



# GERMAN, NORDIC, AND SLAVIC

College of Letters & Science

**Scandinavian Studies Newsletter, Fall 2017**

**Volume XX, Issue 1**

## **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 2018.

For once, we're not running late with regard to the fall newsletter, and for that I'm grateful to the newsletter committee and especially Marcus Cederström, who not only made sure that deadlines were kept but also did most of the editing.

We've had a great fall semester and a full house in Scandinavian Studies with no faculty or staff member on leave or sabbatical. Accordingly, we have, as a group, accomplished a lot in very many areas. As you probably know, Scandinavian Studies was merged with German and Slavic just over a year ago, and the collective opinion is that the merger has been very successful—thanks in many ways to the leadership of our chair, Manon van de Water. We enjoy engaging with our new colleagues in German and Slavic, and we are very impressed with the expertise of our new support staff, Nicole (Academic Department Manager), Katja (Financial Specialist), Mark (Graduate Coordinator), and Bridget (Undergraduate Coordinator).

In early September, we were able to welcome two new colleagues: Claus Elholm Andersen and Marcus Cederström. Both are featured in this newsletter. Accordingly, Scandinavian Studies at UW-Madison now consists of five professors and four academic staff members.

In addition I'm happy to announce that five new graduate students joined us this year: Andy Fernandez, Hayden Godfrey, Brett Mignin, John Prusynski, and Shan Ruan, who came to Madison from Illinois, Arizona, Minnesota, California, and China, respectively.

On occasion, we receive heart-warming notes from our alumni and we've included a few of them here.

With this newsletter, we hope that we've provided not only an update of what we're doing in Scandinavian Studies, but also some good reading material for you over the holiday season. ■

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*Scandinavian Studies Newsletter*

*Edited By: Marcus Cederström, Kirsten Wolf,  
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## New Additions to Scandinavian Studies

### New Assistant Professor of Danish, Claus Elholm Andersen



*Claus Elholm Andersen*

Claus Elholm Andersen is busy. Good busy. There are soccer games every weekend—his son, August, plays on a co-ed team here in Madison. There’s daycare in the morning for his daughter, Andrea—fortunately just down the street from Van Hise at the UW Preschool Lab. And then there’s the marriage officiating: Claus spent a September weekend in Los Angeles officiating the wedding of a former student from UCLA. Despite, or maybe because of, the days filling up so quickly, Claus, his wife Morgan, and their two children have already settled in, saying that “Madison is an easy city to move to. It’s extremely welcoming and it feels like we’ve been here longer than we have because everyone is so friendly.”

It’s not just soccer games and weddings, though. The new assistant professor of Danish is working too. Since arriving in Madison in August, Claus has already written an article about contemporary Danish author Kristina Stoltz and presented at the Danish American Heritage Society conference in Chicago. His productivity, Claus says, is very much a result of the approach to research and teaching fostered by the department, noting that, “there is so much encouragement [here]. People want you to succeed. I get inspired to produce and write.”

And, it seems, inspired to teach. Claus arrived on campus having recently been honored as the Best International Teacher at Helsinki University for his work teaching Danish language and Scandinavian literature. As a literary scholar, he believes it is his responsibility to introduce students and the broader public to new literature. Not because it’s new. But because literature is, as Claus puts it, “a way to re-

flect on living. Literature depicts conflicts between the inner and outer, between the self and the world. It’s a way to address the lives we live and to remind us that we are not alone. Literature doesn’t make a reader empathetic, but it can teach a reader about empathy.” Literature, then, is not just something to analyze, but something to engage with, something to identify with, something to learn from, learn with, learn about.

“With so much Scandinavian literature being translated,” Claus argues, “we have a unique opportunity to ask and examine certain questions: what does this literature say about Scandinavia today? And how is it relevant to us?” That last question is central to Claus’ instructional philosophy and informs the way he approaches the classes he’s teaching here in Madison, including “Readings in Danish Literature” and “Contemporary Scandinavian Literature.” He’s been especially impressed with his students. “The students are all learning from [the reading]; they’re engaging with it. You can’t ask for more as an instructor,” Claus says; “they’ve even expanded my views on the literature!”

Next up for Claus is teaching “The Tales of Hans Christian Andersen” in the spring of 2018, presenting at a conference in Munich about the Danish author Helle Helle, and then a book proposal about Karl Ove Knausgård. As you can see, Claus Elholm Andersen is busy. Good busy.

### Community Curator of Nordic-American Folklore, Marcus Cederström



*Marcus Cederström and Mirva Johnson present at the Oulu Cultural and Heritage Center in Oulu, WI.*

In January of 2017, we welcomed back a familiar face, Marcus Cederström, who completed his Ph.D. in Scandinavian Studies and Folklore in December of 2016 and accepted the position of Community Curator of Nordic-American Folklore in the Nordic Unit in the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic. He’ll be teaching one to two Nordic folklore courses

per year, and is currently teaching a course on Nordic-American folklore, which had been taught by the recently-retired Jim Leary. “Those are some big shoes to fill. Jim has left quite a mark on the department and the university with his research, but also his teaching. It’ll be a fun challenge to build on the work that Jim has done and make sure that the department continues to offer folklore courses that are relevant to the region,” says Marcus.

Along with his teaching responsibilities, Marcus will be working with colleagues Nate Gibson in the Mills Music Library and Anna Rue in the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures (CSUMC) to host a Nordic music symposium and summer field schools for graduate and undergraduate students. In partnership with the Wisconsin and Minnesota Arts Boards, he will also work to promote Scandinavian folk art in the Upper Midwest through various forms of public outreach. The Community Curator position and the positions in the Mills Music Library and CSUMC are funded in part by a three-year grant supporting Scandinavian folk art awarded by Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies. Marcus says, “I’m super excited about the opportunity to continue working with everyone in the department. As a public folklorist, I’m also looking forward to getting out into the Nordic communities of the Upper Midwest and working with different people and organizations to learn about and promote all of the amazing work that folks are doing. It’s a fantastic example of the Wisconsin Idea in action.”

As a graduate student, Marcus worked closely with Jim Leary and Tom DuBois on various public folklore projects, which helped prepare him for the position. Marcus points out “there are a lot of professional development opportunities here on campus. Thankfully, the department is full of professors like Jim and Tom who support the many different career paths available to graduate students so that while we’re learning to research and write like academics, to teach like professors, we’re also learning to make documentary films, create websites, build archives, and connect the research we are doing with all of the people around the region who support the UW.”

Currently, Marcus, with Scandinavian Studies graduate students Mirva Johnson and David Natvig, is working on a project about Ulen, Minnesota. Ulen has a strong Norwegian heritage and the three have been conducting fieldwork in the area, interviewing heritage Norwegian speakers, folk artists, and local

historians about their community, their museum, their Norwegianness, and even their local Viking legends. They hope to have a short documentary film ready by the beginning of the summer that will be available online to the public.

Feel free to contact Marcus Cederström via email at [cederstrom@wisc.edu](mailto:cederstrom@wisc.edu) about potential projects, collaboration, or anything folklore-related in the Upper Midwest!



## Scandinavian Studies on Broadway

Playwright Lucas Hnath’s *A Doll’s House, Part 2*, debuted on Broadway on April 27, 2017. Four days later, it was nominated for eight Tony Awards. Our very own Susan Brantly is listed in the playbill as “Assistant to Mr. Hnath,” for her work as a script consultant.

Because of her expertise in the lives of 19th Century Women, such as Laura Marholm, Professor Brantly received an email from Scott Rudin Productions about consulting on a sequel to *A Doll’s House*, and, as she recalls “said ‘Yes,’ because I am happy when anyone is interested in the things I have spent so much time learning about!”

In the months to come, Professor Brantly shared her expertise: “It felt like facilitating a graduate seminar as a correspondence course,” she said. “I would get, via email, a list of questions, mostly about women’s lives in the 19th Century: Where would Nora live? What employment opportunities were there? And I responded with stories of Victoria Benedictsson, Amalie Skram, Laura Marholm and other women writers I knew.”



Professor Susan Brantly and graduate student Marit Barkve in New York at a showing of *A Doll’s House, Part 2*

Be-

cause *A Doll's House, Part 2*, takes place 15 years after the door slammed in the Helmer household of Ibsen's original, Professor Brantly notes that of the expertise she could share, "probably most important was the information about the divorce laws in Norway and Sweden at the time. (Spoiler alert!) Nora returns because Torvald never filed for divorce, and they have to sort that out, along with a lot of other baggage."

Susan, who saw the play in New York, said, "I thought they did a great job putting the play and the production together." Her consultation didn't begin and end with the play though. "I also had a little impact on the graphic design of the posters and playbill cover," Susan says. "The designers wanted to have a marriage certificate in the background. Though I told them that there would not have been one, they went ahead anyway." They also wanted the name of a town to put on the certificate. Of course, in the original, Ibsen is vague about the location of the Helmer home and so, in a nod to a former professor here, Susan nominated Kristansand, as she says "in part because it was plausible, but mostly because it is the hometown of Harald Naess, and I thought of it as a secret tribute."

The play ended its run on Broadway in September having won a Tony. With a little help from Susan Brantly. ■

## UW– Madison at the Scandinavian Fest in New Berlin, WI

Marcus Cederström and Professor Tom Dubois led a caravan of graduate and undergraduate students to the annual Scandinavian Fest in New Berlin, WI, on Saturday, October 7th. The students taught 30-minute demo lessons for all of the Nordic languages offered by the Scandinavian Studies program at UW-Madison: Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, Sámi, and Swedish.

"I'm a big believer in the Wisconsin Idea and the importance of working with communities. I think it is our responsibility to share the University's resources and contribute to the community whenever possible," said Mirva Johnson, a graduate student in Scandinavian Studies, who taught a Finnish lesson.

Several undergraduate students tried their hand at teaching as well. Alicia Bostrack taught basic Norwegian pronunciation and phrases: "I was really im-

pressed with how much everyone participated and their curiosity about the language...It was thrilling to be able to teach a little of it and to see so many others who were interested to learn." Another Scandinavian Studies major, Kendall Allen-King, said "teaching Swedish was such an important experience for me, especially because I hope to be able to teach Swedish in graduate school. I had a jättekul time."

The Scandinavian Fest also featured Nordic food, music and dance, a book table from the University of Wisconsin Press, a genealogical research station, a full-size Sámi lavvu, and local Scandinavian-American artists and import stores. Our students are already planning to return next year! ■



Lauren Poyer teaches Icelandic to a group of students and community members in New Berlin, WI.

## Faculty and Staff Updates



**Susan Brantly**—This past year has been a great one for Susan Brantly! Her consulting work for Lucas Hnath's *A Doll's House, Part 2*, got her as close as she will probably ever get to being at the same party as Hugh Jackman (Her flight was delayed so she missed the opening night celebration. Aaargh!). *The Historical Novel, Transnationalism, and the Postmodern Era* appeared in March, which was both a relief and a thrill. For more info, see [www.routledge.com/9781138230255](http://www.routledge.com/9781138230255). This past summer Susan went to Paris, so she could walk in the erratic footsteps of August Strindberg and have some cool new slides to use in her Strindberg class next spring. Her favorite part of the visit was stalking dead celebrities in the Montparnasse Cemetery (Baudelaire, Dreyfus, Sartre, de Beauvoir, etc.). George C. Schoolfield's book on Runar Schildt, which she has been co-editing with Kathy Saranpaa, is in the proof stage, and they both hope it will appear in early 2018.

**Marcus Cederström**—The past twelve months have been exciting ones for Marcus Cederström. He defended and deposited his dissertation in December of 2016 and started



a new job in the department in January of 2017. He currently works as the community curator of Nordic-American folklore on a three-year grant-funded project titled “Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Art in the Upper Midwest.” He continues to conduct research and fieldwork and has published one article in Swedish about Signe Aurell for *Personhistorisk Tidskrift* and co-authored with Tim Frandy a second piece on decolonization, public humanities, and his work in Lac du Flambeau. He recently finished an article about his fieldwork with the Ulen Museum in Ulen, Minnesota. Along with his research, Marcus is teaching Scandinavian American Folklore, organizing a Scandinavian and Scandinavian-American music symposium for the spring, and hosting a semester-long workshop series titled “Traditions in Dialogue.”



**Tom DuBois**—Tom DuBois returned to campus after a sabbatical at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study. He spent the summer checking proofs for two books about to come out: a co-edited volume on the portrayal of place in Nordic literature, and a single-authored study of religious wood carving traditions in Northern Europe. The first of these—*Nordic Literature: A Comparative History. Volume 1: Spatial Nodes*—is co-edited with Dan Ringgaard of Aarhus University. It looks at the ways in which settings (“scapes”) and actions (“practices”) related to land, waters, and the broader environment are portrayed in works of Nordic literature from the medieval period to the present. The second work—*Sacred to the Touch: Nordic and Baltic Religious Wood Carving*—looks at six modern artists from Finland, Lithuania, Norwegian America, Sápmi, and Sweden and the ways in which they express relations with past religious traditions and identities through their art.

**Claus Elholm Andersen**—It was, of course, with a bit of trepidation that Claus Elholm Andersen started as the newest faculty member in Scandinavian Studies at the end of August. Everyone has done their best to make him feel welcome and at home right from the beginning—



other faculty members, graduate students, undergraduates, staff, and even random people in the elevator going up to the 13th floor—and Claus is especially thankful for that. Claus left Helsinki with his family in early July and spent most of the summer in Denmark. The weather was horrible, which meant he got a lot of reading done, but the family also spent a great deal of time preparing for the big move to the US. Thankfully the adjustment has gone well for everyone.

Since starting at UW, Claus has finished a couple of articles and has continued his work on Knausgård. What seems to unite most of the things he is working on currently is questions about fiction and fictionality: What it means, how it works, and what it implies. These are, no doubt, issues that he will continue to investigate in the coming years.



**Peggy Hager**—Peggy Hager currently has a 66% position teaching first- and second-year Norwegian language. Language teaching relies heavily on on-line activities and resources that require careful organization to assist students in their language learning and keep them motivated. Our new campus-wide course management system (Canvas) is assisting in this goal. Peggy is also able to continue working with international students in the area of language evaluation and assessment and she continues to give lectures on Norway to local groups in Stoughton and Madison. She recently completed a project with a museum in Fredrikstad, Norway, that involves the translation of materials for an exhibit on the history of the woad plant (vaid in Norwegian). Woad has been a popular plant in Norway used for dyeing textiles dating back to Viking times. She also assisted the American Civil War Museum in Richmond, Virginia, in the translation of Civil War correspondence.

**Dean Krouk**—This fall Dean Krouk started his third academic year at UW-Madison with some good news: his first book—*Fascism and Modernist Literature in Norway*—was published. He spent the summer in Madison working on a project about the writing of memory in modern Norwegian literature, while also serving as the research mentor for an honors undergraduate, Kendall Allen-King. Dean completed an article about Sigurd Hoel's 1947 novel *Møte ved milepelen* and prepared to teach a new course ("History of Scandinavia to 1815"), and also made time for LASIK eye surgery and relaxing family visits, both in Madison with his niece Sofie and on an east coast road trip from Philadelphia to Massachusetts. This winter, his article about Merethe Lindstrøm's novel *Dager i stillhetens historie* will appear in the journal *Edda: Nordisk tidsskrift for litteraturforskning*.



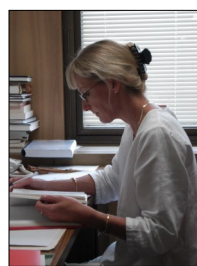
**Scott Mellor**—Scott Mellor started his summer by taking a group of nine undergraduates to Stockholm for three weeks and then went to Åland, where he worked on his folk life project. This year was his first as vice-president of the Association of Swedish Teachers and Researchers in America and he worked with colleagues to organize the October conference in Washington D.C. His dedication to getting first-year undergraduates started down the right path for their college careers continues and his work with the Bradley Learning Community, a first-year dorm, and the International Learning Community (ILC) as the director of the language floor Norden is integral to that goal. His research interests continue to focus on folk life on Åland as well as myth as life cycle narrative.



**Nete Schmidt**—This fall, Nete Schmidt is teaching first- and second-year Danish and "The Tales of Hans Christian Andersen"—classes she thoroughly enjoys. Having finished her work on Scandinavian crime stories, she is now working on a project that analyzes the changing view of and attitude towards immigrants in Denmark. At the Danish American Heritage Conference in October, she addressed the controversial developments in the junior-college



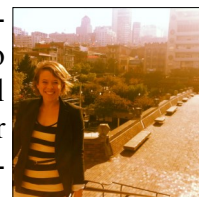
Langkær near Århus. Following this project, she will focus on a new series of crime stories containing explicit social criticism of the current immigrant situation. Nete continues as the Undergraduate Major and Certificate chair, also working on assessment. She participates in the study abroad fair, majors fair, and pre-departure orientation and is responsible for the weekly Danish table. Nete is also the Activities Coordinator for the Scan Design program (42 Danish exchange students this semester). This summer in Denmark, she participated in the Seminar for Danish Teachers Abroad, and she edits a monthly newsletter for Danish lecturers around the world.



**Kirsten Wolf**—Kirsten Wolf is continuing in her position as the Scandinavian Studies unit chair and also as the associate chair of GNS. Kirsten has a lot of irons in the fire. In addition to teaching "Introduction to Scandinavian Linguistics," she is making final revisions to her book, *The Priest's Eye: A Handbook for Priests from Medieval Iceland AM 672 4to in The Arnarnagaeian Collection, Copenhagen*, which is forthcoming in *Manuscripta Nordica: Early Nordic Manuscripts in Digital Facsimile*. Together with Carole Biggams, she is co-general editor of the 6-volume *A Cultural History of Color* (and co-editor of the *Medieval* and *Enlightenment* volumes). She has had to put her edition of *Three Seventeenth-Century Humanist Compendia in Icelandic Translation*, which she is co-writing with Dario Bullitta, on hold in order to co-author with Tristan Mueller-Vollmer *Vikings: Facts and Fictions*. Kirsten had fun this summer serving as a faculty host for a trip to Iceland arranged by the Wisconsin Alumni Association. ■

## Graduate Student Updates

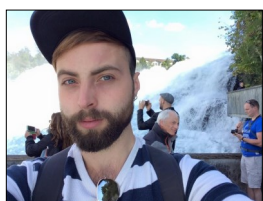
**Marit Barkve**—I am a Ph.D. candidate on the literature track, hoping to defend my dissertation soon. This fall semester I'm a Comm-B TA for "Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature," and I'm teaching a new course called "Migration, Exile, and Diaspora in the Scandinavian Region."





**Colin Connors**—I'm back from a year of research in Iceland to continue writing my dissertation on place-names and memory in the Icelandic Sagas. This year I am also working for the UW libraries in the DesignLab, a consultation service for students and instructors with digital media assignments.

**Andy Fernandez**—I received my BA in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Illinois and I find myself back in my hometown of Madison for my first year of graduate school. I am interested in Norse mythology and the religions of Scandinavia and how they are perceived in modern culture or media.



**Hayden Godfrey**—I received my BA in 2014 from UC Berkeley in German Studies, History, and Music. After a year at the University of Arizona, where I taught 100- and 200-level German courses and completed graduate coursework in Applied Linguistics, I have relocated to UW-Madison to pursue an MA in Scandinavian philology.

**Bailey Green**—Having spent the summer in Norway, I am back in Madison starting my second year of MA coursework. This semester I am working as the Graduate Language Program Coordinator with Norden House in the ILC, as well as TAing a course on the Vikings under the direction of Scott Mellor.



**Mirva Johnson**—I am finishing up my MA in area studies where my research focuses on Nordic American folklore and heritage Finnish spoken in the Upper Midwest. I am excited to be teaching first-year Swedish after attending courses in Sweden this summer through the generous support of the department. In between teaching and classes, I'm still working on processing and conducting more fieldwork in northern Wisconsin.

**Kristiina Jomppanen**—I finished my MA in the University of Turku in July 2017 with studies in German translation and interpreting, education, Finnish language and literature. My research interests include translated Finnish, translation universals, and second-language acquisition. I am currently teaching Finnish here at UW-Madison as a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant.



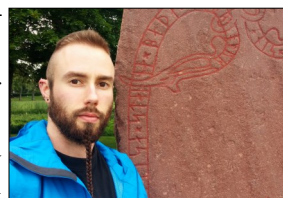
**Michael Knudson**—I am a second-year Ph.D. student and am currently a TA for "Nineteenth-Century Scandinavian Fiction." I am finishing up my last year of coursework and looking forward to beginning my dissertation research, in which I plan to examine monasteries and monasticism in medieval Iceland.

**Brett Mignin**—I am a first-year graduate student here at Madison pursuing an MA after graduating from Augustana College with a BA in Scandinavian Studies. I will continue to focus on my learning of Swedish and am thinking of going down the philology track. I am also interested in researching the interactions between Scandinavia and the Baltic region.



**Laura Moquin**—I received my BA in Anthropology and my BFA in Studio Art from the University of Texas at Austin. I have also attended the University of Oslo International Summer School. My research interests include Scandinavian historical linguistics, Norwegian in America, Icelandic, and Scandinavian children's literature. I am also currently teaching Norwegian!

**Tristan Mueller-Vollmer**—I am a Ph.D. candidate on the philology track. After summer study and research in Sweden, I successfully completed my prelims and am beginning



work on my dissertation on personal names on Swedish Viking Age runestones, and also co-authoring the book *Vikings: Facts and Fictions* with professor Kirsten Wolf.



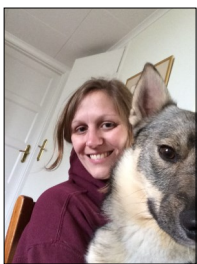
**David Natvig**—I am a Ph.D. candidate in Scandinavian linguistics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. My research focuses on phonological theory, language contact—including language shift and maintenance—and language change, particularly in connection to variation in English, Norwegian, and Heritage Norwegian vowel systems.

**Lauren Poyer**—After a summer abroad, I am happy to return to Madison to begin my year of teaching modern Icelandic language. I spent the summer in Iceland developing my course, as well as in Denmark studying manuscript paleography and in Greenland studying medieval Norse settlement and travel patterns on a generous fellowship from the Mellon Foundation.



**John Prusynski**—After a year-long break from studies, I am starting the Ph.D. program and am focusing on North Sámi literature. I am particularly interested in two Sámi authors, Kirste Paltto and Jovvna-Ánde Vest. This year I am also the assistant to the editors for the *Journal of Scandinavian Studies*.

**Amber Rose**—This is my third year as a Ph.D. candidate and I am writing my dissertation, “Legends of Witchcraft in Scandinavia: Gender, Power, and Religious Identity in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods.” It is also my fourth year as an acquisitions assistant at the University of Wisconsin Press.

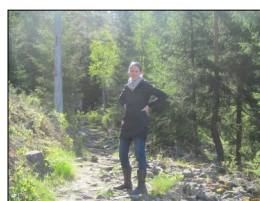


**Shan Ruan**—I obtained my BA in English from Fudan University and my Master’s Degree in Ibsen



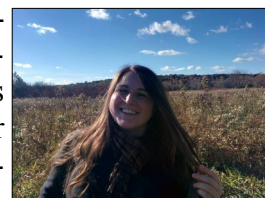
Studies from the University of Oslo before coming here as a Ph.D. student on the literature track this year. My research interest lies in narrative theory and Norwegian literature in the 19th and 20th centuries.

**Kyle Swenson**—This is my fourth year as a graduate student and I completed my MA requirements this past summer. Another recently completed project was organizing our Colloquium Committee’s annual public lecture given by a guest speaker. I am primarily interested in the Icelandic Sagas and I help teach the Hans Christian Andersen class as a TA.



**Johanna Weissing**—I am in my second year as a master’s student on the philology track. I’ve spent the past year broadening my knowledge of Germanic beyond Scandinavian horizons, studying German, Gothic, and the history of English and German. I’m also working with Nete Schmidt as a TA for the Hans Christian Andersen course.

**Richelle Wilson**—I am a third-year Ph.D. student with an emphasis in literary studies. This year, I am teaching second-year Swedish and working as a teaching assistant for the “Nineteenth-Century Scandinavian Fiction” online course in addition to finishing up my own coursework and preparing for preliminary exams. Recently, I was awarded a Public Humanities Exchange (HEX) grant to work with first-generation students in Madison. ■



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

Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ScandinavianStudiesUWMadison](https://www.facebook.com/ScandinavianStudiesUWMadison)

Check out the new Scandinavian Webpage: [gns.wisc.edu/nordic](https://gns.wisc.edu/nordic)

There you will find past newsletters, current staff and students, and more.

## Borghesi-Mellon Workshop in Scandinavian Studies

Professor Tom DuBois, along with Marcus Cederström, Nate Gibson, Mirva Johnson, and Anna Rue received funding from the Borghesi-Mellon Workshops program for the series “Traditions in Dialogue: Nordic-American Communities and Their Arts in Local and Transnational Contexts.” Using Nordic-American communities and those who document them, the series consists of three how-to workshops that helps train private collectors, citizen archivists, folklorists, and genealogists in documentary methods as well as archival best practices and standards, in addition to a series of three lectures that illuminates the existing collaborations of private collectors and public institutions here on campus. “Traditions in Dialogue” has featured Professor Emeritus Jim Leary speaking about the Bob Andresen collection at the Mills Music Library, Troy Reeves holding a workshop on oral history techniques, and a digital storytelling workshop taught by Ph.D. candidate Colin Connors. The series has been an exciting way to celebrate and understand the cultural traces of Nordic migration in the Upper Midwest today. ■



Poster for the Borghesi-Mellon Workshops

## New Book by Professor Dean Krouk

We're excited to announce that, as of September, Professor Dean Krouk's first book is now available from the University of Washington Press. *Fascism and Modernist Literature in Norway* examines the works of novelist Knut Hamsun and modernist poets Åsmund Sveen and Rolf Jacobsen, as well as anti-fascist novelist and critic Sigurd Hoel. Dean's research focuses on Scandinavian literature, intellectual history, and cultural memory, particularly in the Nor-

wegian context and this particular project took shape during his Ph.D. research. Specifically, it was while reading secondary literature about Knut Hamsun and studying comparative modernisms as well as debates about aesthetics and politics from the interwar period that, as Dean says, “I noticed there was a lot of scholarship on the modernism-fascism connection in the context of other European literatures and cultures, but that the debates about Hamsun often treated him as a singular or enigmatic figure.”

To avoid focusing on Hamsun as that singular figure, Professor Krouk expanded his research to include Åsmund Sveen and Rolf Jacobsen, both of whom collaborated with the Nazis in Norway. Dean notes that while Rolf Jacobsen is a major figure of twentieth-century Norwegian literature, “Åsmund Sveen is a more peripheral poet whose work was being reconsidered when I was writing this book. These two were a good fit for my research questions about the intersections of literary modernism and fascism.”

In *Fascism and Modernist Literature in Norway*, Professor Krouk argues that “there is no such thing as a singular ‘politics of modernism,’ but that we find a wide array of social and political engagements in the literature we consider modernist. Sigurd Hoel is the major figure of interwar cultural radicalism, who is of great significance for Norwegian modernist culture in a broad sense. He was the best choice when I decided to include a chapter about antifascism. This is an issue I plan to explore further in relation to other midcentury antifascists in future research.”

You can pick up a copy of *Fascism and Modernist Literature in Norway* from the University of Washington Press and several online outlets. ■



*Fascism and Modernist Literature in Norway*

## Norwegian Metal in Madison

On October 6, Professor Ross Hagen from Utah Valley University came to the University to present “Mother North: Metal Music and Scandinavian Identity in the 21st Century.” Ross spoke to a standing-room-only crowd about Norwegian Black Metal’s notorious history of violence and controversy dating back to the founding bands of the early ‘90s. Despite this history (or perhaps because of it), Black Metal has proven quite popular in Norway to this day. Ross discussed how this past is negotiated and remembered in the present. The event was a fantastic success with over seventy people in attendance. We want to thank Professor Hagen for a wonderful talk and the Center for European Studies, the Mead Witter School of Music, and the Lectures Committee Knapp Fund for generous funding. ■



*A packed house at Ross Hagen’s talk, “Mother North: Metal Music and Scandinavian Identity in the 21st Century”*

## Our Graduate Students Abroad

**Laura Moquin:** With generous funding from our department, I was able to accept a summer internship at the University of Oslo Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies. For two months, I worked on the syntactic parsing of Nynorsk texts transcribed from spoken interviews. I contributed to a larger project, the Norwegian Dependency Treebank, which had previously only been a collection based on written texts. It was exciting to learn about this field, and a great chance to brush up on my Norwegian!

**Mirva Johnson:** This summer I spent three weeks in Uppsala, Sweden, taking language courses through the generous support of the department. I was able to better acquaint myself with both Stockholm and Uppsala whilst studying and improving my Swedish in preparation for teaching first-semester Swedish this fall. I’m very grateful to have had the opportunity to

study and live in Sweden and enjoy the beautiful summer weather!

**Tristan Matthias Mueller-Vollmer:** I spent a month in Sweden this summer, where I took courses in Swedish language and culture at Uppsala International Summer Session in Uppsala and conducted research in preparation for my dissertation about personal names on Swedish Viking Age runestones. In addition, I met with my dissertation committee member Professor Henrik Williams of Uppsala University, which was especially important since opportunities to meet and talk with Professor Williams in person are limited.

**Lauren Poyer:** With a generous grant from the Mellon Foundation, I spent most of my summer in Iceland brushing up on my Icelandic and conducting dissertation research at the National Library. I also transcribed an eighteenth-century manuscript and completed the Ring Road. My husband Colin and I then spent a week in Greenland. We backpacked about 80 kilometers around southern Greenland to visit medieval Norse settlement sites. I ended my summer with a course in manuscript studies at the University of Copenhagen, where I worked with manuscripts in the Arnarnagnæan collection. I learned how scholars digitize manuscripts and how they make them text-searchable.

**Bailey Green:** I spent my summer studying in Oslo, Norway. I was enrolled in a summer course with the International Summer School at the University of Oslo entitled “Gender Equality in Scandinavian Countries.” This was my first time visiting Norway, so I used every opportunity to travel that was available. Over the course of two months, I was fortunate enough to travel to various cities in Norway, including Bergen, Stavanger, Telemark, and Flåm.

**Amber Rose:** This summer, thanks to a generous grant from the American-Scandinavian Foundation, I conducted fieldwork on Gotland and in Nordiska museets arkiv in Stockholm. I visited 32 of Gotland’s 95 medieval churches, photographing murals (especially of the “milk-stealing witch”). At the archive, I collected accounts of Swedish witchcraft dating from the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s. Gotland was a wonderful place to spend the summer, and the archive was

incredible; I am enduringly grateful for the opportunity. ■



*A demon helps a witch churn butter on the walls of Bäl church on Gotland, Sweden.*

## Notes from Our Alumni

**We're always excited to hear from our alumni as they graduate from UW-Madison and head off into the world. Let us know what you've been up to!**

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at UW as a Scandinavian Studies major. Studying the Norwegian language and the country of Norway allowed me to learn about Scandinavia from cultural, linguistic, and historical perspectives, all while taking the necessary math and science pre-requisites to get into dental school. It even allowed me to study abroad in Bø, Norway, for a semester. Scandinavian Studies kept me sane while I was studying biology, chemistry, and calculus. Following my time at UW, I spent four years of dental school at The Ohio State University, and am now a practicing dentist in Columbus, Ohio.

—Warren Gall, '10

I graduated from UW-Madison in 2016 with a major in Scandinavian Studies. Currently, I am working at a living museum in my hometown teaching elementary school students about early immigration to Wisconsin, focusing especially on the high concentration of Scandinavian and German immigrants. The museum is also giving me the opportunity to translate a Norwegian diary from a man whose house may have been part of the Underground Railroad. Having studied such a niche area of Wisconsin's culture has helped me offer a very specific skill set to the museum and teach young students more about the area and the people that came before them.

—Meghan Begley, '16

I started out in the Scandinavian Studies Department at UW-Madison by taking first-semester Danish and instantly fell in love with the department because of the fantastic professors and intimate classroom settings. In all of the classes I took within the Scandinavian Studies Department, whether it was fifth-semester Danish or “The Women in Scandinavian Literature,” I felt that I learned a tremendous amount about Scandinavian culture, language, literature, and society due to discussions I was able to have with my professors and classmates. This would not have been possible without all my professors putting a big emphasis on discussions and presentations. I believe that many of the lessons that I learned while studying Scandinavian Studies will be useful in my everyday life as it has made me a better writer and communicator.

—Frederik Strabo, '17

When thinking of a Scandinavian Studies major, one often thinks Vikings. However, the scope of the major extends far beyond that. I chose Scandinavian Studies because I wanted to learn about cross-cultural perspectives and to learn the approaches taken by small countries that play such large roles internationally. In taking classes like Scandinavian history, folklore, literature, politics, mythology, economics, and language, I was able to learn an incredible amount about so many wonderful countries. I was given the opportunity to explore a distinctive European culture, as well as learn a new language. I think this prepared me to live in a multicultural world and gave me the ability to demonstrate creative thinking. There is only one way to describe the feeling of such a tight, close-knit major, and that is “hygge.”

—Chloe Holmskov, '17 ■

## Annual Glöggfest!

We hope to see you at the annual glöggfest on Friday, December 15 from 5:00–7:00pm in 1418 Van Hise. ■



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

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