

Scandinavian Studies Department Newsletter

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A Message from the Chair, Kirsten Wolf

Our late spring newsletter is this year an early summer newsletter, for this spring semester has been an extraordinarily busy one for faculty, staff, and students. Several undergraduates completed their majors, two students at the master's level (Randolph Ford and Micaelen Freeman) completed their M.A. degrees, three doctoral students (Natalie Van Deusen, Susanne Fahn, and Todd Michelson-Ambelang), took their preliminary exams and are now dissertators, and one doctoral student (Kari Synnøve Morset) completed her dissertation.

In addition to teaching, course work, and examinations, conference travels, conference presentations, and not least conference organization have kept members of the Department occupied. In early May, the Department hosted the at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center the 99th annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies. Nearly 300 hundred people arrived to participate in the conference, where independent scholars, graduate students, university staff, and professors presented more than 250 papers on a wide range of topics within the field of Scandinavian Studies.

In these perilous economic times, the Department is enormously grateful for the support of so many foundations and individuals. These gifts are vital to helping the Department take advantage of special opportunities. The recent establishment of an annual scholarship by Torske Klubben for a US undergraduate or graduate student to conduct research in Norway is much appreciated. For more information about this generous donation and about the Department's many activities, we invite you to read the following pages, which also include an account of the Beaver Creek Retreat and an interview with Emeritus Professor Richard (Dick) Ringler.

FLAC Section on Scandinavian Heritage in the US

This spring semester the Department of Scandinavian Studies received funding from the Center for European Studies to offer a 1-credit FLAC (Foreign Languages Across the Curriculum) discussion section to complement Professor Julie Allen's course Scandinavian Heritage in America. The FLAC section was led in Swedish by PhD Candidate Kjerstin Moody and was open to intermediate- and advanced-level students studying Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish. Course material for the section chronologically traced the Scandinavian-American emigrant/immigrant experience by focusing on excerpts from classic works of literature, including Vilhelm Moberg's *Utvandrarna* (1949) and O. E. Rølvaag's *I de dage* (1924). Additionally, students read short accounts from other Scandinavian-American settlers and settlements, including an excerpt from Per Kalm's *En resa till Norra Amerika* (1763–1761), a chapter from Einar Haugen and Camilla Cai's book on Olav Hauge's attempt to create the Norwegian-American utopian settlement of Oleana in Pennsylvania, and a selection of letters exchanged between a Danish Mormon husband and wife—he in Denmark, she in America with their children. These Scandinavian-language readings helped shed light on the reasons why Scandinavians came to America and what their life in the New World looked

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Nordic Studies

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Department of Scandinavian Studies held 99th meeting of SASS

On March 22, 1911, a committee of six scholars – George T. Flom, Julius E. Olson, A. A. Stomberg, Chester N. Gould, A. Louis Elmquist, and A. M. Sturtevant – sent out an invitation to Scandinavian scholars in the United States “for the purpose of organizing a Scandinavian Philological Society or a Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study.” They suggested meeting in Chicago on May 26 and 27. In addition to organizing the society, they “planned to have a program of eight or nine papers” and in the evening they suggested to “very pleasantly” have “an informal supper and smoker, together with a talk, perhaps, upon The National Songs of the Scandinavian Countries.”

The invitation also included a blank application for membership, and according to the first volume of *Scandinavian Studies* – then published under the title *Publications of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study* – seventy-one applications “from Harvard to Washington State” were received prior to the first meeting.

During this first meeting it was decided by referendum that the name of the society should indeed be *Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study*. Julius E. Olson was appointed as president, Jules Mauritzon as vice-president, George T. Flom as secretary-treasurer and further scholars as members of an Advisory Committee. The society also elected corresponding members in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, and Finland. The first constitution of the society

states that the “annual dues shall be one dollar” and “any member may become a life member by a single payment of 15 dollars,” while “corresponding members shall be non-paying.”

The minutes from the following meetings show that the society grew quickly. While only about twenty people were present during the first two meetings, the number jumped to fifty-two during the third meeting and seventy during the fourth.

For its 99th meeting SASS is expecting more than 140 papers to be presented – a significant increase compared to the “eight or nine papers” from 1911. Membership has also increased considerably to 643 in 2008 and, understandably, also the membership fee has risen since 1911.

Yet, the annual meetings still include an evening banquet and national songs of Scandinavian countries may still be sung late at night. The goals of the society have also basically stayed the same: To foster closer relations between individuals interested in Scandinavian studies in North America and

around the globe. It intends, furthermore, to promote the field of Scandinavian studies and its instruction in America, and encourages research with regards to Scandinavian languages, literatures, history, culture, and society.

SASS offers its members a close network and the possibility to present research at the annual meetings or to publish it in the society’s journal *Scandinavian Studies*. In addition, grants that SASS awards, such as the Birgit Baldwin Fellowship, allow emerging scholars to conduct research in archives and libraries in the Nordic countries. The society stays true to its goal to encourage original research and to promote Scandinavian study in the US and abroad.

The 99th annual meeting was held April 30-May 2 at the Monona Terrace and Convention Center. The conference opened with a welcome from the SASS president, Susan Brantly, and a speech by former US ambassador to Norway, Tom Lofthus. Norwegian film director, Nils Gaup, delivered the opening lecture on his experiences of filmmaking in both Norway and the US. Celebrating the growing interest in indigenous peoples, a Sami preconference was held in association with Wunk Sheek, the University of Wisconsin’s Native American Student Association. The preconference brought together local Native American Scholars and national and international Sami scholars.

This year saw an expansion not only in the number of papers given, but in the diversity of topics covered.

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Madison's Torske Klubben

Norwegian-Americans have long been known for their fondness of ethnic fraternal organizations. Designed specifically to celebrate American ties to Norwegian heritage, culture and literature, national groups like the Sons of Norway and the Daughters of Norway as well as various literary societies such as Symra in Decorah, Iowa and Ygdrasil in Madison are all representative of this penchant for social organizations among Norwegian Americans. None of these groups, however, combines Norwegian-Americans' love for traditional Norwegian food, drink, and terrible jokes quite so elegantly as the Torske Klubben. Originally established in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1933, the Torske Klubben (The Cod Club) is an organization of men of Norwegian ancestry who gather on a monthly basis to enjoy fellowship, a cod dinner, a few nips of Linie Aquavit, and, from my understanding, a plethora of bad jokes. The club in Minneapolis experienced such popularity that Norwegian Americans in Chicago (1960) and Madison established sister organizations to continue their tradition of bringing men of Norwegian ancestry together to enjoy these monthly programs. The Madison chapter was founded by Roland B. Day, Eugene J. Nordby, Carl R. Loper, Jr., Byron C. Ostby, Eldred M. Swingen, Gerhard B. Naeseth and Ralph E. Thorp, Jr., in 1978. Boasting around 80 members, Madison's Torske Klubben meets each month at the Madison Club on East Wilson Street where their Saturday afternoon programs follow roughly the same series of events. The program is preceded by a reception that transitions into a sit-down dinner of cod, potatoes and a vegetable side dish. The gathering begins with eve-

ryone singing the Norwegian national anthem "Ja Vi Elsker Dette Landet" and an MC is responsible for introducing any guests that might be in attendance. Club rules state that guests are not allowed to talk during their introduction and violations of this rule result in the guest's host being charged a fine of \$100, which they contribute to the Torske Klubben Foundation. An informal lecture on topics as far ranging as Scandinavian wood carving, Ibsen's women, the Norwegian economy and bad sportsmanship in the Viking age. Each meeting is concluded by singing the American national anthem. Madison's Torske Klubben is not only a vehicle to enjoy good aquavit and fish dinners. Several years ago the Torske Klubben Foundation of Madison was established to benefit various clubs and organizations upholding ties between Norway and the US. Earlier this year the Scandinavian Studies Department announced that the Foundation established an annual \$2,000 scholarship, to benefit a student at the University of Wisconsin researching an aspect of Norway, such as linguistics, literature, Norwegian-American studies and culture, folklore. This scholarship is a wonderful opportunity for UW students and the department is most grateful to the Torske Klubben Foundation of Madison for its generous support. For further information about Torske Klubben and the Foundation, please visit:

<http://www.madisontorskeklubben.com/index.html>

SASS Cont.

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For the first time, there were two panels discussing Colonialism and Cosmopolitanism in Literature. Other topics included Librarianship partnering in Nordic Studies, Scandinavian-American Music Culture, Scandinavian Translation Theory, Scandinavian Immigration Law, Film Studies, Language Teaching, Danish Art and Design and Historical Politics.

In addition to the scholarly papers presented by faculty members and graduate students from North America and Europe, conference-goers enjoyed a variety of additional talks and events over the course of the weekend. Nils Gaup's latest film, *Kautokeino Rebellion*, was screened at the Opheum Theater and was followed by a lively discussion with the director. Along with representatives from the Nordic governments, the conference was attended by officers from the American Scandinavian Organization and from the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, who outlined their current efforts to expand the museum. Several presses that publish books on Nordic culture, including the University of Wisconsin Press, displayed their offerings.

The Department and the Society would like to thank everyone who helped to make the conference a success, most specifically William Banks for his hard work and good humor.

AASSC

The AASSC is the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada and the “sister” organization to SASS. Established in 1981, it held its twenty-eighth annual meeting at Carleton University, Ottawa, from May 23 - May 26, 2009 in conjunction with the meetings of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. The general Congress theme for 2009 is Capital Connections: nation, terroir, territoire. This theme invites an exploration of identity, and it raises questions about our understanding of the relationship between place and who we are. This four members of the department presented at the Congress.

The AASSC publishes *Scandinavian-Canadian Studies*, a journal which expresses in concrete—and more recently virtual—form the Association’s conviction that there is much to be learned from peoples of Scandinavia, not least by Canadians, who share a comparable geopolitical situation, not to mention social and cultural values. Articles deal with a wide range of subjects, such as translation studies, mermaids, multiculturalism, the films of Bergman, Ibsen and other writers, Scandinavian immigration to Canada, Icelandic sagas. The first volume was published in 1983.

For more information, refer to: <http://www.ualberta.ca/~cins/aassc.htm>

Department Hosts Beaver Creek Retreat

The retreat at Beaver Creek Reserve in the Eau Claire County Youth Camp found 15 miles from Eau Claire was initiated by Carol “Orange” Schoeder in 1973. She had the idea of getting students



and faculty together for an informal weekend to discuss issues about the Nordic countries away from the formal classroom. The first retreat was attended by about 70-80 people. The first year of the retreat was so successful that it was continued the following year and has now been in existence for 36 years. Over the years, the institutions that have participated besides the University of Wisconsin-Madison, include the University of Wisconsin-

Eau Claire (which had a Scandinavian Program at that time), Augsburg College Minnesota, Augustana College, Concordia College, Gustavus Adolphus, Luther College, Minnesota State at Mankato, Minnesota State at Moorhead, North Park College, St.



Olaf College, University of Chicago, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Over the years, scholars have come from as far as the Viking Ship Museum, in Norway, and have talked on issues like flint knapping, chain mail production, and modern Sami culture.

This year, the retreat took place February 13-15. About 80 students and faculty from six institutions around the Midwest attended this year. The department was responsible for organizing the program of events this year. Tom



DuBois, Professor of Finnish started the weekend by teaching a Sami song to everyone. The program also included informal talks about Nordic folktales, the Sagas of Olaf Trygvasson and St. Olaf,

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Interview with Emeritus Professor Dick Ringer



In our series of interviews with emeritus faculty, we caught up with Dick Ringer who reflected on his journey into Scandinavian Studies and his memories of the department, and told us of his present exploits.

I came to UW-Madison in 1961 as an Instructor in the Department of English and my formal association with the Department of Scandinavian Studies began four years later in 1965. My work in graduate school had centered largely on 16th-century English literature and my Ph.D. dissertation was written on the poet Edmund Spenser's *Faerie Queene*. When I arrived in Madison, I was set to teaching Shakespeare (which was what I had anticipated) and Old English / *Beowulf* (which was not). In the course of the next three years, partly because of this unexpected teaching assignment and partly because of a change in philosophical perspective, my interests gradually shifted from the Renaissance ("Man is the measure of all things") to the Dark Ages ("What is man, that Thou art mindful of him?").

I spent 1964-65 at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik studying Icelandic language and literature, and when I returned to Madison in the Fall of 1965, I was offered the chance to teach Old Norse-Icelandic (the distinguished Einar Haugen—for many years the Scandinavian Department's chief ornament—having recently pulled up stakes and decamped to Harvard). My association with both Departments continued for almost forty years, and—until my retirement in

2002—I rejoiced in the double title "Professor of English and Scandinavian Studies."

I have many fond memories of the Scandinavian Department, its personnel and programs, many of these having to do with semi-academic or even extracurricular activities. For instance in the summer of 1970 Harald Naess and I, under the auspices of UW-Extension, developed and presented a week-long program called "The World of the Vikings." Our venue was the splendid Thordarson Boathouse in Rock Island State Park; a large number of people from all around the state participated in this event, including many students and faculty from Madison. The program concluded with a lavish Viking banquet, whole legs of lamb roasting on spits in the boathouse's massive fireplace, drinking horns, chants to Óðinn, etc. The highlight of the banquet was the sacrifice (à la Ibn Fadlan) of a Viking maiden (one of the Department's female undergraduates), who was prodded off a balcony with spears by berserk warriors and never seen again—at least for half an hour or so—once the icy waters of Green Bay had closed over her head. "The World of the Vikings" garnered a good deal of publicity around the state, including a lavish illustrated spread in *The Milwaukee Journal* (which sent a staff photographer and writer to cover the event). This program was given at the height of the Vietnam War and the protests against it, and all participants—faculty, staff, students, interested local citizens—welcomed a brief respite from the oppressive political events of those days. (The program was so successful that Dick Vowles followed it the next year, in the same place, with a well-received seminar on contemporary Scandinavian film.)

Other fond memories center around the Department's celebrated Martini Tours. Harald Naess, Niels Ingwersen and I, with the invaluable assistance and support of Howard Martin of UW-Extension, dreamed up the idea of a series of day-long presentations around the state in communities with a large number of citizens of Scandinavian origin. We took our dog-and-pony show to places like Baraboo, Eau Claire and Rice Lake. Usually Harald would speak about Ibsen, Niels about H. C. Andersen, and yours truly about the Vikings. Once in a while Kim Nilsson would come along to say something about Scandinavian linguistics. We called these expeditions "martini tours" because often, en route home after the hardships of a grueling day behind the lectern, we would all (except of course for Howard, who functioned as our designated driver) stop off at a bar and have a grateful martini or two. Once, alas, on our way back from an engagement in Janesville, we stopped at a bar in the neighborhood of Edgerton and enjoyed ourselves so much that. . . but let us ring down the curtain on this unedifying scene.

In more recent years I have enjoyed the series of Fall retreats for faculty and graduate students that were held by the Department at Lost Lake Camp in remote Florence County. These retreats were memorable for good food (thank you, Susan Brantly!) and good company—and who will ever forget the many evenings of innocent merriment in front of the fireplace in the lodge, listening to Jim Leary's Ole and Lena tales and Scott Mellor's dialect jokes!

Since retiring from regular teaching I have had a number of irons in the fire. I am the Honorary Consul of Iceland in Madison (which mostly involves

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Borge Centennial



This year, the great Danish musician and Comedian, Victor Borge, would have turned 100. An important ambassador for Denmark, his name im-

mediately conveys impressions of unpredictable, intelligent wit and humor. His legacy is laughter, and this year he is once again being celebrated in various locations in the US and Denmark.

Victor Borge was born Børge Rosenbaum in Copenhagen, January 3, 1909, to a musician in the Royal Danish Chapel. He was educated at the Royal Danish Academy of Music, and at his piano debut in 1926 at "Odd Fellow Palæet" in Copenhagen he was recognized as a very talented musician. During the 1930's, Borge became one of Denmark's most popular artists. He started his career as a classical pianist, but his talent for making the audience laugh was soon clear, and lead him to develop his unique blend of humor and music. He had his revue debut in 1933 and his film debut in 1937. In 1940, he was forced to leave Denmark and went to New York. Although he didn't speak English he soon managed to "translate" his humor, and he performed for the first time on Bing Crosby's radio show in 1941. In 1942, the American press dubbed him "the best new radio performer of the year", and his radio and TV shows became extremely popular. He became an American citizen in 1948, and had his own show, "Comedy in Music", at The Golden Theatre, New York that ran from 1953-56. He performed as a soloist and a conductor with leading orchestras and opera companies starting in the 1950s. He continued performing well into his 80s, and received numerous honorable awards and honors. Victor Borge died peacefully, December 23, 2000.

Hamsun Sesquicentennial

This year marks 150 years since the birth of Knut Hamsun (1859-1952) considered by some as the greatest novelist Norway has ever produced and remembered by others as a traitor during the Second World War. Awarded the Nobel Prize in 1920 for *Growth of the Soil*, Hamsun was a writer interested in "the poetry of the nerves, the fractions of thought and the vague mimosas of feelings." In Norway the life and work of the pioneer of modernism is being commemorated with four national events taking place in municipalities closely associated with Hamsun and each linked to a central work by him. Lom/Vågå, Hamsun's birthplace, is using *Growth of the Soil* as the background for celebrations there, and Hamarøy, the place in which Hamsun grew up and lived for a period as an adult, is referring to *Wayfarers*. In Oslo, the central work will be *Hunger*, and in Grimstad, events will focus on *On Overgrown Paths*, the



pseudobiographical novel written at Hamsun's home, Norhølm, just outside the city. August 4 2009, the 150 anniversary itself, will see the inauguration of The Knut Hamsun Center in Hamarøy.

In Madison we might remember that Hamsun visited Rasmus B. Anderson during his first trip to the US in 1882-1884, but that the young author's intentions to work at the university were flatly refused by our founding father. It might be interesting to imagine exactly what kind of professor the young author might have made.

More information on the Norwegian events celebrating the author can be found at www.hamsun.no

Retreat cont.

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Scandinavian-American food cultures and the Kautokeino Rebellion of 1852. In addition, students



enjoyed kick-sled racing, axe throwing, weaving and carving, folk dancing, Nordic movies and

delicious Nordic food. The relaxed intercollegiate scholarly environment fosters a rich exchange of knowledge and continues to



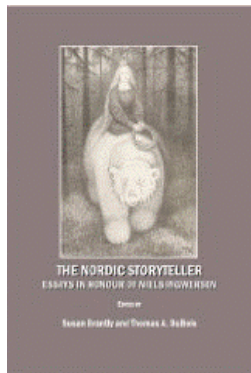
strengthen the strong ties between Midwesterners interested in Nordic studies just as had been envisioned 36 years ago.

Nordic Storyteller pays Homage to Ingwersen Ringler Interview cont.

Susan Brantly and Tom DuBois recently edited a festschrift in appreciation of Emeritus Professor Niels Ingwersen and the work he did in both Scandinavian Literary and Folkloric Studies. The volume, *Nordic Storyteller*, comprises three sections: "Songs and Tales in Oral Tradition," "From Oral Tradition to Literature," and "Tales in Literary Form."

The core of the collection is essays originally presented at the Nordic Storyteller conference held in Madison in 2004 in honor of Niels by Tom DuBois, Barbro Klein, Jim Leary, John Kindow, John Niles, Mary Kay Norseng, Tracey Sands, Kathleen Stokker, Larry Syndergaard and Kirsten Thisted. In addition, the book also contains contributions from colleagues and former students. Among the nineteen contributors: Susan Brantly, Tom DuBois, Jim Leary, Scott Mellor, Nete Schmidt, Tanya Thresher, Kirsten Wolf were colleagues at the Department here at UW-Madison; Julie Allen was the professor chosen to replace him. Three of the contributors: Kathleen Stokker (Luther College), Larry Syndergaard (Emeritus, Michigan State Kalamazoo), and Mary Kay Norseng (UCLA) were students of Niels.

The topics in the volume span from medieval times to the past century, and cover the US, Greenland and Nova Scotia Scotland, Scandinavia and beyond, and as such, are a fitting example of the scope and importance of Niels' career.



(Continued from page 5)

superintending absentee voting by Icelanders living in this area, as well as accepting speaking invitations from other Icelandic consuls—most recently in Portland, Oregon). More important, I have spent a lot of time in recent years refurbishing my musical education, and this has led me to become a fixture, every summer, at the Lufthansa Festival of Baroque Music in London and—more recently—at the Bachfest in Leipzig. It has even led me—four times---to offer a course on Bach's cantatas for my old friend UW-Extension.

Anything else? My book on the 19th-century Icelandic poet Jónas Hallgrímsson, originally published hardbound by the UW Press in 2002, will soon be reissued in paperback by the leading Icelandic press Forlagið, in time for it to feature prominently in 2011 at the Frankfurt International Book Fair, where Iceland (and its publishing industry) will be the guest of honor.



FLAC Article cont.

(Continued from page 1)

like. Snippets of films, including NRK's documentary *Ja, de elsker* (2005), brought to life contemporary reflections of Scandinavian-American culture. During the final three weeks of class students gave presentations on ways in which Scandinavian-America is still alive a century after the peak of Scandinavian emigration to the United States by discussing Scandinavian-American food traditions, material culture, museums, organizations, communities, and annual festivals across the country.

The pan-Scandinavian language discussions and readings not only taught students how Scandinavian-Americans have influenced life in the United States but also allowed students to improve their language skills and, in particular, better understand the two Scandinavian languages in which they were not originally trained. This course is the second such course offered by the department, the first being one on Kierkegaard, offered last fall and taught by Danish PhD Candidate William Banks. Because these classes offer students the opportunity to interact with texts in the original Scandinavian languages, they are particularly attractive to advanced undergraduate language learners. The department hopes that with the support of The Center for European Studies, we may continue to offer such innovative foreign-language-learning opportunities, and we wish to express our gratitude to the Center for their support to the department this year.

Undergraduate Majors Studying Danish Tell their Stories

The Danish program in the Department has been growing in popularity over the past few years. Some current undergraduates explain their reasons for studying the language and culture of Denmark, their experiences of the country and people, and how Danish has added to their undergraduate experiences.



Kirsten Moller:

Ever since I was a little girl, I have traveled to Denmark to visit relatives. My father was born and raised in Århus, so all of our summers have been spent enjoying the rich culture that Denmark has to offer. I learned of the Scandinavian Department here at the University of Wisconsin-Madison at SOAR and decided to take Danish, so as to improve my fluency and writing. Little did I know, I would soon decide to major in Scandinavian Studies, due to the extraordinary teaching staff the department provides as well as the excellent classes it has to offer. The Scandinavian program here at the University is outstanding.

Hillary Thompson:

Last semester I participated in the Semester at Sea study abroad program. We studied onboard the MV Explorer and traveled around the world. One of the most important things that I learned while abroad is how important it is to learn about the different cultures of the world. Although we did not make it to any Scandinavian countries, I continued practicing Danish while on the ship. Majoring in Scandinavian Studies is important to me because it gives me the chance in my everyday life to learn about life in other countries.



Aarhus University

Lauren Nielsen:

I began studying Danish on a whim as a freshman here in Madison, and my experience was positive. Joining the Scandinavian Studies department has made a big university much smaller, and I have found a unique niche full of friends and genuinely considerate faculty. I am fascinated by all things Danish and Scandinavian, and I look forward to focusing on my Danish language studies when I study abroad in Copenhagen in the fall. I also hope to learn all I can about the similarities and differences between the United States and Danish education system, as it relates to my other focus of study, curriculum instruction.



Rundetårn, University of Copenhagen

Karl Locher:

I spent last spring and summer studying in the Danish capital of Copenhagen. I was fortunate enough to study at the Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, where I was able to work with some of the world's foremost Kierkegaard Scholars. Living in central Copenhagen was an immensely enjoyable experience, not only for the academic opportunities, but also for the wonderful people, music, and art of the city.

Katrina Peterson :

When I think of Skovsøen (Concordia Language Villages) I think of bonfires, canoe races through pouring rain. I think of friendships that last throughout the year for those precious few weeks. I think of volleyball on the beach, sand

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The Department of Scandinavian Studies takes pride in its students' achievements and would like to congratulate the following graduates on their achievements and wish them every success in their future endeavors.
 Congratulations Students!

BA:
December 2008:
 Nora MacLaren

May 2009:
 Julianna Carlson
 Naomi Crocker
 Liz Denter
 Emily Erbs
 Joshua Paul
 Ross Snover
 Brandon Storlie
 Grace Thornton

MA:
 Randolph Ford
 Micaelen Freeman

PhD
 Kari Synnøve Morset

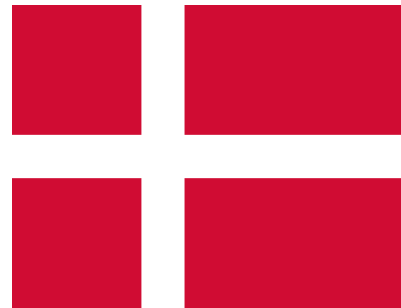
Danish Undergraduate Students cont.

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scorching my bare feet. I think of plastering Danish flags over the Swedish camp at 3am and international day with sweaty bodies and beaming smiles representing hundreds of countries. I think of running through the forest at top speed in pursuit of a witch, her cat sidekicks on my tail. Most of all I think of Skovsøen på dansk though, showing the power a living a language.

Janelle Peifer:

I was very interested in languages in high school and took German for several years. One of the teachers who worked closely with my German teacher was a Dane teaching history. Some friends and I convinced him to teach a night class twice a week in Danish. We were able to learn a decent amount of Danish and have lots of fun, so when I came to UW, I jumped straight into second year Danish. My main motivation, and the key to my success, is my love of languages. I am able to tie Danish in with my German and I can pick out many words without looking them up and have a deeper understanding of the grammar. I enjoy contrasting the languages and hope to continue following my passions and expand to Dutch, Swedish, and Norwegian.



The department would like to congratulate Julianne Haahr, MA-1992, for her recent hire as Western European History and Social Sciences Librarian at Memorial Library.
 Congratulations and Welcome Back!



Nordic Studies

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Departmental Happenings

- The Department's fall picnic will be held on 12 September at 4:00 p.m. in Westmoreland Park, Madison.
- Tanya Thresher and Jim Leary will be on sabbatical during the academic year 2009-2010.
- Check the Departmental calendar for the Swedish, Norwegian, Danish and Finnish Language Tables, as they start up again in the fall of 2009.

Visiting Fulbright Professor Kirsten Thisted will be joining the department for fall 2009. She will be here from the University of Copenhagen's Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, where she is Associate Professor, specializing in Greenlandic and Inuit History and Culture and Colonialism. During her stay, she will be teaching a course entitled *Greenland, Past, Present and Future*, which is currently filled to capacity.

Modern Icelandic to be taught in Department

The Department of Scandinavian Studies is pleased to announce that PhD Candidate, Susanne Fahn has been hired as lecturer in Icelandic for the department. We are excited that we will be offering Modern Icelandic next fall.



Editors: Kirsten Wolf, Nete Schmidt, Tanya Thresher, Sanna Fahn, Kjerstin Moody,
Anna Rue, Jason Schroeder & Todd Michelson-Ambelang