting a very good sense of the educational system in the US – at all levels! The short version would be: Everyone is having a good time at his or her respective school!

This is my third longer visit to the US – I was in Los Angeles in 1987-88 and in Baltimore 1997. I do enjoy the States a lot, and I have two times brought a group of students to New York to study Danish-American cultural relations. Who knows – perhaps we'll do Madison the next time?



Norden Receives Funding from Barbro Osher

Norden has received generous support for the fifth year in a row from the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation. The Pro Suecia Foundation supports Swedish-related cultural and educational projects in North America and Sweden. The funds provided pay for the graduate teaching assistant who lives on the Norden floor, as well as stipends for the Barbro Osher scholars living in Norden. The success of Norden has steadily grown over the years, and this year, the fourth year of Norden's existence, there are ten students gaining the benefit of a language immersion experience.

Barbro Osher is Honorary Consul General of Sweden in San Francisco, having served in the same capacity in Los Angeles from 1995-1998. For 17 years she was the owner and publisher of *Vestkusten*, one of the few Swedish-American newspapers in the United States established in 1886. Barbro Osher is the founder of the Swedish Women's Educational Association (SWEA) chapter in San Francisco and was president of Positive Sweden/North America, an organization furthering the image of Sweden through educational activities in the United States.

A native of Stockholm and a graduate of Stockholm University with a degree in languages and political science, Osher pursued a career in publishing and advertising in Sweden before moving to the United States in the early 1980s. Her first visit to America in 1962 was to Maine where she participated as a student in the Experiment in International Living program. Clearly, she is no stranger to the benefits derived from a cultural immersion learning

experience, such as Norden. She is an avid reader in six languages, and an enthusiastic skier. She has received numerous distinctions and honorary degrees for her philanthropic and cultural work.

With its ten students, Norden has become the third largest immersion floor in the International Learning Community. The residents in Norden are encouraged to speak their target languages—Danish, Norwegian, or Swedish—at all times. They take a 1-credit course that is taught by the graduate teaching assistant who also lives in Norden. That class, of course, is conducted entirely in the Nordic languages.

Current resident Reginald Young has this to say about his Norden experience: "Norden has meant a lot to me during the two semesters I've been a part of it. I am able to use a language I love on a daily basis, which has no doubt made me a better Norwegian speaker and communicator in ways the standard classroom exercises never could. Additionally, it's exposed me to much more than I would have been exposed to if I had only taken the language courses; I've learned much about not only Norwegian culture, but Danish and Swedish as well. Norden gives me access to incredible resources as well; the students who speak better than I and constantly help and encourage my Norwegian abilities, and a GLPC who is an excellent resource on any of the languages. Lastly, because of Norden, I've made friends that I connect with on an academic level who I know I will keep in contact with for the rest of my life. Norden has been, without a doubt, one of the smartest things I did in my undergraduate experience!"

Summer is the Time for Fieldwork

In June Kristin Speth (German Department) and I spent a week in Minnesota conducting inter-views and taking recordings of heritage speakers of Nor-wegian, people who were born and raised in America but learned and spoke Norwegian at home and in the community. On this trip we recorded speakers between Fargo and the Twin cities, primarily. Later, in September, I was lucky to be able to help with more fieldwork in southern Minnesota doing essentially the same thing, this time headed by Janne Bondi Johannesen from the University of Oslo.

The speakers were remarkably fluent considering how long it had been since some of them had last spoken the language. Some were lucky enough to have friends or family members with whom they still spoke Norwegian on a daily basis. It was especially fascinating how well dialects from very specific locations in Norway were preserved after several generations of existing in America. Of interest to me personally was the fact that a couple of informants were relatives of one of my grade school teachers! There was no shortage of great (and very Norwegian) food, coffee, tall tales (skrøner) and short tales, and wonderful people. It's always hard to want to go back

Riddarasögur Colloquium

On October 14-15, 2010, the Department of Scandinavian Studies and the Department of French and Italian hosted the "Riddarasögur Colloquium: Exploring French-Scandinavian Literary Relations in the Middle Ages." The speakers examined the relationship between individual romances (riddarasögur) and their French models, analyzed the manuscript context of the romances, and discussed the historical and cultural context in which the romances were composed in medieval Scandinavia.

After words of welcome by Associate Dean Magdalena Hauner, Dr. Norris J. Lacy, Edwin Sparks Professor of French at Pennsylvania State University, gave a plenary lecture on "Writing in the Margins: Norse Arthurian Romance as Palimpsest."

The other speakers comprised Geraldine Barnes (Australia), Elise Kleivane (Norway), Jonatan Petterson (Sweden), Karl-Gunnar Jo-hansson (Norway), Terje spurkland (Norway), Werner Schäfke (Germany), Natalie Van Deusen (US), Stefka Georgieva Eriksen (Norway), Bjørn Bandlien (Norway), Emily Lethbridge (England), Marianne Kalinke (US),

Norden funded by Barbro Osher,
continued.

John Prusynski says: "For me the most important thing about Norden is that we can speak our own Scandinavian languages and we can learn to understand the other two at the same time. It's good to be able to learn one language, but in Norden we learn to understand three, and therefore we can learn more about Nordic culture over all of Scandinavia."

Sam Knapp says: "Not only does Norden expose me to other Scandinavian languages, but it makes me a much better Swedish speaker! In attempting to understand the other two languages, I'm forced to think in Swedish, which I feel has been equally as helpful as my actual Swedish language course. The one credit Scandinavian Cultures class has also been very eye opening! I feel much more competent about Scandinavian government, society, and globalization in general. Norden is an extremely welcoming and fun environment, and I'm very glad I signed up for the program!"

Our thanks go out to Barbro Osher for the continuing support of the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, which has enabled these students to enjoy this high impact educational experience.

Faculty and Staff Updates

This semester we decided to share pictures from the past. Here we are back in the day:



Julie Allen



Judy Anderson



Susan Brantly



Tom DuBois



Peggy Hager



Jim Leary



Scott Mellor



Tanya Thresher



Kirsten Wolf

Julie Allen: 2009-10 was a very busy year for Julie. She had several articles published this year, both in Denmark and the U.S., and has made excellent progress on her book about Georg Brandes and Asta Nielsen. Her new research project deals with the impact of modernity on conceptions of religion and religious freedom in Denmark in the mid- to late-19th century. She was selected as one of the university nominees for a summer grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and awarded a one-semester fellowship as a Resident Faculty Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities, for Spring 2011. Her fourth child, a darling daughter named Alice, was born in June and is thriving. In September, Julie was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma, but she has started chemotherapy treatments and hopes to be cancer-free by the next

newsletter!

Judy Anderson: Judy is working toward becoming a yogini and has extended her environmental composting message to others. No big trips this past year but a lovely time in Minocqua with Jackie and Jane with sightings of bear and adult and young loons. Next year promises to be bigger and better with a trip to Minnesota. Early morning walks to Picnic Point are the way she prefers to begin her workdays.

Susan Brantly: Susan has just stepped down as Director of the Center for European Studies, but not before helping the Center renew its Title VI grant for another 3 years. She continues as Director of the Bradley Learning Community, which is currently celebrating its 15th anniversary. In addition to working on her own projects involving Karen Blixen and the Swedish historical novel, Susan has become editor for the Scandinavian Literature and Film series, published through the Welsh Academic Press. She is very pleased that, thanks in large part to grants from the Barbro Osher Prosuecia Foundation and the Swedish Institute, Swedish language enrollments are at an all-time high, and Norden, the language immersion floor is thriving. At the end of July 2011, Susan and Scott will be the “talking heads” for the Smithsonian tour of the Nordic countries. Come and join them!

Tom DuBois: Tom devoted the year 2010 to disciplinary servitude and enjoyed it immensely. Together with Jim Leary, he began a five-year term as a co-editor of the *Journal of American Folklore*, the leading venue for folklore studies in North America. He also continued to serve as director of the UW's Folklore Program, and once again served as faculty director for the 2010 Baltic Studies Summer Institute

Faculty and Staff Updates, continued

(BALSSI). Since 2010 was the 100th anniversary of the publication of the first book in Sámi—Johan Turi's *Muitalus Sámiid birra* [An Account of the Sámi]—Tom collaborated with linguist Mikael Svonni to produce the first-ever *direct* translation of this important work into English. That translation is coming out in the beginning of 2011. During the summer, in addition to teaching, translating, and administering, Tom conducted fieldwork in Sweden and Ireland in preparation for his new course Celtic-Scandinavian Cultural Relations, initiated this term.

Peggy Hager: Peggy's evening Norwegian Outreach class this spring had record enrollment with 22 students. After the last class, students met informally for Norwegian food and talk about travel plans. A six-week stay in Norway this summer allowed Peggy to continue an on-going project of recording different speakers in order to expose 2nd year students to different dialects. Sound files are converted into podcasts and posted on the class website. This summer a visit on the west coast of Norway allowed her to reach a group of speakers she had not had easy access to before. This fall her Norwegian language students helped with lefse-baking and the annual Lutefisk dinner held at the Idun Lodge. They performed a short play at World Languages Day on the UW campus in November. First year students are using on-line exercises this semester for the first time. In addition, Peggy has begun creating on-line grammar and vocabulary exercises for use in second year Norwegian.

Jim Leary: Jim returned from a sabbatical, having made considerable progress on a 5 CD/book/DVD, *Folksongs of the Other America: Field Recordings from the Upper Midwest, 1937-1945*, featuring 177 songs and tunes in 25 languages, including 42

performances by Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, and Swedish singers and musicians from Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. With Hilary Virtanen, he co-edited a special issue—Finnish-American Songs and Tunes from Mines, Lumber Camps, and Workers' Halls—for *Journal of Finnish Studies* that included his essay "Yksi Suuri Union: Field Recordings of Finnish American IWW Songs." He produced a Norwegian American Folk Music Portal, <http://vanhise.lss.wisc.edu/nafmp/>, with Anna Rue and Carrie Roy. Leary will teach two new 1 credit/5 week courses in spring 2011: Norwegian American Folksong and Finnish American Folksong. And he co-edits both a monograph series for UW Press on the languages and folklore of the Upper Midwest, and *Journal of American Folklore* with Tom DuBois.

Scott Mellor: Over the last year, Scott has continued his efforts with first year learning and getting incoming students interested in Scandinavian Studies. This year's First-Year Interest Group (FIG) on the sagas was full again adding 19 students in first-year Swedish. Scott continues in his role as director of the language immersion floor, Norden, in the International Learning Community (ILC). The Norden floor is having its best year, with ten students; a mix of Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish speakers. On the research front, Scott continues his work on Hans Christian Andersen and the folk life of the Åland islands. Last year he wrote a paper on the shipping traditions from Åland in the 1950s and '60s and is currently working on the celebration of midsummer on Åland. Scott is also working on tragedy and gender in medieval Swedish and Danish ballads.

Faculty and Staff Updates, continued

Nete Schmidt: As usual, Nete is enjoying classes in the Scandinavian Department, and she has some wonderful Danish students in first semester and second year Danish. They are working with books, articles, podcasts, newscasts, and movies, and, of course, also eating Danish food and watching Danish movies. In September, she participated in the Regional Meeting for Danish Teachers in North America where the discussion focused on ways of teaching Danish language and culture to students here in North America. There were also some interesting keynote speakers, so as expected, it was a very beneficial meeting, sponsored by the Danish Ministry of Education. This fall, she is happily teaching *The Tales of Hans Christian Andersen* to our usual 230 students, and at the same time she is offering an additional hour with the 475 discussion section, which is more intimate and extremely enjoyable. The students in 475 get a chance to discuss and present on various tales, and our class also includes theoretical background for the analyses.

Tanya Thresher: During Tanya's sabbatical leave, she has continued working on her Ibsen and melodrama book and has additionally developed two new courses, which she is excited to teach upon her return to Madison. The first new course, "From Literature to Film," explores the adaptation of literary texts into film and addresses how the iconicity of the cinema complements the written word. The second course, "Scandinavian Translation," will examine the theory and history of translating Swedish, Danish and Norwegian and will offer students the possibility of practical translation training in each of the languages. Having also signed a contract with Cambridge University Press for another Ibsen monograph, Professor Thresher has decided on an additional year's leave to concentrate on her writing.

Kirsten Wolf: Kirsten continues to serve as department chair, but is pleased to have time also for teaching and research. She is currently teaching "Introduction to Scandinavian Linguistics" and "Topics in Scandinavian Linguistics" and enjoys advising more than a handful of doctoral dissertators on topics ranging from editions and codicological analyses of Old Norse-Icelandic manuscripts to examinations of literary topics and lexicographical studies within the field of Old Norse-Icelandic language and literature. Her Kellett Award for excellence in research last spring was a cause for celebration. Having completed translating several Sagas of Icelanders into Danish, Kirsten is now finishing her editions of a number of hitherto unedited saints' lives and also completing her book-length study of research on the legends of the saints in Old Norse-Icelandic. Kirsten spent a portion of the summer of 2010 vacationing in Italy with her daughter and another portion working in the Arnamagnæan Collection in Denmark.

Esben Langkniv, continued

interesting people, and Esben did well in putting the listener into the situations Daniel found himself in, for example working on the rutabaga farm, partying out in the country on a summer evening, and of course meetings with girls.

The audience was always encouraged to help out with the songs, which all did well at after only brief hesitation. This was made easier by the fact that Esben had versions of many songs in English, in addition to the Danish originals (and some in both English and Danish). One that particularly stands out is "Deck Dan" (or "Dæks Dan") where all did quite well adding their voices to the choruses.

A good night of music was topped off with plenty of good company and snacks, including horseradish cheese! Thanks to Esben and everyone else who made the concert possible.

Graduate Student Updates

This semester the graduate students decided to follow suit. Here we are:



Lucas Annear



Marcus Cederström



Jackson Crawford



John Eason



Sara Fagen



Sanna Fahn



Todd Michelson-Ambelang



Paul Natiw



Carrie Roy



Anna Rue



Natalie Van Deusen



Hilary Virtanen



Rachel Willson-Broyles

Lucas Annear: I just started a master's degree in Philology this year. Academically I spend my time with Germanic linguistics, Scandinavian dialectology, Norwegian in America, Wisconsin English, Tolkien, phonetics, phonology, and syntax. Non-academically I like to spend my time in trout streams, the woods, riding horses and skateboarding.

Christopher Bishop: I am currently conducting dissertation research in Uppsala, Sweden after receiving a generous grant from the ASF. My project focuses on questions of identity and tradition in the student nations, organizations that date back to the mid-17th century, from historical and ethnographic perspectives.

Marcus Cederström: I received a BA in Scandinavian Studies, History, and Sports Business from the University of Oregon in 2006. After living in Stockholm, Sweden for the last three years, I recently returned to the US. My research interests are in current issues of Swedish national identity as well as medieval Scandinavian saints. I am currently teaching first semester Swedish.

Jackson Crawford: After I passed my prelims and my prospectus defense in May, I spent the summer on the Ingwersen ranch in Wyoming. I am now back in Madison and in the early stages of doing research for my dissertation looking at the history of color terms in the Scandinavian languages.

John Eason: Hi! I reside in Stockholm where I am working on a dissertation that explores the prominent role *Melodifestivalen* plays in contemporary gay Swedish culture and community. Specifically it examines how various *schlager* artists, songs and performances contribute towards the construction of a unique gay subjectivity.

Sara Fagen: I received my BA in Scandinavian Studies from the University of Texas at Austin in May 2009. I am now in my second year in the MA literature program and anticipate taking my exams during the summer semester. I am also working as a TA for Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature.

Sanna Fahn: Thanks to the Barbara Morgridge Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, I am currently in Reykjavík, Iceland, researching manuscripts containing *Njáls saga* for my Ph.D. thesis. I am studying how codicology can be

Graduate Student Updates, continued

used to reconstruct the history of manuscript production, as well as the history of reading and reception.

Tim Frandy: I have returned to Madison after a year in Finnish Lapland supported by grants by the ASF and Fulbright, where I had been working at the University of Lapland's Arctic Center in Rovaniemi, and conducting fieldwork with Sámi reindeer herders, fishermen, and cloudberry pickers near Utsjoki. In the next year, I hope to finish my dissertation.

Mathew Holland: I am primarily interested in Viking period history. I recently returned from a Fulbright project in collaboration with Moesgård Museum and Århus University in Denmark where I followed the history of the sword in Scandinavia from Roman contact up until the end of the Viking period.

Todd Michelson-Ambelang: This year I am teaching first-year Norwegian again. Last semester I taught a course on Nynorsk. I have enjoyed teaching both of these courses. I am currently writing my dissertation on disabilities and the disabled in medieval Iceland and Norway.

Paul Natiw: I am a first year Ph.D. student in Philology. I come from Florida where I took my Bachelor's in Linguistics and Master's in German literature. My interests include Swedish linguistics and language change as well as contemporary Swedish literature.

Carrie Roy: I am currently finishing my dissertation on Nordic material culture and belief and working this semester as a TA for Folklore 100. This past year I was selected as an L&S Teaching Fellow and I enjoyed attending a NEH institute on the digital humanities at UCLA in August.

Anna Rue: I am a Ph.D. candidate in the Folklore track, concentrating on Norwegian-American folklore. I am currently working as a TA in the Introduction to Folklore course and

conducting research for my dissertation about Norwegian-American folk music. I recently contributed to the Norwegian-American Folk Music Portal, which can be found online at: <http://vanhise.lss.wisc.edu/nafmp/?q=home>.

Jason Schroeder: Over the summer I rode my bicycle across much of southeastern Wisconsin and worked on my master's thesis. I am teaching beginning Swedish again this term, which continues to be a blast. I am nearing the completion of my master's thesis, which deals with a Swedish ballad singer from the beginning of the 19th-century.

Natalie Van Deusen: I have returned to Madison after spending a year conducting research at the Arnemagnæan Collection in Copenhagen, and am continuing work on my dissertation. I was awarded a University Dissertator Fellowship for the fall semester, and during the spring semester I will be teaching a 5-week course entitled "Hagiography in the North." As of September 15th, I am the proud new mother of a beautiful little girl, Astrid.

Hilary Virtanen: I am the editorial assistant of the *Journal of American Folklore* and the *Journal of Finnish Studies*. I have received the American Folklore Society Nordic-Baltic Section's Boreal Prize and Finlandia Foundation research and scholarship awards. I also helped Jim Leary edit a special *Journal of Finnish Studies* issue on Finnish-American song culture.

Rachel Willson-Broyles: It's been a busy year! I completed my preliminary exams and am now starting research on how literary translators use the internet in their work. My first translation, the novel *Montecore—The Silence of the Tiger*, by Jonas Hassen Khemiri, will be published in February. And I'm teaching second-year Swedish to 14 fun and enthusiastic students!

ASTRA Conference in DC

Rachel Willson-Broyles and Marcus Cederström represented the University at the ASTRA Conference for Swedish teachers in Washington DC. The conference was sponsored by SI and the Swedish Embassy and held at the House of Sweden.

This year's theme was sustainability, and the conference was lucky to have Professor Scott Slovic from the University of Nevada, Reno present on eco-criticism in literature, Professor Christine Ingebritsen from the University of Washington, Seattle discuss Sweden and the green movement in capitalism, as well as several other speakers. Several presentations focused on current issues in Sweden such as the political landscape and the Swedish language abroad. Finally, a case study of the University of California's virtual language education program was presented. The presentation led to a discussion about the possibilities of supplementing advanced language learning through the cooperation of several different universities.

Over 40 people attended the conference from universities throughout North America, which kicked off on October 15th with a welcome from the Swedish Ambassador to the US. Just after lunch, Queen Silvia of Sweden made a surprise visit and greeted all of the attendees. While we would like to say she made her way to Washington just to visit with the Swedish teachers, she happened to be attending a separate event at the Swedish Embassy.

The conference came to a close with a meeting of ASTRA, the fledgling organization that "promotes the study of Swedish, Sweden, and other Swedish speaking contexts at all levels, and works to facilitate cooperation between scholars engaged in these fields" (for more information about ASTRA and possible membership check out <http://tinyurl.com/astratemp>).

Gothenburg Book Fair

In September I was lucky enough to have the chance to travel to Gothenburg, Sweden, for the Bok & Bibliotek fair (often known as Bokmässan). It was my first time at Bokmässan, and it was absolutely amazing.

The book fair is like heaven for anyone interested in Swedish literature and non-fiction—it is four days and three acres of publishers with book displays, seminars, author talks, and staffed booths for a variety of organizations and vendors. This year, it was estimated that 97,000 people attended. The book fair is open to the public, but the focus is on teachers, librarians, and anyone who works in the publishing industry. I'm a literary translator, so it was a great opportunity for me to make new contacts and to meet with authors, editors, and foreign rights agents in real life rather than just over email! It's also a good time to see which new books are being promoted in Sweden and abroad. Bokmässan draws an international crowd—familiar names in attendance this year included Ralph Nader, Alexander McCall-Smith, Märta Tikkanen, Henning Mankell, Helene Tursten, and Håkan Hellström. It was also Moomintroll's 65th birthday, so there were Moomin books and merchandise everywhere. The best part of my trip was getting to meet one of my favorite Swedish authors, Fredrik Lindström. The hardest part was trying not to buy more books than would fit in my suitcase.

If you're ever in Gothenburg in September, I highly recommend a visit to Bokmässan—but pack an extra bag! – Rachel Willson-Broyles



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Rachel Willson-Broyles, and Todd Michelson-Ambelang*

Departmental Picnic

This year's Scandinavian Studies welcome picnic was held on Saturday, Sept. 11th at Westmorland Park.

Faculty and staff got together with their families and took advantage of one of Madison's beautiful fall days.

Thanks to Julie, the committee and everyone else who put in the work to make the picnic a successful start to the new semester.

Fieldwork, cont.

to the normal routine after that!

The September fieldwork was capped off with a workshop on immigrant languages in the United States. Presenters represented various universities in Norway as well as the United States, and presented on topics ranging from Wisconsin-Frisian morphophonology to how switching between Norwegian and English is used as a literary device in the writings of Norwegian-Americans.
– Lucas Annear

Riddarasögur, cont.

Sabine Walther (Germany), Shaun Hughes (US), Randi Eldevik (US), Suzanne Marti (Norway), Hans Jacob Orning (Norway), Giselle Gos (Canada), Jóhanna Katrín Friðriksdóttir (Iceland), Sofia Lodén (Sweden), Matthew Driscoll (Denmark), and Claudia Bornholdt (US).

The colloquium was organized by Kirsten Wolf and Keith Busby with the assistance of Todd Michelson-Ambelang and funded

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**This year's
Gløggfest
Friday, Dec. 10.
starting 4:30 pm
Van Hise 1312**