



A Message from the Program Chair, Tom DuBois

Sustainability is a word often invoked but seldom truly embraced. It involves making hard choices and expending great energies in the here and now for the benefit of situations or people long in the future. You will read a lot about sustainability in this issue of the newsletter and all of it is the real deal. There was the “Indigenous Sustainabilities” conference that took place March 19–22, and that helped put Sámi and Menominee cultural activists into dialogue about important topics like language maintenance, environmental protection, and education. Then there was the lively conference entitled “Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Music,” which took place April 12–14, showcasing the hard work of preserving, presenting, and sharing Nordic folk music in the Upper Midwest, now and in the future. These highly successful, high-profile conferences reflect the leading role our program plays in the field of Scandinavian studies, both nationally and internationally. But you’ll find quieter and equally important instances of sustainability in this issue as well, including a dynamic effort to interest Madison middle school students in learning about Scandinavia and its vibrant and beautiful languages. And then there was the 45th annual Wahlström Nordic Workshop, held at Beaver Creek Reserve in February. Year in and year out, program faculty, staff, and students trek up to Beaver Creek to spend the weekend with students and enthusiasts of Scandinavian culture from across the Upper Midwest. Why do we do these things? Sustainability. It’s not just a word, it’s an agreement we have come to with our students and supporters. A commitment to make sure that generations of Wisconsin students and community members can learn about the cultures and societies of Scandinavia, past and present. That’s a commitment our program has been keeping since 1875, and with your help, encouragement, and energies, we’ll still be hard at that work come 2075. That’s sustainability, the real deal.

--Tom DuBois, interim chair

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Scandinavian Studies
Newsletter Committee:
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Mueller-Vollmer

Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Music in the Upper Midwest

From April 12–14, Marcus Cederström, Nate Gibson, and Anna Rue hosted the "World Records Symposium: Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Music in the Upper Midwest." The three welcomed musicians and scholars to an overcast Madison from the Upper Midwest and the Nordic countries, as well as hundreds of audience members over the course of the three days.

The symposium included several roundtable discussions with artists and academics, two nights of concerts featuring two



Beth Rotto, Dwight Lamb, and Sara Pajunen perform at Folklore Village.

NEA Heritage Fellows, and a keynote address from Dr. Christopher Goertzen, professor of musicology at the University of Southern Mississippi. As the rain turned to snow and the Upper Midwest was hit by an April blizzard, a brave few headed out on Saturday evening to a community dance featuring Foot-Notes at Folklore Village in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. The symposium brought together musicians and scholars to focus specifically on the influence of Nordic migration on folk music in the region and how that music is being re-created, re-imagined, and revitalized. "Events like Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Music in the Upper Midwest," says Jim Leary, professor emeritus of folklore and Scandinavian studies, "really help local people learn about and understand their cultures, update their conceptions of the Nordic region, and create relationships with folks in the Nordic region as well as elsewhere in the Upper Midwest."

Community members were given the opportunity to meet with and learn from musicians and scholars who specialize in Nordic and Nordic-American folk music from Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, as well as Canada, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. "We were especially excited to host so many talented musicians, including Dwight Lamb and Paul Dahlin, who have received National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowships," says Anna Rue, Community Curator of Upper Midwestern Scandinavian Cultures. "We were also joined by Laura Ellestad from Norway and Maja Heurling from Sweden. By listening to the local and the global sounds of Nordic migration, we can better understand the ways that migration continues to have effects long after it occurs."

The symposium, part of the Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Arts in the Upper Midwest grant, was sponsored by the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures; the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic; the Mills Music Library; the National Endowment for the Humanities; and the Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture.

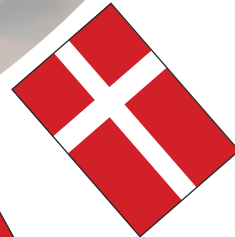


Nordic Cultures at Hamilton Middle School

On Friday, February 23, four graduate students from Nordic Studies participated in Hamilton Middle School's annual Multicultural Night. The evening's events celebrated the diversity of the school's students and families with an impressive and delicious potluck, as well as an ongoing set of performances on the cafeteria's stage. Just a step away from the cafeteria's entrance, attendees roamed the main hall of the school filled with engaging and informative booths representing cultures from around the world. These booths were organized by families and invited scholars from different departments at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Representing the Nordic countries were Colin Connors and Lauren Poyer for Iceland, Amber Rose for Sweden, and Laura Moquin for Norway. Students and parents alike walked by with questions about geography, art, politics, history, and the languages of the various countries. Passersby were invited to look at books, art, and objects on display, inspiring interesting questions and conversations. Colin, Lauren, Amber, and Laura also offered arts and crafts projects, and brief introductions to simple words and phrases so that those who were interested could get a feel for the sounds of different Scandinavian languages. The night was a success and we look forward to participating again next year!



Scandinavian Languages Conversation Group



FALL & SPRING SEMESTER
EVERY OTHER THURSDAY EVENING

(SEE CALENDAR ON FACEBOOK OR MEETUP.COM)

Contact: LMoquin@wisc.edu

BARRIQUES ON MONROE ST, 6PM - 8PM

45th Annual Wahlström Nordic Workshop

From February 16–18, over 100 students from universities across the midwest came together for a weekend of traditional Scandinavian crafts, outdoor activities, and networking among young Nordic scholars for the 45th annual Wahlström Nordic Workshop at Beaver Creek Reserve. Presentations about translation, cultural identity, and folk traditions provided interesting takes on current research and events. This year, food historian Patrice Johnson talked about her personal journey to Nordic heritage food, family roots, and, specifically, meatballs. Johnson also introduced her new book, **Jul: Swedish American Holiday Traditions**. Additionally, UW-Madison Ph.D. student Lauren Poyer presented about Norse archeological sites in southern Greenland, and UW-Madison Ph.D. graduate Rachel Willson-Broyles spoke about her work as a literary translator. While not busy listening to lectures, many students tried their hands at wood carving, wood burning, band weaving, axe-casting, spark racing, and folk dancing, while others checked out snowshoes or skis and enjoyed the snowy nature trails. After dinner, students watched **The Kilt & The Kofte**, a documentary exploring Sámi and Scottish identity in northern Norway, and **Napapiirin Sankarit**, a Finnish comedy taking place in the Arctic Circle. It was an exciting weekend and we hope to see you next year!



Indigenous Sustainabilities: Native Perspectives from Sápmi and the Upper Midwest

Professor Tom DuBois and Community Curator of Nordic-American Folklore Marcus Cederström hosted the multi-site symposium, “Indigenous Sustainabilities: Native Perspectives from Sápmi and the Upper Midwest” March 19–22. The event, part of the “Sustaining Scandinavian Folk Arts in the Upper Midwest” grant, was supplemented with generous grants from the Samarbetsnämnden för Nordenundervisning i utlandet as well as the Jean Monnet European Union Center of Excellence at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Funding facilitated the bringing of four prominent Sámi educators and scholars: Harald Gaski, Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø; Lena Kappfjell, Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø; Veli-Pekka Lehtola, Giellagas Instituhitta of the University of Oulu, Finland; and Jelena Porsanger, University of Helsinki, Finland.

Where typical conferences ask each participant to give a single solo address, “Indigenous Sustainabilities” asked its Sámi participants to make multiple shorter presentations in different contexts. On Monday, March 19, for example, the visitors met with students and community members in the Environmental Studies 600 capstone course taught by the Nelson Institute’s Jessie Connaway. The next day, Gaski, Kappfjell, Lehtola, and Porsanger discussed ideas of sustainability in a Sámi and indigenous context with the general Madison public in an open lecture held in conjunction with DuBois’s course “Sámi Culture, Yesterday and Today,” a class with students at UW–Madison as well as at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities. Following the lecture, the visitors met with the Tribal Libraries, Archives and Museums student organization and UW–Madison Libraries faculty and staff. Finally, the Sámi scholars packed into a van with Marcus, Tom and Scandinavian Studies graduate student John Prusynski, and headed off toward the Menominee Reservation, in Keshena, Wisconsin.

On Wednesday, the group spent the day on the

Menominee reservation. After an opening prayer, the Sámi visitors were officially welcomed by Chairman Doug Cox of the Menominee Nation and Chris Caldwell of the College of Menominee Nation Sustainable Development Institute. Together, the Sámi and UW scholars discussed with faculty, students, and community members at the College of the Menominee Nation and the Sustainable Development Institute the hard work of decolonizing Indigenous societies, revitalizing threatened Indigenous languages, and working toward exchanges of ideas, students, and personnel. The day included meetings with the Menominee Language and Culture Commission and the Menominee Cultural Museum, as well as a concert by Nammy-award winning singer Wade Fernandez, a member of the Menominee Nation.

Back in the van on Thursday morning, the group set off for Minneapolis. Through the wonders of streaming video, students in both Madison and Minneapolis classrooms participated in the “Sámi Culture, Yesterday and Today” presentations and discussions. In the evening, the group presented again in a free lecture open to the general public at the American Swedish Institute in downtown Minneapolis and was part of a course on Sámi culture taught by Professor Kari Lie at Saint Olaf College. Local Sámi Americans as well as people of other Nordic and Indigenous backgrounds were in attendance and were joined by students and faculty from Gustavus Adolphus College and Saint Olaf College.

The Indigenous Sustainabilities symposium provided a framework in which multiple scholars interacted with each other and with their audiences in an open negotiation of meaning and understanding that foregrounded the ways in which scholars arrive at wider understandings of complex processes like colonization, decolonization, and cultural revitalization. The multi-site framework for the symposium ensured that people in various places and contexts were able to benefit from the visits of these prominent and inspiring scholars. In this way, the symposium lived up to the ideals of the Wisconsin Idea, while also working to decolonize the academic work and mission of the University of Wisconsin–Madison. It contributed uniquely to the goal of helping sustain Nordic folk arts in the Upper Midwest and building linkages between various Midwest communities and Sámi culture workers and institutions.

Notes from our Alumni

Jason Schroeder at the Scandinavian Cultural Center



Jason M. Schroeder graduated with a Ph.D. in Scandinavian Studies from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in May of 2016. After a brief sojourn at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, where he taught courses in Swedish culture and folklore, he started a new position in August of 2017 as the director of the Scandinavian Cultural Center at Pacific Lutheran University.

As director, Jason is responsible for managing and developing the center, including curating exhibits with the collection's 3,200-plus Nordic-American artifacts and conducting fieldwork with community members. "I like being able to use my skills from both graduate school—especially my folklore training—and my skills from my former professional life to do this job," Jason says. "Just about every exhibit I plan has a folklore component."

Currently, Jason is busy with no fewer than three major projects for the center. One coming exhibit will focus on fiber crafts and another, with fieldwork planned for the summer months, will investigate how living history re-enactors use Viking re-enactments in their construction of a Nordic identity. The third is, for now, under wraps. Long term, Jason hopes to increase the center's prominence as a regional hub for Nordic-

American communities. It is a busy job, but a rewarding one. "My favorite part is making connections with the people in the community," he says. "Working with talented individuals whose work helps bind the space and the community together is a dream come true."

Asked what advice he has for current students, Jason urges: "Be confident in yourselves—which includes being unafraid to ask for help. I've been getting lots of help and am grateful to know both my strengths and my limitations." He also recommends that current graduate students invest in picking up skills with programs like InDesign, Photoshop, and Premier Pro, and that they practice writing professional pieces, like grants and donor letters, in addition to academic papers. "I spend a lot of time writing reports, logs, letters, proposals, and policy documents," he says, in addition to constructing five- and ten-year plans for the center.

Although he confesses that he misses Madison—"I spent nine years there," he says, "and miss Friday evening graduate student happy hours and the camaradery I had with my colleagues"—in many ways the move to Tacoma is a homecoming for Jason, who grew up in the Pacific Northwest. "I love being able to get into the mountains to camp in the world I know best: clouds, sunsets, and the Puget Sound. Predicting the weather," Jason adds wryly, "is easier too: it will likely rain."

Jackson Crawford at the University of Colorado Boulder

After teaching at the University of California Los Angeles from 2011–14 and at the University of California Berkeley from 2015–2017, Ph.D. graduate Jackson Crawford was hired as Instructor of Nordic Studies & Nordic Program Coordinator at the University of Colorado Boulder beginning in the fall of 2017. In conjunction with his teaching, he has continued his research into semantics and the classification of Old Norse color terms, following the direction of his dissertation.

Similar to the Department of German, Nordic and Slavic at UW-Madison, CU's Nordic program fits within the larger Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages. Jackson's responsibilities include three classes per semester—one each semester with an enrollment of over 150 students—and managing the Nordic Program.



Currently he is teaching courses on Norse Mythology, Icelandic Sagas, and Vikings. Norse Mythology is Jackson's favorite class to teach, which he taught at UCLA, UC Berkeley, and now the University of Colorado. He also enjoys teaching Old Norse language, which he taught for three years at UCLA and is planning to bring to CU Boulder in the foreseeable future.

Jackson's education at UW-Madison prepared him well for his academic career. "My Ph.D. in Scandinavian Studies at UW Madison included many of the subjects I now teach at CU Boulder, and what I didn't learn in the classroom there I learned thanks to the skills I picked up as a student in Madison," he says. Jackson enjoys teaching because he likes taking a complicated subject and doing his best to lead people from the "bottom floor" to the top. He also enjoys the challenge of effective pedagogy and tries to learn more about how to teach with each semester.

Meanwhile, Jackson has not only been busy inside the classroom, but also in reaching out to a wider

audience. His translations of **The Poetic Edda: Stories of the Norse Gods and Heroes** (published March 5th, 2015) and **The Saga of the Volsungs: With the Saga of Ragnar Lothbrok** (published July 31st, 2017) for a general audience have both been best-sellers. His publisher, Hackett Publishing Company, has requested three more books: **The Saga of King Hrolf Kraki with The Saga of Hervör and Heidrek** tentatively scheduled for 2020, **The Prose Edda** for 2021, and an Old Norse language textbook for 2022 or 2023. Jackson also runs a very successful YouTube channel, on which he presents about Norse mythology, language, society, sagas, etc. for a general public that is very interested in these subjects.

The most exciting part about his new position according to Jackson is "the opportunity to teach the subjects I know best, in the part of the country I consider home."

Scandinavian Studies T-Shirts

Interested in getting a Scandinavian Studies t-shirt? The Nordic Graduate Student Association (NGSA) is giving out t-shirts as thanks for any donation of \$20 or more. T-shirts are available in black, blue, and red from S to XXL. For more information, email Mirva Johnson at mjohnson52@wisc.edu. All donations go to the NGSA and support graduate students in their research, teaching, and professional development.



New Graduate Seminar on Interwar Scandinavia

The department is excited to be offering several new courses next year, including a new graduate seminar to be taught in the fall of 2018 by Professor Dean Krouk. This new course, a special topics graduate seminar (Scandinavian 901), will address the intersections of literature, culture, and politics during the interwar period (1918–1939). The decades between the world wars, in Scandinavia as elsewhere in Europe, brought fascinating developments in cultural and intellectual life, which took place within a chaotic and troubling political and economic atmosphere. Many writers at the time explored the new possibilities of modernity opened up by the breakaway from past tradition that the “Great War” represented. This engagement with modernity often took the form of social and political commitments and reactions of various sorts: fascist and communist, radical and conservative, feminist and traditionalist. How did political and social ideologies inhabit literature in the interwar period? What are the connections between aesthetic forms and political visions at this time? How do we negotiate the legacies of literary figures who had problematic political attachments or world-views? In the broadest sense, this seminar asks how literature derives from and upholds normative agendas and value systems. Students will discuss Scandinavian and European topics such as cultural radicalism, modernism/modernity, feminism, communism, and fascism/Nazism. Readings will include dramas, fiction, poetry, and essays by Scandinavian writers such as Sigurd Hoel, Cora Sandel, Karin Boye, Pär Lagerkvist, Poul Henningsen, and Knut Hamsun. Each student will develop a semester-long project on a topic of their choice that will offer opportunities for professional development: a research paper, a pedagogical project such as a course proposal with sample lesson plans, or a translation with commentary based on a Scandinavian text from between the wars, for example.

Congratulations to Our Scandinavian Studies Graduates

Ph.D.

Marit Barkve, December 2017
David Natvig, April 2018

MA

Kyle Swenson, August 2017

Bachelors

Jorge Argote, May 2018
Cori Garrett, May 2018
Joshua Grosser, May 2018
Aaron Hathaway, May 2018
Eavan McBride, May 2018
Katherine Pickup, May 2018

Certificates

Jacob Schleusner, August 2018
Aimee von Arx, May 2018
John Baynton, May 2018
Alicia Bostrack, May 2018
Cason Cleveland, May 2018
Jonathan Drew, May 2018
Emma Krauska, May 2018
Freya Hambrick, May 2018



Photo by Jeff Miller / UW-Madison

Congratulations to Our Award-Winning Students

Kendall Allen-King, Department of Scandinavian Studies Travel Grant
Marit Barkve, Society for the Advancement of Scandinavia's Aurora Borealis Prize
Grant Bryce Gildner, Department of Scandinavian Studies Travel Grant
Bailey Green, Torskeklubben Travel Grant
Mirva Johnson, Department of Scandinavian Studies Travel Grant
Lauren Moquin, Vera Cronor Grant; Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS Fellowship; Department of Scandinavian Studies Travel Grant
Tristan Mueller-Vollmer, Mellon Foundation Fellowship, Vera Cronor Grant
Lauren Poyer, Department of Scandinavian Studies Travel Grant; Vera Cronor Grant
Molly Rapozo, Department of Scandinavian Studies Travel Grant
Amber Rose, American Folklore Society's Boreal Prize; Society for the Advancement of Scandinavia's Aurora Borealis Prize; Vera Cronor Grant
Lydia Taylor, Sons of Norway Grant; Department of Scandinavian Studies Travel Grant
Richelle Wilson, Maxwell Institute Summer Seminar Award, Public Humanities Exchange (HEX Grant, L&S Teaching Fellow Award Nomination, Vera Cronor Grant

Scandinavian Studies to Host SASS 2019

Join us on the shores of Lake Monona for the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study's annual conference, May 2–4, 2019! The conference will take place at the Monona Terrace Convention Center, designed by local architect and luminary Frank Lloyd Wright. Building on the 2018 theme "Frontiers: Past, Present and Future," we'll be asking about the closing of various frontiers. Frontiers are borders—real and imagined, present and historical. Scandinavia, like the United States, is seeing previously open borders starting to close. This holds not only to those trying to enter as immigrants or refugees, but also to those wishing to move within the once open Nordic region. "Closing the Frontiers" raises to the question of what and whom to include when talking about Scandinavia—today and in the past.



Madison is extremely well situated to discuss the question of the closing of frontiers. Frederick Jackson Turner, famous for his "Frontier Thesis" of 1893, was a professor of history at UW-Madison. Richard Hartshorne, who drew up the boundaries between the different sectors of a divided Germany after WWII, was a professor of cartography at UW-Madison. Rasmus B. Anderson, popularizer of Leif Erikson as an explorer of the New World, was a professor of Scandinavian Studies at the UW-Madison and founder of the department of Scandinavian Studies in 1875—the first such department in the United States, and arguably the first such in the world.

For more information, visit www.ScandinavianStudy.org and if you're interested in supporting the conference, please contact Tom DuBois or Marcus Cederström.

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Our sincere thanks to the many alumni and friends who have generously supported Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Private gifts are increasingly critical to ensuring that we maintain our stature as one of the nation's best Scandinavian Studies programs. Your donations help us attract top faculty and graduate students, support our amazing undergraduate majors, and host a stimulating series of lectures, symposia, and other scholarly activities. Gifts of any size are most welcome and gratefully received. There are several options if you'd like to donate.

If you wish to contribute online, please go to the University Foundation at:
<https://www.supportuw.org/?s=Scandinavian+studies>

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

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