

Scandinavian Studies Newsletter, Fall 2018 Volume xxi, Issue 1

A Message from the Program Chair, Kirsten Wolf

Scandinavian Studies.

This issue of our newsletter is the last hard copy that will be mailed out. From now on, we'll move to an online version in order to save paper (and, by extension, trees) and expenses in connection with printing and postage. In order to access the online version of the newsletter, simply head to the Nordic section of the GNS website at <u>https://</u> <u>gns.wisc.edu/nordic/</u>. However, if you would prefer a hard copy, please contact us at nicole.senter@wisc.edu; we'll then promptly print out a copy of the newsletter and mail it to you. We will, of course, continue to issue two newsletters per year (December and May) to keep you informed of news and notes from campus.

The fall semester has been great but also very busy. In addition to our regular duties (teaching, research, and service), we're organizing an international conference on Scandinavian Studies—the annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS), which will take place May 2-4, 2019, at the Monona Terrace. It takes a lot of hands and brains to organize a conference of this size; fortunately, we have a full house this semester: no faculty or staff member are on leave or sabbatical, and our graduate students are an amazing source of help and support.

I'm happy to announce that three graduate students joined the department this year: Ailie Kerr, Bridgette Stoeckel, and Jill Johnson. You'll find their profiles in this newsletter along with those of other graduate students as well as, of course, faculty and staff members.

With this newsletter, we've provided some insight into our many and varied activities. We hope that it'll provide good and interesting reading material. We also hope that you'll be impressed with our work and efforts.

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Marcus Cederström, Laura Moquin, Tristan Mueller-Vollmer, Amber Rose, and Kirsten Wolf.



Exploring Iceland with Alumni

For the second year in a row, Kirsten Wolf took a group of 25 UW-Madison alumni on a 10-day trip to Iceland in order to explore the history and culture of the country. Because of the astronomical prices of hotels, busses, and flights during the tourist season, the UW-Alumni Association arranges trips to Iceland in the late spring in order to keep costs down. However, there are some risks associated with a trip so far north outside of the tourist season, as the "Exploring Iceland" group quickly learned. Although the group was warned about all kinds of weather and asked to pack appropriate clothes, no one expected to see snow upon landing in Keflavík. On the second day, when the group was heading west, there were hurricane-force winds, sleet, and rain. Two days after that, when the

group headed north, the bus had to be equipped with snow tires and belts because of concerns about getting stuck on the mountains roads. Still, everyone enjoyed the trip, and now and then there was a little bit of sunshine and fortunately places of much interest, such as Pingvellir, Akureyri, Námaskarð, and Dimmuborgir.



Professor Emeritus Jim Leary Honored at Folklore and the Wisconsin Idea Conference

Folklorists were out in full force on campus from September 20-22 for the Folklore and the Wisconsin Idea conference. With folklorists from every corner of the country in attendance, Memorial Union was brimming with stories, songs, and a whole lot of plaid shirts. For three days, we packed the Old Madison room of Memorial Union with friends, family, colleagues, and students both past and present.

We heard original field recordings, including wonderful songs like "A Viking Funeral" by Geno Leeche (recorded by Jens Lund). We were brought to tears by Claire Schmidt's beautiful presentation on the importance of place and people in prisonwork here in Wisconsin, which drew on her book, If You Don't Laugh You'll Cry: The Occupational Humor of White Wisconsin Prison Workers. We laughed as Anne Pryor opened her presentation on curling by wearing her club jacket and leading Janet Gilmore and Jim Leary in a traditional toast. And we were excited about prospects for the digital presentation of folklore by graduate students like Colin Connors and Mirva Johnson. We watched as presenter after presenter, panel after panel, spoke to the power of public folklore, the importance of it in their lives, families, and communities. We watched as Janet Gilmore and Jim Leary were honored for the amazing work that they have done, and continue to do, in the Upper Midwest and beyond.

After three days of intense programming, including eight panels, six plenary presentations, and one fantastically catered picnic, Jim and Janet had been sufficiently embarrassed (read honored). We're excited to continue to work with them to support and sustain folklife in the Upper Midwest.

Norden and the Reformation

This year in Norden Hus we have four students, including one returning from last year. This semester our Norden seminar is on the Reformation, and we will be reading The Royal Physician's Visit, a Swedish novel about the Struensee affair in Denmark. The floor holds many weekly events, including breakfasts, movie nights, and Fika breaks. Many of these activities turn into impromptu learning sessions as we compare Swedish and Norwegian languages and cultures, which are evenly represented among our students. We have also baked cinnamon rolls for Sweden's national day and played the Nordic lawn game Kubb. Many other ILC residents have joined our Norden activities, and a few native Swedes have come around as well. We also have a few excursions planned for the future, such as the Scandinavian Folklore Village and, of course, a trip to the newly opened IKEA in Milwaukee!



Annual Glögg Fest

Join us for our annual glögg fest to celebrate the season. Bring your friends and family to 1418 Van Hise on December 13 from 4:30-7:30pm. Students, faculty, and staff will be on hand with delicious treats and warm glögg. Hope to see you there!

Faculty and Staff Updates



Since her book came out last year, **Susan Brantly** has been catching up on several projects, involving modernism, Dinesen, and decadence. Her article on

"Babette's Feast" appeared in a Croatian journal, but you can peruse it in English if you go to Susan's web page on the GNS web site. The article "Nordic Modernism for Beginners" that appears in a special issue of Humanities on Nordic modernisms will seem familiar to anyone who found themselves in "Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature: the 20th Century," since it presents the distilled wisdom of thirty years of teaching that course. Last spring, Susan was pleased to be invited to Berkeley to deliver the keynote talk at the "Borders and Bridges" conference. Further, she spoke to the Valdemar Aager Society in Eau Claire about Ibsen's Enemy of the People in preparation for the adaptation of Ibsen's classic performed at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis.



Marcus Cederström has spent the past year criss-crossing the Upper Midwest. There were talks in Monroe and Madison, Superior and Stoughton. Fieldwork in Houghton and Hancock. Nordic-American

festivals in Nisswa and New Berlin. He also helped organize a summer field school for students in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in June, hosted a conference in honor of Jim Leary and Janet Gilmore in September, and organized a series of presentations at the American Folklore Society conference in honor of the late folklorist Barbro Klein in October. His research resulted in a forthcoming journal article, two co-written articles, and a forthcoming book chapter. With David Natvig and Mirva Johnson, he also produced a short documentary film about the Norwegian-American town of Ulen, Minnesota, titled "It Belongs to All of Us": A Community and Its Museum."



Thomas A. DuBois spent this past year feeling relieved and gratified that his years-long fieldwork project resulted at last in the book *Sacred to the Touch*:

Nordic and Baltic Religious Woodcarving, which appeared in late 2017. Another work that he had been co-editing for years also came out: Nordic Literature: A Comparative History, Volume 1: Spatial Nodes. This study looks at the ways in which place is depicted in Nordic literature over time. In addition to these books, Tom finished work with Marcus Cederström on a collection of translated Finnish-American songs and translated a wealth of Sámi poetry and prose for two forthcoming anthologies. He was honored to receive, along with colleagues here at UW and community partners on the Lac du Flambeau reservation, a UW Community Partnership award, presented by Chancellor Blank in June, 2018, for the multivear project "Indigenous Sustainabilities: Health, Culture and Environment in Waaswaaganing."



Claus Elholm Andersen joined the department in 2017 and has since taught courses on Hans Christian Andersen, contemporary Scandinavian literature, and

the Nordic welfare state. In his research, he gueries fiction and fictionality: What it is, how it works, and what it implies. Fictionality is also front and center in his current book project on Norwegian author Karl Ove Knausgård. His recent publications include an article on Knausgård's My Struggle, published in Critical Quarterly, and an article on the Danish author Helle Helle in a special issue of Spring, which he co-edited with Stig Olsen and Dag Heede. Prior to coming to Madison, he held a position at the University of Helsinki, where he also wrote his dissertation. Since coming to Madison, he has given numerous talks around Wisconsin on hygge and happiness.



Peggy Hager was delighted to be doing what she really enjoys this summer—teaching Norwegian to first-level students. GNS offered first year intensive summer Norwegian through a grant from

European Studies. The course was the only fully online language class offered at UW-Madison this summer. The intensive format allows students to focus on one subject and make fast progress in a short time. While the summer course has been offered in the past in a traditional classroom, students' summer schedules have changed. Work and travel commitments make it difficult for students to sit in a classroom. The online format allows students greater flexibility and UW students can enroll in the course from anywhere in the world. The format presents unique challenges for the learner and instructor, but our course management system (Canvas) is a powerful tool that is well-suited to online instruction. Required face-to-face chats with the instructor help provide individualized instruction and insure that students make progress in oral skills. The wet summer also helped Peggy hone her Wisconsin mushroom picking skills (see picture) that were developed in Norway.



Dean Krouk spent the summer embarking on a new research project about varieties of anti-fascist literature and culture in Norway in the 1930s and 1940s, with summer

funding from UW-Madison. Connected to this project, he developed a new graduate seminar on interwar Scandinavia. In addition, Dean wrote a journal article about the contemporary American playwright Will Eno's adaptation of Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*, and spoke about this at the International Ibsen Conference in Skien, Norway. As the new president of NORTANA, Dean was active in the planning of the annual Norway Seminar. He vacationed in the Canadian Rockies, attended a family wedding in Colorado, and helped host an extended family event in August. Last but not least in a busy summer, Dean spent Tuesday afternoons with his niece Sofie.



Scott A. Mellor started his summer by creating and teaching an online Vikings course. He spent some of the summer working on his second TED-Ed, this one on

Thor's hammer. He has also been asked to create a pilot for a Great Courses streamed class on Nordic history. He is vice-president of the Association of Swedish Teachers and Researchers in America. He continues to work with the Bradley Learning Community, a first-year dorm, and the Inter-national Learning Community as director of the language floor Norden. His interest in getting first year undergraduates started has manifested itself in teaching another First-year Interest Group. In his research, he worked this summer on his Åland folk life and identity project and presented "Åland: Navigating Identity" at a folklore conference.



Much like the monks in medieval libraries and throughout time, **Todd Michelson-Ambelang** is hidden away in the library. He continues collecting for Scandinavian Languages and Literatures and

recently received a small number of Swedish items printed in the US in the late 19th and early 20th century. In the coming months, he hopes to continue collections of Sámi works and Greenlandic works in Danish or English translation, in addition to the Scandinavian Languages. He has recently taken on the added position of ADA Liaison for Public Services in the General Library System. Eking out time for writing is not an easy task; he has been working on five publication projects—one at a time—and hopes that these will soon be completed.



Nete Schmidt continues teaching 2nd year Danish and is happy to have a large enrollment in "The Tales of Hans Christian Andersen." She is also delighted

to be back with Scandinavian Life and Civilization, comprising a number of exciting guest lectures. She stays connected to the Lektoratsudvalg (under the Danish Ministry of Education), and participated in the annual seminar in Denmark. She gave a paper at the annual SASS conference, and she joined DANA (Danish Academic Network of America) in Provo in October. She continues her work on reflections of reality, especially immigration issues, in contemporary Danish crime stories. In April, she had an article about Scandinavian Feminist Crime Stories printed in "Knjizevna Smotra," a Croatian Magazine, and her article about Scandinavian Science Fiction will be included in the "Rethinking Norden in an Evolving" World" hub. Her two youngest sons were happily married this summer and fall.



Kirsten Wolf has returned to teaching and service after her sabbatical in spring of 2018. Kirsten had a productive sabbatical. Her co-authored book

on Three Humanist Compendia in Danish and Icelandic Translation has now been submitted to the Editiones Arnamagnæanæ series. A Cultural History of Color, a sixvolume work, of which she is not only cogeneral editor but also co-editor of two volumes (Medieval and Enlightenment) is well under way, so there is still hope that the publication deadline of 2020 can be met. Despite her busy research schedule, Kirsten managed to take time off to spend weekends with her son in Chicago, work in her yard (a favorite hobby), and once again serve as a faculty host for a trip to Iceland arranged by the Alumni Association.

Graduate Student Updates



Colin Connors—This summer I co-authored an article for the Journal of Sustainability Education and presented at the International Saga Conference.

This year I am a visiting scholar at the University of Washington where I will continue to write my dissertation on place-names and landscape in the Icelandic sagas.

Hayden Godfrey—After studying Swedish in Finland this summer, I am currently in my second year of the MA program in Scandinavian Philology and have recently begun work on my MA thesis on



areal contact between Old Norse and Old Saxon.



Bailey Green—Having spent the summer completing research in Scandinavia, I am back in Madison for my last year of MA coursework. I plan to complete

my thesis on Soviet-Norwegian relations in postwar Norway this semester. I am also working as a TA for a course on Hans Christian Andersen.

Jill Johnson—I am a new student and a Board member at Vesterheim, the National Norwegian-American Museum and Heritage Center. A part-time student and practicing attorney,



I hold a BA in Economics, MBA, and JD, all from UW-Madison.



Mirva Johnson—I am a PhD student researching Heritage Finnish and Nordic American folklore. This summer I conducted fieldwork and helped

Oulu, Wisconsin, with their summer school program and Juhannus Midsummer festival.

Ailie Kerr—This is my first year in Madison and I am looking forward to starting my MA. I'm interested in the medieval period, folklore, church art, material culture, and



obstetrics. My modern language is Danish.

Michael Knudson-I am a third-year PhD.



My research focuses on monasticism in Medieval Iceland and its position in the wider European context. I have taught Modern Icelandic as well as literature.

Brett Mignin—I am in the second year of my MA in philology after a 3-week stint in Axvall, Sweden. This year I am working as a TA and as the Graduate Language Program Coordinator for our ILC language community.





Laura Moquin—I am currently teaching first-year Norwegian while finishing up my MA in Scandinavian philology, after returning from a summer course

at the University of Iceland. I focus on historical linguistics and language ideology.

Tristan Mueller-Vollmer-I

am continuing work on my dissertation on personal names on Swedish Viking Age runestones and serving as the PA for the



Journal of English and Germanic Philology. I am also excited about The Vikings: Facts and Fictions, a book I co-authored with Professor Kirsten Wolf.



Lauren Poyer—In the spring, I accepted a position at the University of Washington in the Department of Scandinavian Studies as a lecturer. I also

passed my preliminary examinations this summer! My dissertation examines the

intersections of spirituality and the sea in the Sagas of the Icelanders.



John Prusynski—I am a second year PhD student focusing on North Sámi literature. I am interested in the ways Sámi authors are exploring questions

of identity, globalization, and indigeneity. I am also a TA for the Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature course.

Amber J. Rose—This is my sixth year at UW-Madison, and I am busy writing my dissertation on legends of witchcraft in Scandinavia. I also work at



the University of Wisconsin Press in the Acquisitions Department.



Bridgette Stoeckel—I am a first-year masters student and my Scandinavian language is Danish. My research interest is in the literature treating the

post-colonial relationship among Denmark, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands.

Kyle Swenson—This is my fifth year here and my second as a PhD student. This semester I'm TAing for 19th Century Scandinavian Fiction. The general direction of



my studies is something like 19th century literary conceptions of the Vikings/sagas.



Richelle Wilson—I am a fourthyear PhD student focusing on literary studies and public humanities. This year, I am teaching second-year Swedish

and working part-time as a radio producer here in Madison. Other projects this semester include editing a collected volume about Nordic folk dress and preparing for preliminary exams.

Notes from Our Alumni Rachel Willson-Broyles



Dr. Rachel Willson-Broyles graduated from the Department of Scandinavian Studies (now the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic) with her Ph.D. in May of 2013. While still a student, Rachel began to translate from Swedish into English and enjoyed the work so much that it is now her full-time career. Her years of language learning and teaching at the university are of course crucial to her success, but she emphasizes that her studies prepared her in other ways as well. "My years of in-depth study of Swedish literature, culture, and language are what make it possible to do my job every day," she says. "When I need to research a term or concept further, I use skills I learned throughout my education." And, she adds, "graduate school prepared me for a hard part of self-employment: sitting down to work every day even when the deadline seems far off."

Asked what advice she would offer current graduate students, Rachel suggested to "practice communicating professionally and clearly in both English and your other languages." Workplace etiquette is key everywhere, and if you ever need to write in your Nordic language, she stresses that it's crucial to be "polite and professional in different cultural contexts." Rachel also recommends that graduate students join non-academic professional organizations in addition to the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study; she herself, for instance, belongs to the American Literary Translators Association. Such groups can offer professional development opportunities, best-practice guidelines, and conferences where, she points out, "you can get to know colleagues and build a community."

Now living in St. Paul, Minnesota, Rachel not only reads plenty of Swedish for her job but also teaches Swedish once a week at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. Although she loves St. Paul, where she and her wife recently bought a house, she confesses to missing Madison as well—in particular the Kakilima food cart. Look for Rachel's newest translation, out in January of 2019, of Jonas Jonasson's *The Accidental Further Adventures of the 100-Year-Old Man* (HarperCollins), and her translation of *Quicksand* by Malin Persson Giolito (Other Press), which received the 2018 Petrona Award for Best Scandinavian Crime Novel of the Year in the UK.

Notes from Our Alumni Tim Frandy



Dr. Tim Frandy, who earned his Ph.D. at UW-Madison in Scandinavian Studies and Folklore in 2013, is now in his second year as an Assistant Professor of Folk Studies at Western Kentucky University (WKU). Specializing in public folklore, museum studies, and historic preservation, the highly-regarded Folk Studies Program at WKU offers a Masters program and undergraduate minor. "It's a real privilege getting to work with such fantastic colleagues," says Frandy, "as well as the talented young graduate students." Frandy's current course-load includes Cultural Conservation, Vernacular Architecture, Museum Studies, and Foodways.

Over the summer Frandy guest edited two special journal issues. One, one the topic of "Decolonizing and Sustainability Education," was for the open-access and online *Journal of Sustainability Education*. The other, called "Common Ground: People and Our Places,"

was for the Journal of Folklore and Education. Frandy explains, "It was a ton of work, but both issues turned out wonderfully. It was really a treat to watch all these essays grow and evolve."

Perhaps most important, Frandy's new researched translation *Inari Sámi Folklore: Stories from Aanaar*, is complete and set to be released in January of 2019 by the University of Wisconsin Press. The book is mostly based on fieldwork conducted by A.V. Koskimies in the 1880s. Encouraged by other folklore collectors, Koskimies studied the Aanaar (Inari) Sámi language for only a few months, and wrote down stories in the Aanaar language as best he could—most likely understanding only a fraction of what was being said. The hand written manuscripts sat for thirty years before the ethnographer Toivo Itkonen published them in 1917 in Finnish and Aanaar Sámi.



"It's an underused collection," says Frandy. "It's got hundreds of pages of fairy tales, belief legends, proverbs, riddles, omens, and humorous stories from this small community of about 800 Aanaar Sámi, who have just experienced a massive transition in the way they are living." The collection features many stories that detail the transition from fishing and hunting toward agriculture, from traditional religion toward Christianity, from traditional siida governance to Finnish-style governance. Frandy augments the original text with storyteller biographies, maps, period photos, and headnotes that contextualize the stories in their time and place. "By situating these stories within the community," says Frandy, "we can better understand how the community is diverse. We can see the relationships between stories and storytellers, whether the bawdy humor of Antti Kitti, the didacticism of schoolmaster lisakki Mannermaa, or the feminist leanings of Juho Petteri Lusmaniemi."

New Books from Nordic Faculty, Staff, and Students

• Susan Brantly. The Historical Novel, Transnationalism, and the Postmodern Era. New York: Routledge, 2017. 190 pages.



- Thomas A. DuBois. Sacred to the Touch: Nordic and Baltic Religious Wood Carving. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2017. 201 pages.
- Thomas A. DuBois et al., eds. Spatial Nodes. Vol. 1 of Nordic Literature: A Comparative History. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2017. 733 pages.
- Dean Krouk. Fascism and Modernist Literature in Norway. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2017. 180 pages.

Kirsten Wolf and Natalie M. Van Deusen. The Saints in Old Norse and Early Modern Icelandic Poetry. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017. 377 pages.

• Kirsten Wolf and Tristan Mueller-Vollmer. The Vikings: Facts and Fictions. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2018. 183 pages.



Workshop Series on **Academic Publishing**

For the 2018-2019 academic year, the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic is partnering with the University of Wisconsin Press to offer a series of workshops on academic publishing to faculty, staff, and students in the department and beyond. Each of the eight sessions features at least one Press staff member and most feature a topics like contracts and subventions, turning dissertations into books, and copyright issues.

The series is spearheaded by Amber J. Rose, a Ph.D. candidate in the Nordic unit and an assistant acquisitions editor at the Press. "Being both an acquisitions editor and a student gives me an unusual perspective on the two halves of academic publishing," Rose says. "There's not as much communication as there could be between them." The series will provide a space to encourage that communication between publishing professionals and academics.

Summer Adventures

Several graduate students traveled to Scandinavia this summer, where they honed their linguistic skills-like Hayden Godfrey-or presented at conferences-like Amber J. Rose. Four of our students, highlighted here, received stipends for more in-depth work:

Brett Mignin: In late July, with much thanks to the Swedish Institute, I had the opportunity to study in Axvall, Sweden, and improve my Swedish in preparation for my position as Norden House GNS faculty member. The sessions cover GLPC. It was a wonderful experience, immersing myself in the culture and speaking Swedish in the beautiful countryside. The unprecedented warm weather in Sweden enabled us to take many of our language courses outside, and we traveled to many nearby destinations, such as Skövde, Gothenburg, and nature reserves. Being an international program, it allowed me to meet a variety of students from all over Europe and elsewhere.

> **Mirva Johnson:** This summer, I spent eight days in the stunning community of Sointula, on Malcom Island in British Columbia, doing fieldwork with linguist Dr. Marisa Brook. Sointula was settled in 1901 as a utopian colony by Finnish immigrants and while the initial colony failed, a vibrant community remains-along with many heritage speakers of Finnish. I interviewed several speakers

of Finnish and am analyzing how this variety of Finnish relates to heritage Finnish spoken in the Upper Midwest, while also researching how and when the community transitioned to speaking English. It was an incredibly fruitful trip, and Dr. Brook and I are hoping to return for more interviews!

Laura Moguin: With the help of department funding, I studied modern Icelandic for four weeks this summer at the University of Iceland's International Summer School in Reykjavík. The program included regular trips to museums, historical sites, and other places of interest. Organizers invited in lecturers with expertise in many different fields, including a music historian, a political historian, and a geologist. I really appreciated the diverse perspectives of Iceland. The language classes were intensive, but very rewarding. When I left Iceland, I was very happy with my new and improved language skills, and my experience in general. I look forward to going back sometime soon after I have had a chance to improve even more!

Bailey Green: Thanks to generous funding from the Torskeklubben organization in Madison, Wisconsin, I was able to travel to Scandinavia this summer to complete research for my MA thesis. I spoke with U.S. Embassy and Fulbright representatives in Oslo, Stockholm, and Helsinki about American-Soviet relations in Postwar Scandinavia. With all of the research I accomplished, I hope to complete my thesis by December 2018.



Brett (third from left) on his trip to Sweden.

SASS in Madison

The Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study is a scholarly organization devoted to the study of all topics related to the Nordic countries. It was founded in 1911, with UW professor Julius Olson as its first president. Two of the current faculty at our university have served as presidents in more recent years: Susan Brantly and Tom DuBois.

Each year, the Society mounts a major international conference, where scholars from North America and Europe converge to present their research and benefit from each other's feedback and advice. On May 2-4, 2019, the UW-Madison will host SASS at the Monona Terrace Center.

A wide range of different presenters and presentations are expected, including art history, culture, film, folklore, history, language pedagogy, linguistics, literature, medieval studies, and many other topics. A special component of this year's program will be an interrelated conference on Nordic-American folk art. There will be events that are both open to the general public and others limited to conference participants. We invite you to consult the SASS website for details and to consider joining us for some or all of this unique and exciting intellectual event! The SASS website is: <u>https://scandinavianstudy.org/</u>



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