

NEWSLETTER

Scandinavian Studies

University of Wisconsin–Madison

Message from the Chair

Professor Julie Allen

As the old saying goes, the only thing constant in life is change. The Scandinavian Studies Department has undergone many changes over the past 141 years, the vast majority of which have made us stronger, though not always without some upheaval and a period of adjustment. The 2015-16 academic year has brought a number of changes to the department, including a new department chair, a new professor of Norwegian, and many new undergraduate and graduate students with diverse interests and talents, as well as many distinctive honors, including Professor Kirsten Wolf's appointment to a WARF named professorship, Professor Thomas DuBois's appointment as a Halls-Bascom professor, and Professor Jim Leary's Grammy nomination! We are delighted to announce that Professor Susan Brantly will be the Birgit Baldwin Professor as of July 1, 2016. As this academic year draws to a close, still more changes lie in store for Scandinavian Studies, most notably our inclusion in the new department of German, Nordic, and Slavic (described in more detail later in this newsletter). As part of this merger, we will be gaining a new department chair, Professor Manon van de Water, and a new administrative structure, with two associate chairs, a new department administrator, and specialized staff support for financial matters and our undergraduate and graduate programs.

We will also say goodbye to many of our students, who are graduating and moving on to new life experiences, and to a few faculty and staff, including Professor Jim Leary, who retired in January 2016; our beloved administrator Tammy Bartels; and myself. For family reasons, I have accepted a job at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, where I hope to be able to promote Scandinavian-American culture and strengthen connections to the vibrant Scandinavian-American communities in the Midwest.

All of these changes bring with them new opportunities for growth and development. We are confident that the strength of our faculty, staff, alumni, and students will carry us forward and allow us to continue to thrive and provide even better service to our many constituencies on and off campus. As my recent invitation to Washington D.C. for the U.S.-Nordic Leaders' Summit (described in more detail later in this newsletter) confirms, the pursuit and dissemination of Scandinavian studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is recognized and valued at the highest levels of government in both the U.S. and the Nordic countries. As I come to the end of my term as chair of the Scandinavian Studies department, I want to thank all of you—students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends—for believing in us and supporting us, emotionally and financially, in order to make it possible for us to continue to share the richness of Scandinavian literature, languages, folklore, music, history, and more with our students, the university at large, the state, the country, and the world.

SPRING 2016

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Introducing the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic

As of July 1, 2016, the Scandinavian Studies department will become part of the new Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic (GNS). The merger will be primarily administrative, but the bringing together of these three dynamic units into a single department will also enhance our intellectual community, provide broader mentoring opportunities for junior faculty, and facilitate more interdisciplinary training for both undergraduate and graduate students. All of our faculty and academic staff positions, as well as curricular offerings on both the undergraduate and graduate level, will remain intact and we will retain our unique character. All three units (German, Scandinavian, and Slavic) will share a department chair: Professor Manon van de Water, who specializes in Slavic children's theater; two associate chairs: Professors Kirsten Wolf and Pam Potter, who specialize in Old Norse and German music, respectively; four administrative staff: Nicole Senter as department administrator, Katja Mohaupt-Hedden as financial specialist, Mark Mears as graduate program coordinator, and Jane Roberts as undergraduate coordinator. The department administrator and financial specialist's offices will be on the 8th floor of Van Hise Hall, next to the GNS chair's office in 818 Van Hise, but the general reception desk for all GNS visitors (including any friends or alumni of Scandinavian Studies) will be in Jane Roberts' office (1432 Van Hise). Please stop by and say hello if you're in the area!

Visiting Scholar from the UK



We've been very fortunate to have Dr. Eleanor Barraclough as a Visiting Research Fellow in the Department during the spring semester. Eleanor holds a Ph.D. in Old Norse literature from the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic at the University of Cambridge and now serves as a Lecturer in Medieval Literature at Durham University. We have greatly benefitted from having Dr. Barraclough as a colleague this semester. She has engaged with both faculty and graduate students and gave a very well-attended and most interesting lecture in the Department on her current research on Norse-Sámi encounters in medieval Scandinavia. She is the author of *Viking Voyagers: To the Ends of the Earth in the Old Norse Sagas*, which is shortly to appear in print, and a number of articles dealing with Nordic travel and exploration, the Arctic, landscape, land-naming, and the supernatural. Eleanor has made good use of her time in Wisconsin. Amongst other things, she was able to make a start on her new and very exciting book project, tentatively entitled "A Cultural History of Ice," which seeks to explore how humans have responded both imaginatively and practically to this coldest of natural phenomena in the past, and how they continue to respond today in an era of melting ice sheets.

Annual Student Retreat

Over 100 students from eight different universities attended the 43rd annual Scandinavian Studies retreat at Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall Creek, Wisconsin. Undergraduate students, graduate students, and professors from UW-Madison piled into vans and spent the February 19–21 weekend getting to know Scandinavianists from all over the Upper Midwest. The lack of snow kept us all focused on our woodcarving, weaving, music-making, folk dancing, and, of course, axe-throwing. Joe Damchik showed off our department's skills in axe-throwing by placing second overall.



A recent graduate from the department, Dr. Hilary Virtanen, now an assistant professor at Finlandia University, organized the event with help from Dr. Jason Schroeder. We want to thank not only Hilary and Jason, but also everyone at Norden Folk who put together a wonderful program. We're looking forward to next year's event, which will be held February 24–26, 2017. Hope to see you there!



Undergraduate Students Tell of Adventures Abroad

Alexis Dunnum: I'm studying Norwegian and outdoor education at *Høgskolen* in Bø, Telemark in Norway. It has been really difficult to use Norwegian language out in public because everyone I meet just switches to English. But being persistent has helped me improve my language skills! Meeting people my age from all around the world has been incredible. I've learned so much about everyone's home countries and have made lifelong friends. I've also been able to travel a country I have always dreamed of visiting and stay with Norwegians in their homes. I've found that being kind, friendly, and spontaneous will help you experience another part of any country's culture. I will miss my school's sense of environmental responsibility. Everyone attending seemed to really love nature, wanted to preserve its beauty, and not waste anything at all. I really admire this lifestyle and coming to Norway has opened my eyes to many environmental problems that I will try to address in my own life!

Sara Easa: In August of 2015, I began my fall semester in Oslo to study the welfare state in Scandinavian countries and issues surrounding refugees and immigration. The weather was ideal when I arrived and remained nice until late October, allowing us to go hiking regularly. While Oslo is the capital, you don't have to go far at all to experience Norway's beautiful landscape. I did not have classes on Friday, and thanks to cheap and easy travel in Europe, I was able to take weekend trips to nearby cities like Stockholm, Helsinki, and Dublin. I love going to new places so I took advantage of easy travel during break and after the semester as well. This is something I definitely miss, seeing as a bus ride from Madison to Chicago costs as much as a flight from Oslo to Madrid. I also cherish traveling because it always offers a major learning experience. My biggest moment of culture shock came not from my arrival in Oslo, but from discovering how immensely different two cultures can be despite being so close to each other geographically. I am grateful because I saw so much and because it also made me realize how little I have seen.



Johanna Weissing: I am completing the last semester of my bachelor's degree at the *Høgskolen* in Bø, Telemark, an area of Norway that is well-known for its strong folk traditions, especially in music and dancing. It's an aspect of living in Bø that I've really been enjoying. I recently joined a community choir and found a group that meets every week to do folk dancing—with live music from local fiddlers! In addition to the cultural opportunities here, I've had fun exploring the local hiking trails and have been out skiing a couple of times. It's been a very warm winter, so unfortunately it doesn't look like I'll get any more opportunities to ski.

So far I haven't experienced much in the way of culture shock, but am finding that it's the details and the non-verbal cues that make the biggest difference. The hardest thing for me to adjust to has probably been the fact that locals will not make eye contact or greet you in passing, but are very friendly when you have the chance to meet them. When I come back to the states, I know I'm going to miss the mountains, having easy access to brown cheeses like *geitost* and *Gudbrandsdalsost*, and the wonderfully relaxed atmosphere here. I also love how seriously everyone here takes *kaffepausen*. It's a custom I would love to continue at home!

“That Was Kind of a Trip”: Jim Leary’s Road to the GRAMMYS

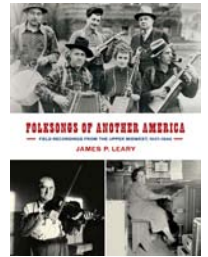


by Richelle Wilson

A few months ago, our very own Jim Leary (recently-retired professor of Scandinavian Studies and Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies) received some exciting news. “I woke up and turned on my computer and got a bunch of messages congratulating me,” Jim recounted to me over lunch. He was talking about the morning of December 15, 2015: the day that nominations were announced for the 2016 Grammy Awards ceremony. Jim was nominated in the Best Album Notes category for his work on *Folksongs of Another America: Field Recordings from the Upper Midwest, 1937–1946*. The volume, a 456-page book with five CDs and a DVD, is the culmination of a thirty-year labor of love collecting, digitally remastering, translating, and annotating hundreds of ethnically-diverse folk songs recorded in the Upper Midwest during the 1930s and 40s. — continued on next page.

As Jim relates, the origins of his interest in Upper Midwestern folk music culture go all the way back to his younger days visiting the Buckhorn tavern in his native Rice Lake, Wisconsin with his dad. The tavern owner, Otto Rindlisbacher, was a musician and lumberjack-of-all-trades. Young Jim was enchanted by Otto's collection of curios, which included a menagerie of taxidermied animals and handmade instruments. Later, Jim learned that Otto had made field recordings for the Library of Congress. As Jim began his own career as a folklorist, he discovered that Otto's lumberjack songs were part of a much larger collection of nearly 2,000 traditional performances recorded by field workers Helene Stratman-Thomas, Sidney Robertson Cowell, and Alan Lomax in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota from 1937–1946. In spite of this wealth of raw material, the books and record albums featuring these recordings tended to focus almost exclusively on the English-language performances. Jim envisioned a project that would restore the nearly-lost voices of the other communities represented in these recordings: French-Canadian performers, Native American tribes, rural and working-class folks, and immigrants, including many from Scandinavia.

With the help of many friends and colleagues, Jim's ambitious dream slowly became a reality over the past ten years. Talented translators, including several from the Scandinavian Studies department, worked with the original recordings to translate each of the songs into fluent, vernacular English. The languages featured include Lithuanian, Ho-Chunk, Québécois, Ojibwe, Scots Gaelic, and all of the major Nordic languages: Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, and Swedish. As for the recordings themselves, Jim received generous funding to get help with the sound restoration, which involved cleaning up the tracks, removing noise, speed correction, mastering, and equalizing. Most notably, Jim did extensive research for the 400+ pages of Grammy-worthy annotations: visiting libraries with parallel collections, scouring the online archival databases, and collecting biographical information about the performers from genealogical records and newspaper search engines. The liner notes for each track also include background information about the song or tune, the circumstances of the recording, and additional details about Cowell, Lomax, and Stratman-Thomas and their fieldwork. Released in August 2015, *Folksongs of Another America* is a coproduction of the University of Wisconsin Press and Dust-to-Digital, an Atlanta-based record company that has received Grammy nominations and awards in the past.



When I asked Jim about his favorite part of attending the Grammy Awards ceremony, he chuckled and responded, “Hanging out with all the ‘lowly people’”—referring fondly to his folklore and musician friends who were competing against major celebrities in their categories. Of course, Jim added, “it was fun being there with [my wife] Janet.” The two of them stayed in a hotel designated for nominees and enjoyed a pre-Grammy event where Jim received a medallion—a cast Tiffany medal with satin ribbon—and got portraits taken on the red carpet. According to Jim, the food was pretty amazing, too.

Although *Folksongs of Another America* did not ultimately receive the Best Album Notes award—that honor was given to legendary singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell for her *Love Has Many Faces: A Quartet, A Ballet, Waiting to Be Danced*—Jim has received a lot of positive press for his important work. I asked him what his acceptance speech would have included had he won. He responded that the most important part of this documentary project is to make this music more accessible, getting songs and tunes back into circulation for the younger generation to engage with. Jim is especially invested in “releasing the voices” of immigrants and displaced communities, drawing our attention to our shared humanity during this current moment when immigration issues are so heavily debated in the U.S. and offering us a snapshot of the “other America” he discovered in these mid-20th-century folk songs.

As for the thank-you portion of Jim's acceptance speech? He planned on making a tribute to his wife, Janet, by quoting the lyrics of “Case of You” by none other than Joni Mitchell. Sometimes you just have to say it in a song.



Want to Keep Up with News in the Department beyond the Newsletter?

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What do our Graduate Students Research?

Our students study a variety of different topics. Here are four students who have recently finished their PhD dissertations and MA theses.

Todd Michelson-Ambelang: My dissertation analyzes disability and impairment as found in thirty of the 88 texts that comprise the Sagas and *Þattir* of Icelanders. The dissertation comprises four chapters, each one a different type of analysis of impairment and disability in the texts. Through the analysis of impairment and disability as seen through the lens of minority and cultural studies, lexicographical studies, character studies and close readings of texts defined in the genre of Sagas and *Þattir* of Icelanders, it is possible to construct a more thorough understanding of how medieval Icelandic and Norwegian society received and perceived concepts of impairment, disability, and people who were impaired and disabled.

Jason Schroeder: My dissertation focuses on Swedish ballad collection and publications in the nineteenth-century, approaching the topic from a folklore studies and history of ideas perspectives. I examined seven important ballad editions, along with socio-economic and cultural contexts of the singers from whom ballads were collected. In each chapter, I selected one singer and ballad for a contextualized close reading and interpretation, readings which I compare to the representations of the songs and singers offered by editors. I argue that in creating a national narrative, Swedish intellectuals silenced the voices of singers. Editors misrepresented their sources and ignored contexts from which the songs emerged to create an image of an ancient literary history for Sweden. The ballad editions demonstrate a changing attitude towards the lower class, particularly as they became increasingly literate over the course of the nineteenth century. In the later collections, lower-class authors shifted the focus from texts to people.

Samantha Brown: My master's thesis utilizes a political sociological framework to analyze the indirect discrimination of Muslim refugees by the Danish state. It does so by outlining the weak enforcement mechanisms of human rights, triumph of state sovereignty and how and why said discrimination happens, highlighting the major gap between the values and practices of the liberal state. I argue that securitization measures, particularly after 9/11, aim to protect the Danish "imagined community," with a particular spirituality and ideology, at the expense of refugees. It focuses primarily on three particular instances where Muslim refugees are indirectly discriminated against, using the examples of UNHCR resettlement refugees, spontaneous asylum seekers and stateless refugees, to build on the discussion of discrimination of Muslim refugees that scholars such as Zachary Whyte, Edith Montgomery and Anders Foldspang have already begun.

John Prusynski: I have written my master's thesis on two short stories and a novel by the Sámi author Kirste Paltto: "Suoláduvvan" ("Stolen"), "Árbi" ("Inheritance"), and *Gávnnui gubkkin várís* ("He Was Found Far Away on a Mountain"). All of these works involve crimes, and *Gávnnui gubkkin várís* is Paltto's first crime fiction novel. Paltto uses the genre of crime to discuss Nordic colonization of Sápmi, the Sámi homeland, and the conversion of the Sámi from a shamanic belief system to Christianity. In her works, colonialism is portrayed as a theft of Sámi identity and cultural continuity, such as in "Árbi," where the theft of a shamanic drum threatens to disrupt the transmission of Sámi culture from a grandmother to her grandchildren. These three works encourage the reader to think critically about the past, and to view knowledge of Sámi culture and the shamanic heritage as a way of overcoming the trauma of colonialism.

Our WITS publications are now online!



WITS stands for *Wisconsin Introductions to Scandinavia*. These short books together comprise a great introduction to Scandinavian life and culture. The essays in the WITS I series cover cultural topics like geography and languages; history and politics; health, education, and welfare; and art, literature, and music.

The translated Scandinavian plays, poetry, and short stories in the WITS II series survey the Scandinavian literary canon and range from sagas to folk tales to the Modern Breakthrough and beyond. Each publication is written by an American specialist in a form suitable for self-study or for undergraduate instruction and is chock-full of supplementary materials like maps, diagrams, and bibliographies for further reading. Any WITS text would serve as a valuable addition to anyone interested in the field of Scandinavian studies. For more information or to order a text from either WITS series, please visit www.scandinavian.wisc.edu.



Graduate Students Abroad



Marit Barkve: I spent spring 2016 as a guest researcher with the project ScanGuilt at the Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies at the University of Oslo. I spent my time at UiO researching for my dissertation, tentatively titled “The Other Mother: Representations of Maternalism in Norwegian Diaspora Literature.” UiO provided a wonderful and welcoming network of scholars who I have enjoyed collaborating with and learning from! I was also fortunate to be invited as a guest lecturer by the Department of Language and Literature, Division of Literature and Cultural History and the interdisciplinary Research Group on Gender and Feminist Theory at NTNU in Trondheim. It was thrilling to have the opportunity to discuss my dissertation with Norwegian gender scholars! Generous funding from the Martha Taylor Student Scholarship 2016, NORTANA Housing Stipend 2016, UW-Madison Student Research Travel Award 2016, and a SIU Mobility Grant 2016 has made this research trip possible and I am incredibly grateful for that.

Kenny Lull: I’m currently in Umeå as a guest researcher at ARCUM, the university Arctic research organization networking over 200 transdisciplinary researchers. With the guidance of ARCUM I continue to work on my pre-dissertation research project “Visual and Iconic Representations of Indigeneity: Sámi and the Arctic.” This time has proven invaluable by introducing me to new channels of Arctic researchers and giving me access to Arctic and indigenous scholars and regional and international symposiums focusing on Sweden’s role in Arctic futures. I will be returning to Madison in the fall.



David Natvig: I am spending this year in Norway as a guest of the University of Bergen and Professor Gjert Kristoffersen. During my stay, I have conducted interviews across the country to collect data for my dissertation on the regional and social variation of Norwegian vowels. I have also had the privilege of meeting and discussing my work with other researchers, professors, and graduate students here at the university. In addition to travelling for research, I was also able to take a trip to Sogn og Fjordane in western Norway to visit the farm where my great-great grandfather lived before emigrating to the United States, and see some beautiful fjords, glaciers, and mountains along the way. I am extremely grateful for grants from The American Scandinavian Foundation, The Madison Torske Klubben, and The Norwegian Research Council for supporting me in my research and for helping me make this year possible.

UW at the U.S.-Nordic Leaders’ Summit in D.C.



On May 13, 2016, President Obama hosted an historic summit at the White House with all five Nordic leaders—the prime ministers of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Iceland, and the president of Finland, to discuss issues including the Syrian refugee crisis, Russian aggression, and climate change. In connection with the summit, Secretary of State John Kerry hosted a luncheon at the State Department in honor of the Nordic leaders, to which he invited not only the Nordic leaders, the Nordic foreign ministers, ambassadors to and from the Nordic countries, and various other governmental officials, but also the chairs of the Scandinavian Studies departments at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Washington, the University of California-Berkeley, and St. Olaf College, as well as the president of St. Olaf College. The decision to invite the chairs of the most venerable and productive Scandinavian Studies departments in the United States to this event testifies both to the high profile and valued contributions of these departments, but also to the ongoing relevance of the academic study of the Nordic region to the political, economic, and social issues facing the United States. Our current department chair, Professor Julie Allen, represented both the Scandinavian Studies department and the University of Wisconsin-Madison at this event, where she had the opportunity to meet Secretary Kerry and the U.S. ambassador to Denmark, Rufus Gifford, as well as many other Nordic and U.S. dignitaries.



Congratulations to Our Graduates and Award Winners

Graduates

PhD

Paul Natiw, Summer 2015
Todd Michelson-Ambelang, Fall 2015
Jason Schroeder, Spring 2016

MA

John Prusynski
Lauren Poyer
Samantha Brown

BA

Bailey Green
Stephen Colleton
Meghan Radka
Brock McCord
Rachel Parks
Mindy Van Dyke
Paul Wyatt
Lauren Schwark
Johanna Weissing
Kelly Austin

Awards

Marit Barkve: Martha Taylor Student Scholarship 2016; NORTANA Housing Stipend 2016; UW-Madison Student Research Travel Award 2016; SIU Mobility Grant 2016; NORTANA Norgesseminaret Graduate Student Travel Grant 2015; Mellon-Wisconsin Dissertation Writing Camp 2016; Mellon-Wisconsin Summer Fellowship 2016; American Scandinavian Foundation Fellowship 2016-17; Vera Cronor Grant, SASS, April 2016

Samantha Brown: Vera Cronor Grant, SASS, April 2016; Nordic Migration Conference, August 2016; Larsen Fund Travel Grant, Research in Oslo, Norway, August 2016

Marcus Cederström: 2015 Leif and Inger Sjöberg Translation Award from the American Scandinavian Foundation; 2015–2016 Barbara Morgridge Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship; 2016 Mellon-Wisconsin Dissertation Writing Camp; Vera Cronor Grant, SASS, April 2016; 2016 University of Wisconsin–Madison Graduate School Research Travel Award; 2016 Sam Fishman Travel Grant at the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs; UW Digital Salon – Best of Show for documentary film *Wiigwaasi-Jiimaan: These Canoes Carry Culture* with Colin Connors and Tom DuBois

Colin Connors: American Scandinavian Foundation Fellowship 2016-17; UW Digital Salon – Best of Show for documentary film *Wiigwaasi-Jiimaan: These Canoes Carry Culture* with Marcus Cederström and Tom DuBois

Mirva Johnson: Vera Cronor Grant, SASS, April 2016; UW Graduate School Research Travel Award, Finland, Summer 2016; Department of Scandinavian Studies travel grant, Finland, Summer 2016; FLAS, Finland, Summer 2016

Tristan Müller-Vollmer: Vera Cronor Grant, SASS, April 2016

David Natvig: Vera Cronor Grant, SASS, April 2016

Lauren Poyer: Vera Cronor Grant, SASS, April 2016; Department of Scandinavian Studies Travel Grant, Arnamagnæan Summer School in Manuscript Studies, Reykjavik, Summer 2016

John Prusynski: Vera Cronor Grant, SASS, April 2016

Amber Rose: Boreal Prize (American Folklore Society, Nordic-Baltic Section) “The Milk-Stealing Witch: Sexualized Subtext in Scandinavian Legendry,” presented November 8, 2014

Kyle Swenson: FLAS Summer 2016

Richelle Wilson: Graduate School Fellowship, Academic Year 2015-16; Vera Cronor Grant, SASS, April 2016; Wheatley Institution Summer Seminar Award, July 2016



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Edited by Julie Allen, Todd Michelson-Ambelang, Kirsten Wolf, Marit Barkve, Marcus Cederström, Colin Connors, and Richelle Wilson

Announcements

Summer Classes in Scandinavian Studies

We are offering two classes this summer, and there are still open spots. Both are online, and can be taken anywhere. Join us and learn something new!

Beginning Norwegian – Course Number(s): Scandinavian Studies 101 and 102; Time and Days Meeting: First semester Norwegian will be offered from 6/13 – 7/10, 2016, fully online; Second semester Norwegian will be offered from 7/11 – 8/7, 2016, fully online; Instructor: Peggy Hager (pehager@wisc.edu); Requirements Fulfilled: Language requirement

This intensive introductory course requires no previous knowledge of Norwegian and covers the basics of Norwegian structure, vocabulary and culture. It corresponds to a full first year of Norwegian language. Whether you want to explore your Norwegian heritage, develop a foundation in the language before studying or living abroad, or need to fulfill a language requirement, this course provides individualized instruction in a small classroom setting. Classroom activities are varied and interactive and instruction is enhanced by online grammar and listening exercises.

Scandinavian Heritage – Course Number(s): Scand 296/496; Time and Days Meeting: 6/13 – 7/10, 2016, fully online; Instructor: Julie K. Allen (jkallen@wisc.edu); Requirements Fulfilled: Literature requirement

As anyone who has ever eaten lutefisk, lefse, Swedish meatballs, or kringle knows, immigrants from the Scandinavian countries have made an enormous contribution to American culture. In this online class, we are going to explore the immigrant experience of Scandinavian-Americans, from the conditions in the Old Country that drove them to emigrate to the difficulties they faced in creating new lives for themselves in America and their role in American society. Using literary and cinematic accounts of the Scandinavian immigrant experience as our guide, we will try to answer the questions of where they came from, why they came, where they settled, what they contributed to their new country, and what bits of their traditions they hung on to. Along the way, with the help of eminent scholars, we'll discuss how the Scandinavian-American immigrant experience involves topics such as language wars, identity crises, religious tensions, folk music, and radical politics, and how the Scandinavians became, as President Theodore Roosevelt said, "the best Americans."

Danish American Heritage Society Board Meeting in Madison, May 18, 2016

Even though the wave of Scandinavian immigrants to the U.S. tapered off in the mid-twentieth century, interest in Scandinavian culture and heritage is alive and well, thanks to vibrant community organizations dedicated to its preservation. Founded in 1977, the Danish American Heritage Society (DAHS) aims to promote interest in the legacy of Danish immigrants to the United States, as well as the continued intersections between Danish and American culture. Professor Julie Allen is the editor of the DAHS journal *The Bridge*, with UW-Madison librarian Julianne Haahr as her co-editor. In May 2016, she hosted the semi-annual meeting of the DAHS board in Madison. They met to plan the 40th anniversary conference of DAHS, which will be held in Schaumburg, Illinois from October 5-7, 2017. The theme of the conference is "Danish-American Fusion" and a call for papers will be posted in early 2017 on the DAHS website, danishheritage.org.