

NEWSLETTER

Department of Scandinavian Studies University of Wisconsin-Madison

A Message from our 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. The beginning of the semester was a little bumpy. Following Judy Anderson's retirement in December, Kellie Hernandez was appointed, but after less than a month of work in the Department, she reluctantly accepted a higher paid position in the medical school. She was sad to leave, and we were sad to see her go. As we were getting ready to post the position once again, Chris Dargis, Department Office Administrator of Hebrew and Semitic Studies, kindly offered to serve. We are delighted to have Chris as a colleague. She is extraordinarily efficient and professional and brings many years of experience to our Department. Chris is very busy working in two departments, and she is probably looking forward to the end of the semester more than anyone else. During the summer months, Chris will move her office to 1306 Van Hise (Judy's former office).

Another highlight of the semester has been the appointment of Todd Michelson-Ambelang as Bibliographer for Scandinavian Humanities and Classics. Todd, who is a dissertator within the field of Scandinavian philology and writing a dissertation entitled "Outsiders In/Insiders Out: Reception and Perception of Disability in Medieval Norway and Iceland," is a good advocate for Scandinavian studies in Memorial Library and is doing a wonderful job of building up the library's collections of Sámi and Old Norse-Icelandic literature.

The newsletter committee has impressed upon me the need for brevity. Many more 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.

Welcome to New Office Administrator, Chris Dargis



After the departure of Judy Anderson in December, there was a bit of transition and a bit of panic, but now that all is settled, we have Christine Dargis. Chris comes to us from the Hebrew and Semitic Studies Department, where she continues to act as administrator, as well. She moved to Madison in the 1970s from Belgium, Wisconsin (between Sheboygan and Milwaukee) and studied for a time at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, but left to work for the State of Wisconsin.

Chris cross-country skiing at Wakefield, (UP) Michigan

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Nordic Studies

Our Graduates Making Careers outside of Academia



Jamie Yuenger graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 2004. In 2003 she received a generous scholarship from the Sons of Norway Idun Lodge to study in Bergen, Norway. Her work in Folklore and Scandinavian Studies inspired her to start a successful business called StoryKeep.

"I met my biological father at age nine. When I graduated high school his mother, Louise, took me down to her basement and showed me old family heirlooms: Norwegian and Danish artifacts, beautiful painted bowls brought by her ancestors to America. It was startling to realize that these bowls, and the stories of those who brought them, belonged to me as well. An entire world was suddenly available to me, and I was quickly consumed with unearthing my heritage.

In my first semester at the University of Wisconsin, I enrolled in Norwegian 101 and by the spring semester, I had declared my major: Scandinavian Studies. I was fascinated with the mythology of the Sami, and gained a certificate in Folklore. I also earned my certificate in Women's Studies. Taken together, my academic path was like studying myself.

In 2011, I co-founded StoryKeep, a company that uses long-form interviews, audio, film, and other media to create intimate portraits of individuals and families. I think of family stories as heirlooms, irreplaceable reminders of who you are and where you came from. It is only fitting that StoryKeep's second project was recording my grandmother Louise's life story. StoryKeep just hit its two year mark, and I'm starting to fully realize that the families who commission us to produce oral histories and video documentaries are actually asking us, in a sense, to honor their stories by telling them.

I cannot overstate the warmth I feel for the Scandinavian Studies Department at the University of Wisconsin. I will always feel great appreciation for the brilliant professors and classmates who surrounded me there. The decision to study Scandina-

via is not a common one, but being in the business of recording others' stories necessitated that I owned my own story first. To hear some of the stories I've been honored to record, visit www.storykeep.org. I would love to hear what you think! jamie@storykeep.org"

Jens Arneson is a senior from Stoughton, Wisconsin. He will graduate this May: "When I came to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I knew I wanted to major in Soil Science-Turfgrass Management and Scandinavian Studies. So I started planning to find a way to combine my two majors into an internship experience. This past summer it finally came to fruition when I was accepted to work as a Turfgrass Intern at Bioforsk in Landvik, Norway. Bioforsk is the Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research, which is based under the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The facility where I worked had been mainly a vegetable, fruit, and grass seed production facility, but 10 years ago they began turfgrass research and have now become one of the largest in Scandinavia.

Their main focus is to find different varieties of turfgrass that can withstand low levels of watering, fertilization, and chemical applications, but still produce a quality product. Scandinavia has much stricter regulations on what chemicals can be used on turfgrass, so this was an eye opening experience for me in terms of how I see the US regulations going. While there, we also hosted the European Turfgrass Association's annual conference with about 150 attendees from over 30 countries. I received a departmental scholarship to help fund this trip, which eventually led to me securing a job after I graduate as an Assistant Superintendent at Maple Bluff Country Club here in Madison. I want to thank the department for all they have done for me over these past four years."



Recent Graduate

Prof. Natalie Van Deusen

Last year, Natalie finished her Ph.D. in Philology and was hired as the Henry Cabot and Linnea Lodge Scandinavian Professor at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. She just ended her first year as Assistant Professor in the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Cultural Studies there.

This year, Natalie taught three Scandinavian Studies courses. In the fall she taught Old Norse Mythology and Legends to fifty students. During the spring semester she taught Vikings and Sagas as well as a seminar on Women in Scandinavian Literature and Popular Culture. While it has been a challenge to organize and teach three new courses, Natalie has very much enjoyed her work and her students. She has found her department to be very welcoming; it is a large department with a number of other young professors, and she has made some good friends. She has also enjoyed getting to know the city of Edmonton, which she says is family-friendly with many parks and a living history museum.

Natalie has been involved in a great deal of community outreach as part of her endowed position. She works with the Scandinavian Studies Association, and she gave two public lectures in April. The tenure system is a bit different in Canada, and she is looking forward to her first tenure-related review this summer. Natalie encourages any student of Scandinavian Studies to become involved with the Canadian-Scandinavian community by joining the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada (AASSC).



Natalie with Linnea Lodge.

Welcome Chris

Continued

Chris graduated with a Bachelor's in Business from Edgewood College and 17 years ago, she was hired by Prof. Rachel Brenner in the UW Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies. In addition to work-



ing at the University, she continues to work as an EMT in Stoughton every Friday night and every fifth weekend. She has done this for 33 years.

Chris has been married to Jeff Dargis for 35 years. For their honeymoon, they went east to Niagara Falls and Lake Placid on a 1978 Yamaha 750 motorcycle. Although they rarely went east after that, they continued to travel by motorcycle for many years.

They bought a BMW motorcycle, and after traveling for 80,000 miles on the back of Jeff's motorcycle, Chris got her own and went an additional 40,000 miles. Gradually they shifted into travelling entirely by motor home.

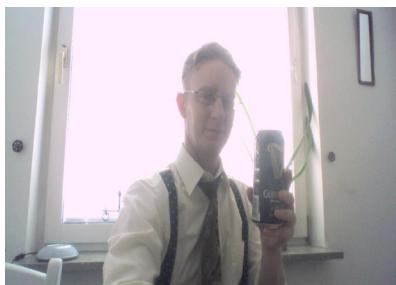
They still travel yearly in their 2006 Winnebago motor home with a Mercedes diesel engine heading west to places like Custer State Park in South Dakota, The Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion, Yellowstone, and Glacier National Parks. One of their favorite things to do is park at a vista point, cook a meal, and take in the scenery. They also enjoy bicycling and using their inflatable kayak.

Please feel free to stop by 1346 Van Hise and welcome Chris to the Department!

Chris and Jeff in Rocky Mountain National Park.



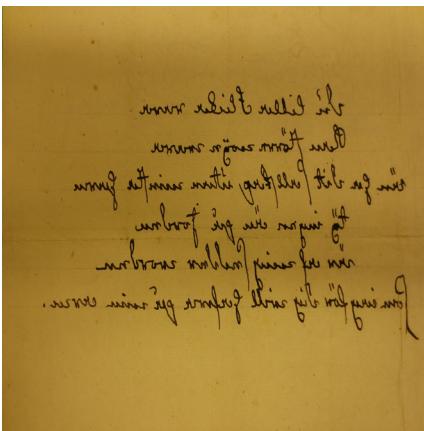
Graduate Students Tell of Research Trips to Scandinavia



Jason Schroeder speaks of his time in Sweden: "This academic year, thanks to the Birgit Baldwin fellowship from the Society for the Advancement of

Scandinavian Studies and a grant from the American Scandinavian Foundation, I am conducting research for my dissertation at various libraries and archives in Sweden and as a guest at Stockholm University and at Uppsala University. Some of the institutions I have visited are Kungliga biblioteket, Uppsala universitets Carolina Rediviva library, Svenskt visarkiv and Nordiska museet.

Journal with text written backward



The project investigates the ways in which Swedish scholars used folklore to shape national identity in the nineteenth century by looking at original transcripts, fair use copies, notes, correspondences between scholars and at publications that are difficult to access in the US. Some of the questions I am exploring is how scholars sought to use ballads, folktales, and ethnological descriptions to shape and determine national identity, and how the critical apparatuses of editorial scholarship presented these discursive practices. Some components of the project look at gender, class, and ideas of science in establishing identity. As Adrian Hastings wrote, 'texts can produce nations,' and the project looks at the ways that texts are

produced and the way they can produce nations in unique environments.

The faculties of the universities have been very



helpful and supportive, particularly Barbro Blehr and Lars Kaijser (SU) and Ella Johansson (UU). The year has thus far been very productive and I am excited to spend the year in Sweden doing research and focusing primarily on my dissertation project. Also, I have discovered exactly how much I appreciate the sun."



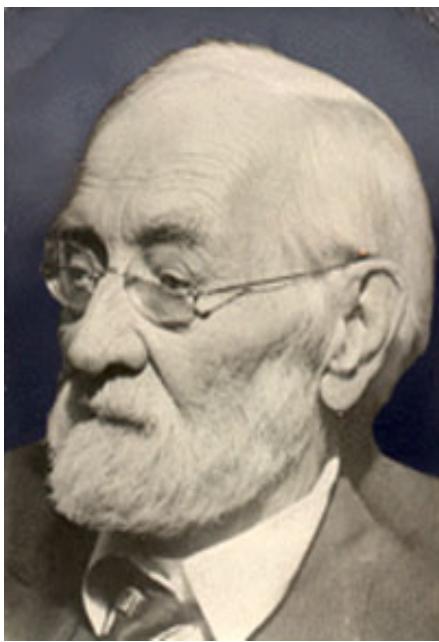
William Banks speaks of his time in Denmark: "This present academic year I have been fortunate enough to have received an American Scandinavian Foundation fellowship for research in Denmark, and thus since September have been installed as a guest researcher in the department of Comparative Literature, Aarhus University.

During the fall semester, I concentrated on completing my dissertation, entitled "As if they all had the Tinderbox: Cultural Radicalism in Interwar Denmark. Poul Henningsen. Hans Kirk," under the direction of Professor Susan Brantly, and I defended successfully in February. This spring and summer I am working full time on my new project, an annotated translation of Georg Brandes' collected writings on undertrykte folkeslag—national minorities, stateless peoples and the colonized.

In March, I presented an excerpt from my dissertation to the Litteraturhistorisk Forskerforum here at the Comparative Literature department, and in June, I will give an address on the Brandes project to the AU Human Rights Collaborative Workshop. My latest article, entitled "Globalization and the False Individualization of Mass Social Change: Hans Kirk's Collective Novels of the 1930s as Potential Collective," will appear later this year in a forthcoming anthology from Rodopi.

I here offer my heartiest gratitude to both the ASF as well as to my gracious hosts here in Aarhus, especially to Per Dahl, Mads Rosendahl Thomsen and Karen Margrethe Simonsen."

Remembering Rasmus Anderson



Rasmus Anderson

Our department, which Anderson founded in 1875, is amidst a proverbially worst and best of times span he would find familiar.

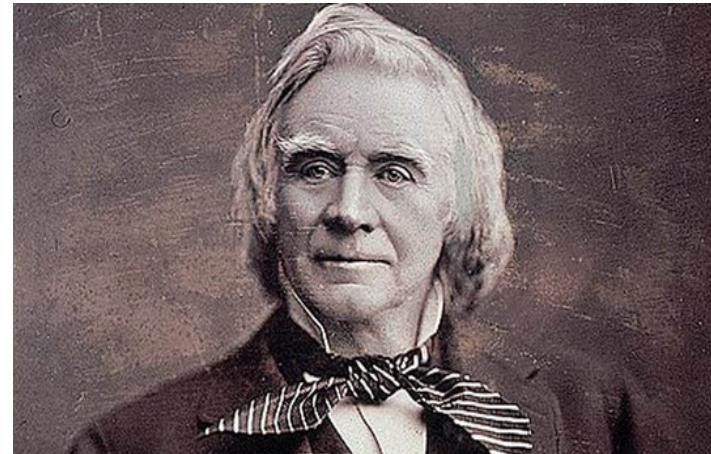
Born in rural Dane County to Norwegian immigrant parents, the youthful Anderson shared egalitarian sentiments and an activist's disposition with his Quaker father. In 1866 he was expelled from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, for leading a rebellion concerning the windowless, poorly ventilated, unheated quarters to which students were confined. Returning home, he worked as an instructor and joint principal at nearby Albion Academy, the sole and suspect Norwegian in an institution founded by Anglo-Americans who had come to Wisconsin from New York State. Three years later, when Anderson revealed the misappropriation of student tuition by his fellow joint principal, his adversary complained that there were "more Norwegians than white folks at Albion Academy." The school board concurred and Anderson was dishonorably dismissed.

Fortuitously, his excellence as a teacher and the acclaim of former students had attracted the attention of Paul A. Chadbourne, president of the University of Wisconsin from 1867-1870, who offered him a job commencing in fall 1869. As Anderson tells us in his 1915 autobiography: "During my first years in the university I taught Latin, Greek, German, Anglo-Saxon, ancient

- By Jim Leary
A portrait of Rasmus B. Anderson (1846-1936) looms from the east wall of the Scandinavian Studies conference room, and sometimes amidst departmental meetings I imagine his somber painted expression subtly shifting from deep understanding to empathetic anger to fierce determination.

history, English grammar, arithmetic, and several other subjects, and I was kept pretty busy . . ." Even so, Anderson began to imagine "a chair of Scandinavian languages, literature, and history." Responding to the growing presence of Scandinavian students at UW, he offered a class in Norwegian, while urging "the addition of Scandinavian languages as an elective study in the university of curriculum." In contrast to student enthusiasm, the initial institutional response was disheartening: "The whole university faculty refused to listen to me . . . They said I had Scandinavian languages on my brain; they regarded this as a form of disease and pitied me."

Undaunted, Anderson appealed to Ole Bull, the internationally celebrated Norwegian violinist whose wife



Ole Bull

had been raised in Madison. On Syttende Mai, 1872, Bull performed a "Farewell Concert for the Benefit of the University of Wisconsin" in the Assembly Chamber of the state capitol. With reserved seats going for \$1.50 and general admission at \$1.00, the concert netted \$750. Anderson secured another \$250 from a donor, with the understanding that the entire proceeds would be "invested in Scandinavian books for the university library." Within three years he succeeded in establishing the nation's first Department of Scandinavian Studies.

As the ground shifts once again in public universities, as peril and opportunity contend, we would do well to remember Rasmus Anderson's rare combination of vision, energy, persistence, intellect, and entrepreneurship.

Scandinavian Studies Retreat



It's not every day you get to throw axes, race kicksleds, and listen to a presentation

on Finnish swear words in a snow-covered nature reserve. In February, we packed all of that into just one Saturday at the annual Scandinavian Studies Retreat at Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall Creek, Wisconsin. Over 20 members of the department made the drive from Madison for a weekend of Nordic presentations, Swedish song and dance, traditional craftwork, Sámi film, delicious food, and, of course, competitive axe throwing. We are proud (in the face of Jantelagen) to report that UW-Madison students took first, third, fourth, and fifth place in the annual competition. From the educational side, Professor Jim Leary presented on his time in Iceland, Anna Tolle and Emily Malone presented their work from the undergraduate Norden House seminar, and several graduate students helped organize a professional development panel. The weekend was a great mix of education and recreation. And food. Lots and lots of food.

We were joined by folks from universities in Minnesota, North Dakota, Illinois, and even Nebraska, and are excited to be heading back again next year. As always, we are grateful to Norden Folk and everyone else involved in organizing the event. It's a great opportunity to meet other Scandinavianists from other institutions. Hopefully we'll see some of you next year!

Check out our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ScandinavianStudiesUWMadison) for more pictures from the event.



New Librarian Appointed

Last summer, John Dillon, the longtime bibliographer for European Humanities, including Scandinavian Studies, retired. Despite the economic situation of the time, the General Library System believed that Scandinavian Studies, along with many other areas, should continue to be represented in the library, and a position was created. As a PhD Candidate in Scandinavian Studies and a graduate with an MA from the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2007, I was selected to become the bibliographer for Scandinavian Humanities and Classics.



Todd Michelson-Ambelang
Bibliographer
Scandinavian Humanities
and Classics

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I started this position in January and have been learning about our unique collections, and how to keep them current. I have loved every minute of it. I am very proud to be able to work for such an institution with a long and strong history in Scandinavian Studies and collections relating to many aspects of the field. We have a good number of books printed in the US in Scandinavian Languages from the 19th Century. Many of these are housed in Special Collections.

I am excited about a new system of borrowing between Midwestern academic libraries called UBBorrow, where students, faculty, and staff can check out books for the same amount of time as they can from their home institution. As I look forward, I am interested in bulking up our collections in Sámi and Old Norse-Icelandic items, as well as keeping up with our other collections. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me: tambelang@library.wisc.edu

Congratulations to Our Graduates and Award Winners

To our graduates, we wish you well as you move on to the next phase in your life and we hope that you have made some wonderful memories during your time with us. Do keep in touch with us on Facebook and let us know what new adventures you are up to!

PhD

William Banks, PhD Scandinavian Studies (Literature)
Christopher Bishop, PhD Scandinavian Studies (Folklore)
Tim Frandy, PhD Scandinavian Studies (Folklore)
Rachel Willson-Broyles, PhD Scandinavian Studies (Philology)

MA

Aaron Seth Kahn, MA Scandinavian Studies (Literature) and History
Olivia Lasky, MA Scandinavian Studies (Area Studies)
David Natvig, MA Scandinavian Studies (Philology)

BA/Certificate

Rebecca Andresen, BA Scandinavian Studies and Biological Aspects of Conservation
Jens Arneson, BA Scandinavian Studies and Soil Science-Turfgrass Management
Samantha Brown, BA Scandinavian Studies and International Studies, Certificate in European Studies
Lauren Dunn, BA Scandinavian Studies and Linguistics
Tyler Gaddis, BA Scandinavian Studies
Allison Johnson, BA Scandinavian Studies and Communications Sciences and Disorders, Certificate in European Studies
Drew Luhn, BA Scandinavian Studies and Management and Human Resources, Certificate in European Studies.
Caitlin Mackesey, BA Scandinavian Studies and French, Certificate in European Studies.
John Moller, BA Scandinavian Studies and International Studies, Certificate in European Studies
Vali Nashat, BA Scandinavian Studies, Certificate European Studies
Reginald Young, BA Scandinavian Studies and Legal Studies
Chelsea-Leigh Flucus, BA Philosophy, Certificate in Scandinavian Studies and Integrated Liberal Studies
Bryce Loken, BBA Finance and BS Political Science, Certificate in Scandinavian Studies

Our students shine, but so do our donors, who make these awards possible. Thanks to those who so generously give, so that we may conduct research, take part in conferences, and study in the areas we study!
Congrats Award Winners!

Susanne Arthur: SASS President's Grant and Vera Cronor Travel Award

Anneka Barrow: Cullander Fund Award to Study Abroad

Marit Barkve: SASS President's Grant

Anthony Becker: Cullander Fund Award to Study Abroad

Samantha Brown: Cullander Fund Award to Study Abroad

Marcus Cederström: SASS President's Grant American Folklore Society Kara Nicole Bayless Best Graduate Student Paper Prize, Honored Instructors Award - UW-Madison

Colin Connors: SASS President's Grant and Vera Cronor Travel Award

Ryan Gesme: Cullander Fund Award to Study Abroad

Aaron Kahn: SASS Historians of Scandinavia Graduate Student Paper Prize and SASS Aurora Borealis Graduate Student Paper Prize

Anna Rue: Mellon-Wisconsin Summer Fellowship

Jason Schroeder: Vera Cronor Travel Award

Anna Tolle: Barbro Osher ProSuecia Scholarship

Rachel Tupper: Idun Lodge Scholarship

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Announcements

Like Scandinavian Studies at UW-Madison on Facebook and get updates on what is going on in and around the Department of Scandinavian Studies! Go to: www.facebook.com/ScandinavianStudiesUWMadison and click Like.



The Department is working to create a database of alumni who are willing to speak with current students about possible career options for Scandinavian Studies students by sharing their professional information, including contact information. That means we want to hear from you. If you'd like to be a part of the database, please send your name, year of graduation, current employer, and preferred contact information to Marcus Cederström (cederstrom@wisc.edu) or get in touch with us online through the Scandinavian Studies Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ScandinavianStudiesUWMadison