

# NEWSLETTER

## Department of Scandinavian Studies

*University of Wisconsin–Madison*

### A Message from the Chair, Professor Kirsten Wolf

We're running a little late this year with regard to our fall 2013 newsletter, and for that we apologize. The editors have had a busy semester. Snow, an early flu-season, and unseasonably cold temperatures in Madison did not help. But despite being busy, sick, and cold, we've had a wonderful semester. For once, we had a semester of no leaves or sabbaticals, which enabled faculty, staff, and students to all work closely together.

Our department administrator Chris Dargis decided to retire at the end of the year and relocate to Door County. On December 12, the Department of Scandinavian Studies and the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies hosted a reception in Chris's honor in order to thank her for her terrific service to our Department. At the same time, we were able to welcome Tammy Bartels, who is our new department administrator. Fortunately, Tammy was able to work for two weeks with Chris, who trained her, and Tammy feels comfortable with her many administrative duties. We're very happy to welcome Tammy, a delightful person, to our department.

A wonderful and most welcome piece of news this semester was the gift of two million dollars to the Department from the late Dr. Paul O. Madsen and his wife Dr. Renate E. Madsen. We are deeply thankful to the Madsen family for this extraordinarily generous donation. We remain grateful for each and every donation, large or small, to the Department; any money received is put to good use.

I hope this newsletter finds you well, I also hope that you'll find the time to read it at such a busy time of the year. On behalf of the Department of Scandinavian Studies, I wish you a pleasant and peaceful holiday season.

## Scandinavian Studies Undergraduate Journal

Three undergraduate Scandinavian Studies students, Brock McCord, Meg Radka, and Lauren Schwark, are currently working to launch a Scandinavian Studies journal written, edited, and run by undergraduate students here on campus. The journal, tentatively titled "The Cross Section: An Exploration of All Things Nordic," will be published in collaboration with a group of graphic design students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, working with Professor Brian Wiley, Visiting Professor of Graphic Design.

### FALL 2013

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## Generous Donation from Madsen Family

On Friday, October 11, 2013, the Department received the extraordinary gift of two million dollars from Dr. Paul O. Madsen and his wife, Dr. Renate E. Madsen, emeritus UW professors of, respectively, urology and anesthesiology. The Madsens' vision and generosity will create a named professorship of Danish to be held by Julie Allen, while supporting our ongoing commitment to the language, literature, history, and culture of Denmark and Danish Americans. Thanks to the Madsens, our Reading Room will also soon be remodeled and named in their honor.

Sadly, Paul Madsen died only a few weeks later, on November 4. His dedication to all things Danish was lifelong. Raised on a hog farm near the village of Kissendrup, on the island of Funen, Paul earned his MD in 1952 and a PhD in 1976, both from the University of Copenhagen. Although he first came to the United States on a



Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Rochester, NY, Madsen was a Humboldt fellow at the University of Heidelberg, where he met his wife Renate, a resident at SUNY Buffalo, a surgeon for the US Army in Nürnberg, and a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Homburg/Saar in Germany before settling in Madison in 1962. For the next thirty years, he was a full professor in the Medical School and chief of the urology department at the Veterans Hospital. During his tenure at UW, he mentored more than 36 research fellows from Germany, Switzerland, and Denmark, with whom he co-authored 360 scientific papers. He also developed and taught an influential annual symposium on transurethral surgery at the University of Copenhagen for many years. Soon after retiring in 1992, Madsen was knighted as a member of the Order of Dannebrog by Denmark's Queen Margrethe II. Despite his many years as U.S. citizen, Paul always retained a strong sense of his Danish identity and visited his homeland regularly in both his professional and private capacities. Paul was a gifted pianist and an avid naturalist, who planted more than 125,000 trees on his farm outside Madison. He and his wife have three children, all of whom graduated from UW-Madison, and eleven grandchildren.

Paul Madsen's distinguished career and dedication to preserving Danish culture has parallels with that of our beloved late Professor of Danish, Niels Ingwersen, who was likewise a native Dane, a graduate of the University of Copenhagen, a UW arrival in the early 1960s, and a 1997 recipient of the Order of Dannebrog. As a fellow landlocked Dane, Niels may well have gazed wistfully out at the lake from our Reading Room window to glimpse, unawares, Paul Madsen as he sailed with the Mendota Yacht Club. This generous gift ensures our department's ability to continue to offer the only full undergraduate and graduate-level program in the study of Danish literature, culture, and language east of the Mississippi.

The department is also grateful to Martha Taylor of the UW Foundation; Letters and Science Dean John Karl Scholz and Associate Dean Sue Zaeske; and the Madsens' son, Thomas, for their energetic assistance in bringing about this gift.

## Traces of Scandinavia in London

In 2012, the Danish film “A Royal Affair” won numerous awards for its portrayal of the courageous life and tragic fate of Denmark’s erstwhile queen, the British princess Caroline Matilda, whose older brother King George III tried to erase her from British history. In 2007, treasure hunters in a sheep field in northern England unearthed a lead box containing a silver Carolingian cup stuffed with Viking arm rings and coins from across Europe that illustrates the wealth of the Vikings who dominated northern England in the 10th century and the many conflicts that led to the end of that dominance. These two highly publicized reminders of the connections between Great Britain and Scandinavia are just two of the many threads of British-Scandinavian cross-cultural contact that Professor Julie K. Allen investigated with her students in London during spring 2013.



From January through April 2013, Professor Allen was the faculty director of the UW-Madison London Study Abroad Program, which is based at Foundation House in the Kensington district of London. With 45 participants, the program was much more robust than in previous years. Professor Allen taught two courses: “From Hamlet to Hitler,” the study of British-Scandinavian historical encounters from the Viking Age through World War II mentioned above; and “Real Fairy Tales: Hans Christian

Andersen and His English Legacy,” which traced the influence of Andersen’s fairy tales on British children’s literature from Lewis Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland* and J.M. Barrie’s *Peter and Wendy* through C.S. Lewis’s *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*; Roald Dahl’s *The Witches*; and J. K. Rowling’s *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone*.

## Undergraduate Journal, Continued

The students, in putting together a proposal that was presented to the faculty and staff in the department, explained their goals for the journal. In their mission statement, the three wrote that they hope “to create an accessible collection of works that have their foundation in Scandinavian Studies, created and edited by undergraduate students at UW-Madison... We are interested in gathering works of a varied nature, including, but not limited to, fiction, non-fiction, creative non-fiction, travelogues, research essays, and poetry.”

The group aims to provide undergraduate students interested in all things Nordic - a space in which they can gain experience in publishing, connect undergraduate students with resources on campus and with undergraduate students at other universities, while providing publishing opportunities.

Professor Tom DuBois, co-editor of the *Journal of American Folklore*, will serve as the faculty sponsor with assistance from a small group of graduate students to provide advice and guidance as the students solicit, edit, and publish pieces.

## Scandinavian FIGs Growing in Madison

First-Year Interest Groups, better known as FIGs, are learning communities of up to 20 students who are enrolled in a cluster of three classes linked by a common theme. The FIG program is an extension of the 1920s Experimental College where students and faculty took all of their classes together and lived together with the intention that the conversation would continue beyond the classroom. FIGs serve a similar purpose of community as students take three interconnected classes, one main seminar and two related courses. The seminar consists only of the 20 FIG students and is taught by a faculty member who integrates the content from the other two courses into the main seminar. FIGs strive to create the small school experience in the University of Wisconsin's big school atmosphere where first-year students are given resources to make a smoother transition to UW-Madison. Additionally, the FIG program is integral to Wisconsin's LEAP (Liberal Education and America's Promise) initiative that seeks to increase the understanding of the value of liberal education in the University of Wisconsin System. First-year students typically enroll for FIGs at SOAR (Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration) and FIG courses are designed to meet various University graduation requirements.

This year, the Department of Scandinavian Studies has three FIG courses taught by Julie Allen, Jim Leary, and Scott Mellor. Julie Allen's FIG of eight students focuses on Scandinavian heritage in North America where they discuss place and identity. For one particular assignment, Allen's FIG students work with the Wisconsin Historical Society and research the general history of an artifact found in the museum. Jim Leary's FIG has 14 students and is titled "Folktales and Tellers in the Old and New Worlds." Leary's students are introduced to traditional stories and storytelling, past and present, with an emphasis on connections to Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest. Leary's FIG students also conduct field research using professional digital recording equipment. Scott Mellor's FIG, "World of the Vikings," is designed to look at our present culture through the lens of the past. Integrating the sagas with Swedish language and folklore, Mellor's FIG investigates how identity, gender, religion and politics of the past relate to our society today.

This fall, the department's three FIGs went on a field trip together to Old World Wisconsin in Eagle, Wisconsin. Old World Wisconsin is an open-air museum that depicts the daily life of Wisconsin immigrants in the 19th century. The FIG classes visited the Norwegian and Finnish immigrant exhibits and witnessed reenactors in pioneer dress while learning about the different ethnic settlements and the families that inhabited the different structures.



The FIG program has been a successful addition to our department's curriculum. It has introduced new students to Scandinavian Studies who may not have originally considered taking courses in the department. In fact, some of last year's FIG students decided to continue learning Swedish and are current residents of Norden House.

## Faculty and Staff Updates



Julie Allen: The highlight of Julie's 2012-13 year was serving as the faculty director of the UW-Madison London Study Abroad program during Spring 2013. In London, she had the chance to teach new courses on Scandinavian-British historical encounters and the influence of Hans Christian Andersen on British children's literature, as well as taking her students on field trips to places like Battle (where the Battle of Hastings took place), the Churchill War Rooms, the vaults of the British Museum, and Charles Dickens' home. Julie was appointed an Honorary Research Fellow at University College London during her stay and gave a guest lecture at UCL in March 2013.

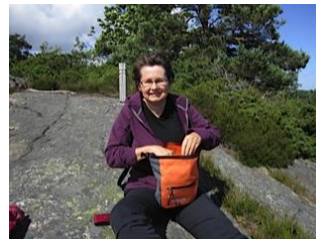


Susan Brantly: This fall, Susan is the recipient of the UW System Alliant Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Award, one of three such awards given in the state. She was recognized at a meeting of the Regents in late October for the work she has done with the Bradley Learning Community as well as her teaching for our department. This semester, she is teaching third-year Swedish and her distance course, "19<sup>th</sup>-Century Scandinavian Literature." In the spring she will be teaching the Romanticism segment of Survey, sadly, for the first time without collaboration from Niels Ingwersen. Faith, who recently sold her house in Madison and has moved to Sheridan, WY, left Susan with Niels' Romanticism files, so in a sense, he still will be a part of the course. By now, Susan has settled into her duties as editor of *Scandinavian Studies*, with the able assistance of Marit Barkve. In the beginning of December, Susan headed off to the University of

Copenhagen to participate in the defense of a dissertation on Karen Blixen and Kierkegaard by Mads Bunch. She very much enjoyed the experience. Who doesn't like a quick trip to Scandinavia in December?



Tom Dubois: Tom's 2012-13 was busy. He gave presentations in San Francisco, Umeå, Inari, Tromsø, New Orleans, and Seattle. His *Introduction to Shamanism* came out in Czech translation, and he published articles in *Scandinavian Studies*, *Kalevalaseuran vuosikirja*, *Journal of Northern Studies*, and *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine*. During the summer he conducted fieldwork in Spain and Norway on the topic of medieval and modern pilgrimage. While in Norway, he also worked with Harald Gaski on a new set of translations of some of the earliest texts written in Sámi. He is currently president of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study.



Peggy Hager: Norway celebrates several important events in 2013 and 2014 and Peggy Hager has arranged a number of community events to mark these celebrations. 2013 marks the 100-year anniversary of women's suffrage in Norway. This fall, Professor Jane Schulenburg from the History Department and Peggy Hager offered a lecture series on Norwegian women from Vikings to the present through Continuing Education. Norway celebrates the bicentennial of the Norwegian constitution in 2014 and Peggy has arranged a lecture series entitled "Celebrate Norway" in February 2014. After a successful lecture series on Norway at

## Faculty and Staff Updates, Continued

the Mt. Horeb Public Library last spring, Peggy will give a lecture entitled, "Norway Behind the Scenes" this fall.



Jim Leary - Jim continues to co-edit *Journal of American Folklore* with Tom DuBois, and to co-edit a book series, "Languages and Folklore of the Upper Midwest," for UW Press. He also edited a special issue of *Western Folklore* on "Class War and Laborlore"; made presentations on "Hilton Hanna, the Norwegian

Hillbilly" at SASS and on "The Cultures of Icelandic Workers" for the American Folklore Society; gave an invited "Botkin Lecture" on his folksong research at the American Folklife Center/Library of Congress; and completed a film--*Alan Lomax Goes North*--that premiered at Finn Fest in June.



Scott Mellor - Scott spent much of the summer working at home during which time he wrote a chapter for a Hans Christian Andersen anthology. During the spring he taught a roundtable at

Bradley, the first year dorm, on zombie movies as a reflection of national fear. The theme for the International Learning Community (ILC) was national politics in the Nordic countries. He continues to teach a First-Year Interest Group (FIG) on the Vikings, looking at the present through the past. Scott is still working with the Study Abroad program in the hope to create a summer study abroad experience for the FIG students.



Nete Schmidt: This semester, she has re-awakened "Scandinavian Life and Civilization" - last taught in the spring

of 2008. She is also teaching second year Danish and "The Tales of Hans Christian Andersen." Last summer, she participated in the annual Seminar for Danish Lecturers Abroad for whom she writes a monthly Newsletter and is webmaster of [www.dansklektor.dk](http://www.dansklektor.dk). In October, she was a featured speaker at the Danish American Heritage Society Conference, and she has contributed an article to the book edited by Julie Allen about teaching Hans Christian Andersen.

As the Undergraduate Majors advisor, she actively recruits students by participating in a.o. the Majors' Fair and the new International Resource Fair. Her current research focuses on the role of women and immigrants in Scandinavian crime fiction. She will be presenting on the topic at the SASS conference in March and teaching "Criminal Utopias" and "The Woman in Scandinavian Literature" in the spring. She is the Activities Coordinator for the Scan Design Foundation in Madison.



Kirsten Wolf: Kirsten continues to serve as department chair. This year, she is teaching Old Norse I, Old Norse II, and Paleography and Philology, and advising five doctoral students. She is thoroughly enjoying both her teaching and advising. She had a productive summer and spent time in the Arnarnagnaean Collection, where she was able to make progress on her book project *A Handbook for Priests from Medieval Iceland: AM 672 4to in The Arnarnagnaean Collection*. Her most recent book, *The Legends of the Saints in Old Norse-Icelandic Prose* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013) was published early this fall.

## Graduate Student Updates



Susanne Arthur - I am finishing up my PhD thesis and am working as a project assistant for Prof. Kirsten Wolf. I am looking forward to designing and teaching a course on *Njáls Saga* in the upcoming 2014 Spring semester. Additionally, our daughter, who was born on Christmas Day, is keeping me busy.



Marit Barkve - I completed my MA (Area Studies track) this summer and began my PhD (Literature track) this fall! This past year I began attending conferences and have really enjoyed meeting a wide community of Scandinavian scholars. This year, in addition to PhD coursework, I am the assistant editor for *Scandinavian Studies*.



Samantha Brown - I began my master's degree this September and my main topics of interest are Scandinavian politics and history, particularly immigration. Besides studying, I'm busy having my Danish lovingly made fun of by the Swedish and Norwegian TAs and convincing my first year Danish students to become obsessed with the TV show *Borgen*.



Marcus Cederström - I will be finishing my PhD coursework this spring. I've spent the past semester teaching second-year Swedish for the first time, helping to document the building of an Ojibwe birchbark canoe with "Wiigwaasi-Jiimaan: These Canoes Carry Culture," as well as serving as the Program Director of the Green Master's Program.



Timothy Cochran - I've spent the past year reading as many books on drama and literary theory as I could get my hands on, securing interviews for a project on Nordic LARP culture, and finishing up my MA in Scandinavian Literature, Strindberg concentration. I am also engaged, with the wedding this coming summer.



Colin Connors - I've taken over as the program coordinator for our language immersion residence hall, the Norden House. It's a great joy to live among our undergraduate students. My PhD coursework continues, and I am preparing an interactive digital translation of *Hrafnkel's Saga* to be taught with in UW courses.



Jackson Crawford - I am in my third year of teaching at the University of California, Los Angeles, and plan to return to Madison to defend my dissertation in March. New classes I am teaching this year include "Sagas 2" (Kings' and Legendary Sagas) and a first-year composition class using Norse myth.



Bennet Hubbard - I graduated from the University of Oregon in 2012 and received a degree in German, with an emphasis in Scandinavian language and culture, and International Studies, with a focus on aid and development. My research interests include pan-Nordic cooperation and development and how the Nordic welfare state has informed queer identities.



Kenneth Lull - This is my first year as a graduate student. I hold a double BA in Communication/Germanic Studies and MA in International Relations. My focus is area studies with interest in Scandinavian leadership in the Arctic. I'm currently a TA for "Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature" and loving Madison so far.



Todd Michelson-Ambelang - I continue to work on my dissertation on terms for disability and impairment in the Sagas and *Þættir* of Icelanders and to work at Memorial Library, as Bibliographer of Scandinavian Humanities and Classics. I was in Scandinavia and Germany last summer, and toured and visited many libraries and bookstores.



Paul Natiw - This is my second year here as a dissertator, and this fall I am also teaching both first and second year Swedish. This past summer was my first full summer in Madison, and I enjoyed it very much. I'm continuing to work on a Swedish language textbook for American students.



David Natvig - I received my MA last spring and have begun PhD coursework this fall in Scandinavian Linguistics. My current focus is on sociolinguistics and variation within the Scandinavian languages, with respect to both native Scandinavians and heritage speakers in the United States.



John Prusynski - I began my Masters with the department this fall and am focusing on Sámi language, and am

interested in minority languages in Norway in general. I spent the last year in Norway, and hope to return to Scandinavia next year to do research and improve my skills in North Sámi.

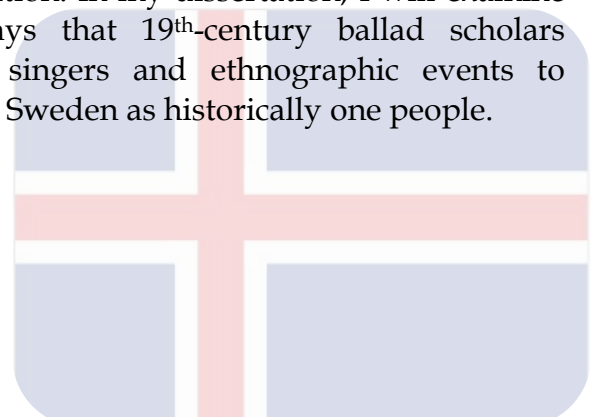
Amber Rose - I am a first year PhD student in the Folklore track and am primarily interested in Viking Age religion and mythology as well as Celtic-Scandinavian cultural interactions. I am also interested in the history of magic and witchcraft, particularly with regards to the role of folkloric discourse in that history.



Anna Rue - I am currently in the process of completing my dissertation on Norwegian-American folk music in the Upper Midwest and am lecturing the Folklore 100 course in the Comparative Literature and Folklore Department. I successfully defended in the beginning of December and look forward to taking some time off before expecting a baby in February.



Jason Schroeder - Thanks to the Birgit Baldwin fellowship from the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies and a grant from the American-Scandinavian Foundation, I spent the academic year 2012-13 in Sweden doing archival research for my dissertation. In my dissertation, I will examine the ways that 19<sup>th</sup>-century ballad scholars erased singers and ethnographic events to present Sweden as historically one people.





## Professional Development

“What do you do all day?” Dr. Rachel Willson-Broyles answered that question and many more in the first of a series of professional development talks for Scandinavian Studies students about translation and publishing. This past semester, Scandinavian Studies hosted three talks meant to give undergraduate and graduate students alike a look at various job opportunities after graduation.

Dr. Willson-Broyles, who recently earned her PhD from the Department and has translated five novels, two plays, five short-stories, and other works, began the series by discussing the practical details of being a translator, how to prepare oneself to become a translator, and shared her own experiences. The Scandinavian Studies library in Van Hise was standing-room only for the talk.

A few weeks later, Professor Tom DuBois spoke about academic translation as a way for students to complement their research while earning supplemental income. Professor DuBois highlighted the demand for English speakers who also speak Scandinavian languages as more and more Scandinavian academics and professionals are looking to translate their work into English.

Finally, Dr. Gwen Walker and Jason Gray from the University of Wisconsin Press came to discuss careers in publishing for graduates with degrees in the Humanities. Dr. Walker is the Editorial Director for acquisitions in the books division of the University of Wisconsin Press and Jason Gray is the Journals Manager in the journals division of the University of Wisconsin Press. The two discussed their educational and professional backgrounds and how they ended up in publishing as well as fielded questions about how to get started as a recent graduate.

All three were well attended and we look forward to continuing the series next semester as we strive to always prepare our students for whatever career path they choose. So, what do you do all day? If you're using your Scandinavian Studies degree in your workplace, let us know, we'd love to hear from you.

## Support the Department

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. There are several options if you'd like to donate:

If you wish to contribute online, please go to the University Foundation at:  
[www.supportuw.org](http://www.supportuw.org).

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

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*Edited by Kirsten Wolf, Susanne Arthur, Marit Barkve, Marcus Cederström, Kenny Lull, and Todd Michelson-Ambelang*

## Departmental Picnic

On September 7, the Department held its annual picnic to ring in the new academic year and give faculty, staff, and students a chance to mingle. This year, we met at Rennebohm Park, on a gorgeous, sunny, warm afternoon. As usual, the picnic was potluck style, with delicious salads, sides, sweets, and the main course of brats and veggie brats. Special thanks to the Picnic Committee, particularly Marcus Cederström and David Natvig for - once again - being our grill masters.

## Annual Glögg Fest

This year, the Scandinavian Studies Department hosted its annual Glögg Fest on Friday, December 6 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in 1312 Van Hise. Thanks to Jason Schroeder and Colin Connors for taking care of the decorations and, most importantly, preparing the glögg. And of course, thanks to everyone who came out. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

## Welcome to New Office Administrator, Tammy Bartels

The Department has a new administrator, Tammy Bartels. When Chris Dargis retired in December, Tammy was selected to take over Chris' position in Scandinavian Studies and Hebrew and Semitic Studies. She worked for Health and Social Services for 8 years and in the private sector in a small business in the brick industry for 15 years. After that she came to Douglas Stewart (the owners of the University Bookstores) in the Direct Services Department for the last year. Tammy is originally from Platteville, but moved to Madison in the '70s, and although she did not have children of her own, she raised her niece and nephew. Now that they are both grown and out of the house, she doesn't know what she will do with all of her free time. Please stop by and welcome Tammy in 1306 Van Hise.