

# Scandinavian Studies Department Newsletter

FALL 2009

VOLUME XII, ISSUE I

## A Message from the Chair, Kirsten Wolf

As this newsletter is being put together, faculty, staff, and students are busy wrapping up the fall semester. Our annual gløgg party on December 17th will mark the end of instruction. With forty undergraduate majors in the Department and no fewer than twenty-two graduate students, it has been a busy year for faculty and staff, and we look forward to toasts and good cheer.

The fall semester has been both joyous and sad. We have had the pleasure of including among our faculty Visiting Fulbright Professor Kirsten Thisted from the Department of Minority Studies at the University of Copenhagen, who has taught a highly successful course on Greenland: Past, Present, and Future. We have thoroughly enjoyed having Kirsten as a colleague.

The Department has also been very fortunate to receive not only a generous award from the Barbro Osher Foundation to support the Department's international language floor Norden, but also a grant from the Seattle-based Scan | Design Foundation to support the teaching of Danish-related courses. The grant from Scan | Design will enable the Department to fund the teaching of a new literature course on Danish and Scandinavian science and crime fiction (Criminal Utopias) during the spring of 2010 and 2011. We are most grateful for the two awards and also for many other gifts and donations, which are vital to helping the Department take advantage of special opportunities.

At the same time, the Department mourns the loss of Emeritus Professor Niels Ingwersen, who retired from the University in 2004. Niels was one of the pillars of the Department for close to half a century, and his service to the Department and the University was exemplary. Niels was a legendary teacher and an energetic, innovative, reliable, and enthusiastic colleague, when ideas had to be started and implemented, students had to be advised, and committees had to be staffed. Niels was a prodigy of devotion to his profession, to his students and colleagues, and to the University's mission.

## Language as Homeland Symposium

February 13, 2010, 9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Pyle Center

Linguists have estimated that fully half of the some six thousand languages currently spoken on our planet will be extinct by the end of the next century. In spite of this depressing statistic, however, some communities are bucking the trend, choosing to retain or even regain a language in the face of major pressures to abandon it. In the free public symposium "Language as Homeland," faculty from the University of Wisconsin will join with specialists from elsewhere in the US and Norway to explore the reasons and workings of language maintenance in contemporary indigenous and ethnic communities. Why do communities choose to retain a native language? What challenges do they face in doing so? What roles do governments play in facilitating or foiling these efforts? Speakers at the symposium are drawn from the UW's Scandinavian Studies, American Indian Studies, Folklore Studies, Jewish Studies, Linguistics, Language Institute, and Max Kade Institute for German American Studies.

*(Continued on page 6)*



### Inside this issue:

Department mourns Niels Ingwersen	2
Visiting Professor Kirsten Thisted	3
Memories of the Depart- ment by Harald Naess	4
Faculty/Staff Bios	5
Grad Student Bios	7
Report from Student in Bø	8
Scan   Design Grant	9
Department Picnic	9
New Courses for Spring 2010	10



## Department mourns the loss of Emeritus Professor Niels Ingwersen



**NIELS INGWERSEN**  
MAY 18, 1935 – NOVEMBER 14, 2009

Niels Ingwersen, age 74 passed away on Saturday, November 14, 2009, in the HospiceCare Center in Fitchburg, Wisconsin. Niels was born on May 18, 1935, in Horsens, Denmark, to Hans Henrik and Karen (Bach) Ingwersen. He studied Scandinavian literature at the University of Copenhagen, Stockholm University, and the University of Oslo, where he met an American student from Wyoming, Faith Boswell Sloniger, who was to be the love of his life. Faith and Niels were married in Tybjerg, Denmark in 1961. Together they moved to the United States to study at the University of Chicago, then to Madison, Wisconsin, where Niels was appointed to the Scandinavian Studies faculty at the University of Wisconsin in 1965. For almost forty years, Niels was a key faculty member at UW-Madison, serving several times as chair of Scandinavian Studies and Folklore as well as teaching thousands of students. He also served as visiting professor at the Universities of Odense and Aarhus in Denmark and at UCLA. Niels won several teaching awards for his popular courses on Scandinavian literature. A multimedia version of his class on Hans Christian Andersen had a record enrollment of over 800 students and was one of the first to be offered through the University of Wisconsin Extension on public television. Niels was the author of several scholarly works on Danish literature. In addition, he co-authored two works with his wife, Faith, on Martin A. Hansen and Martin Andersen Nexø. His last book, released in 2008,

was on narrative folklore. In 2009, *The Nordic Storyteller: Essays in Honor of Niels Ingwersen* was published in Cambridge, England. For his promotion of Danish literature and culture in the United States, Niels was knighted on February 7, 1997, with the Order of the Dannebrog, by Queen Margrethe II's representative. The Order, established in 1671, honors Danish citizens who have contributed to arts, sciences, and commerce. After his retirement in 2003, Niels and Faith began spending long summers outside Sheridan, where Faith had lived during her childhood on her family's ranch. The open skies and Western landscape held a special place in Niels's heart. Confirming his belief in participatory democracy, Niels became a United States citizen and cast his first presidential vote in the 2008 election. Niels is survived by his wife, Faith, in Madison; his brother, Jørn; nephew, Thomas; niece Bianca; and grand nephew, Magnus, in Denmark; as well as his sister-in-law, nieces and nephews in Colorado and Oregon, and countless friends on both sides of the Atlantic. Memorials may be gifted to the UW Foundation's "Faith and Niels Ingwersen Fund," US Bank Lockbox 78807, Milwaukee, WI 53278. The Fund supports the Department of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A memorial service will be held Saturday, December 5, 2009 at 1:30 PM at First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive, Madison, WI 53705.

Remembering Niels, a story by Ph.D. Candidate William Banks:

By the time I finally began my study here at Wisconsin at the age of 31, it is reasonable to say that I had developed an understanding of graduate school that, in all of its romantic grandeur, bordered on the absurd. That I had the opportunity to study under the tutelage of Niels Ingwersen would, in spite of the loftiness of my expectations, insure that I would in no way be disappointed; indeed, I can say in all honesty that matters have turned out even better than I ever could have hoped.

If I had to somehow reduce almost a decade of experiences to a mere capsule summary, I would doubtless return to the summer of 2004, when I was preparing for a year of study in Copenhagen. As is so often the case in such matters, bureaucratic snags had held up my admission to the University until the last minute, and the housing office had informed me that the prospects of acquiring a desirable room at such a late date were grim.

I was therefore rather taken aback when, only a week or so later, I received an entirely unsolicited letter of invitation from Regensen, the oldest and the most hidebound of the four original university residence halls, located in the old Latin Quarter in the very heart of the city. I had never really considered the possibility of the old kollegier; as far as I knew they were reserved for only the very top Danish students and required a long and involved application process.

Things became even more curious when, upon my arrival, I was installed in what I would later learn to be the very same room (above the Krystalgade gate facing in towards the courtyard) in which Niels had lived from 1955 until 1959. Not surprisingly, it did not at all take long for me to push my suspicions into the back of my mind; I was, after all, now a Regensen indflytter, and despite my relatively advanced age, there was some serious fun to be had.

I did not hear from Niels again until the end of October, when he sent me the following message:

When you are in the lasesal next time, please look at the bust of Hostrup; and if there is a small silver plaque on that bust—below his neck I assume—please let me know what it says.

The poet and playwright J.C. Hostrup, of course, had been one of Regensen's many famous sons back in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century; more importantly for us, his bust in the

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Visiting Fulbright Professor Kirsten Thisted

This semester, the Department is fortunate to have Visiting Fulbright Professor Kirsten Thisted. Kirsten Thisted comes from the University of Copenhagen,



where she is a member of the Department of Minority Studies.

Kirsten is teaching the course Greenland-Past, Present and Future and has given talks at the University as well as the Sons of Norway, Idun Lodge in Madison.

Her work focuses on Greenland; she started out studying the literature and culture of Greenland, specifically relating to oral traditions, but in more recent years she has focused on the political and cultural movements of Greenland and its situation as a post-colonial society within and outside the Danish realm.

Although Kirsten has always been somewhat interested in Greenland, she states that her interest in Greenland began when she was a child and she received a book about Greenlandic children. She was awestruck by the description of flowers blooming out of the snow, due to the short growing season. She says that she had also read about the Danish explorer of Greenland, Knud Rasmussen. Despite this interest, she did not focus on Greenland in the beginning of her studies.

Kirsten's studies at the University of Copenhagen, began with the study of Scandinavian Literature. During her Mag. Art.-degree, she studied and wrote on Holberg's antique comedians. While she was a student, she taught at the police academy high school. One semester, she taught a course on oral and written communication to students, who came from all over Denmark, as well as the Faroe Islands and Greenland. The students had to give presentations on various topics, one of which was a presentation on Greenlandic literature by a student from Greenland. The discussion of Greenlandic literature piqued Kirsten's interest, and she decided to learn more about it.

This task was not so easily achieved, as most literature from Greenland is not available in translation, so Kirsten had to learn Greenlandic before she could begin her studies. She moved to Greenland for a while and worked in a fish factory. This helped some, but it was still frustrating for her on two counts. First, Greenlandic is a polysynthetic language not at all related to Indo-European languages, like Danish. Second, she found that while she did learn some terminology while working at the factory, the scope of her learning was rather limited. When she came back to Denmark, she took language courses in Copenhagen at the Institute for Eskimology, which greatly helped her learning of West Greenlandic.

Kirsten continued her studies and completed her Ph.D., learning more Greenlandic in the process. After graduation, she was employed for three years at Ilisimatusarfik (The University of Greenland), which at the time was housed in an old Moravian mission. The university has now moved to a new campus and has grown somewhat, though many areas of study must be completed either in Denmark or elsewhere.

Kirsten says that she misses her time in Greenland dearly. She returns to Greenland on occasion to serve as an external examiner at the university, to teach courses or to conduct research. Since she has moved back to Denmark, she has also spent some summers in Greenland with her husband, Leif, who works as a pilot. She misses the people of Greenland, the food, and the sled dogs of Northern Greenland the most.

### Some Information about Greenland:

Name: Kalaalit Nunaat meaning, "Land of the Greenlanders"

Government: Autonomous Constituent Country within the Kingdom of Denmark

Flag: (Red and White)



Coat of Arms: (Blue and White)



Area: 2,166,086 sq km (410,449 sq km ice-free, 1,755,637 sq km ice-covered)

Population (as of 2000): 56,648; 15,047 in Nuuk; 47,000 in towns, 9,648 in settlements.

Greenlander 88% (Inuit and Greenland-born whites), Danish and others 12%.

Languages: Kalaallisut (Greenlandic) [Official]; Danish; English.

Greenlandic comprises three non-mutually intelligible dialects: Western Greenlandic (official dialect—used in education, government and media); Eastern Greenlandic; and Thule (Northern) Greenlandic.

### Important dates:

Middle Ages: Greenland first settled by Scandinavians. Although it is known that the Inuit had lived in Greenland during this time, it is unclear if and to what extent they interacted with the Scandinavians. At some point the Scandinavian settlements died out; the reason and date are unknown. The Inuit remained there.

1721: Godthåb (Nuuk) was settled by Danes. Greenland becomes a colony of Denmark.

1814: Norway becomes a part of the Swedish realm; Greenland remains a part of the Danish realm, despite protest from Norway.

1910-33: Knud Rasmussen explores arctic Greenland, especially Thule (Northern Greenland) and the passage where the Inuit live, from Greenland, through Canada and to Alaska.

1953: Greenland becomes a part of Denmark, losing its status as a colony.

1979: Greenland achieves Home Rule.

2009: Greenland achieves Self-Government.

## Memories of the Department (1959—1963) by Emeritus Professor Harald Naess

The Department of Scandinavian Studies is the oldest in the nation, founded in 1875 by Rasmus B. Anderson. He was followed in 1884 by Julius Olson, a very popular teacher who stayed on until 1931, when Einar Haugen took over. I first met Einar Haugen at Cambridge, England, in 1956, and, after six years at the University of Newcastle 1953-59, Ann Mari and I and our three children decided to move to Madison, where a job in Norwegian language and literature had been advertised. Einar Haugen, the best-known Scandinavian scholars in the U.S. at the time, went to California for a year, then worked in Madison for two years on a Norwegian-English dictionary, and in 1964 accepted the Victor S. Thomas Chair of Scandinavian and Linguistics at Harvard University.

The 1960s turned out to be a period of great expansion. Norwegian continued to be the major Scandinavian language, taught by myself and others from 1959 on. The teaching of Swedish was continued by Ingrid Clareus in 1959, and Danish was begun in 1961. Swedish literature was taught by Richard Vowles from 1960, and he was for many years chair of the Department of Comparative Literature. Icelandic had been taught sporadically in the past, but since 1966 courses were offered almost every year by Dick Ringler, who spent half of his time in the Department of English. Finnish language was a new subject taught by Kim Nilsson from 1965, and the same year saw the arrival of Niels Ingwersen, who taught Danish literature and who, like Dick Ringler, won prizes for excellency in teaching. Scandinavian history was taught by Peter Krosby from 1962-68, and, after he left for a position at the SUNY, by Pekka Hamalainen. Scandinavian music was taught by Professor Shetney of the School of Music. I was chair of the Department during the years 1959-60 and 1961-68, Dick Ringler 1968-71, and Kim Nilsson 1971-73. The Department was housed in Bascom Hall 1949-65,

then for two years in the Law Building, and from 1967 on the thirteenth floor of Van Hise Hall.

In the period from 1963 to 1973 the Scandinavian Studies Department was visited by 25 Scandinavian teachers and scholars. Best known among them were Sven Linner, later professor at Turku, Finland; Nils Hasselmo, later President of the University of Minnesota; Jørgen Elbek from Århus University, Denmark; Ronald Popperwell from Cambridge, England; John Wuorinen from Columbia University in New York; and Peter Hallberg from the University of Göteborg, Sweden.

During the early sixties summer courses were taught one year at Minnesota and the next year at Wisconsin. The Minnesota chairperson, Alrik Gustafson, asked me to give a course, not on Hamsun, whom I knew well, but on Lagerkvist—one of Gustafson's personal friends—which meant spending days and nights studying the Swedish novelist and poet. Still, I was young, and the students were all friendly. One of them wondered why I always wore the same tie. He did not know that we lived, wife, husband and three kids, in a tent in a Minnesota park. Our children spent time bathing in Lake Independence. We got to know a Dutch family with kids and visited them at their home in Minneapolis.

Dick and Karin Ringler invited Niels, Kim and myself to their place on Washington Island, and it led to summer courses been offered in the Icelander Thorarinsson's large boat house on the neighboring Rock Island. Niels and I began with a course on Ibsen's early plays (to people, it appeared, who had not heard of Ibsen); later, summer courses were offered there by Dick Ringler on Icelandic Sagas and by Dick Vowles on Scandinavian films. Ringler, Ingwersen and I also gave evening lectures in Wisconsin on various aspects of life in Scandinavia. Gradually, these talks were organized by Dean Howard Martin of the Extension Division. They were popular

lectures and we enjoyed giving them.

In 1963, 107 people were enrolled in Scandinavian courses, in 1971 the number had risen to 479, with 203 students in the popular survey course Scandinavian Life and Civilization. During Haugen's time at Wisconsin, a Ph.D. degree was awarded in 1962 to Lloyd Hustvedt of Saint Olaf College, Northfield, whose dissertation on Rasmus B. Anderson was published in 1966.

Not until the 1970s were new Ph.D. degrees in Scandinavian Studies awarded, Mary Kay Norseng (University of California, Los Angeles) in 1975; Virpi Zuck (University of Oregon) in 1976; Kathy Stokker (Luther College, Decorah) in 1978; and Jane Tammany (King Saud University, Riyadh) in 1979. In the 1980s and 1990s Ph.D. degrees were granted to Robyn Peterson (Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings, Montana) and Margaret O'Leary (St. Olaf College); in 1993 to Sarah Paulson (University of Trondheim); in 1996 to Ingrid Urberg (Augustana University, Camrose, Canada), and in 1997 to Dawn Tommerdahl (Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota).

Now and then there must have been some difficult moments, but I remember none of them from those 34 years at Madison. We were all good friends, thanks not least to our marvelous secretary, Judy Anderson. After leaving Madison I have published some volumes of Knut Hamsun's letters and, most recently, a 350-page volume explaining Latin and Greek plant names.



## Our Faculty and Staff



Julie Allen has been hard at work this past year on a book about the Danish literary critic Georg Brandes and the Danish silent film star Asta Nielsen, both of whom were among the most internationally famous Danes of the pre-World War II era. Her book examines the ways in which Brandes and Asta marketed a

modern Danish national identity to the world during the time that Denmark was struggling to develop and embrace that modern identity on the domestic front. In connection with this book project, Julie spent several weeks in Denmark this summer, at the Danish Film Institute and the Georg Brandes Archive. She anticipates completing the book and placing it with a publisher this year. Julie has also developed a new Honors course on Scandinavian Modern design and the societal changes that helped bring it about, which she is teaching this fall for the first time.

Judy Anderson is nearing 33 years working in the department. She has started yoga this year, enjoyed gardening in the summer and is the department compost queen. She traveled to the Dominican Republic last winter with her special friend, Brenda. She and John continue to enjoy the peaceful country living with their cats and dogs.



Susan Brantly stepped down as President of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study at the end of the annual meeting held in Madison this past May. The meeting was a logistical challenge, but a great success. She continues to be active as Director of the Bradley Learning Community and the Director of the Center for European Studies. The release of Niels Ingwersen's festskrift, *The Nordic Storyteller*, and the publication of her article on Sven Delblanc in *Comparative Literature* early in the year were causes of celebration. She was touched to be presented an Honored Instructors Award, a student-nominated award, by University Housing this past spring as well. Her trip to Sweden over the summer was most useful and refreshing. She is enjoying teaching Strindberg again this semester and looks forward to her course on Scandinavian Decadence in the spring.

Tom DuBois spent the spring semester on sabbatical. He saw the publication of his new book *An Introduction to Shamanism*, which came out in the *Religions of the World* series of Cambridge University Press. In addition to work on articles and another book project, Tom helped arrange the program for the 2009 SASS conference here in Madison and a special Sámi studies preconference held just before. He also worked hard to plan the Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI), which was held here this past summer with great success.



He is now busy working with the Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies to plan BALSSI 2010, which will offer even more courses and programming in the languages and cultures of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. He is enjoying his work as director of the Folklore Program and is busy teaching a course on Sámi as well as intensive Finnish.



Last spring Peggy Hager worked with UW's International Academic Programs to establish the International Summer School in Oslo as an official UW program. Although our university has been sending students to the Summer

School for many years, UW students may now more easily transfer credits and remain in residence when abroad. Peggy is also helping Madison independent film director Eric Nelson reach out to community groups in the Madison area. Last spring Eric Nelson showed his film *Fishin' for Tradition: The Saga of Lutefisk* at the Wisconsin Film Festival. Jim Leary and Peggy Hager are interviewed in the film. Peggy and Eric recently showed the film and led a discussion at Madison's Idun Lodge Sons of Norway Fish Boil. Other area groups who might be interested in a film showing and discussion may contact Peggy Hager (pehager@wisc.edu). Information about the film is available at <http://www.lutefiskmovie.com>

Jim Leary's "Nordic Legends in the New World: The Case of Big Erick Erickson" appeared in the 2009 edition of *Arv: Nordic Yearbook of Folklore*. He organized sessions in May on Finnish American politically radical and bawdy songs for SASS and for the Labor and Working Class History Association. Thanks to a summer fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, he continued work on "Folksongs of the Other America: Field Recordings from the Upper Midwest, 1937-1946," a multi-CD/book production. Leary presented "The Accordion and the Making of Working Class Culture Along Superior's South Shore" in September for the Sonderegger Symposium on Upper Peninsula Culture at Northern Michigan University. In November he traveled to Finland as an invited speaker for an event honoring Finnish American accordionist Viola Turpeinen. In addition, Leary continues to collaborate with grad students Anna Rue and Carrie Roy on a website devoted to Norwegian American Folk Music.



Scott Mellor has been continuing his work with undergraduate education, especially with first year students. The Freshman Interest Group (FIG) that he is teaching this fall includes an additional section for first-year Swedish thanks to a grant from the Swedish Institute. This new section has had the effect of raising our numbers in our first year classes, which he hopes will continue throughout all sections of Swedish in the future. The International Language floor, Norden, is stronger this year with 5 student thanks largely to a grant from the

## Our Faculty and Staff Continued

Barbro Osher foundation. Scott continues to teach courses in literature and folklore. On the research front, he spent some of the summer on Åland, an island between Sweden and Finland in the Baltic to work on a new project on the boat culture of that area. He will be delivered some of his findings at the American Folklore Society Conference in Boise, Idaho, this fall.



Since last year, Nete Schmidt has continued teaching Danish language (and culture) first through fourth semester, as well as being undergraduate majors adviser. At present, we have 40 undergraduate Scandinavian Majors. At SASS 2009, she presented a paper on the Danish author Svend Åge Madsen, and an article about two of his books is forthcoming in November. Her interest in Scandinavian science fiction and the crime story has led to a new 400-level course being offered in the spring called "Criminal Utopias," funded by the Scan|Design Foundation. The weekly Danish language table is going strong, and the Danish book-club is in its 3rd year with monthly meetings. This semester, she is teaching Danish and The Tales of Hans Christian Andersen.

Tanya Thresher began her sabbatical year by presenting a paper at the 12th International Ibsen Conference held at Fudan University in Shanghai, China. As this was the first time the conference was held outside the West, it offered a marvelous opportunity to meet colleagues that do not normally frequent the US circuit and to be reminded again of the global impact and relevance of Ibsen. Conference participants attended the Chinese premiere of *Lady from the Sea*, which was set in 1930s Shanghai as a musical, and heard of Ibsen's continued popularity in India, among other things. The cross-cultural exchange acted as a stimulus for further work on Ibsen's status as a world dramatist, something Professor Thresher hopes to investigate further when she visits India to give a lecture on Ibsen's women. In the meantime, she is enjoying working on her Ibsen and melodrama book and developing some new courses while in Dubai with her family.



Kirsten Wolf is in her third and, for the time being, last year as department chair. She continues her work on editions of some hitherto unedited hagiographical Old Norse-Icelandic texts and her studies of medieval Scandinavian color terminology. Last year, she signed a contract with Saga Forlag in Iceland to translate six of the Sagas of Icelanders into Danish; she has finished four of the translations and hopes to be done with the translation projects in early 2010. Kirsten spent a good portion of the summer of 2009 in Scandinavia, especially Denmark, where she did research in the Arnmagnaean Collection in Copenhagen. When she's not engaged in teaching, research, or meetings, she likes to play the piano or spend time with her daughter gardening, jogging, kayaking, skiing, and skating.

## Remembering Niels, cont.

(Continued from page 2)

reading room had long been a key player in the ongoing feud between ourselves and our rivals across Store Kannikestræde, Elers Kollegium. It seems that, back in his student days, Hostrup had briefly resided at Elers before treacherously decamping for Regensen. The Elers residents still to this day commemorate this act of betrayal by making off with Hostrup's head whenever opportunity presents itself.

Needless to say, I immediately made tracks for the reading room, quickly to discover the plaque, which reads: Skænket til Regensen af Niels Ingwersen

Could it be possible that Hostrup had been a gift from Niels? An emergency meeting of senior regensianere was called, dusty old archives were consulted, opinions varied from "impossible—this Ingwersen fellow is some kind of joker" to "maybe it really isn't all that old." In the end we decided that maybe it was more in the spirit of the place simply to let the matter rest. Leave it for future residents to puzzle over. And somehow, when Niels and Faith visited later

that year, I managed to resist the temptation to ask Niels if he had had anything to do with my improbable residential good fortune. I think, in the end, he preferred it that way.



Niels in the library at Regensen with bust in background.

## Language as Homeland, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

Together with eminent specialists invited from outside of the university, speakers will explore the workings of language maintenance or revival among speakers of New Norwegian, Sámi, Ojibwe, Hmong, Pennsylvania German, Yiddish, and other languages. They will explore the linguistic diversity of ethnic America and the ways in which communities find a sense of self, of place, of continuity, and of perseverance in the future of the languages they speak. The symposium is part of the UW's Year of the Humanities program and is free and open to the public. Please join us for all or part of this day-long event! For more information, see the symposium homepage at

[http://tadubois.com/Language\\_as\\_Homeland\\_Net\\_Folder/LanguageAsHomeland.htm](http://tadubois.com/Language_as_Homeland_Net_Folder/LanguageAsHomeland.htm)





## Graduate Students

### Jenny Aune:

I am a doctoral student in Old Norse and am writing my dissertation on Silence in the Sagas. I work in the English Department at Iowa State University where I teach introduction to literary study, composition classes, and honors seminars on the Vikings. I have earned several teaching awards, including an award for Excellence in Teaching First-Year Composition, and Collaborator and Outstanding Innovation Awards for Exemplary Contributions to Iowa State Learning Communities.

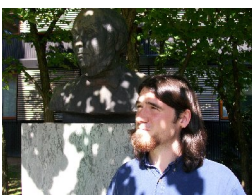


### William Banks

I am currently working toward the completion of my dissertation on the Danish kulturradikalismen movement and the foundation of the social welfare state. My latest contribution to the Søren Kierkegaard Forskningscenteret's series Sources, Reception and Resources, on J.P. Jacobsen, is scheduled to appear shortly. In December I will give a paper on Georg Brandes at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's In a Few Wor(l)ds: The World Literature/s Conference.

### Christopher Bishop

I am continuing my program at Madison while writing grant proposals for research in Uppsala, Sweden. This semester, my coursework balances Folklore and Old Norse through classes concerning the Sámi peoples of Northern Scandinavia and Paleography. I am still a Comm-B TA, but am newly assigned to the Masterpieces lecture.

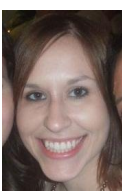


### Jackson Crawford

I am now a second-year PhD student on the philology track and plan to take my prelims in May. I spent the summer at the University of Oslo studying Landsmål/Nynorsk and improving my Norwegian generally. I am currently the resident graduate student language coordinator at Norden House.

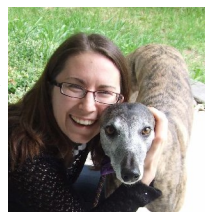
### John Eason

My name is John Eason and I am a doctoral candidate in Scandinavian Studies. My partner and I reside in Stockholm. I am currently working on a dissertation that explores the role "schlager" music and so-called "schlagerfestivals," i.e. Melodifestivalen and Eurovision Song Contest, play in gay Swedish culture and identity.



### Sara Fagen

I received my BA from the University of Texas at Austin in Scandinavian Studies. Currently I am a first year MA in Scandinavian Literature (highlighting Sweden). I am also working as a TA for the H.C. Andersen class.



### Susanne Fahn

As a freshly-baked Ph.D. candidate, I am excited to research how codicology can be used to reconstruct the history of Icelandic manuscripts containing Njáls saga, as well as the history of reading and reception. I also currently teach Modern Icelandic to a small, but very enthusiastic group of students.

### Randolph Ford

I took my MA exams this past spring and spent a quiet summer in Madison. I am currently working primarily with Snorri's Heimskringla—his use of necrologies and his descriptions of character and personality. This fall I am a TA for the Masterpieces course which has been great so far.



### Tim Frandy

After spending last year of fellowship conducting fieldwork for my dissertation in the Upper Midwest, I am teaching this semester, finishing up an article on Finnish-American IWW songs, and preparing to spend the next nine months in Rovaniemi, Finland. In Rovaniemi, I will be studying at the University of Lapland and interviewing Finnish and Sámi hunters, fishermen, and berrypickers.

### Mathew Holland

I received my B.A. in History with honors from the University of Oregon in 2006 and I am working towards an M.A. in Area Studies. Currently, I am studying at the University of Århus for a project that traces the history of sword-making technology throughout the Scandinavian Iron Ages.



### Todd Michelson-Ambelang

I took my preliminary exams in May and am currently working on my dissertation, which examines the conception and reception of mental and physical disability in Medieval Norway and Iceland through literary, linguistic and legal analyses. I am currently teaching first year Norwegian.

### Kjerstin Moody

I am a Ph.D. candidate in the department focusing on 20th century Swedish and Finnish poetry. This fall I'm teaching intermediate Swedish, and in October I presented a paper on Lars von Trier's film Dogville at the Foreign Language Film Conference at the University of Southern Illinois. This past summer I taught intensive beginning Swedish at the University of Illinois.

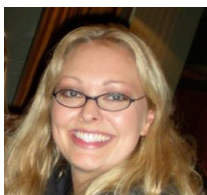




## Graduate Students Continued

### Ernest Rockwell

I am currently Professor of History and Government at New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs, NM. I will be wrapping up my PhD in August of 2010. So, needless to say, I am writing, writing, and writing in between the seven courses I teach each semester. No rest for the wicked.



### Carrie Roy

I am currently a Folklore 100 TA and excited to be working on my dissertation titled "Practical Fastenings of the Supernatural," which examines the intersection of creative processes (metalworking, woodworking, textile work) and the pre-Christian Nordic belief system. I have also enjoyed presenting at national and international conferences this year.

### Anna Rue

I am currently conducting research for my dissertation with the help of the Barbara Morgridge Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship. For two years I have been working with Professor Jim Leary on a Norwegian-American Folk Music Archive project. My dissertation will build on this work and will consider the ways in which ethnicity continues to be expressed through music.



### Jason Schroeder

I am in my second year now and my research interests have shifted to a focus on the Swedish ballads and how singers and audiences create meaning and relate narratives in ballads. I have also taken an interest in 19th-century Swedish Romantic literature. This semester I am teaching beginning Swedish.

### Natalie Van Deusen

I am a PhD dissertator working on a new edition of the Old Norse-Icelandic legend of Mary Magdalen and Martha. I am also the 2009-10 Birgit Baldwin Fellow, and am currently doing doctoral research at the Arnemagnæan Collection in Copenhagen, Denmark, where three of the manuscripts containing my legend are housed.



### Hilary Virtanen

Having completed coursework, I am Assistant Editor of the *Journal of Finnish Studies*, for which I'm planning a special issue with Jim Leary on music. As a Center for the Humanities HEX Scholar, I work with Nuestro Mundo Community School in Madison. I also teach intensive Finnish with Tom DuBois.



### Rachel Willson-Broyles

I am a Ph.D. student in Scandinavian Philology. My focus is modern Swedish, linguistics, and literary translation. This semester I am excited to be teaching the first-semester Swedish portion of the Freshman Interest Group "The World of the Vikings." I'm also teaching fifth-semester Swedish and preparing for my preliminary exam.

### Ayako Yoshimura

I am a candidate for a special committee PhD in folklore, focusing on material culture and East Asia. I have been working as a PA in Memorial Library since January to develop the Japanese Studies collection, and it may sound as though I am completely detached from Scandinavian folklore, but not to worry—my new colleagues, John Dillon and Julianne Haahr, make sure that I keep up with it.



## Student at Høgskolen i Bø, Telemark – Thanks to Support from Sons of Norway, Idun Lodge

My name is Anjuli Brekke, and because of the generous support of the Sons of Norway, Idun Lodge Scholarship I have been able to study abroad in Norway for the year. My semester at Bø College in Telemark is in full swing, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience here thus far. I am not only polishing my Norwegian in the classroom, but am also gaining fluency by speaking with my new Norwegian friends here in Bø.

I have also been immersed in the beautiful nature of the Telemark region. One of the classes I have chosen involves excursions into the Norwegian wilderness. Although the excursions seemed a bit intense at first, the rush when standing on top of a mountain you just scaled is unparalleled, and well worth the rigorous climb. I would like to thank Sons of Norway again for allowing me to participate in this enriching and unique experience.



Anjuli Brekke (right) and friend in Norway



## Danish Teaching Grant from the Scan | Design Foundation

In August 2009, the Scandinavian Studies Department was awarded a generous grant from the Seattle-based Scan | Design Foundation to support the teaching of Danish-related courses at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Scan | Design Foundation board of directors awarded us a one-time grant of \$22,428 to fund two semesters of Danish literature courses during the 2009-2011 academic years. The grant will fund the teaching of a new literature course, *Criminal Utopias*, taught by Senior Lecturer Nete Schmidt, during Spring Semester 2010 and 2011, which will be a welcome and much-needed addition to our current course offerings in the area of Danish studies.

The Scan | Design Foundation is the legacy of two Danish immigrants, Jens Bruun and Inger Berg, who were married in Denmark in 1957 and emigrated to Washington state in 1961, settling in Bellevue, where they opened the first Scan | Design furniture store in 1964. Thanks to the tremendous popularity of Scandinavian modern furniture in mid-20<sup>th</sup> century America, Scan | Design grew into a chain of stores in Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii over the course of

the 1970s and 80s. Jens and Inger leveraged their retail success into opportunities for strengthening Danish-American relations. They were very active in the Rebuild Foundation, which hosts an annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration in Rebuild, Denmark. In 1971, they inaugurated an internship program in collaboration with the American-Scandinavian Foundation, that allowed Danish students to come to Seattle as interns to work in the Scan | Design stores and become familiar with the American way of life. Between 1971 and 2001, a total of 147 Danish interns participated in this program. Jens became increasingly involved in furniture manufacturing as well, purchasing the Danish furniture maker Trekanten in 1992. He also realized a lifelong dream of opening a furniture store in Denmark with the inauguration of a Scan | Design store in Aalborg in 2000. Inger died in 1987 in Seattle and was buried in Denmark, while Jens died in Aalborg in 2002.

Shortly before his death, Jens established the Inger & Jens Bruun Scan | Design Foundation, with two major aims: supporting pain research and promoting Danish-American

relations. Jens became interested in pain research in Aalborg in 2000 and decided to dedicate part of his fortune to supporting both clinical and basic science research aimed at understanding and alleviating pain, offering scholarships and internships in collaboration with the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP). Cross-cultural understanding between Denmark and America was one of the couple's lifelong interests; the Scan | Design Foundation supports a wide variety of civic, cultural, community-, and university-based programs designed to create opportunities for Danes and Americans to learn more about each other's cultures. Under the leadership of Director Mark Schleck, the Scan | Design Foundation has been awarding grants to universities in support of Danish studies since 2004, primarily to the University of Washington and Portland State University, but this grant to the University of Wisconsin marks the Foundation's decision to extend the same generous support to the oldest Scandinavian Studies department in the United States. More information on the foundation and its work can be

found on the Scan | Design Foundation website,

[www.scandesignfoundation.org](http://www.scandesignfoundation.org)

The Scan | Design grant is a wonderful boon to the department, especially during these times of financial hardship, and the Department of Scandinavian Studies wishes to extend its warmest thanks to the Scan | Design Foundation for this generous support, which we hope will be just the beginning of a long and mutually-beneficial relationship between our two institutions.



Inger Berg and Jens Bruun, founders of Scan | Design

## Departmental Picnic



The Scandinavian Studies Department started the new fall semester with its annual departmental picnic. Faculty and staff together with their families and partners enjoyed the beautiful weather on Saturday, September 12, at Westmoreland Park on the near west side of Madison.



The social gathering offered the perfect opportunity to welcome visiting professor Kirsten Thisted and new graduate student Sara Fagen. Susan Brantly and Scott Mellor kindly prepared brats and vegetarian sausages, and everyone brought along delicious side dishes and desserts. The buffet offered everything from as-



## Nordic Studies

Dept. of Scandinavian Studies  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
1306 Van Hise Hall  
1220 Linden Drive  
Madison, WI 53706

Phone: 608-262-2090  
Fax: 608-262-9417  
E-mail: [jlender3@wisc.edu](mailto:jlender3@wisc.edu)  
[www.scandinavian.wisc.edu](http://www.scandinavian.wisc.edu)

Department of Scandinavian Studies  
The University of Wisconsin-Madison

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 658  
Madison, WI



## Departmental Picnic



sorted  
cheeses and  
crackers to  
home-made  
mustard,  
cole slaw,  
salads,  
cakes, and

fruits. Good conversation on a variety of topics accompanied the meal, and a lovely time was had by all who attended.

(Thanks to Elly  
Fine for the  
pictures.)



**Annual Gløgg Party**  
**Thursday, December 17**  
**at 4:30 PM**  
**1418 Van Hise**



## New Courses offered in Spring 2010

### Criminal Utopias (Scan St 436/ LitTran 324):

Past decades have seen a steady rise in the production of especially Scandinavian crime novels and films, and the science fiction genre, as well as the related fantasy genre, has also become better represented in the company of what has traditionally been labeled “good and valuable literature.” The Scandinavian region is a peaceful part of the world, but it is also home to excellent science and crime fiction authors, whose writings are based on and question the concept of the welfare state. Science and crime fiction offer excellent opportunities to discuss the personal identities, beliefs, world-views, and ethical values of individuals and societies while relating them to our own existence. The theoretical background will involve British and American texts, providing a historical perspective on the genres.

### Nynorsk (Scan St 405):

The two written languages of Norway, Nynorsk and Bokmål, have long been pitted one against the other, as to which is the more “authentic” and correct form of Norwegian. In “Nynorsk språk og kultur” we will investigate the historical, political and linguistic factors that made Nynorsk/Landsmål what it was and continues to be in the present. We will investigate Nynorsk poetry and prose and look into whether or not some genres of literature are better suited for Nynorsk. We will explore dialectic changes and how to translate or convert from one language to the other. We will look at the use of dialect in both Nynorsk and Bokmål, the idea of the *snakk* dialect, *skriv nynorsk* movement, the idea of *Samnorsk*, and what the future holds for these languages.



Editors: Kirsten Wolf, Julie Allen, Susanne Fahn, Hilary Virtanen,  
Rachel Wilson-Broyles, & Todd Michelson-Ambelang