

NEWSLETTER

Department of Scandinavian Studies

University of Wisconsin–Madison

A Message from the Chair, Julie Allen

I began my first semester as department chair at the end of August 2015 with great humility and not a little trepidation. My predecessor in this office, Professor Kirsten Wolf, did such an outstanding job as chair for seven long years that I knew I had very big shoes to fill. Fortunately, I have had tremendous support from all levels of the university community, from the Chancellor, Provost, and deans all the way down to the mailroom staff and Physical Plant workers. Keeping the department running on an even keel is, it turns out, an art that requires many artists. I am very grateful for so much assistance and forbearance on the part of my colleagues.

At a time when the future of the University of Wisconsin has been painted in bleak colors by the media, when pressures on educational institutions across the country are mounting and the humanities are under threat, I am delighted to be able to reassure the world that Scandinavian Studies has a bright future here in Madison, due in large parts to the support of our friends and alumni. In addition to Kay Bohn Smith's wonderful recent gift (see page 2 for more details), the generous endowment of two professorships has ensured the stability of two of our faculty lines—I was awarded the Paul and Renate Madsen Professorship of Danish in March 2015 and my colleague Susan Brantly has been chosen to be the Birgit Baldwin Professor this fall, as a result of two gifts by Peter Baldwin and matching funds from John and Tashia Morgridge. The Madsen gift also made it possible for us to hire a Norwegian professor in fall 2014, after suffering from a serious under-representation of Norwegian studies for more than six years. We were delighted to be able to convince Dean Krouk to leave St. Olaf College in Minnesota and join our department. He moved to Madison in June 2015 and has already proven to be a wonderful asset to our program and to the larger university community. Welcome, Dean!

With outstanding graduate students, exciting new courses in development, and groundbreaking research publications by our faculty and staff, the Scandinavian Studies department is well poised to ride out the current tempest in the world of higher education. Whatever legislative pressures might trickle down or administrative changes result, Scandinavian Studies will continue to fulfill our core mission of representing and researching the Nordic countries for the benefit of our students, the university, the state, the country, and the world.

FALL 2015

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Kay Bohn Smith Supports UW Scandinavian Studies

by Marit Barkve



I recently visited Kay Bohn Smith ('58 BS EDU, '79 MS EDU) at her lovely Milwaukee apartment, where she lives with her husband, Jim ('59 BBA, '61 MBA), to thank her for her gift to the department and to interview her for this newsletter article. Kay, a hospitable host, invited me as her dinner guest to get a taste of a senior community noting, "we'll have fun." She didn't lie; we had a total blast. Kay is elegant and poised on the outside and curious and courageous on the inside – a combination that makes a fantastic conversationalist and a great listener.

Kay is a native of Wisconsin, born in Door County, and earned her degree at the UW in education. She married her husband upon graduation and they have three children together. They are now also very proud grandparents. Kay is an educator, a community activist, and a hobbyist. Beginning her career as a high school teacher she eventually took interest in the adult learner and, while living on the West Coast, worked for Elderhostel and co-founded the Sonoma County World Affairs Council. Kay highly values lifelong learning, which, at least to me, seems to resonate with a certain Scandinavian philosophy.

Kay is willing to share information about her life journey and was interested to hear about mine. She was open about her life's ups and downs and was legitimately curious about my hopes and dreams as a young Ph.D. student. Having traveled extensively all around the world, Kay was impressed and excited by our department's many sojourners. Travel has been pivotal to Kay's joy, which is evident in the artifacts – from Door County, Wisconsin to France to Nepal to Vietnam to Scandinavia – that warm her home. This is something she shares with her daughter, Claudia ('65 BS – and an alumna of Scandinavian Studies!), whose interest in her maternal Danish heritage led her to take Danish at UW and to study abroad in Copenhagen. It is apparent that Kay still takes great pride in her daughter's education at the University of Wisconsin as well as her time abroad in Denmark.

Having served on the steering committee of the University of Wisconsin Foundation's Women's Philanthropy Council, she understands the strategic importance women's philanthropy plays in higher education. Kay articulated that she had a dual purpose in giving to Scandinavian Studies: her interest in her Danish heritage and her desire to give where it can make an impact. Kay admires Danish women, particularly in how they age gracefully and, as she observed during her time in the country, that they seem to accept themselves. This and her daughter's interest encouraged her to nurture her Danish heritage. Additionally, Kay is familiar with the University's diverse structure and chose a small department in order to give where it matters. Her commitment to community activism is apparent in her giving as she purposefully chooses to build-up small cohesive university communities.

Kay has established a discretionary endowed fund in her name that is to be used in areas of greatest interest or opportunity. In this gift, Kay lends her enthusiasm, encouragement, and support to the Department of Scandinavian Studies. Her passion for education, love of travel, and curiosity is a unique mixture that makes Kay Bohn Smith a wonderful fit in the Department and we are certainly grateful to have her affiliation and support.

Help Us Save Postage and Printing Costs! If you would like to receive an electronic version of our newsletters and have not received notification from our administrator, **Tammy Bartels**, kindly write her at tabartels2@wisc.edu and ask to be added. You will save postage and printing costs and help the environment a bit. **Thanks!**

New Study Abroad Opportunity in Sweden



On May 25, 2015, Dr. Scott Mellor took seven students to Stockholm, Sweden for a three-week study abroad course, Scandinavian Life and Civilization. Students in the course surveyed the history and culture of the Nordic countries through their literature with special emphasis on Sweden and the Stockholm archipelago. Students met for a lecture with Dr. Mellor every morning before venturing out on relevant excursions in the afternoons.



Dr. Mellor said the program was a great success: “The students learned more in those three weeks than is typical in my experience for students in a semester-long course by being on location. Cultural and historical information and knowledge came alive and seemed to be more meaningful by being in the places where they took place.”

Dr. Mellor and his students spent the first few days exploring the medieval period. They toured the Medieval Museum and History Museum and saw some of Sweden’s finest artifacts from the Viking Age. At Birka, they explored the archaeological ruins of Sweden’s first trading port and visited a Viking village reenactment. Trips to the Åland islands and Mariehamn gave the students a better understanding of the Stockholm archipelago and why the position of Stockholm was so crucial to trade in medieval Sweden and how boat travel was and still is so prevalent.



The second week started by exploring the scientific history of Sweden through the writings of Carl Linnaeus and a visit to Uppsala University, where students experienced eating dinner at a university *studentnation*, a form of live-in student housing/organization that originated in the 17th century. In the middle of the week, the group returned to the medieval period with an excursion to the island of Gotland, where a professor from the University’s Gotland Campus gave a walking tour of Visby as well as a survey of the island’s unique history from medieval to modern times.

The third week focused on modern Sweden and Stockholm from the 18th to 21st centuries. Dr. Mellor led students through Stockholm in the footsteps of Dr. Glas, the fictional character from Hjalmar Söderberg’s novel by the same name. Students studied 20th-century political development and the growth of the welfare state with a visit to the Swedish parliament building. Saturday, June 6th, was Sweden’s national day and the class went to Skansen, an open-air museum with historic folk architecture and animals, to hear the king address the public in honor of the holiday.

Dr. Mellor hopes to repeat the program again in the future and thanks his students for the experience: Katie Pickup, Eva Shelton, Rachel Parks, Derek Johns, Jonathan Drew, Steven Farrell, and William Brown. “The group was a perfect size to have cohesion and allow for spontaneity. I think that we were extremely lucky to have such an accommodating local host for this trip and I would hope that we might find such a person for the future. I think we struck a good balance between structured lectures while allowing us to take advantage of cultural events that were occurring in the city. The students were extremely flexible and engaged in their learning experience. In short it was a valuable and enjoyable learning experience for all.”

Madsen Reading Room Inauguration



In conjunction with Paul and Renate Madsen's generous decision in October 2013 to endow a professorship of Danish studies at UW-Madison, their son Tom Madsen (BBA'78, Marketing; MS'79, Finance, Investment and Banking) sponsored the transformation of the department library in 1312 Van Hise into the Madsen Reading Room, in honor of his parents. Plans were drawn up during the 2014-15 year and construction began in May 2015. Once all of the books and furniture had been removed, contractors gutted the room and installed new carpet, new ceiling tile, new HVAC covers along the window wall of the room, a large-screen television with computer hookups, and a set of glass-fronted cabinets along the south wall.

Such a beautiful space deserves a celebration, so the room was inaugurated with a lovely reception on Friday, October 30, 2015. Both Tom Madsen and his mother Renate were able to attend (Paul passed away in October 2013), along with several of Renate's close friends; Martha Taylor, Vice President of the UW Foundation; Professor John Karl Scholz, Dean of the College of Letters & Science; and the majority of the Scandinavian Department's faculty, staff, and graduate students. The reception featured Danish flags and flower arrangements in red and white; Royal Copenhagen-print napkins; and a wide array of Scandinavian-themed treats, from Danish butter cookies to Norwegian smoked salmon and Havarti cheese. Department chair Julie Allen expressed the department's gratitude to Paul and Renate Madsen, as well as their son Tom, for their unstinting support of the department. Dean Scholz delivered some remarks about the importance of the Madsens' close relationship with the university, belief in its mission, and confidence in its prospects. Marit Barkve shared some of the many ways in which the new Madsen Reading Room has benefited the department, as a high-tech space for classroom instruction, a useful reference library for students, and a welcoming gathering space for informal colloquia and formal lectures. The festive event celebrated not only the Madsens' generous gifts but also the bright future of Scandinavian Studies.



Norden Visits Vikings Exhibit at the Chicago Field Museum



On September 27, 2015, Colin Connors and Dr. Scott Mellor led a field trip for Norden students to the Vikings Exhibit at the Chicago Field Museum. The exhibition was organized by the Swedish History Museum and displayed Viking Age artifacts from Scandinavia. Burial goods, including weapons and jewelry, implements from everyday living such as combs and belts, and figurines of Old Norse gods and goddesses, displayed the incredible craftsmanship of Norse artists. Other finds, such as silver Arabic coins from a horde in Gotland and a jade Buddha figurine from Birka, displayed the broad reach of Scandinavia's global trade in the Viking Age. Interactive displays brought to life the ecological impact of shipbuilding and led visitors through the harvesting of materials necessary to build a Viking ship.

Norden is a residence hall for students studying Scandinavian languages in the International Learning Community (ILC). The field trip was open to all ILC students and about 40 attended.

Faculty and Staff Updates



This past year has been a busy and exciting one for **Julie Allen**. Not only did she have the chance to present her research on the global circulation of Danish silent film and multimedia adaptations of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales in places as far-flung as Australia and Japan, she was also named the Paul and Renate Madsen Professor of Danish. This generous gift and distinction is a great boon to the department and to Professor Allen's own research, which includes a new project on African women in Denmark. In June 2015, she spent three weeks in Botswana, where she was part of a collaborative research project led by Karen Torjesen from Claremont Graduate University doing fieldwork among southern African women about their gender, religious, and national identity. In April 2016, she will be conducting similar interviews among African immigrant women in Copenhagen. She is now serving as department chair.

This fall, **Susan Brantly** is on sabbatical, working diligently on her book manuscript: *Presenting the Past: The Historical Novel, Transnationalism, and the Postmodern Era*. She continues to serve as the editor of *Scandinavian Studies*, with Tom DuBois recently joining her as co-editor of the journal. The Bradley Learning Community is celebrating its 20th anniversary and Susan continues to keep an eye on things, even during her sabbatical. She enjoyed a visit last spring to her old stomping grounds at Harvard as a member of the visiting committee for the Department of Germanic Languages. A generous gift from Peter Baldwin and Lisbeth Rausing, which was matched by John and Tashia Morgridge, has resulted in a fully endowed Birgit Baldwin Chair for the department. Susan will don that mantle with pride and with fond memories of Birgit Baldwin, with whom she shared many happy graduate school memories at Yale.



Tom DuBois finished his time as president of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study this past spring, and is now helping plan the Society's annual conference in New Orleans. Together with Sue Brantly he is helping edit the journal *Scandinavian Studies*. He is finishing work on a book about religious woodcarving and starting a book about Sámi media. During this past spring, he taught a course on Sámi culture that was not only offered on our campus but shared via the internet with students at the Ohio State University and the University of Minnesota. He will do the same in this coming spring with a course on the Finnish epic *Kalevala*. In addition to his work in Scandinavian Studies, Tom serves in the Department of Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies and is

Director of the Religious Studies Program. He was recently named Halls-Bascom Professor of Scandinavian Studies.

Peggy Hager would like to extend a warm welcome to Dean Krouk in his new position as Norwegian professor. We are happy to have our newest study abroad program to the University of Oslo called *The New Norway Program* (through HECUA) up and running. This new addition to UW study abroad programs means we have three study options available to students who want to study in Norway. Peggy participated in an eight-week Blend class this spring designed to teach the skills needed to apply the blended learning model to her second-year language classes. Peggy spent seven weeks in Norway this summer. She attended a publisher's seminar on new teaching materials and spent time on redesigning her second year Norwegian class. Norway is celebrating the year of *Outdoor Life* in 2015 and Peggy has given several talks in the community about the importance and history around the concept of "friluftsliv."



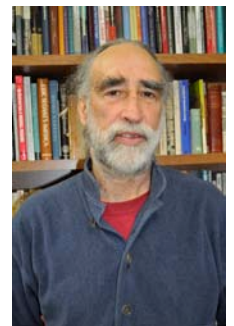
Faculty and Staff Updates, cont.



Dean Krouk spent the summer in Madison researching a book chapter about the interwar Norwegian novelist and critic Sigurd Hoel, preparing courses for the academic year, advancing his book manuscript, and getting situated in his new environment. This semester Dean is enjoying teaching courses on Henrik Ibsen (in translation) and Readings in Norwegian Literature (in the original). He has also been crafting a new version of the Department's Contemporary Scandinavian Literature course, which he is excited to teach this spring semester (along with a course on Knut Hamsun and the 20th-century novel). This fall Dean will be giving invited lectures on Sigurd Hoel's writings about Nazism at the University of Minnesota and the Ygdrasil Literary Society in

Madison. At the MLA convention in January he will moderate a panel on Karl Ove Knausgård.

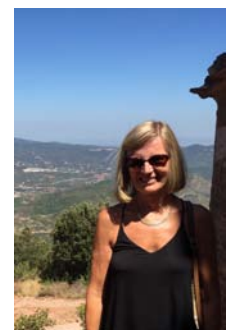
Jim Leary is teaching Nordic Perspectives on Folklore this fall, with several current and former graduate students sitting in to discuss their research. This summer his book/5 CD/DVD "boxed set"—*Folksongs of Another America: Field Recordings from the Upper Midwest, 1937-1946*—was co-published by UW Press and Dust-to-Digital Records. Lauded by reviewers in the USA and Europe as a "staggering set of diasporic folklore," "revelatory," "comprehensive and essential," "jaw-droppingly impressive," and a "helluva thing," it includes recordings and background information featuring Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, and Swedish performers in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. In July Jim acquired LeRoy Larson's 1970s field recordings of Minnesota Norwegian musicians for deposit in UW's Mills Music Library; and he completed field and archival research on a legendary Norwegian immigrant logger, "Whitewater Ole." Jim also participated in sessions on Finnish American folk music at October's Finn Fest in Buffalo, New York.



Scott Mellor started the summer by taking seven students to Stockholm, Sweden for a three-week study abroad course. The goal was to give the students a study opportunity on location to learn about the Nordic countries with special emphasis on Sweden and the Stockholm archipelago. Throughout the summer, Scott promoted less-commonly taught languages, like the Nordic languages, at SOAR for the incoming students as well as worked with the ad hoc committee on minimum requirements for teaching. Scott took some time in the summer to spend with his mother-in-law in southern California and still found time to go to his cabin in Canada and a few concerts on the square here in Madison. This semester he is teaching Readings in Swedish as well as the World of the Sagas as a First-year Interest Group (FIG) and Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature. He continues to work at the first year dorm

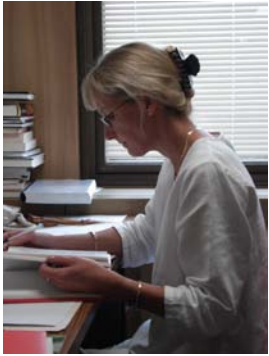
Bradley and International Learning Community (ILC) where the department has a language floor.

Nete Schmidt spent most of the summer in Denmark and participated in the annual Seminar for Danish Teachers abroad. This year's authors were Helle Helle and Kim Leine, and she is hoping to facilitate a visit of Kim Leine in the spring as his book *The Prophets of Eternity Fjord* is being launched in the US. She has had an article published in *The Bridge* (Danish American Heritage Society Journal) and will have another one published in *Scandinavian Studies*. She is working on creating a new class called "Humor and Noir" going from *The 100-Year Old who Jumped out the Window and Disappeared* to the usual, darker reading matters. Simultaneously she is updating Criminal Utopias for the spring of 2016 and teaching Danish language. The Danish Book Club is going strong on in its 8th year. And she is very happy about the publicity Denmark is getting via Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton! Finally, she has been promoted to Faculty Associate.



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Faculty and Staff Updates, cont.



Kirsten Wolf has a chair's research leave this semester. She thoroughly enjoys being able to focus on her research after having served as department chair for seven years. In collaboration with Natalie Van Deusen (her former student, who is now assistant professor at the University of Alberta), she just finished a book on *The Legends of the Saints in Old Norse and Early Modern Icelandic Poetry*, which has been submitted to the University of Toronto Press. She is now busy finishing an edition of *AM 672 4to*, an Icelandic handbook for priests from around 1500. She has been working on this edition for a number of years but hopes to complete the book manuscript by the end of 2015. The work on this edition involves frequent trips to the Arnamagnæan Institute in Copenhagen, so Kirsten has been travelling to and from Denmark quite a bit this semester.

Graduate Student Updates



Marit Barkve: I passed my prelims in August and am now a PhD Candidate. This fall I am the TA for the course "Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature: Medieval to 1900." This spring I have secured a grant from the Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU) as a guest researcher at the University of Oslo.

Samantha Brown: I'm currently a third year Master's student, working on my thesis about Muslim refugees in Denmark and the impact of certain legislation and political discourse. I am also working on a project about Danish intervention in the Bosnian Civil War. I spent last year in Denmark and am currently an Arabic FLAS Fellow and Danish instructor.



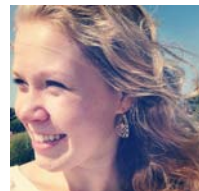
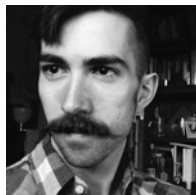
The eSaga of Hrafnkell Freysgoði, which is now available on iBooks. This year I begin my dissertation, I continue as the resident program coordinator for Norden, and I have the privilege of teaching the Icelandic Sagas course.

Ben Hubbard: Having passed my MA exam last summer, I am now officially a PhD student! I am teaching first-year Swedish this year and am enjoying the experience immensely. I am hoping to have an article regarding fascist motifs in the art of Tom of Finland published in the near future.



Marcus Cederström: I just returned from a year of research in Stockholm, Sweden. It was a wonderful experience, but I'm glad to be back in Madison. I am working on my dissertation about Swedish women immigrants and the intersection of labor, immigration, and gender, and hope to finish in the not-too-distant future.

Colin Connors: Last summer I passed my prelims and published my interactive digital translation,



Mirva Johnson: I am a new MA student in Area Studies and received my BA in Linguistics and History from the College of William and Mary. This semester I am co-teaching the first semester Finnish course and am enjoying it immensely. My research interests include Finnish language and culture, bilingualism, and educational ethnography.

Kenny Lull: I'm on a fellowship from the American Scandinavian Foundation this year working on a project entitled "Visual and



Graduate Student Updates, cont.

Iconic Representations of Indigeneity in Scandinavia: Sámi and the Arctic." Specifically while in Umeå, I'm working with the Arctic Research Centre at Umeå University where I'm currently researching branding of the Arctic by means of presenting Sámi as extensions of Arctic culture.



Todd Michelson-Ambelang: I am wrapping up my dissertation on disability and impairment in the Sagas and *Þattir* of Icelanders, and have recently added to my duties in

Memorial Library, taking on Jewish and South Asian studies. I continue to purchase books for Scandinavian humanities and teach library courses for the department.

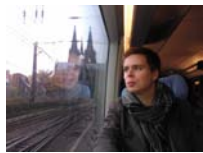
Tristan Mueller-Vollmer: I received my BA in German Studies and Art from the University of California Santa Cruz in 2008, my MA in Germanic Linguistics from UCLA in 2013, and am now a first-year PhD student in the Philology track. I am currently studying Old High German, Old English and Swedish, and am interested in language change and cultural contact in the Nordic region.



David Natvig: I received my MA in Scandinavian Philology in 2013. I am currently a guest researcher at the University of Bergen, where I am conducting fieldwork for my dissertation on social and regional

variation in Norwegian vowels. I am also interested in the Norwegian of heritage speakers in the Upper Midwest.

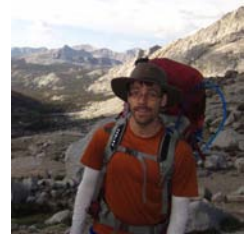
Ilkka Posio: I'm a MA student from Turku, Finland teaching Finnish on a Fulbright grant until May 2016. In addition to Finnish I've studied Comparative Literature, Art History, and Hungarian Language and Culture. I'm also working on my Master's thesis on Finnish instructive case. I'm very much into Cognitive Grammar.



Lauren Poyer: I spent this summer in Oslo working on my Norwegian and am currently a PA under Kirsten Wolf as I work towards my MA. My two current

projects are (1) placing Old Norse travel narratives into the larger European context of High Medieval pilgrimage narratives and (2) translating a prosody guide to Icelandic *rímur*.

John Prusynski: Having spent the spring semester 2015 in Kautokeino, Norway, I have returned to Madison and hope to complete my Master's degree this coming spring. My research interests are Sámi language policy and modern Sámi literature, particularly the works of Kirste Paltto. As of fall semester 2015, I am teaching first-semester Norwegian.



Amber Rose: I am a PhD candidate writing on magic and witchcraft in Scandinavian folklore, touching on everything from episodes in the

medieval Icelandic sagas to witchcraft trial proceedings and modern witch legends. Other main areas of interest include comparative Celtic-Scandinavian belief systems and pre-Christian religions. My advisor is Thomas A. DuBois.

Jason Schroeder: Last year, the Barbara Morgridge Distinguished Graduate Student Fellowship allowed

me to complete a draft of my dissertation. Now, I am editing. In my dissertation, I examined the ways that 19th-century ballad scholars erased singers and the ethnographic events in which ballads were performed. I shall defend in January. Onward!



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Graduate Student Updates, cont.



Kyle Swenson: As I enter my second year I am honored and thankful to be the TA for Hans Christian Andersen once again. I enjoy working with the undergraduates and helping them with their writing. Personally, I am preparing to present my first conference paper about Norse mythology pending its acceptance.



Richelle Wilson: I received my MA in comparative literature from Brigham Young University, where I also worked on the editorial staff of *Scandinavian Studies* from 2010–2013. I am currently on fellowship as a first-year PhD student with an emphasis in literary studies. My research languages are Swedish and French and my academic interests include ecocriticism and feminist interpretive approaches. I am excited to be joining such a fine group of colleagues here in Madison!

Department Hosts Ilkka Posio and Per Esben Svelstad

This fall the Department welcomed two fellows, Ilkka Posio from Finland's University of Turku and Per Esben Svelstad from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim. The latest in a succession of visiting teachers and scholars from Nordic countries, each has been an active, bright, and cheerful participant in a full range of activities.



Ilkka Posio joins us thanks to Fulbright funding and the efforts of Tom DuBois to ensure regular Finnish language teaching. Having grown up variously in Ostrobothnia and Finnish Lapland, Ilkka is an MA candidate specializing in Finnish language studies, a subject he has previously taught at Munich's Ludwig Maximilian University, as well as at Turku where he recently won a Union Ribbon for exemplary work with Finnish majors.

Here at UW Ilkka is co-teaching fall and spring semesters of first-year Finnish with "an amazing colleague," Mirva Johnson, a new graduate student whose bilingualism and dual US/Finnish citizenship complement his native experiences and make for lively class sessions. In keeping with Fulbright requirements, Ilkka is also taking a Sociology course on "American Society, How It Really Works," while brushing up on his Russian skills.

Regarding his experiences thus far, Ilkka tells us: "I've been very happy to be placed in Madison. I quite like the general atmosphere of the city and I like all my students and colleagues a whole lot. I've made some wonderful friends in other departments as well. I was very happy to find the Finnish section in Memorial Library. Every book there feels like a small piece of home. I've liked the Scandinavian Studies Symposium Series a lot too. It has been great to get to know what all the other people of my host department are working on."

Like many Finns, Ilkka has American cousins, the descendants of his grandfather's two brothers, who immigrated around 1906. He'll have the pleasure of meeting them over winter break.

Raised in Sel in Gudbrandsdalen, Per Esben Svelstad is a PhD candidate in comparative literature completing his dissertation, a queer theoretical study of the Norwegian author Åsmund Sveen (1910–1963). Funded by his home university, Per Esben chose working at UW over other universities thanks to the efforts of Susan Brantly and the warm relationship between his co-advisor, Dag Heede, and the Department.

Per Esben has made the best of his time, conferring with colleagues in Scandinavian Studies and Gender and Women's Studies, while presenting his work in two symposia, something he's especially appreciated: "It's been thoroughly stimulating to have people question the work I'm doing from a

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different angle." Thanks to these discussions, he and fellow grad student Ben Hubbard have proposed a queer studies panel for the spring SASS meeting.

With his stay nearly over, Per Esben tells us: "UW is an impressive institution in terms of student numbers and activities. As a Norwegian, I am fascinated to see how campus culture is consolidated by everyone wearing red t-shirts and sweaters, and how so many students seem to be living in immediate proximity to campus in dorms and the like. We don't have anything like this in Trondheim! I am also very grateful to the faculty and grad students in Scan Studies for the warm welcome. Different people – they know who they are – were real lifesavers when I arrived in August and didn't know where to stay or how to get around. Before my first week had ended, I had a bike, a room to stay at in East Madison, and really felt the immense American hospitality that I've heard so much about!"



Departmental Picnic

On Saturday September 12th, the Scandinavian Studies Department once again held its annual picnic to celebrate the new academic year and give faculty, staff, and students (old and new) a chance to mingle. This year, we met at Westmoreland Park. Unlike last year's chilly temperatures, the weather was pleasant and we had a fantastic time, chatting, catching up, and swapping stories. As usual, the picnic was potluck style, with delicious salads, sides, and sweets. Naturally, because it is Wisconsin, the main course was brats: Susan Brantly provided pork, chicken and veggie brats. The pork brats did not last long. Some spry youths played Frisbee but for the most part, everyone was far more interested in food, beer, and talk this year. It was a great way to start the new year and for everyone to get acquainted and reacquainted.

