

DEPARTMENT OF

Scandinavian Studies

Message from the Chair

TERJE LEIREN



As the old joke goes: I have good news and I have bad news. Not surprisingly, the bad news relates to the fiscal situation in our nation that, inevitably, affects us all. Deep cuts in the Washington State budget and subsequent reduction in funding to the University, naturally, have found their way down to the Department of Scandinavian Studies. As a result, we face a vacant faculty position, reduced graduate student support and a significant reduction in endowment earnings that would ordinarily support a wide range of departmental activity, including student scholarships. But there is also much good news.

With the number of majors in the Department passing 90, we graduated twenty-nine undergraduate students this year, including ten with department minors. With the formal approval of our new Finnish major in September by the State Higher Education Coordinating Board, Hester Angus became the first UW student to graduate with a major in Finnish. Two graduates, Kendra Wendel and Emily van der Harten, were invited to join Phi Beta Kappa as a result of their outstanding scholarly achievements during their careers at the UW. On the graduate level, three MA degrees were awarded this year and two students completed their dissertations and were awarded the Ph.D. Such success is indeed very good news.

It is also a pleasure to note that, as a result of donor generosity, two of our professorships have become Chairs with endowments that exceed \$1 million. The Scan|Design by Inger and Jens Bruun Foundation has partnered with the Department to establish several unique exchange programs with Denmark coordinated by the newly appointed Scan|Design Chair, Dr. Marianne Stecher-Hansen. In addition, the Sverre Arestad Endowed Professorship formally became a Chair this year with the completion of a million dollar pledge by a most generous donor who has chosen to remain anonymous. With an earlier University match, the Sverre Arestad Endowed Chair in Norwegian Studies is supported by an endowment of nearly \$1.5 million. More good news.

The department faculty continue their excellent teaching, research and service. Their loyalty and dedication to the three-fold mission of the department and the university is exemplary. The Department's Advisory Board of private citizens who so generously give of their time and their resources are an especially bright light and an invaluable part of what we do in Scandinavian and Baltic Studies. I hope to see many of you at our centennial alumni reunion in September 2009 and welcome you all to stop in whenever you might find the chance to visit the Seattle campus of the University of Washington.

SUMMER 2009

Scandinavian Studies



FACULTY

Ia Dübois, Senior Lecturer

Ph.D., 1991, University of Washington; Swedish language and literature, Scandinavian poetry

Lotta Gavel Adams, Professor

Ph.D., 1990, University of Washington; Swedish language and literature, Strindberg, Scandinavian women's literature

Iveta Grinberga, Visiting Lecturer

Mag. Philol., 2000, University of Latvia; Latvian language and literature, Latvian culture

Christine Ingebritsen, Professor

Ph.D., 1993, Cornell University; International relations, comparative politics, European studies

Terje Leiren, Professor, Chair

Ph.D., 1978, University of North Texas; Scandinavian history, immigration, area studies, Norwegian language

Andrew Nestingen, Associate Professor

Ph.D., 2001, University of Washington; Finnish Language and Literature, Cultural Theory, Globalization Studies, Nordic (Scandinavian) Cinema

Jan Sjøvik, Professor

Ph.D. 1979, Harvard University; Norwegian language and literature, prose fiction, literary theory

Guntis Šmidchens, Assistant Professor

Ph.D., 1996, Folklore Institute/Indiana University; Baltic languages, literature, culture, and history (Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian); folklore

Marianne Stecher-Hansen, Associate Professor

Ph.D., 1990, University of California, Berkeley; Danish language and literature, historical narrative, H.C. Andersen, Isak Dinesen

EMERITI FACULTY

A. Gerald Anderson, Instructor

Patricia Conroy, Associate Professor

Henning Sehmsdorf, Associate Professor

Birgitta Steene, Professor

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Inga Wiehl

ADJUNCT/AFFILIATE FACULTY

Sarah Bryant-Bertail, Adjunct Associate Professor

Ph.D., 1986, University of Minnesota; Dramatic criticism, semiotics, feminist theatre

Klaus Brandl, Adjunct Assistant Professor

Ph.D., 1991, University of Texas, Austin; Foreign language pedagogy, applied linguistics, computer assisted language learning

Peter Cohan, Adjunct Assistant Professor

MFA, 1977, Northern Illinois University; M.Arch., 1984, University of Washington, Scandinavian Architecture

Katherine Hanson, Affiliate Associate Professor

Ph.D., 1978, University of Washington; 19th and 20th century Norwegian literature, Norwegian women writers

Mette Hjort, Affiliate Professor

Ph.D., 1989, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris; Scandinavian film, small states cinema, Dogma 95

Jens Lund, Affiliate Assistant Professor

Ph.D., 1983, Indiana University; Folklore, American Studies

Brian Magnusson, Affiliate Assistant Professor

Ph.D., 1988, University of Wisconsin, Madison; North European archeology, art and architecture, Nordic-Americana in the Pacific Northwest

Paul Norlen, Affiliate Assistant Professor

Ph.D., 1995, University of Washington; Swedish language and literature

Tiina Nunnally, Auxilliary Faculty

M.A., 1976, University of Wisconsin; Translation, fiction writing, publishing, Scandinavian literature

Steven Pfaff, Adjunct Associate Professor

Ph.D. 1999, New York University; Sociology, Sociology of Religion, Comparative and Historical Sociology, Social Movements

Sven H. Rossel, Affiliate Professor

Ph.D., 1964, Copenhagen (Denmark); Danish language and literature, Scandinavian ballads, comparative literature, H.C. Andersen

STAFF

Katherine McDermott, Department Administrator

Tina Swenson, Program Assistant

Anni Fuller, Scan|Design Programs Assistant Director



Baltic Studies



Baltic Studies celebrates its Fifteenth Year at the UW



President Valdis Zatlers is greeted by Assistant Professor Guntis Šmidchens (center) and Visiting Latvian Lecturer Iveta Grinberga (right)

The fifteenth year of Baltic Studies at the University of Washington witnessed a landmark event: On May 18, Valdis Zatlers, President of the Republic of Latvia, came to Seattle to express his support for the UW Latvian Studies program, which he called "one of the best in the world." President Zatlers gave a lecture on Latvia's role in the European Union and NATO. His visit also included a tour of the library, a lunch with Latvian language students and UW representatives, and a meeting with UW President Mark Emmert. A personal highlight of the day came when the UW Chorale, conducted by Prof. Giselle Wyers, sang "Pūt vējiņi," a Latvian folksong that expresses a longing to sail to Kurzeme (a region of Latvia), and informed the President about their plans to tour the Baltic next spring; President Zatlers immediately invited them to come sing in the Presidential Palace!

In June, His Excellency Audrius Brūzga, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania, visited campus. Prof. Guntis Šmidchens reported on the Lithuanian Studies at the UW since 1994, and Baltic collection librarian Michael Biggins led the group on a tour of the UW Libraries. Lunch

at the UW Club was hosted by Mr. Victor Lapatinskas, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Lithuania, and Irena Blekys, member of the Scandinavian Department's Advisory Board. Ambassador Brūzga presented a gift of books and musical recordings to the UW Library.

The UW Baltic Program celebrates its 15-year history with pride. Since 1994, about 300 students have enrolled in Estonian, Latvian, or Lithuanian language courses. Twenty-one students have earned BA degrees with majors or minors in Baltic Studies, and nine students from the Jackson School of International Studies wrote their undergraduate theses on Estonian, Latvian or Lithuanian topics. Twenty five students defended M.A. theses on Baltic topics, and seven defended doctoral dissertations. After graduating, some students continue their studies in graduate school, while others pursue careers in government, business, journalism, and the arts.

The Baltic program today offers five core courses taught in English, with subject matter devoted to the culture,

history, and society of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Many other courses in the Department of Scandinavian Studies combine Baltic and Nordic topics to provide a broad view of North Europe. Enrollments in courses that include a Baltic component average about 1,000 each year.

A student writing a research paper in Baltic Studies is often likely to be the first person in the USA to study that particular topic. The experience may be both challenging and nerve-wracking. For example, during Winter Quarter 2009, each student enrolled in SCAND 455, "The Baltic States since 1991" was required to prepare a policy brief on a current issue, for example, military intelligence, energy security, cyberdefense, transborder banking, emigration, or ethnic minorities. During the last week of instruction, the class was visited by Darryl Johnson, retired Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Lithuania, and students orally presented their policy suggestions to him. Ambassador Johnson responded to each report with a collegial, incisive critique. The session was attended by the Honorary Consuls of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, and discussions continued long after the formal class meeting had ended. A student later wrote, "thank you so much for giving us this opportunity (although a little stressful!) It was incredibly interesting and relevant. I never thought suits would make me so nervous!" Another student added the comment, "Having all those 'suits' there certainly made it feel like it was a real briefing, I don't think I've ever felt more professional/important! And those follow-up questions were tough, I'm glad of 'em, they certainly helped me focus my final paper."

Come help us celebrate our Centennial!

SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2009

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Department of Scandinavian Studies. We have two days of events planned. On Friday, September 25, there will be a reception gathering for all alumni. On Saturday, September 26, there will be student and faculty presentations and lectures in the morning, the Centennial Oak Trees planting at noon, cultural events in the afternoon, and a Jubilee Gala dinner in the evening. Make your plans to attend.

Centennial Oak Grove

In 2009, a circle of eight oak trees will be planted on the University of Washington campus to celebrate the one-hundred year anniversary of the Department of Scandinavian Studies, and fifteen years of Baltic Studies at the UW. The eight trees, symbolizing the eight countries studied in the Scandinavian Department, will be planted around the oldest footpath on campus, between Parrington Hall and William H. Gates Hall. Please support the Nordic-Baltic Centennial Oak Grove, with a suggested donation of \$10 or more.

Checks should be made out to the "UW Foundation" and can be mailed to the Department of Scandinavian Studies, Box 353420, Seattle, WA 98195.

Calendar of events for 2009-2010

AUGUST 26-29, 2009

West Coast Estonian Days at the UW

SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2009

Department Centennial Celebration

APRIL 22-24, 2010

Joint conference of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS) and the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS)

MAY 2010

Swedish week

Please check our website for details:

depts.washington.edu/scand/

Join us for Estonian Days

Many lectures at the University of Washington are open to the public. The UW also partners with community organizations in hosting cultural events such as the West Coast Estonian Days, to be held on campus August 26-29, 2009. The program will include concerts, lectures, a theater performance, a workshop featuring *kannel* (the Estonian national musical instrument), and a formal dinner dance; the UW Library will present an exhibit featuring its unique collection of Estonian and Baltic music. In preparation for the main concert, last winter the Seattle Estonian Society invited Andrew Schmidt, a graduate student in Choral Conducting who is studying Estonian language, to direct the community chorus. And so, in conclusion, the relations between the UW Baltic Studies Program and the local communities can be characterized as *enthusiastically harmonious*.

Empowerment – Swedish Style: The Pippi Longstocking Effect

Pippi Longstocking is known to millions of American children. A Swedish icon, Pippi has continued to empower children inside and outside of Sweden in books that have been translated to more than 50 languages since 1945, when the first Pippi Longstocking book was published. So what is the attraction? Pippi is an unusual superhero: she is the strongest and richest girl in the world, and she has no hang-ups about her looks or the clothes she wears. She is herself, totally unconventional and self-assured. She has taught generations of young boys and girls that they have the power to make an impact in the world. But with this power comes responsibility: The most powerful persons in the world must also be most compassionate and kind, particularly to those who are vulnerable in society. This is the moral of the Pippi Longstocking stories.

In late 2008, the Swedish Institute in Stockholm solicited proposals to create programs at universities in the US and Canada to make Sweden more visible and relevant. SI offered 75,000 Swedish crowns for the top proposals, which at the time corresponded to \$12,000. Swedish faculty members la Dübois and Lotta Gavel Adams proposed lectures by three prominent and successful Swedish women who have made an impact in different areas of society: politics, arts, and the environment. These women would tell their stories on the UW campus and out in the community, explain how they made their voices heard,

and how their ideas turned into reality. The name of the lecture series came naturally: "Empowerment Swedish Style: The Pippi Longstocking Effect". We were pleased when our proposal won the 75,000 Swedish crowns.

The first lecturer in the series was former Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden, Margareta Winberg, who also has served as Secretary of Labor and Minister of Gender Equality. Winberg addressed an audience of more than 200 students on April 7, 2009 on the topic why men and women are more equal in Sweden, and about the proactive policies that the Swedish government has implemented to ensure this equality. The following evening, April 8, Winberg spoke at the Women's University Club in downtown Seattle at a dinner lecture co-sponsored by the Center for Women and Democracy. She presented Sweden's controversial new sex law which she was instrumental in implementing in 1999. This law makes it a crime to buy sex — but not to sell sex. In her lecture, Winberg argued convincingly to a dinner crowd of some 50 guests that the law that criminalizes the Johns is effectively helping protect the victims of prostitution. Sweden is now a country shunned by traffickers of women and children.

The second speaker, artist Maria Friberg, will come to the University of Washington in early fall quarter of 2009. She is a video artist and photographer whose breath-taking

images reflect the themes of power, masculinity, and man's relationship to nature. She creates ambiguous tableaux that challenge preconceived notions about identity, gender and social hierarchies. An exhibit of her works will be shown at the Nordic Heritage Museum from September 18 to December 15, 2009, and she will lecture both at the University and at the Museum.

The third speaker, Isabella Lövin, award-winning journalist, environmentalist and newly-elected EU politician, will also visit the UW during the Fall Quarter. Her book *Tyst Hav – jakten på den sista matfisken* (2007; Silent Seas: in Search of the Last Delectable Fish) is a best-seller in Scandinavia, and it is rapidly winning recognition all over Europe. Her book highlights damages that appear in the wake of EU regulations, made without concern for individual nations' fishing waters and their protection of a balanced level of fish. She questions the political support of monstrous industrial fishing ships that deplete the oceans through new technological "vacuum cleaning" methods. Lövin's talks will offer important insights into the plight of our disappearing fish stock.



THANK YOU

to the following donors who contributed to Scandinavian & Baltic Studies Funds from April 16, 2008 to June 11, 2009.

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Two Ph.D. Degrees Awarded

Congratulations to Adriana Margareta Dancus and Mia Spangenberg upon the successful completion of their graduate studies. Both young scholars earned their Ph.D. degrees in June. Margareta returned from a successful 9-month research stay in Norway funded by the Birgit Baldwin Fellowship to complete her Ph.D. on contemporary Norwegian film. Mia Spangenberg, who was the Birgit Baldwin Fellow in 2007-08, completed her dissertation on Masculinities in Contemporary Fiction and Film. We congratulate them both and wish them well as they begin their professional careers.

Klaus Brandl to Assume Faculty Position in Germanics

Dr. Klaus Brandl, Senior Lecturer, TA Coordinator and the departmental specialist in second language acquisition, has accepted a tenure-track position of Assistant Professor with the Department of Germanics. Dr. Brandl has been a member of the Department of Scandinavian Studies for seventeen years, during which time he served as the invaluable mentor to graduate student teaching assistants across the College. Although he formally leaves the department, he will continue to offer an important graduate seminar on teaching methodology for our students. We thank him for his many years of service to the Department, its faculty and students and wish him well with his new position.

Three Baltic Studies Students Earn Fulbright Fellowships

The Baltic Studies Program is proud to report that three students who learned Estonian, Latvian or Lithuanian at the University of Washington have recently received Fulbright Fellowships. Galen Basse, graduate student in Linguistics, traveled to Latvia in the 2008-2009 academic year, where he conducted sociolinguistic interviews (in Latvian) with Latvian and Russian speakers and recorded them reading and speaking about language in Latvia. Melissa Comenduley, graduate student in Sociology, will be traveling to Lithuania in September 2009, to study economic and civil records as well as illegal underground publications ("samizdat") stored in Lithuanian archives. Cameron Rule, who earned a BA in Linguistics this spring, will travel to Estonia in September 2009, to study the bilingual language environment.

Kudos to Kyle Korynta

The Department is pleased to announce that doctoral student Kyle Korynta received the Ibsen Society of America's Essay Prize for 2009. He was chosen by a committee of national Ibsen scholars for his essay on boredom in Hedda Gabler. Kyle was also the Department's 2009 recipient of the Teaching Assistant of the Year award. Congratulations!



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