

NEWSLETTER

Scandinavian Studies

University of Wisconsin–Madison

A Message from the Program Chair, Professor Kirsten Wolf

Season's greetings! On behalf of my colleagues and our students, undergraduates as well as graduate, in Scandinavian Studies, I wish you a happy holiday and all the best for 2017.

We're running a little late this year with regard to our fall 2016 newsletter, and for that we apologize. We've had quite an unusual semester, since, as you probably know, the Department of Scandinavian Studies has (in terms of administration) been merged with the Department of German and the Department of Slavic. This merger has resulted in very many new committees and, as a result, very many meetings. Accordingly, we've all been extraordinarily busy. We like to think that the 2017 spring semester will be somewhat less busy, and that, accordingly, we won't be running so late with our spring 2017 newsletter.

Sadly, Professor Julie Allen, our professor within the field of Danish, decided to resign in favor of a position at Brigham Young University in Utah. She left Madison in August 2016, and we miss her. However, we're deeply grateful to Susan Zaeske, Associate Dean of L&S, and Karl Scholz, Dean of L&S, for giving us permission to hire a new professor in Danish. Right now, we're in the process of bringing in candidates for Julie's successor. I'm greatly looking forward to announcing and featuring our new professor in Danish in our spring newsletter.

In addition, I'm absolutely delighted to let you know about the formal appointment of Dr. Todd Michelson-Ambelang as a lecturer in Scandinavian Studies. Todd completed his Ph.D. in Scandinavian Studies in December 2015. His dissertation focused on disability in Old Norse-Icelandic language and literature. Todd now divides his time between Scandinavian Studies (where he teaches one course per semester) and Memorial Library (where he serves as Bibliographer for Scandinavian Humanities, Classics, Jewish and South Asian Studies.) We also look forward to featuring Todd in our spring newsletter.

Finally, I'm happy to announce that four new graduate students joined us this year: Laura Moquin, Michael Knudson, Bailey Green, and Johanna Weissing. Two of these students happen to be Badgers.

It was brought to my attention that hard copies of the spring 2016 newsletter were not printed and sent out. I'm very sorry. For access to the spring newsletter, which includes Julie Allen's account of our merger with German and Slavic, please visit our website: <http://gns.wisc.edu/newsletters/>

FALL 2016

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SUSTAINING SCANDINAVIAN FOLK ARTS IN THE UPPER MIDWEST: A JOURNEY OF COLLABORATION

Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Arts in the Upper Midwest launches in January 2017 as a multi-year, multi-faceted collaboration of three University of Wisconsin-Madison units. The Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures (CSUMC), Mills Music Library, and Scandinavian Studies within the German-Nordic-Slavic-Department provide a longstanding collective commitment to teaching, mentoring, research, collections, and public programs fostering the vitality and recognition of the region's Scandinavian folk cultures.

Each unit will hire a folklorist with strong Scandinavianist credentials. CSUMC and Scandinavian Studies hires will each teach 1-2 courses annually on Scandinavian/Scandinavian American folklore, public folklore, and folklore of the Upper Midwest. Their instructional duties will include a summer 2018 field school focusing on Finns in the Lake Superior region, and a summer 2019 field school emphasizing Norwegians in southwestern Wisconsin, Northeastern Iowa, and southeastern Minnesota. Mills Music Library's hire will assist with archiving digital field school documentation, while cataloging, digitizing, and

creating access to its substantial holdings of Scandinavian American folk musical recordings, photographs, and manuscripts.

The three hires will partner with the region's Scandinavian organizations, folk artists, and state agencies on joint ventures, which includes producing on-campus symposia in spring 2018 and 2019 dedicated, respectively, to folk music and to handwork, foodways, and customs. Likewise, students in Scandinavian Studies programs throughout the region will benefit from stipends for the summer field schools. Two folklore graduate students will be hired in summers 2017, 2018, and 2019 to do fieldwork and networking in Scandinavian communities as interns with the folk arts programs of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Aligned with the Wisconsin Idea, Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Arts is funded by Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and from UW's General Library System and the College of Letters & Science.

SCAN | Design and Scandinavian Studies

Upon Professor Julie Allen's departure, Maj Fischer was named the new director for the successful Scan|Design program that continues in her very capable hands. With Nete Schmidt as Activities Coordinator and Samantha Brown as the Assistant, many activities have been planned for the 32 Danish exchange students this fall semester. So far, we have had a welcome picnic, several trips to American Players Theatre, a visit to The House on the Rock, and a kayak/canoe tour. Soon a Ghost Walk will take students around to haunted houses in Madison, and an excursion will bring them to Wollersheim Winery and Devil's Lake. A weekend trip to Chicago includes both comedy and architecture, and the annual award ceremony will take place in November with, among others, the two foundation coordinators participating.

Finally, we will host an end-of-semester farewell event in December before the students head back to Denmark.



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT
THE SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES
ANNUAL GLØGG FEST:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016
4:30 PM, VAN HISE 1312

Interviews with our Alumni

We in Scandinavian Studies want to share with our readers what the alumni from our graduate programs are up to. We want to share stories of alumni who hold academic and non-academic positions. Please enjoy the following four stories and look for more in upcoming issues. If you know of somebody who would like to be interviewed, please contact the department.



**Kjerstin Moody – PhD,
Literature, Swedish, Finnish**

What kinds of interesting things have you done since graduating from UW-Madison?

It has been wonderful to get to develop new courses and work with wonderful colleagues in the Department of Scandinavian Studies across campus at Gustavus. Students here are also a highlight -- hardworking, curious, bright, open. I stepped into chairing the Department of Scandinavian Studies while on the tenure track, which allowed me to learn a lot about administrative functioning on the college-wide level, and helped provide insight to the greater workings of the entire campus. I have spent five of the six summers working on research projects in Stockholm, which has been a complete delight and allows me to keep up with the subjects that I teach.

When did you start working at Gustavus Adolphus?

I began fall semester of 2010.

How did your UW education prepare you for this career?

My UW education prepared me so well for what I do as a faculty member in the Department of Scandinavian Studies, and Programs in Comparative Literature and Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies at Gustavus. I did my Ph.D. minor in Comparative Literature at Madison, and, of course, my Ph.D. in Scandinavian Studies. The teaching assistantships and

reader/graderships I had in the Department of Scandinavian Studies at UW -- Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature I and II, Scandinavian Folktales, various levels of the Swedish language, including a FLAC -- all helped prepare me to be well suited to jumping into the courses I teach now at Gustavus: two language courses each semester and one course in English on contemporary Scandinavian society, film, literature, and culture.

It was a bit difficult to go from teaching one course per semester to three courses per semester, but the workload balance of being at TA and being a student and working on a dissertation all helped me learn balance. I also worked part-time at the University of Wisconsin Press while I was at UW, and this, too, helped me think through ways to strike a good balance. I am incredibly grateful for the faculty I worked most closely with while at UW: Susan Brantly, Tom DuBois, Julie Allen, Niels Ingwersen -- I think about them so often in the work I do now at Gustavus -- not only in terms of my work as a professor in the classroom, but also in terms of supportive ways of mentoring and advising students; they all mentored me not only in my work at UW as a scholar but also in my work at UW as a teacher. I am grateful to still be in touch with them. Niels passed away, sadly, near the time I was ending my work at UW, but I have a coffee mug that had been his, and I use it often and think of him; I also turn to some of the notes and teaching materials I used when I was a TA and reader/grader for him. My time at UW as a student and as a person is dear to me—amazing friendships and mentorships, which still continue; I am incredibly grateful for my time in the Department of Scandinavian Studies at UW and all it taught me, helped me think through and learn, and provided me with.

What are your favorite courses to teach?

I have very much enjoyed the upper-level seminars I have taught at Gustavus, among them special topics courses (in English) on representations versus realities of Arctic Scandinavia; Nordic poetry; Finnish literature, film, and culture; and sixth-semester Swedish course on Ingmar Bergman.

What is the most exciting project you're working on?

I'm about to spend my first sabbatical year in Skattungbyn, Sweden, doing a course focused on sustainable living and organic farming. I will be taking the course from January through late November of 2017, and anticipate developing two courses on environmental humanities based off of/inspired by my time there. I also have a translation project underway that has been wonderful to work on as well as two separate studies on contemporary Swedish poetry.

How is it being back at your (BA) alma mater as an associate professor?

I never imagined that I would be! It has been wonderful in many ways -- wonderful students and wonderful colleagues, and I am very grateful to be in Minnesota, where I grew up, and where family and many dear friends and loved ones live. I feel fortunate to have excellent colleagues with whom to work I continue to build what has historically been a very strong B.A. in Scandinavian Studies at Gustavus. There is a great deal of room within the setting of a liberal arts college -- ideally -- to think about and develop the whole self, and such notions are appealing to me.



**John F. Eason III – PhD,
Literature, Swedish**

What kinds of interesting things have you done since graduating from UW-Madison?

I graduated with a PhD in Scandinavian Studies from the University of Wisconsin Madison in May 2011. Post-graduation I worked as a freelance translator in both public and private sectors. In late 2013, I accepted a professorship at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. The primary responsibility associated with my position is that of language instructor for Swedish and Norwegian at beginning and intermediate levels. In addition, my interests in gender and cultural studies have led to other possibilities, namely the opportunity to develop and teach content courses in the areas of literature, film, and popular culture.

What are your favorite courses to teach?

While I find first-year language courses some of the most exhilarating, my absolute favourite course is one

I developed around Abba, the beloved Swedish super group of the 1970s. The course - "Mamma Mia 'Queer' I Go Again - focuses on the multifaceted role Abba has come to play in LGBTQIA the world over as well as other intrinsically linked "queer" cultural institutions as "Melodifestivalen" (The Melody Festival) and "schlager." Because I teach eight different courses during the course of a year, the research I conduct these days nearly always has some sort of correlation with the classes I teach.

How did your UW education prepare you for this career?

The experience I gained as an M.A. and PhD student at the University of Wisconsin, Madison prepared me for my position at the University of Alberta in ways I could have never predicted at the time. More than anything it was the professors and fellow graduate students who inspired me to pursue an academic position in the field, one I hope to remain active in for many years to come.



**Jackson Crawford – PhD,
Philology, Norwegian, Old
Norse-Icelandic**

What have you done since graduation?

When I defended my dissertation in March 2014, I had been a full-time lecturer at UCLA for three years. The term of that job ended soon after, and I spent a year working at a small museum in my home state of Wyoming before coming back to the UC system to work as a full-time lecturer at Berkeley starting in 2015. In 2015, my translation of the Poetic Edda for a general audience was also published by Hackett Publishing Company. Continuing in a direction begun with my dissertation, I've been studying and publishing papers on the classification of perception in Old Norse, especially color.

What are your favorite courses to teach?

I taught Old Norse in a one-year series of three courses every year I was at UCLA, and that was my overall favorite subject to teach. It was different every year, too, because the students always had different backgrounds in terms of what other languages they had studied, why they were there, etc. At the deepest level, I'm a language person, and I like teaching language.

While I've been at Berkeley, I've taught modern Icelandic both years, which is similar to teaching Old Norse because of the grammar, but has the additional challenge of including conversation. I've enjoyed adapting a lot of my Old Norse curriculum to the modern language, while also generating a large amount of new material that I intend to turn into a new textbook.

I also really enjoy teaching mythology. I know the stories very well (especially now that I've translated them), and I always like introducing people to the authentically strange world of the Eddas and the mythic sagas.

What is the most exciting project you're currently working on?

Getting my translation of the Saga of the Volsungs ready for publication. I have taught this saga in so many courses for so many years that the opportunity to translate it afresh from the Old Norse was very rewarding, and like with my translation of the Poetic Edda I kept the needs of undergraduates and general readers foremost in mind. I'm looking forward to when the finished product comes out, probably in spring, especially since I've honed my translation skills and writing style so much in the last few years. This volume also includes the Saga of Ragnar Lothbrok, who has probably become the most famous name in Viking lore in the past few years.



Olivia Lasky – MA, Area Studies, Norwegian, Sámi

Current residence
Sausalito, CA

Favorite Scan Studies Memory
Sámi classes with Tom!

Current job

Business Program Manager at Microsoft (I do digital advertising, social media, email marketing for a Microsoft product called SwiftKey); Freelance Norwegian > English translator

How are you currently using your Scandinavian Studies degree in your job?

I unfortunately don't use it all that much day-to-day! Sometimes they let me translate things for ads... And I did get to help build some Scandinavian language models!

Tell us about your involvement with SwiftKey's Nynorsk keyboard

This is one thing I'm super stoked about having taken part in! I helped our languages team collect the data to build a Nynorsk keyboard for our Android product (the first of its kind) and did a lot of PR work to spread the word in Norway. A Norwegian newspaper even wrote a little article about me, which was fun! (See article here: <http://www.framtida.no/articles/brukar-norsk-for-a-sjokkera>)

Any other languages you are working with for SwiftKey?

I also helped build the Faroese keyboard, and I'm trying to convince them to add North Sámi as well. I'm also pushing for Greenlandic and Inuktitut!

What's the most exciting thing about your job?

I get to work with a lot of brilliant people from all over the world!

How are you using your Scandinavian Studies degree in your free time?

What I'm truly passionate about is translating Norwegian literature into English. I've been doing it pretty seriously for a little over a year now and have contracts with several Norwegian publishers. I hope to be able to do it full time someday... (P.S. if you need any translations, check out my website: www.olivialasky.com)

Do you have any advice for our Scandinavian Studies students about using their degree in the workplace? Any advice about job searching with the SS degree in mind?

Even if you're working or interviewing somewhere that doesn't necessarily have an overt need for Scandinavian language or cultural skills, having a degree in something that you're truly passionate about – and being forthcoming about that passion – will go a long way.

Faculty and Staff Updates



Susan Brantly— I am happy to report that my book, *The Historical Novel, Transnationalism, and the Postmodern Era*, is under contract with Routledge Press, the manuscript is submitted, and the final product should appear in early 2017. In addition to continuing as editor of

Scandinavian Studies, I am keeping busy with projects on German and Scandinavian Literary Relations and Swedish Decadence in the form of Heidenstam's *Hans Alienus*. Such projects are, in a way, a belated homage to my dear teacher and mentor, Professor George C. Schoolfield, who passed away this summer. I am honored to be speaking at his memorial service at Yale in November, and will be finishing up the last touches on his book about Runar Schildt for the Welsh Academic Press. I am tickled to be consulting about a project that will be coming to Broadway next year, but if I told you about it, I would have to kill you.

Samantha Ruth Brown— I have been a part of the department for the last few years, but this fall I am excited to say I've returned as an Associate



Lecturer. I spent the beginning of the summer defending my MA thesis about the discrimination of Muslims in the Danish asylum process, and then proceeded to teach Danish at Concordia Language Villages in Bemidji, Minnesota, and traveled to Oslo to present a talk closely related to my thesis at the Nordic Migration Conference. This fall, I am teaching first semester Danish and working with the ScanDesign Scholarship Foundation, alongside Maj Fischer from the International Internships Program and Nete Schmidt. I'm also continuing to take Arabic and conduct research about the manifestation of racism and xenophobia in Scandinavian politics, particularly in political discourse and policy implementation. I am especially excited about a current project that discusses how food is used as a form of discrimination.

Tom DuBois— This year has been exciting in that several book projects that I have been working on for a long while are coming to completion. My book on Nordic religious wood carving will be published by the University of Washington Press, while my book of



“singable” translations of Finnish–American songs (a project I have worked on with a number of my students over the years) is now under contract at the University of Wisconsin Press. My co-edited literary history of the depictions of place in Nordic literature has passed its review stage and is slated for publication by a press in the Netherlands. There are many steps still ahead in bringing these books into print, but it feels very good to see them nearing completion in these ways. I am also looking forward to a sabbatical at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study, Uppsala



Peggy Hager— The department offered Norwegian on-line this summer. The challenges of moving an entire year of language on-line were many, but the final results were

excellent. This spring I will complete my three-year term as NORTANA Secretary and Co-administrator of the Bjørn Jensen apartment. I continue to build on a project initially aimed at blending third semester Norwegian. Using special software, I have created mini-lectures on grammar topics in intermediate Norwegian which are posted on our course website. These mini grammar lectures and accompanying exercises make the material more accessible to students and provide immediate feedback. Response has been very positive from students and as one student wrote “the lectures make me feel I am hanging out with you in the evening.” The gap in second year language materials continues to present challenges and opportunities for improvement. Finally, I spent a month in Norway this summer to connect with the language, gather resources and work on a podcasting project for fourth semester Norwegian.

Dean Krouk— I had a wonderful first academic year at UW-Madison, with supportive colleagues and inspiring students. I was able to complete the manuscript of



my first book, *Fascism and the Modernist Literary Imagination in Norway*, which is currently under contract with the University of Washington Press. In the spring and summer, I also finished two peer-reviewed articles: “Contesting the Collective Memory of Nazism in Norway: The Case of Kjartan Fløgstad’s Novel

Grense Jakobselv (2009),” forthcoming in *Scandinavica*, and “Gress, istykkerskrevet: Knausgård som en leser av Paul Celan i *Min kamp*,” which will be published in an anthology of critical essays on Knausgård. This year I am looking forward to teaching a new course on literature and memory, as well as “History of Scandinavia since 1815” for the first time.



Scott Mellor— I spent part of my summer on Åland, working on a folk life project. I continue to work with the Bradley Learning Community, a first year dorm, and the International Learning Community (ILC) as the director of the language floor Norden. I continue to be interested in

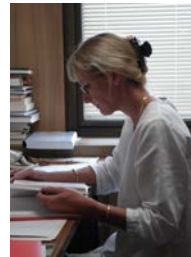
getting first-year undergraduates started down the right path for their college careers. I am once again preparing to take a group of undergraduates to Stockholm for three weeks this coming summer, in the three-week summer session for 2017. I was elected the vice-president of the Association of Swedish Teachers and Researchers in America (ASTRA). In terms of research, I continue to be interested in folk life on Åland as well as myth as life cycle narrative.

Todd Michelson-Ambelang—

This year has been extremely busy for me. I finished my dissertation last fall and started after winter break as a lecturer in the Department. I have continued my position at the library as bibliographer for Scandinavian Humanities, Classics, Jewish and South Asian Studies, so my life during the semester involves switching hats on a daily basis. Each semester, I teach one class in the department. This semester, I have been teaching Scandinavian Life and Civilization utilizing a new model, based on themes. It is extremely rewarding to engage with undergraduates, especially with the first-year students, working on building critical thinking skills. I am currently trying to convert several graduate school papers into published articles, as well as building collections of minority literatures, such as Faroese, North Sámi, and Greenlandic (in translation) into our library collections.



Nete Schmidt— This fall, I am teaching 2nd year Danish, 5th semester Danish, and the Tales of Hans Christian Andersen, classes I thoroughly enjoy. At the moment, I am working on two projects. One illustrates the changing view of and attitude towards immigrants in Denmark as showcased through the latest developments in the junior college Langkær outside of Århus. The other one discusses the changes in the Scandinavian crime stories over the past ten years and the new venues the authors are finding for their messages. In the spring, my article about Female Roles in Crime Stories was published in *Scandinavian Studies*. I continue as the Undergraduate Major and Certificate Advisor (now Chair) and participate in Study Abroad Fair, Majors Fair and Pre-departure orientation for students going to Denmark. I am the Activities Coordinator for our Scan Design program. This summer in Denmark, I participated in the Seminar for Danish Teachers Abroad, and I edit a monthly Newsletter.



Kirsten Wolf— After a year of rest, which enabled me to concentrate on teaching, advising, and research, I’m back again as an administrator, only this time as associate chair of the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic. I had a wonderful summer. My son, Sune, and I went to Denmark and Iceland for two weeks and had an absolutely wonderful time. Our trip wasn’t especially productive time in terms of scholarship, but I made up for it when we returned to Madison. *The Saints in Old Norse and Early Modern Icelandic Poetry*, which I wrote in collaboration with Natalie Van Deusen, is at press and will be published this fall. My edition of AM 672 4o, tentatively entitled “Sex, Sodomy, and Other Scandials: a Handbook for Priests from Medieval Iceland,” was submitted to *Manuscripta Nordica* in early 2016. And in collaboration with Carole Biggams, I’m now working on a 6-volume work entitled “A Cultural History of Color” to be published by Bloomsbury Publishing.

Graduate Student Updates



Marit Barkve— I am a PhD candidate in the literature track. I am very grateful to have received funding from the Mellon-Wisconsin Summer Fellowship and the Barbara Morgridge Distinguished Graduate Student

Fellowship as these opportunities have allowed me to focus on dissertation writing!

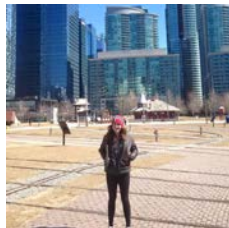
Marcus Cederström— My semester, in fact, the last year of my life, has been focused on finishing my dissertation on one particular Swedish immigrant woman, Signe Aurell. I write and rewrite and read and reread. And in December, I will defend my work. Until then, I'm TAing for 19th Century Scandinavian Literature.



Colin Connors— Greetings from Iceland's East Fjords! This semester, I am the resident scholar at the Skriðuklaustur Culture Center, where I am conducting research and fieldwork for my dissertation on

place-names and land-use in medieval Iceland. My thanks to the American Scandinavian Foundation for making this research trip possible!

Bailey Green— I graduated with my BA in Scandinavian Studies and History from UW- Madison last spring, and now I am working to earn my MA in the literature track. My research interests include contemporary Norwegian history with an emphasis on gender and women. I am happily TAing under Nete Schmidt for the Hans Christian Andersen literature course.



Ben Hubbard— I am preparing for my preliminary exams while also teaching first-year Swedish. The Swedish class has been going very well, and all the students are interested in continuing their Swedish language

learning after this academic year. I also am preparing for my German language certification test.

Mirva Johnson— Having spent the summer in Finland, I am back in Madison for my second year working as a PA on the Wisconsin Heritage Languages Research Project.



My work focuses on interviewing heritage speakers of Finnish in northern Wisconsin and working with a team to conduct outreach talks around the state.



Michael Knudson— I completed my MLitt in Viking and Medieval Studies at the University of Aberdeen this past year with my thesis entitled: "Who Walks the Left-Hand Path? Understanding the Perception of *Guðnóðingr* in 13th Century Iceland." I am currently a

first-year Ph.D. student on fellowship here at UW-Madison. I focus on Norse interactions with the Celtic and Anglo-Saxon worlds as well as the transmission of ideas and identity of the Hiberno-Norse/Anglo-Norse peoples of the North Atlantic.

Laura Moquin— I am new to Madison and in my first year of graduate study. My first semester of coursework is very exciting! I have a background in Norwegian, and my research interests include topics in linguistics, cultural identity, and literature. I am also currently updating the graphic design for a Norwegian language textbook.



Tristan Mueller-Vollmer— I am in my second year of the philology track of the PhD. This year I am working as Professor Kirsten Wolf's PA, completing my coursework, and refining my dissertation topic. In addition to research, I spent part of the summer in Uppsala, Sweden, improving my Swedish.



David Natvig— I am a Ph.D. candidate with a focus on Norwegian linguistics. Currently, I'm working on a dissertation on dialectal variation in Norwegian vowels. I also work with heritage Norwegian speakers in Wisconsin and Minnesota, specifically on Norwegian-English language contact phenomena.

Lauren Poyer— I finished my MA in Scandinavian Studies this past spring 2016 and, after a summer in Iceland studying manuscript paleography, am continuing into the PhD program. I moved into campus housing this year to be the language program coordinator for Norden House, the live-in residence hall for undergraduates studying a Scandinavian language.



Amber Rose— I am a PhD candidate writing a dissertation on legends of witchcraft in Scandinavia, from the Icelandic sagas to vigilante ostensive action in the modern era. This year I will focus on a chapter about the witchcraft trials in Finnmark, Norway, during the seventeenth century.

Kyle Swenson— This is my third year with the Scandinavian Studies department. This past summer, I spent time in Oslo brushing up on my Norwegian. I continue to work with undergraduates as a Comm-B TA, helping them with their papers, and I enjoy this very much. As a student, I am still primarily interested in the Icelandic sagas.



Johanna Weissing— I received my BA in Scandinavian Studies with a certificate in Medieval Studies from UW-Madison this past spring and am now working towards a master's in the philology track. This semester, I'm studying German, working on a translation of *Ásmundar saga kappabana*, and trying to narrow my research interests.

Richelle Wilson— I am a PhD student in the literature track enjoying my second year here in Madison. Over the summer, I attended a teacher's workshop in Tjörn, Sweden with the generous support of the Swedish Institute and the department. I am currently teaching second-year Swedish on campus and developing research projects about the literature of Siri Hustvedt (which I will be presenting at SASS in Minneapolis) and Jonas Hassen Khemiri.



Visiting Old Norse-Icelandic Scholar from Italy

In late September and early October, the Program was able to welcome Dr. Dario Bullitta of the University of Sassari, Italy, thanks to a successful application to the Jay C. and Ruth Halls Fund. Dr. Bullitta is an expert within the field of Old Norse-Icelandic and Latin and spent a week at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

During his time here, Dr. Bullitta conducted a seminar on medieval hagiography, to which he added a discussion on digital humanities, which really piqued the interest of graduate students. Dr. Bullitta also gave a public lecture on *Nidrstigningar saga*, in which he discussed the medieval writings on the descent into hell. Both the seminar and the lecture were very well attended. In addition, Dr. Bullitta spent time with graduate students, faculty, and staff and conducted research in the library, utilizing resources not available to him in Italy. Visits like this allow for true exchange of knowledge: students, faculty, and staff learn of new projects and methods of research, while visitors can utilize the holdings in our libraries and get opinions on their research.



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Edited by Kirsten Wolf, Todd Michelson-Ambelang, Marit Barkoe, Bailey Green, Tristan Mueller and Richelle Wilson

Departmental Picnic combines with other Programs

On September 17, the newly-united Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic held its first annual picnic together to give the three groups of faculty, staff, and students a chance to mingle. This year we met at Westmoreland Park on a warm and sunny Saturday afternoon. Carrying on the Scandinavian Studies Department's tradition, the picnic was an impressive potluck buffet with a delightful variety of delicious dishes and tempting desserts. The afternoon was the perfect way to begin the new school year.

