

NEWSLETTER

Department of Scandinavian Studies

University of Wisconsin–Madison

A Message from the Chair, Professor Kirsten Wolf

FALL 2012

Contents

	Modern Icelandic Course	3
	Norwegian Heritage Speakers	3
	Graduate Students and Faculty Stories	4-7
	Thanks to Our Generous Donors	8
	Jim's Semester in Iceland	9
	Roald Amundsen Exhibit in Madison	10
	Undergrads Interact with Scandinavians	11



Everybody Loves Judy!

For more than three decades, 1306 Van Hise Hall has been the weekday home of Judy Anderson, but at the end of December 2012, she will pack up all of her photos, ceramic cats, trolls, and treats and set out for a new adventure as an emerita Scandinavian Studies department administrator. Even though Judy's is the most widely-recognized face (and voice) in the department, the occasion of her retirement warrants a brief look back over her many years of devoted service to the students and employees of the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Judy grew up across the lake in Monona, then attended Madison Area Technical College, where she studied secretarial science and met her life partner John Herman. After graduating in 1970, she

Continued on next page

Everybody Loves Judy, continued.

worked in downtown Madison at the Department of Health and Human Services for five years before joining the university community at the English department in 1975. The work was enjoyable, but when the position of department administrator at the Department of Scandinavian Studies opened up in late 1976, Judy jumped at the chance to secure what Barb Hornick in L&S Personnel called “the best job on campus.”

In December 1976, Judy got the job (and the office in Van Hise, with its phenomenal view of both lakes and the Capitol, as well as Air Force One taking off from Dane County Airport), but it was a challenge in many ways. Mrs. Violet Nielsen retired in 1976 after 13 years of running the department smoothly and well, leaving a high standard for Judy to live up to. There was no end to the new procedures she needed to juggle, including mimeography, payroll, budget, timetable, and lots of typing. Fortunately, Judy had a very supportive group of faculty members to help her learn the ropes: Dick Ringle, Kim Nilsson, Harald Næss, Ingrid Clareus, Dick Vowles, and Niels Ingwersen, as well as many delightful students who became friends, including Linda Tellburg, Donna Palomaki, Robyn Peterson, and Brian Magnusson. She has also had the benefit of developing close friendships with many of her peer administrators in Van Hise, including Jackie Drummy in Linguistics and Jane Roberts in Slavic. Their friendship has grown far beyond the confines of Van Hise Hall, stretching all the way to girls’ vacations in northern Wisconsin. She’s been privy to lots of adventures and scandals, from the department retreats at Lost Lake to Sue and Scott’s courtship.

The decades have flown by in Judy’s lofty chamber high in Van Hise tower, but there have been many changes to mark their passing. Aside from the constant construction changing the face of the city outside Judy’s windows, one of the things that has changed the most over the 36 years Judy has been steering the departmental ship is the role of technology in her work. When Judy first started in her position, most of the faculty spent the majority of their time in their offices, so there were always people around the 13th floor. With the increasing

ubiquity of computers and telecommuting, however, the corridors have fallen silent and most communication takes place virtually. Especially during the summer, entire days go by without any members of the department, student or staff, showing their face on campus. More permanent changes in the makeup of the department have also taken place all around Judy, while she has remained the only constant element. In addition to the constant ebb and flow of the undergraduate and graduate student population of the department, the entire faculty and staff contingent has been replaced on Judy’s watch. Susan Brantly became the first new member of the department when she replaced both Dick Vowles and Ingrid Clareus in 1987, followed by the retirements in quick succession of Harald Næss in 1991, Kim Nilsson in 1996, and Dick Ringle in 2000, and the subsequent hiring of Tanya Thresher, Tom DuBois, and Kirsten Wolf. Scott Mellor, Peggy Hager, Jim Leary, and Nete Schmidt each placed their formidable talents in the service of the department over the years, with Julie Allen rounding out the new cast in 2006 after Niels Ingwersen’s retirement.

Now it is Judy’s turn to blaze new paths into post-UW life. She lives in the town of Cross Plains, between Verona and Mount Horeb, in an old farmhouse that she and John inherited from his father, so there is plenty of beauty beckoning her to explore and admire. She’s already got lots to do taking care of her own four cats—Iris, Munchie Turtle, Bug, and Miss Kitty—as well as her rat terrier Jill and her late neighbor Lorna’s six cats, but she plans on ramping up her volunteer work with the Red Cross and other groups, as well as reconnecting with her family and dear friends all around the world, from California to Jamaica to Norway. She won’t miss the inscrutable and unending bureaucratic work of her job, especially the semiannual battle with the timetable, but she will certainly miss her second home in Van Hise and the autonomy, respect, and affirmation that she has enjoyed here. We will miss her too!



Six of the seven current students of Modern Icelandic

Students Partake in Modern Icelandic Language Course This Year

Modern Icelandic is offered irregularly at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This Fall semester, eight students are enrolled in the class, which Susanne Arthur is teaching.

Some have previous experience with Scandinavian languages, while others are new to this language group. Icelandic is certainly not an easy language due to its complex grammar and vocabulary, but the students are enthusiastic and not only learn a fascinating and beautiful language and about the history and culture of Iceland, but also grow closer as a group.

The course addresses and incorporates all four language skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) and students practice what they've learned in small groups, for example, in conversation exercises or interactive games. The students also get to watch short Icelandic comedy skits or try Icelandic food, such as Icelandic pancakes, dried fish, and Icelandic Christmas dishes.

In the Spring, PhD Student Colin Connors will take over the class, which meets three times a week.

The Norwegian-Speaking Heritage of the Upper Midwest

Hixton, Wisconsin is not a big town. But head up I-94 towards the Twin Cities and you'll pass right by it. If you happen to stop, head over to the Blue Collar Café. The food is good, the service better, and the handmade jams? Amazing. But David Natvig and Marcus Cederström didn't head to Hixton for jam. They made the drive to meet up with a team of researchers from Norway.

The researchers had been traveling around the Upper Midwest recording and preserving the speech of American-born Norwegian and Swedish speakers. David and Marcus were invited along to be a part of the fieldwork and took an active role in interviewing, recording, and documenting the speech of two American-born Norwegian speakers.

David and Marcus are both graduate students in the department, although David is a linguist and Marcus a folklorist. Their research interests often coincide when working with Scandinavian Americans in the Upper Midwest. The two are currently working on separate projects exploring the maintenance of dialect and folkways in the region and are in the process of organizing future trips to Hixton to continue their fieldwork.

The two are especially interested in interviewing speakers who were born in the US and grew up speaking one of the Scandinavian languages in the home. They are looking for volunteers willing to be recorded while speaking one of the Scandinavian languages. If you are interested in volunteering, or know someone who might be, feel free to contact either one of them.

Participants will be given a copy of the recording upon request as well as any subsequent published research.

Volunteers interested in learning more or assisting in this project should write to:

Marcus Cederström (cederstrom@wisc.edu) or David Natvig (danatvig@wisc.edu) or send a letter C/O The University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Scandinavian Studies, 1220 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706. The two can also be reached online through the Scandinavian Studies Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ScandinavianStudiesUWMadison

Faculty and Staff Updates



Julie Allen – 2011-12 was an exciting year for Julie Allen, not least because she was awarded tenure by the university in December 2011. That hasn't meant, however, that she's been able to slow down, either in terms of teaching or publications. Her book, *Icons of Danish Modernity: Georg Brandes & Asta Nielsen*, is being published by the University of Washington Press and will be released on December 1, 2012. It would make a great gift for anyone interested in Scandinavia! She's already busy working on her next book, which looks at how Danish cultural media treated the issue of religious freedom in the mid-to-late-19th century, particularly with regard to the arrival and proselyting activity of the Mormons after 1850. She's teaching a new FIG this fall, with her course on Scandinavian Heritage in America as the core course, and having a great time exploring the mysteries of Scandinavian-American humor and food with her students.



Judy Anderson – Judy had a quiet year, enjoyed researching Wisconsin's and Upper Michigan's northwoods country, biking in Bayfield and Washburn and hearing music at Big Top Chatauqua. Visited southern Virginia, exploring walking trails and historical sites. Her animal companion family became a bit smaller and thus the house is quieter.



Susan Brantly – The anniversaries of both August Strindberg and Karen Blixen have kept Susan Brantly busy this year. She received a grant from the Swedish Institute to support collaborative work on a web site for the Cutting Ball Theater in San Francisco, which is currently performing all five of Strindberg's Chamber Plays. (<http://Strindberg.CuttingBall.com>) For the web site, Tim Cochrane annotated Paul Walsh's new translations and Susan contributed an essay on Strindberg and food. In early September, Susan flew to Copenhagen to attend a Karen Blixen symposium, which resulted in a brief appearance on Danish television. The big question they seemed to want answered was: "Was Karen Blixen a racist?" Answer: "Yes and No," although it appears that only the "Yes" made it on air. Now, Susan is bracing herself to take

over as editor of *Scandinavian Studies* which will be returning to Madison after over twenty years in the capable hands of Steven Sondrup at BYU.



Thomas DuBois – Tom DuBois spent the past year collaborating on various projects. Together with Sámi linguist Mikael Svonni, he published the first-ever direct English translation of Johan Turi's *Muitalus sámii birra, An Account of the Sámi*. Turi's book was the first book ever written in Sámi language and is a classic of Sámi studies. Together with Danish co-editor Dan Ringgaard, he worked on a literary history of the representation of place in Nordic literature. Together with co-editor and colleague Jim Leary, he worked on four issues of the *Journal of American Folklore*. Together with SASS president Mark Sandberg, he worked to move *Scandinavian Studies*, the flagship journal of the field, from BYU to the University of Illinois Press. And together with his sons Conor and Brendan, he conducted fieldwork in Norway, Finland, Ireland, and England concerning the culture of pilgrimage in contemporary Europe.



Peggy Hager – This summer Peggy Hager spent the summer in Grimstad, Norway with students and faculty from UW-School of Engineering (see separate article). Last April she had the pleasure of hosting Assistant Professor Tone Reiten from our study abroad program at Bø Telemark College. Reiten lectured on the topic of the concept of 'Friluftsliv' in Norway. We hosted a reunion of former Bø participants some of whom traveled from outside of Madison to visit. Tim Moore (Consular of Public Affairs with the American Embassy in Oslo) visited campus in August to discuss our international student exchanges. In October Madison hosted the traveling poster exhibit of Roald Amundsen on loan from the Fram museum in Oslo and sponsored by the Norwegian Embassy in Washington D.C. Peggy organized a lecture series on Norwegian exploration to coincide with the exhibit. Finally, she was able to accomplish a long-term goal - hike to the top of Norway's spectacular 'Preikestolen' in beautiful, clear summer weather.



Jim Leary – Jim Leary is in Reykjavik this fall as a Fulbright fellow, teaching two courses in the Folkloristics and Ethnology Department at the University of Iceland, one involving digital documentation of workers' cultures for an Icelandic radio series. At the invitation of the Folklore Society of Iceland he'll give a talk at the National Museum on "Laborlore: American and Icelandic Perspectives." Jim was in Tartu in June presenting research on a legendary Norwegian immigrant lumberjack for the Nordic-Baltic-Celtic Folklore Symposium; his essay "Impersonating Ole and Lena in the 21st Century" will appear this fall in *American Studies in Scandinavia*, and he has a contract with UW Press to complete a multi-CD/DVD/book project--*Folksongs of Another America: Field Recordings of the Upper Midwest, 1937-1946*--that includes Danish, Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish, and especially Finnish immigrant songs and singers. Lately he's been seen sampling rotting shark meat, sheep's head, bacalao stew, and brennevin.



Scott Mellor – Scott Mellor continues to work with the first year dorm at Bradley, the International Learning community (ILC) with the Language floor Norden, and to teach the First year Interest Group (FIG) on the world of the Vikings. Getting first year students started down the right path for their college careers is something that he values highly. Scott is looking into the possibilities of a study abroad session in January 2014 for the students who take the FIG. This would mean two week in Stockholm after the FIG in the fall semester. He is also trying to integrate a research experience for first year students with visualization of texts as a new way of viewing narrative. Though papers will no doubt remain the bread and butter of the learning experience for the humanities, incorporating this more empirical/data driven type of research may help students bound for non-humanities majors to explore the literature in a way more meaningful to them.



Nete Schmidt – This semester, Nete Schmidt continues teaching first and second year Danish with students in the first year class involved in the new Danish FIG. She is also teaching The Tales of Hans Christian

Andersen assisted by Todd Michelson-Ambelang and Jessica Gross as CommB TA's. During the summer, she participated in the annual Seminar for Danish Lecturers Abroad. For this group of academics she writes and edits a monthly Newsletter and is webmaster of www.danskektor.dk. As Undergraduate Majors advisor, she saw 13 students graduate this spring, so she is working on adding more Scandinavian Majors to the Department! Her current research focuses on the role of women in Scandinavian crime fiction. She will be presenting on the topic at the annual SASS conference in April and teaching Criminal Utopias in the spring. She is the Activities Coordinator for the Scan Design Foundation in Madison and enjoying the large number of Danish exchange students.



Kirsten Wolf - Kirsten continues to serve as department chair. This semester, she is teaching Introduction to Scandinavian Languages and advising one M.A. student and six dissertators. Her book, *The Legends of the Saints in Old Norse Prose*, has been accepted for publication by the University of Toronto Press and is scheduled to appear in early 2013, and she has now embarked on another large project, tentatively entitled "A Handbook for Priests from Medieval Iceland: AM 672 4to in The Arnarnaganaean Collection, Copenhagen." In August, Kirsten presented a paper on gestures in the Sagas and Tales of Icelanders at The 15th International Saga Conference at the University of Aarhus. Otherwise, she spent the summer months in Madison and was able to complete an article on "Grímur Thorkelin, Rasmus Rask, and the Origins of Philology" and an edition of two exempla in a AM 629 4to, an Icelandic miscellany of religious literature from 1697.



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!

Graduate Student Updates



Susanne Arthur – After research trips to Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, and Great Britain for my dissertation, I am now concentrating on finishing up my Ph.D. thesis. I am also excited to be teaching Modern Icelandic again this Fall semester and hope that our baby (due Dec. 23) will wait to be born until I'm done grading.



William Banks – I am currently a guest researcher at Aarhus University, completing my dissertation on the kulturradikal movement in interwar Denmark, with plans for a January defense, after which I will begin a new project, involving the translation and annotation of Gerog Brandes' collected writings on undertrykte folkslag.



Marit Barkve – I am pursuing my Masters in Scandinavian Studies, Area Studies track. This summer, I took the course “Gender Equality in the Nordic Countries” through the International Summer School at the University of Oslo. I am currently working on completing my Masters coursework and writing my thesis.



Christopher Bishop – I am currently working full time on my dissertation, supported by the incredibly generous Barbara Morgridge Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship. At the end of October, I look forward to presenting some of my work concerning Uppsala's festive occupational student clothing at the annual American Folklore Society conference in New Orleans.



Marcus Cederström – I received my MA this past spring and have begun my PhD coursework this fall. I've had two articles about Scandinavian-American identity accepted for publication this year, and spent the past summer, once again, attempting to learn Danish in Denmark with varying degrees of success.



Tim Cochrane - I've had an exciting year. Over the summer, I had the opportunity to work with the Cutting Ball Theater to annotate Strindberg's Chamber Plays and spent a lot of time immersing myself in various critiques of Strindberg, along with research into his lesser-known plays. I've also learned to play säckpipa.



Colin Connors - I am excited to join the department this semester as a PhD student on the folklore track. I am currently teaching Comm B for Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature, and looking forward to hopefully teaching Icelandic Language in the spring. Thank you to everyone for helping me find my sea legs.



Jackson Crawford - I continue to teach Old Norse, Norwegian, and classes on medieval Scandinavian literature and culture at the University of California, Los Angeles, where I was hired as a lecturer in 2011. I have also started publishing this year with a book review in *NLT* and an article in *ANF*.



Tim Frandy – I am in the final stages of dissertation writing, and recently completed articles on ethnographic video games (with Carrie Roy), indigenous sustainability, and the Wisconsin Uprising. I also received an Engage grant for integrated situated learning into my classroom, and a Public Humanities Exchange Grant for developing university-community partnerships.



Aaron Kahn - I'm a graduate student entering my third year in the Scandinavian Studies and History departments. My research focuses on the history of Sweden in the twentieth century and the intersection between literature, popular culture and politics. I am also the program coordinator for our residential immersion program Norden House.



Olivia Lasky - I am a second year MA student continuing my studies of Sámi language and culture. I spent the summer in Norway thanks to the FLAS Fellowship, and had the opportunity to visit Sápmi for the first time. I hope to complete my master's in May and find my way back to Northern Norway!



Todd Michelson-Ambelang – I am back in the US after a year in Denmark and Germany. I am currently a TA for HCA and writing my dissertation on the concept of disability in saga literature. I am excited to start a position as Bibliographer for Scandinavian Humanities and Classics in Memorial Library in January 2013.



Paul Natiw - This is my first semester here as a dissertator and I am working on creating a new first year textbook for American students of Swedish as well as with my dissertation coming up with a study to measure the effectiveness of vocabulary acquisition in first year vocabulary activities.



David Natvig - I received my BA in Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies from UW-Madison in 2005 and I am now an MA candidate in the field of Scandinavian Philology. I am currently writing my Master's Thesis on the syntax of adjective incorporation in the Norwegian dialect in Trøndelag.



Anna Rue – I am a Ph.D. candidate in the Folklore track of Scandinavian Studies and am currently working as the editorial assistant of the Journal of American Folklore. My interests include a variety of topics relating to Norwegian-American folklore, namely folk music, material culture, identity and festivals/celebrations.



Jason Schroeder - I am in Sweden this year, living in Märsta. My project is looking at the connections between nationalism and folksong collection and publications in the 1800s. I've been sponsored by Stockholm

and Uppsala universities and exploring various archives all around the land. Over the summer, I biked to Canada.



Hilary Virtanen – I am in my second year at Finlandia University in Michigan, and am piloting a freshman experience course and helping plan FinnFest 2013. I published a chapter on St. Urho, helped coordinate a Road Scholar program, and am presenting research at FinnFest 2012. I am also up to my neck in my dissertation too.



Rachel Willson-Broyles – I'm a Ph.D. candidate in the department. I'm planning to finish my dissertation by May, and after that I will work full time as a freelance translator. This year, in addition to writing my dissertation, I am teaching second-year Swedish and working on lots of exciting literary translations!

Departmental Picnic Kicks off the New Academic Year

The Scandinavian Studies department picnic was held on a sunny and gorgeous Saturday afternoon at Westmoreland Park. As usual, it was potluck style, with many delicious (and quite a few vegetarian and vegan) salads, sides, and desserts to accompany the main course. For the first time, the brats and veggie brats were grilled on-site and we would particularly like to thank our grill-masters, Marcus Cederström and David Natvig, for their excellent job. The picnic was a wonderful gathering of department members new and old and their families and a memorable, entertaining and perfect start of the school year.



Thank You to Our Generous Donors!

Our sincere thanks to the many alumni and friends who have generously supported the University of Wisconsin's Department of Scandinavian Studies. Private gifts are increasingly critical to ensuring that the department maintains its stature as one of the nation's best Scandinavian Studies programs. Your donations help us attract top faculty and graduate students, support promising undergraduate majors, and host a stimulating series of lectures, symposia and other scholarly activities. Gifts of any size are most welcome and gratefully received.

Giving Options: If you wish to contribute online, you may do so by heading over to the University Foundation at <http://www.supportuw.org/>. We thank you!

If you wish to direct your gift to a specific fund, be sure to specify the fund in the field provided on the online form. Unspecified funds will be deposited into the Centennial Fund. A short list of Scandinavian Department funds can be found below.

If you prefer to make your gift to this or any other fund by check, please make your check payable to the University of Wisconsin Foundation/Department of Scandinavian Studies, and send it to the University of Wisconsin Foundation, US Bank Lockbox, PO Box 78807, Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807

For more information on making a gift of securities or including the Department of Scandinavian Studies in your estate plans, please contact:

Ann Dingman
University of Wisconsin Foundation
1848 University Avenue,
PO Box 8860
Madison, WI 53708-8860
ann.dingman@uwfoundation.wisc.edu

If you'd like to direct a donation to a specific fund, there are several scholarship funds at the University, which support students of Scandinavian Studies. Selected Funds: The Birgit Baldwin Fund; The Faith and Niels Ingwersen Fund; The Cullander – Raoul Wallenberg Fund; Hazel and Edward Barckhan Fund; Grace and William Larsen Memorial Fund; The Ann Mari and Harald Naess Fund; Scandinavian Studies Centennial Fund; Ygdrasil Fund for Norwegian Culture.

Thank you for your continued support!

The Scandinavian Studies Department prides itself on its job placement for students in both academic and non-academic jobs. In order to continue to develop that successful track record, the Department has begun creating a Professional Development portal online at scandinavian.wisc.edu/. This online portal will provide professional development information, materials, and job and internship opportunities to be found on and off campus while aggregating and communicating that information for students and faculty in the department. And we want your help.

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

Thank you for your continued support of the oldest (and, in our humble opinion, best) Scandinavian Studies department in the nation!

Jim Leary, Visiting Professor in Iceland

As my plane landed in August I wondered what have I gotten myself into as a visiting Fulbright professor for the fall semester in the Department of Folkloristics and Ethnology at the University of Iceland. I would have to adjust quickly to new living/working situations, develop an entirely new course on American Folk Music for a "blended" clientele of in-class and distance students, as well as teach a project-oriented class on public folklore without an established network of partners and institutions.



Riders at the Horse Roundup in Skagafjörður

Nearly three months later, almost magically, all is well.

My undergraduate music students, whether in Reykjavik or up north in Akureyri, are doing exciting fieldwork projects on topics ranging from the transformation of African American slave songs into Icelandic sailors songs, to the decades-old adaptation of hillbilly tunes by Baptist hymn singers from the Westman Islands, to the emergence of Icelandic punk rock. As new research relevant to Icelandic ethnomusicologists and folklorists, the student projects will form a collection amidst the folklore holdings of the Árni Magnússon Institute.

Graduate students in my public folklore course have conducted interviews and made photographs in high quality digital formats focusing on Icelandic workers in established and newer trades that include immigrant workers. Our documentation forms the Public Folklore-Workers Culture collection in the National Oral History Archives, and will also result in three public programs: a thirty minute show, in Icelandic, for Icelandic radio; an event at Hannesarholt (an Icelandic culture center run by a UW alumnus and friend of Dick Ringler); and a website, Laborlore: The Cultural Traditions of Icelandic Workers, <http://knitbird.com/folklore/>

With the curator of the Sorcerer's Cottage near Hólmavík



My own fieldwork for the public folklore course has focused on masons whose skills with stone, tile, and concrete result in distinctive residences built in Reykjavik over the past century. Several come from families who have been in the trade for generations, and their experiences and traditions combine extensions of ancient rural craftsmanship with narrative patterns and customary practices common to the building trades internationally.

Students and colleagues here--especially Terry Gunnell, Valdimar Hafstein, Kristín Einarsdóttir, and Kristinn Schram--are great to work with. Thanks to them, I have been able to hang out in the sorting pens at the horse roundup at Skagafjörður; drink brennivín and eat hákarl (rotten shark meat) in the Snæfellsnes area with its main processor, Hildibrandur Bjarnason; experience the sorcery museum at Hólmavík; traverse the Golden Circle; roam the Þórsmörk glacial valley; and much more.



Pröstur Eggertson, master concrete mason, with a lamp he made during break time on the Hannesarholt job site, Reykjavik.



Hildibrandur Bjarnason and his rotten shark meat at Bjarnahöfn.

Roald Amundsen Exhibit and Discussion in Madison

Since last December, the department has been involved in several events celebrating the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen's successful expedition to the South Pole in 1911. In October, UW-Madison had the pleasure of hosting the popular exhibit *Cold Recall: Reflections of a Polar Explorer* at the Pyle Center. The traveling poster exhibit presented images and accompanying texts from Amundsen's 1910-1912 expedition to the South Pole. The race to reach the South Pole captivated people at the turn of the 20th century. Amundsen reached the South Pole on December 14th, 1911 a few weeks ahead of Englishman Robert Falcon Scott.

The exhibit featured a collection of approximately 48 posters made from hand-colored lanternslides taken by Amundsen crewmember Olav Bjaaland during the expedition. Amundsen's own photographs were damaged, but the accompanying texts on the posters stem from Amundsen's diaries. The posters tell a compelling story of a journey that captivated the world at a time when the poles represented the last remnants of the unexplored earth. The exhibit captures in simple and understated prose the emotions of Amundsen and his crew when they planted the Norwegian flag on December 14th, 1911, "Calm, so calm stretched the mighty plateau before us, unseen and untrod by the foot of man. No sign or mark in any direction. It was undeniably a moment of solemnity when all of us with our hand on the flag-staff planted the colours of our country on the geographical South Pole, on King Haakon the 7th Plateau."

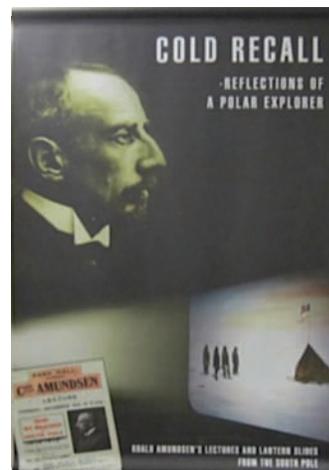
The exhibit was created by and is on loan from the *Fram Museum* in Oslo, Norway and has been touring the US in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Amundsen's expedition. The Madison exhibit was the only showing in Wisconsin. The exhibit is funded by the *Fram Museum* and the *Royal Norwegian Embassy* with additional support from the UW Scandinavian Studies Department.

A lecture series titled *Exploration from Vikings to Present: A Norwegian Perspective* supported by Continuing Education and organized by Senior Lecturer Peggy Hager highlighted various aspects of



The lanternslide shows Roald Amundsen, Helmer Hanssen, Sverre Hessel, Oscar Wisting at the South Pole on December 14, 1911. Picture copied by permission of the Fram Museum

exploration. The lectures explored the importance of the Norwegian explorers Amundsen and Nansen (Peggy Hager), the Viking explorations (Professor Kirsten Wolf), the Sami influence on exploration (Professor Tom DuBois) and finally, some of the modern physics research being conducted by UW-Madison at the South Pole 100 years after Amundsen's first visit (Senior Researcher Mark Krasberg of the IceCube Project).



Grimstad Summer Program with UW-Engineering

This past summer Scandinavian Studies was asked to participate in a new study abroad program for UW mechanical engineering students. Mechanical engineering Chair Roxann Englestad, Professor Jay Martin, Amanda Hammatt (Director of the International Engineering Studies Program) and Senior Lecturer Peggy Hager from Scandinavian Studies worked together on a new summer program with the University of Agder at its engineering campus location in Grimstad, Norway. The goal of the program was to provide engineering students with an opportunity to study abroad and take a class in their major as well as fulfill a general studies requirement. Norway was an attractive choice for mechanical engineers because of its oil industries. It is well known that only a small percentage of engineering students are able to make room in their tight schedules for a semester abroad.

Eight UW-Madison students participated in the program and together with ten Agder Norwegian engineering students took a class in fluid mechanics offered by Professor Jay Martin. Peggy Hager taught a course in Norwegian culture for the American students and a course in American culture for the Norwegian students. The two groups were very different, but found common ground. The American students had little knowledge of Norway. For the Norwegian students, raised on American TV and Hollywood movies, the task was different. It was about breaking down stereotypes. UW-Madison students were housed on campus overlooking the idyllic Grimstad fjord.

In addition to coursework, the American students participated in two long week-end field-trips. One fieldtrip to Stavanger included a visit to the oil museum and two factories related to the oil business – Aker solutions in Kristiansand and Varco in Stavanger. These two companies build offshore oil drilling rigs and major mechanical components connected to oilrigs. Another long weekend was spent in Oslo visiting museums and tourist sites. One of our American participants was in a wheel chair and the group was able to test how accessible Norway is. We found that with much advance planning, traveling and living in Norway went fairly smoothly.

American students were enchanted by the long days. Grimstad had many sunny days ideal for outdoor life. There was warm interaction between the two groups of students and the American students were lucky to have access to students with boats and experience a real summer Norway on the islands along the coast. The American students on a tight budget learned to forage. They bought fishing poles and caught mackerel. They collected berries in the forest and even collected mussels (after learning how to call the hotline).

The program is being reviewed to discuss the possibility of future summer sessions.



Swedish Band Comes to Madison



In September, the Swedish hip-hop/swing band Movits! played at the Memorial Union Terrace as part of the Madison World Music Festival. Movits! released their first album in 2008 and a follow-up in 2011, and have been popular in the US since an appearance on the Colbert Report in 2009, even though all of their songs are in Swedish. There was quite a crowd at the Terrace, and many graduate and undergraduate students of Scandinavian Studies got the chance to see Movits! play. Students even got a chance to meet the band after the concert and practice speaking Swedish with them.

DEPARTMENT OF
SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES
UW-MADISON

Van Hise Hall 1306, 1220 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706 USA

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

*Edited by Kirsten Wolf, Julie Allen, Peggy Hager, Susanna Arthur, Marcus Cederström, Tim Cochrane,
Rachel Willson-Broyles, and Todd Michelson-Ambelang*



**Did you know the
Department of Scandinavian
Studies has Danish, Finnish,
Modern Icelandic, Norwegian
and Swedish Language
Tables?**

Find out the times for next semester
and any upcoming talks and events on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/ScandinavianStudiesUWMadison

or on the webpage at: www.scandinavian.wisc.edu

under Departmental News and Events.

Gløggfest



This year's Gløggfest is
Thursday December 13
from 4:00-6:00 PM
in Van Hise 14???

Please stop by!