



Scandinavian Studies

Message from the Acting Chair, Ann-Charlotte Gavel Adams:



This has been a productive and eventful academic year. The past two quarters as Acting Chair for the Department of Scandinavian Studies, while Terje Leiren is on sabbatical leave, have given me renewed respect for the multi-tasking balancing act that chairs of academic departments perform. We have experienced impressive growth this year and I have had the privilege of being in the posi-

tion to announce several important events and promotions during my six-month interim. All are the result of many years of preparation and dedicated work by the faculty. It is exciting to see us succeed.

Promotions are the most tangible proof of recognition that the College and the University accord faculty members for their research, teaching and service. This year, two of our faculty members have been promoted. Andrew Nestingen to Associate Professor, and Christine Ingebritsen to Full Professor. As of September 16, 2007, the Department will consist of four Full Professors, three Associate Professors, one Assistant Professor, two Senior Lecturers and three Visiting Lecturers. While this may appear a bit top-heavy, there is no reason to argue with success. The time will come soon enough when one or more of us will retire, thereby making room for new younger faculty members as the process starts all over again. This is the law of renewal, reality at the University as much as it is in nature.

While the UW is a world-class R-1 research university, teaching is an important part of what we do every day. It is therefore a particular honor that three of our colleagues, Terje Leiren, Jan Sjøvik and Guntis Smidchens, were nominated for the prestigious UW Distinguished Teaching Awards this spring. All were nominated by students in their classes, a reflection of the appreciation our students have for the faculty, and of the importance we, as faculty, place on giving our students a first rate education.

Four spectacular donations in the past year have opened new vistas for the Department and created fantastic opportunities for both faculty and students, opportunities we have dreamed of for years. *The Sverre Arestad Endowed Professorship in Norwegian Studies* was established by an anonymous donor to strengthen Norwegian studies in honor of a legendary professor of the Department, who made a huge impression on his students. It is particularly touching and humbling that the donor decided to establish this professorship because it was felt that the Department, in the spirit of professor Arestad, continues its commitment to all of its students. *The Barbro Osher Endowed Professorship in Swedish Studies* was established by the fantastic

SPRING 2007

Scandinavian Studies



FACULTY

Klaus Brandl, *Senior Lecturer*
Ph.D., 1991, University of Texas, Austin; Foreign language pedagogy, applied linguistics, computer assisted language learning

Patricia Conroy, *Associate Professor*
Ph.D., 1974, University of California, Berkeley; Philology, Medieval literature, Old Icelandic, Danish language and literature

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

Karoliina Kuisma, *Visiting Lecturer*
M.A., 1999, University of Helsinki; Finnish language and literature, Finnish culture

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 Krogh Nielsen, *Visiting Lecturer*
Cand. Mag., 2002, University of Copenhagen; M.A., 2003, University of Oregon; Danish language and literature; Danish culture

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*

Henning Sehmsdorf, *Associate Professor*

Birgitta Steene, *Professor*

Lars Warme, *Associate Professor*

ADJUNCT/AFFILIATE FACULTY

Sarah Bryant-Bertail, *Adjunct Associate Professor*
Ph.D., 1986, University of Minnesota; Dramatic criticism, semiotics, feminist theatre

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

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

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A Message from the Chair (CONTINUED FROM COVER)

Barbro Osher, who tirelessly — and for years — has taken every opportunity to promote Sweden and support Swedish studies in the United States. She is a legend in her own time. We are truly grateful to these visionary and generous donors, who understand that the University of Washington, like all public universities, are becoming increasingly more dependent on private support. Only 13% of the University's budget comes from the State Legislature. The rest depends on grants, tuition, and, most importantly for scholarly excellence, private giving. Consequently, generous gifts such as the Arestad and Osher endowments, send forceful messages to the University administration about the importance of Scandinavian studies at the University of Washington. The community also recognizes the exceptional value of the education that students receive at our Department, and understands that Scandinavian studies contributes important perspectives to the American experience in a number of fields.

Two important Exchange Programs also have been established, supported by very large and very generous donations. The *Jonsson Family Fund* was established by Lars Jonsson (Honorary Consul of Sweden) and his family to support exchanges between the Universities of Washington and Linköping, particularly in the areas of Scandinavian Studies, European Studies, Nano Science and Life Sciences. On March 19, 2007, officials from the University of Washington met with their counterparts in Linköping to evaluate the success of the mobility between our two universities for the past two years. Lars Jonsson was present and he was obviously pleased with the number of faculty and students who have profited from the exchange and the number of collaborative research projects in progress. Everybody cheered at Lars Jonsson's decision to extend the Exchange Program for another two years.

Similarly, the Scan|Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun established a most creative fellowship program with a number of institutions in Denmark. The University of Washington presently has five fellows studying in various institutions in Denmark, ranging from Urban Planning and Architecture to Linguistics and Diversity Studies and Publishing. Marianne Stecher-Hanson has worked tirelessly with Mary DeLorme, Grants and Operations Manager and other representatives of the Scan|Design Foundation to make this exchange a success. To date, the Foundation has contributed \$150,000 to establish and support this remarkable program.

During the year, the Department has hosted a number of high-level visitors on campus, an indication that Scandinavian government officials place considerable importance on the work of our Department, and on Scandinavian Studies at universities across the United States. On November 3, 2006, the Swedish Ambassador, the Honorable Gunnar Lund, visited campus and gave a lecture to more than hundred interested students on the topic of "Sweden and Europe in the Era of Globalization: How are Europe and Sweden performing?" In mid-February, the Director of Nordic and Baltic Affairs at the United States Department of State, Dr. Victoria Middleton, visited campus and gave two presentations, one on US - Baltic relations and another on how the State Department views the Nordic countries. In late April, the Latvian Minister of Education, Dr. Baiba Rivza, visited campus to meet with University officials to confirm the continued commitment and support for the Visiting Latvian Lectureship. On April 23, the Danish Ambassador, the Honorable Friis Arne Petersen, toured campus and gave a lecture on "Denmark in the World Community". As this newsletter goes to press, a visit from the Norwegian Ambassador, the Honorable Knut Vollebaek, is planned where he will be the guest of honor at a special Norwegian dinner kicking off the Department's celebrations of our upcoming centennial of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington. A visit by the Finnish Ambassador is also being planned for the fall. During the entire academic year, we have had the pleasure of hosting a Visiting Fulbright Professor from the University of Tromsø, Bård Berg, who is working on a project on the immigration of Sami to the United States.

Every year the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Washington hosts a "Celebration of Distinction" dinner, honoring accomplished alumni of the College of Arts and Sciences to celebrate the value of a liberal arts education and what such an education means for our community, our culture and our world. This year, one of our own, Tiina Nunnally, was selected as the representative for the Humanities and will be honored at the dinner on May 17. We are so proud of Tiina, who is recognized as the premier translator of Scandinavian literary fiction today. Tiina was a doctoral student in our graduate program from 1977-80, and has since returned several times to give successful Translation Seminars at the University.

[All this and more can be read about in this issue of the Newsletter. Enjoy, and please stay in touch!](#)

Bård Berg, Visiting Fulbright Professor from the University of Tromsø, Norway

My stay in the Department of Scandinavian Studies extended from September, 2006 to the end of May, 2007. It has been an eventful year. I am a historian at the University of Tromsø, with a Fulbright fellowship on my project "Sami Immigration to the Pacific Northwest." The Sami people are the aboriginal people of the northern parts of the Nordic region and the Kola Peninsula of Russia. In the decades before 1900, an estimated 30-40,000 Sami immigrated to the United States. This almost equates with the number of Sami living in Norway today.

Of general interest in the story of the Sami is the large number of reindeer brought to Alaska by the American government in the 1890s. On May 12, 1894, the first Sami contingent, consisting of six families, reindeer and herd dogs, arrived in New York. From there they traveled to Alaska. These were the pioneers, teaching the Inuit their ways of reindeer herding. The experiment was a success and, in 1898, a new contingent – known as the Manitoba Expedition, named after the ship which brought them across the Atlantic – consisting of 113 people, 539 reindeer, herd dogs and 418 sledges with equipment and lichen for the reindeer made the journey to Alaska.

The herders and reindeer crossed the United States by train, arriving in Seattle on March 7, 1898, only to find that the expedition had been cancelled. The ship that was to transport them had been sent to the Philippines to carry troops for the Spanish-American War. During a nine-day delay the lichen supplies for the reindeer was mistaken for packing material and thrown away. To keep the reindeer from starving, they were taken to Woodland Park where they were allowed to graze. As the Sami families camped with them, they became a tourist attraction and more than 10,000 people took the Interurban train out to look at them. When they finally arrived in Alaska, the reindeer thrived. The population grew fast – in 1924 there were a reported 350,000 reindeer in Alaska.

A considerable number of the reindeer herders were able to save money and decided to stay. Some traveled to the Midwest, others settled in the Pacific Northwest. Some families settled in Alaska and continued summer reindeer herding while others found property in Kingston, Eglon, and Poulsbo on the Kitsap Peninsula of western Washington where many of the descendants of the original Sami herders still live today. Some are members of the North American Sami

organization "Baiki." In my research work, I have been in contact with a number of these people and have also been studying archival material.

In addition to the Fulbright project on Sami, I have also worked on my part of a Norwegian textbook on Sami history while at the UW. As a visiting scholar, I have not taught a class, but have given several lectures on campus and in the community. I have also been invited to speak at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, as well as the University of California, Berkeley. Presentations to community groups included the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce, the Leif Erikson Lodge Sons of Norway, and the Swedish Cultural Center in Seattle.

Numerous encounters with descendants of Scandinavian immigrants have been a great pleasure for me and my wife, Benny. My wife even joined the Norwegian Ladies Chorus of Seattle and plans to join them on their tour of Norway this coming summer. We would both like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Fulbright Foundation and, of course, to the Department of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington for making it possible for us to spend a year in the wonderful city of Seattle.



Bård Berg, Visiting Fulbright Professor in a lecture.

The Scan|Design Foundation by Inger and Jens Bruun Supports New Programs

In partnership with the Scan|Design Foundation, the Department of Scandinavian Studies has developed two exciting programs which offer new opportunities in international education for UW students from a variety of departments and fields across campus. Both programs — a summer program and a semester-long fellowship program — strengthen institutional and faculty ties between the UW and Danish universities. As a result of these programs, greater numbers of UW students are now earning UW credits in Denmark and commuting by bicycle in Copenhagen, while other Danish university students will soon be sipping Seattle latte, enjoying the Quad's cherry blossoms, and filling classrooms and studios at the UW. In the spirit of Jens Bruun (who passed away in 2002), the founder of the Scan|Design Furniture company, the "dialogue" between Denmark and the Pacific Northwest has been re-invigorated with grants amounting to \$150,000 over two years. Students and faculty with new ideas about how to live in the modern world are being transported across the Atlantic, or over Greenland; they are engaged in conversations bringing Denmark and the Pacific Northwest closer together.

The Scan|Design Fellowship Program

Launched in the Spring of 2007, this new fellowship program supports UW students to spend a full academic semester studying at a Danish institution of higher education. Fellows are highly qualified UW advanced undergraduates and graduate students who earn UW credit for coursework completed in Denmark at selected universities and official programs.

Last year, members of the Scan|Design Foundation Board put their heads together with Professor Marianne Stecher-Hansen and Anni Fuller, Assistant Director of the Office of International Programs and Exchanges (IPE) at the UW, and thought hard about how Danish expertise in particular fields might enrich student learning through scholarly collaboration. The team selected the top schools and programs in Denmark in specific fields that also offered advanced instruction in English: Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Design and Planning at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen; Film and Media Studies at the University of Copenhagen; Political Science at the University of Aarhus; and Sustainable Energy Planning and Management at Aalborg University. Finally, they added Nordic languages and literature at the University of Copenhagen to bring an important cultural context into the exchange. A portion of every fellowship granted to a UW student is used to pay "home tuition" while that student studies in Denmark. As a result, these funds then directly support tuition waivers for Danish university students who receive one of the coveted spots at the University of Washington.

Information about the program is available on the Scan|Design website <http://scandesignfoundation.org/UniversityofWashington-ScandinavianStudies2006.php>.

*Scan|Design Fellows & Professor Stecher-Hansen in Copenhagen.
L to R: Peter Leonard, Professor Stecher-Hansen, Samantha Albert,
Lisa Dulude, Christina Oh, Melissa Lucas.*



Copenhagen Classroom

In August, 2006, the Department offered a new, interdisciplinary summer program of intensive study in Denmark, the month-long Copenhagen Classroom. Building on the theme "Danish Innovations – Less is More," courses consisted of: Architecture and Urban Planning (taught by Jennifer Dee, UW School of Architecture); Danish Literary Culture (taught by Jan Krogh Nielsen and Marianne Stecher-Hansen, Scandinavian Studies); Transportation/Mobility in the Øresund Region (taught by Annica Kronsell, Lund University); and Small Nation, Global Cinema – Danish Dogma Films (taught by Mette Hjort, Lingnan University, Hong Kong). In addition to this interdisciplinary program, the UW students joined 2-300 students from all over the world to participate in a 3-week intensive Danish language course taught by faculty at the University of Copenhagen.

An important aspect of the Copenhagen Classroom was meetings with professionals in the field. Thus, the program included: meeting with Danish author Jan Sonnergaard, a visit to the Swedish transportation research company Trivector in Lund, film screenings at the Danish Film Institute; and visits to important architectural sites in Copenhagen.

The 2007 Copenhagen Classroom is again directed by Professor Stecher-Hansen and features the theme: "Danish Innovations – Tracking the Process." A dozen UW students have been selected to participate in the 2007 program which will also feature a new course, "Danish Literature in Translation," taught by the renowned translator of Scandinavian literature into English, Tiina Nunnally.

Sverre Arestad Professorship in Norwegian Studies Established

Former Department Chair and Professor Sverre Arestad has been honored with the establishment of an endowed professorship in his name. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, a new endowment will carry the name of Dr. Sverre Arestad and provide support for outstanding faculty in the teaching and research in Norwegian studies, such as: literature, history, politics, culture and the arts. The initial gift of \$250,000 which established the Arestad Professorship has been supplemented with an additional \$250,000.

The Professorship is established in grateful memory of Sverre Arestad, former professor and chair of the Department of Scandinavian Studies. A born teacher, Arestad was equally attuned to the academic and the personal development of his early post-World War II graduate students.

Born in Norway, Sverre Arestad was brought to Whatcom County in western Washington by his family when he was a boy. He attended the University of Washington where he had a graduate student teaching appointment while earning his doctoral degree. Following his graduation, he was appointed to the faculty. As a literary scholar, he focused on Norwegian literature, especially the work of Henrik Ibsen. With literature serving as the core of his research, Arestad also developed an intense interest in the history of Scandinavians in the Pacific Northwest. He wrote several ground-breaking articles on the role of Norwegians in mari-

time affairs and in Pacific coast fisheries. Arestad's most profound contribution to Scandinavian Studies, however, was undoubtedly his care and concern for students. He challenged them and he inspired them. Arestad influenced his students as much with his humanity and his generosity as he did with his intellect and his academic demands. He was student-centered before it became popular. The Sverre Arestad Endowed Professorship acknowledges his impact while ensuring lasting support for Norwegian studies at the University of Washington.

In addition to supporting a faculty member's teaching and research, the Arestad professorship will provide exceptional funding for publications, library enhancement, and an occasional visiting professor, performer or expert from Scandinavia with an emphasis in Norwegian studies, thereby enriching the entire program.



A Former Student Remembers Sverre Arestad

Editor's note: We asked Dr. Barbara Morgridge, a graduate of the UW and one of Professor Arestad's former students, how she remembers him. We received the following short note which we are pleased to include in this newsletter.

Recently, while driving through north Campus, I was reminded of my Scandinavian Department years, which began in 1955. The Department was lodged on the first floor of Lewis Hall, across from Classics, though the TA offices lay across the street in a scruffy WWII Quonset hut. Most memorably, however, Dr. Sverre Arestad was chair of the department whose small coterie of dedicated graduate students and TAs hailed from Scandinavia and the US.

Looking back, I think of Dr. Arestad's hearty, at times rollicking sense of humor and the accompanying impish glint in his eyes that animated this interaction with students. He was a very generous human being, equally ready to recommend or lend another book or journal article or discuss a paper as to provide weekend dinners

with Peggy and the girls at the house in Ravenna, or on special occasions at the cottage on Lake Roesiger and later the house on Guemes Island. Nor was he chary with practical advice and instruction when needed, for example, on how to shovel dirt with minimum physical exertion when preparing for a new cement garage floor. A very important aspect of his outlook on literature and life was his understanding of the real world, its responsibilities, its physicality and the dignity of labor. It was a view embedded in his lectures and discussions of Norwegian and Danish literature, which he read with keen interest and reflection, and it combined as well with the steadfastness of his encouragement and accessibility as professor, mentor and friend.

Intern from Finland Assists in Finnish Program

Lotta Lähde, a Finnish graduate student from the University of Vaasa, Finland, spent the Fall quarter in the Department assisting in the Finnish program while helping to teach Finnish and sharing her knowledge about her native country. As she left to return to Finland, she sent the following report:

During my internship in the Finnish program, I have learned a lot about language teaching. The goal of my internship has been to learn about the work done by the visiting lecturer and to gain experience teaching Finnish as a second language. This internship is a part of my MA program at the University of Vaasa in Finland and will be of great benefit later in my career.

It has been a very satisfying quarter here at the University of Washington. I have learned a lot about foreign language teaching in theory and practice. I have come to appreciate the communicative language teaching method and I plan to use this in my future teaching. This experience of teaching Finnish, studying language teaching methods and experiencing a quarter in the Department of Scandinavian Studies will remain with me long into the future. I have enjoyed my time in the Department and would recommend this internship to all my fellow students in Finland.

"Fika Fridays": A New Department Tradition

The word "fika" is a Swedish term (both noun and verb) for "having a cup of coffee and a bun." In Norwegian "kaffe og litt attåt" and in Danish "kaffepause" have similar meanings. Since the beginning of the academic year, various students, staff, and faculty have gathered Friday mornings from 10:30-11:00am in Raitt Hall 314 for Fika, which includes both coffee, tea, treats and lively conversation on a wide range of topics. Visitors are welcome if you'd like to stop in for a Fika Friday—on any Friday during the Academic Year (except for Finals Week and during breaks). **Välkommen!**



Lotta Lähde (intern), Mia Spangenberg (Finnish TA and Ph.D. student) and Karoliina Kuisma (Visiting Lecturer) promoting the Finnish program at the Finnish Community Bazaar, Fall 2006.

New Finnish Studies Website

The Department has launched a new Finnish Studies website at <http://depts.washington.edu/finnish/>

In memoriam: Ellinor J. Ekenes

Born in Norway in 1923, Ellinor Ekenes passed away April 12, 2006. She grew up in Norway and began her family prior to emigrating to Canada in 1960. In 1964, she moved to the United States, eventually settling in Woodinville, Washington. She attended Shoreline and North Seattle Community Colleges before enrolling at the University of Washington where she earned an MA degree in Scandinavian Studies with a specialization in Norwegian language and literature. She became active in the Bothell Sons of Norway Lodge, serving many years as cultural director. In addition, she taught Norwegian language classes for more than a quarter of a century. Ellinor is survived by two daughters (Johanne and Åse) and three sons (Jan Martin, Rolf and Erik). Always the teacher with a love for the Norwegian language and culture, Ellinor generously bequeathed \$3,000 to support the Norwegian studies program at the University of Washington. We extend our sincere condolences to her family.

Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation Establishes Professorship in Swedish Studies

The Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, founded by Barbro and Bernard Osher, has established the Barbro Osher Endowed Professorship in Swedish Studies with a most generous gift of \$250,000.

A native of Stockholm, Sweden, Barbro Osher graduated from Stockholm University with a degree in languages and political science. She is the founder of the Swedish Women's Educational Association (SWEA) and was the President of Positive Sweden/America, an organization with a mission to further the image of Sweden through educational activities in the United States. Osher is also Honorary Consul General of Sweden in San Francisco and the owner and publisher of *Vestkusten*, a Swedish-American newspaper established in the United States in 1886. She serves as the Chair of both the Bernard Osher Foundation and the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation.

The Barbro Osher Endowed Professorship in Swedish Studies will support a faculty member's teaching and research in Swedish studies, especially in literature, language, and cultural studies.



Interview with Barbro Osher

On the occasion of the establishment of the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Endowed Professorship in Swedish Studies, Professor Lotta Gavel Adams conducted the following interview with Barbro Osher, specifically for this newsletter.

Gavel Adams: We are truly grateful for and excited by your commitment to Swedish Studies by creating this Endowed Professorship in the Department of Scandinavian Studies. You have been called an "Ambassador of Swedishness in the US", and that is no exaggeration. What drives you? What are your passions?

Osher: For many years I have with dismay been watching how the Scandinavian Departments at public universities are disappearing as independent entities and becoming part of Germanics. I feel that Scandinavia, on the whole, stands for social awareness and responsibility towards others both locally and globally. We exercise vision and long-term solutions in society and have, despite our small size, been at the forefront in social sciences as well as scientific research. We have well-defined policies to deal with issues such as global warming and sustainable development. Thus, Scandinavian Departments do not only stand for the study of languages and literature, they stand for developing vision, reason and responsible attitudes on a global scale.

Gavel Adams: Sweden does not have a strong tradition—or any tradition at all—of philanthropy. What inspired you to start?

Osher: My husband inspired me. He started his first philanthropic foundation in 1977, The Bernard Osher Foundation, which eventually gave birth to the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation. The art of giving has been at the core of the American way of being and I hope to inspire others in Sweden to become part of that vision.

Gavel Adams: Few Scandinavians understand the importance of supporting Scandinavian Studies Departments at American public universities. At the UW for example, the Washington State Legislature provides only about 13% of the UW budget. We all understand that Swedish studies is not at the top of the agenda for funding new professorships at most academic institutions. How did you decide that this would be a good place to invest in the future?

Osher: You can find that answer to that in my answer to your first question. There are only three independent Scandinavian Departments at major universities in the US today: UC Berkeley, U of Washington, Seattle, and the U of Wisconsin, Madison. If we do not protect these, a valuable way of being and thinking will be lost!

Gavel Adams: Globalization is a common buzzword at most institutions of higher learning today. Universities increasingly stress that students need to become global citizens in order to become the future leaders we need in this ever-changing, globalized world. What important message or lesson do you think that American students can learn by studying Scandinavia?

Osher: Exactly that! We must think globally, but act, responsibly and with long term strategies, locally. We must start where we stand! "Charity begins at home," is not an empty saying!

Gavel Adams: Sweden is sometimes considered to be too "liberal" for Americans. Do you think it strange that that the term "liberal" has acquired such different connotations in Sweden and in the United States? Is Sweden too liberal?

Osher: I do not think Sweden is too liberal. I do think that, in general, we are taught to think and act in accordance with our surroundings. In the global context, Sweden is small and thus dependant on the global arena for our own survival. Because Sweden can not act unilaterally, a different and more soul searching way to handle the big and small issues she faces by carefully thinking them through and leaving nothing to chance is really important. Long term vision is necessary!

Gavel Adams: Where is home for you? You still have one foot in Sweden and one foot in the US. Is that a good thing or bad thing?

Osher: I am exceedingly lucky to be at home in both places. I feel the need to replenish my language and gain a sense of being grounded in Sweden, while staying inspired and infused by the "can-do" attitude of the United States.

Gavel Adams: We are truly grateful for your generous gift of the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Professorship Endowment. Your long-term vision and your "can-do" attitude are an inspiration to us all.

Thank you!



Tiina Nunnally, Distinguished Alumna Award Winner

Every year, the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Washington honors some of its most outstanding alumni by bestowing on them the College's "Distinguished Alumnus Award." A special awards evening, the Celebration of Distinction, pays tribute to these honorees who embody a commitment to lifetime learning and active citizenship. This year, one of our own was selected to represent the Division of Humanities.

Tiina Nunnally, a doctoral student in the Department from 1977-1980, is an independent scholar, freelance translator, and novelist. She is widely regarded as the premier translator of Nordic fiction into English. Her long list of awards, including the PEN/Book of the Month Club Translation Prize and the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize, are reflective of her reputation for translations that are poetic, comprehensive and successful in capturing the essence of the original Danish, Norwegian or Swedish. In 2004, Nunnally received an NEA Translation Fellowship and she continues to receive frequent invitations for lecture and readings. Her popular translation workshops in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington offer many students a fascinating insight into the art of literary translation.

Tiina Nunnally's bibliography is truly impressive. She has authored three novels of her own, *Fate of Ravens: A Margit Andersson Mystery* (1998), *Runemaker: A Margit Andersson Mystery* (1996), and *Maija: A Novel* (1995). She has translated scores of literary works, including several best-sellers and prize winning novels. Most notable among them are: *The Royal Physician's Visit* by Per Olov Enquist; *Kristin Lavransdatter* (3 vols.) by Sigrid Undset; *Before You Sleep* by Linn Ullmann; *Smilla's Sense of Snow* by Peter Høeg; *Laterna Magica* by William Heinesen; *Early Spring* by Tove Ditlevesen; *Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren; and *Pelle the Conqueror* by Martin Andersen Nexø. The Department is extremely honored that one of its graduates has been chosen to represent all the Humanities departments at the University of Washington as Most Distinguished Alumna.

Jonsson Family Fellowship

In 2005, Lars Jonsson and Laurie McDonald Jonsson established the Jonsson Family Fund to promote cooperation and faculty and student exchange between the University of Washington and Linköping University in Sweden. Lars is the CEO of Stellar Holdings, a real estate company with holdings in the Pacific Northwest, Sweden and Poland. He is also the Honorary Consul of Sweden in Seattle. Laurie focuses with a passion on women's leadership issues. She is the founder of Stellar International Networks which connects and empowers women leaders around the globe. The motto for Stellar is "leading by example," something Laurie and Lars embody in their everyday life. The mission statements of Stellar Holdings and Stellar International Networks have an explicit philanthropic clause: "to give back to the community." The Department of Scandinavian Studies is fortunate and proud to be part of the community which the Jonsson family deems worthy of their "stellar support."

The intent of the Jonsson Family Fund is to facilitate exchange and joint projects between departments which are considered to be at the forefront of their fields at both universities: that is, Scandinavian Studies, Political Science and International Relations, Nano Science and Life Sciences.

Mille Millnert, President of Linköping University, signs the new exchange agreement with the University of Washington. L to R: Lotta Gavel Adams, Mille Millnert, Lars Jonsson, Anni Fuller.

Following two years of support to develop new and exciting opportunities, on March 19, 2007, a delegation from the UW met with its Linköping counterparts at Linköping University to report on the status of the Exchange. Lars Jonsson was present and listened intently as Michael Podlin (Arts and Sciences Assistant Dean for Development, UW), William Salaneck (Vice Rector/Provost, LiU), Phil Shekleton (Center for West European Studies, UW), Anni Fuller (Office of International Programs and Exchanges, UW), Lotta Gavel Adams (Scandinavian Studies, UW), Monica Ungerholm (College of Arts and Sciences, LiU), and Kajsa Uvdal (Sensor, Science and Molecular Physics, LiU) presented the successful first two years of the program. All were pleased to hear that the Jonsson Family Fund will support the projects for another two-year cycle. Faculty and student exchanges will continue and research opportunities will expand thanks to the dedicated support of the Jonsson Family Fund.



Jonsson Family Fund Supports Exchange...From the UW to Sweden—

IA DÜBOIS, Visiting Jonsson Family Scholar

Dr. Ia Dübois spent the Fall Quarter 2006 as a Jonsson Family Scholar at Linköping University in Sweden. She lived in Colonia, a new student housing complex at Linköping University that is being constructed in cooperation with the University of Washington. According to Dr. Dübois: "It was an invaluable intellectual, creative and personal experience for me thanks to the generous Jonsson Family Fund."

"At LiU, I had a great office in the Department of Languages and Culture, ISK, and attended a very interesting course on masculinities at the Tema Genus program. I gave three 'high seminars,' sharing my research and project on how sexuality is perceived and legislated in Scandinavia. I was also invited to give talks at two local high schools, so I think the University of Washington got some good exposure," said Dübois. Back in Seattle after her stint as Jonsson Family Scholar, Dr. Dübois expressed her appreciation for the opportunity the Jonsson Family Fund and her time in Linköping afforded her.

ROBERT DELONG, Visiting Jonsson Family Fund Exchange Student

MA student, Robert DeLong: "From January to June 2006, I had the incredible opportunity to participate in the Linköping University Masters Program in International and European Relations through the generosity of the Jonsson Family Fund Exchange Program. The experience exceeded all expectations, both in terms of academic and life experiences. Living in Sweden through the winter, spring and early summer deepened my understanding and appreciation of the Swedish culture to an extent that could not have been achieved in any other way. The academic aspects were rigorous and thorough. I was especially keen on understanding the Scandinavia – European Union dynamics and this program excelled in allowing me to focus on this area. The exchange program was simply outstanding in all aspects, and I could not be more grateful for having had this opportunity."

Jonsson Family Fund Supports Exchange... From Sweden to UW

DR. PETER ANDERSSON, *Visiting Jonsson Family Lecturer*

Dr. Peter Andersson from Linköping University has been appointed as Visiting Jonsson Family Lecturer for Fall Quarter, 2007. Andersson, an economist, will teach a course on "The European Economy," in the Department of Economics at the UW, as well as give additional guest lectures in the Department of Scandinavian Studies. Andersson is "Universitetslektor" in Linköping with a research focus on liberalization, especially in communications. Recently, his work has examined the liberalization of the postal sector of Sweden, the first in the world to open fully to the market. "I am happy to be the first holder of the Jonsson Lectureship," Andersson said, following his appointment. "I hope I can contribute to the understanding of Scandinavia and its economy in particular. I also look forward to learning about the University of Washington and to getting the experience of teaching a class of American students," Andersson stated.

MARIA GULDBRANDSON, *Visiting Graduate Student*

I am very grateful to the Jonsson Family for creating this exchange between the University of Washington and Linköping University and for giving me the opportunity to study at the University of Washington. I have spent the academic year here and can definitely say that this is my best year so far! I am really pleased with my courses and my time here. I have been able to take a broad variety of courses which are not offered back home in Linköping. In Spring Quarter, I took "Teaching the Bilingual/Bicultural Student" and "TESL – Teaching English as a Second Language: Methods and Material." Both courses are outstanding with experienced professors and a content which gave me an American perspective on second-language teaching. I have also been involved with FIUTS (Foundation for International Understanding Through Students). Through FIUTS, I have made so many interesting friends from all over the world with different backgrounds and cultures. I have traveled, seen more, and learned more, than I had thought was possible in a year. My experiences have been invaluable. It has been a great opportunity for me to discover the feeling of being an "immigrant" and the obstacles that an immigrant faces when moving to a new country. I will certainly do my best to make my students feel welcome in Sweden, just as I have been welcomed here with open arms.



Sara Bryce,
Student Peer Advisor

This year the Department hired a Student Peer Advisor to assist the Undergraduate Academic Advisor, as the number of majors keeps growing. After a competitive selection process, we hired Sara Bryce, a senior with a double degree in Scandinavian Studies and Psychology and a minor in Danish.

Sara has more than lived up to our expectations, by being very proactive in her new position. In addition to holding regular office hours, organizing files, and updating documents, she has been going around to the first year language classes to inform the students about study abroad programs and scholarship opportunities. She was also instrumental in putting together this year's Undergraduate Orientation for more than 140 students. She made powerpoint presentations on department programs and scholarships, and she has constructed an exit survey for all graduating seniors. As a peer, she has also been available for our majors when they have questions they might not be comfortable asking professors. Sara Bryce has done a fantastic job. We wish her all the best for the future.

Steve Pfaff Joins Department as Adjunct

Steve Pfaff, Associate Professor Sociology, has been appointed Adjunct Associate Professor of Scandinavian Studies, in addition to his regular appointment in the Department of Sociology. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Pfaff as a new adjunct member of the Department. Pfaff has published extensively on secularization and religious dynamics in European society, especially Germany, with a special interest in the theory, history and comparative aspects of religion and political sociology. His interest in Scandinavia focuses on church-state relations. His most recent book, *Fight or Flight? Exit-Voice Dynamics and the Collapse of East Germany*, won the Social Science History Association President's Award. His current research includes "Secularization and Religious Revival in the Scando-Baltic Region: The Political Economy of Church-State Relations and the Implications for Religion," with Cheryl Zilinskas, a doctoral candidate in Baltic Studies.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Tara Chace

PROFESSIONAL TRANSLATOR

Despite the reservations her mother may have had about switching undergraduate majors from biochemistry to Scandinavian Studies, Tara Chace has taken the doctoral degree she earned in 2003 from the University of Washington to build a full-time career as a self-employed translator. Her most recent literary translation is Karen Fastrup's *Beloved of My Twenty-Seven Senses* (Book Thug, 2007). Her young-adult translations include Per Nilsson's *Heart's Delight* (Front Street, 2003) and *You & You & You* (Front Street, 2005), winner of the Book Prize for Young Adult Fiction. She is also currently working on the second novel in Klaus Hagerup's popular Markus series: *Markus and Diana* (Front Street, 2006) and *Markus and the Girls* (2008). In nonfiction, her projects include *Java the UML Way* (Wiley & Sons, 2002) as well as numerous projects for individual clients and agencies on topics ranging from oil rig gasket specifications to one-year old Labrador retrievers. She can be reached via her Website: <http://www.seanet.com/~macki/chace/>

Anne Jenner

LIBRARIAN

Moving to Chicago from Rock Island with her husband and son, Anne Jenner assumes the position of Director of Special Collections and Archives, North Park University, in June 2007. As such, she will be overseeing the records of the Evangelical Covenant Church, North Park University, the Swedish-American archives of Greater Chicago, the Society for the

Advancement of Scandinavian Study, as well as the Scandinavian Collection and the Jenny Lind Collection at North Park. According to Anne: "It is an interesting tenure-track position that requires working with researchers at the archives and from afar, developing the collections and making them accessible to the campus and the community. In order to be better equipped to deal with the technical challenges of modern library collections, I will be completing a Masters in Library and Information Science. The position and responsibilities are actually quite similar to the work I've been doing at the Swenson Center, Augustana College, for the past 5 ½ years, but the faculty status will allow for more professional development and, of course, living and working in Chicago. I received my undergraduate degree from North Park in 1989 before doing my Masters at the UW from 1991-93. It will be fun to return to the North Park campus and the beautiful new Brandel Library that opened in 2001."

John Ferman

ATTORNEY

Following his graduation with a BA in Swedish in 1998, John Ferman turned his interest toward the study of law. He graduated from Georgetown University Law Center in 2005 and served as a law clerk for the Honorable Joan Zeldon, Presiding Judge of the Civil Division of the District of Columbia Superior Court. He is a member of the American Bar Association and has been admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia. John Ferman is an associate in the litigation department of the Washington, D.C. office of the law firm of Drinker Biddle.

Birke Duncan

FOLKLORIST, AUTHOR, PRODUCER

Scandinavian Studies major, Birke Duncan has established himself as one of the leading Scandinavian folklorists in the Puget Sound region. He published *The Troll Tale & Other Scary Stories* (available from Amazon.com) and has edited the journal, *Northwest Folklore*. In 2005, he was awarded the Silver Award for the Best Science Fiction Audio and the Best Fantasy/Horror Audio Production of the Year for *A Long Vacation*. The tale, co-written with Garrett Vance, tells the story of an American teacher who falls in love with a Japanese woman on a Pacific resort island. When he makes a playful offering at a shrine for an occult sea god, his fate is sealed. A CD is available, produced by Birke Duncan. Congratulations, Birke.

Arne Lunde

PROFESSOR

Earning his BA and MA degrees with an emphasis in Norwegian and Cinema Studies, Arne Lunde trudged off to UC, Berkeley, where he completed his Ph.D. in Scandinavian Studies. Following teaching assignments at Berkeley and the University of Minnesota, Dr. Lunde has accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Norwegian and Scandinavian Studies at UCLA beginning in the Fall, 2007. We wonder what a San Francisco Giant and Seattle Mariner fan will do in Dodger and Angel territory, but then we remember, even Daniel survived the lion's den.

Karen M. Anderson

PROFESSOR

After working with the late Leslie Eliason and earning her MA from the Department in 1990, Karen transferred across campus to Political Science where she built on her Scandinavian studies background to earn a Ph.D. with a study on the welfare state and the global economy. Her interest in Sweden and the European Union took her to the Netherlands for a post-doctorate and then a faculty appointment as University Docent (Assistant Professor) of Public Administration at the University of Leiden. In 2005, she was appointed to a tenured position as *Hoofdocent* (Associate Professor) in the Department of Political Science at Radboud University,

Nijmegen, The Netherlands. In 2006, the Oxford University Press published Karen's book, *The Handbook of Pension Politics in Western Europe*. She has become one of Europe's leading scholars on the institutions and politics of the welfare state in Scandinavia and Western Europe.

Elizabeth Celms

Elizabeth Celms, graduated with a degree from the department with a Baltic studies and Latvian emphasis. She moved to Riga, Latvia, where she worked as a journalist, becoming Editor-in-Chief of the English-language *Baltic Times* newspaper published in Riga. As editor, she traveled widely in Europe, interviewing several heads of

state and reporting on news about Latvia to an English language reading public. In January, 2007, Elizabeth resigned from the *Baltic Times* to return to the U.S. to pursue graduate studies.

We want to hear from you...

Alums, if you would like to be included in an upcoming newsletter, please write to us or send an email to uwscand@u.washington.edu

The Paths Taken

Carleen Ormbrek Zimmerman, BA in Norwegian in 1974, MA in 1977, served as a Norwegian TA from 1975-77.

I was fortunate to have five opportunities to study and live in Norway from 1972 – 1982. I worked at the Folk Museum at Bygdøy and on several farms around the country. I went to the University of Bergen for a year studying in the ethnology/folklore department. Henning Sehmsdorf was my mentor for my MA thesis on "Garborg's Haugtussa and the archetype of the heroic quest." Kjetil Flatin was another dear friend and professor who guided me through my undergraduate and graduate years. But it was Katherine Hanson who was the initial spark. Kathy was a TA in the fall of 1971 when I took my first Norwegian class. Her enthusiasm and skill as an educator inspired me to dream large and accomplish much. I learned how to cook ertesuppe for a hundred people and soon became president of the Norwegian Club on campus. We were both in Minnesota in 1977 and she was a great mentor to me as I struggled as an academician. While at Concordia College, I coordinated a study abroad trip with my students and my husband to Northern Norway where we studied Sami culture.

Economics, a career change, and a move to a warmer part of the country determined the next adventure. My husband, a union carpenter, was willing to trade the minus 50 degrees wind chill for rain. I discovered medical records technology and vowed to become a Coder. Following a two-year program, I was offered a job in Seattle. I have now worked as a Coder for 20 years. Much to my delight, my skills in literary analysis and translation have been a boon to my career

as a Coder. I decipher physician clinical documentation and translate diagnoses into a numeric system used for reimbursement and data retrieval/research. I have also continued my role as a teacher by mentoring many new Coders and drafting training materials.

When we moved back to Seattle in 1986, I worked at Children's Hospital and Medical Center until 2000. I worked a short time for the Department of Corrections at the Special Offender Center in Monroe. Since 2000, I have been working for Harborview Medical Center and am a UW employee again. I used my Norwegian on one occasion to help a young patient at the hospital who needed to hear medical instruction from someone other than her mom. However, since the birth of my sons, my spoken language skills have deteriorated as my sons protested that I was speaking Japanese. I still read the Icelandic Sagas, but in English – thank you Pat, without any lacunas! I live in Brier, WA, and spend my time bird watching and sea kayaking with my husband. We volunteer countless hours with Seattle Audubon and Discovery Park. Our sons are now 18 and 22.

I am deeply indebted to the Scandinavian Department for the education I received there for 6 years. I would love to have email contact with any of my old graduate school friends – Ann Bergstrom, Wendy Anderson, Dan Nye, Debbie Babbitt, or others from 1975-77. (carleenz@u.washington.edu)

Faculty News

KLAUS BRANDL Senior Lecturer

As in previous years, I have been sharing my work as an applied linguist among departments in the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education. Among the year's highlights: My methods book, *Communicative Language Teaching in Action* is being published by Pearson Prentice Hall Publishers; I spent two weeks in Bangladesh training teachers at the Summer Institute of Bangla in Khaka, Bangladesh; my work on the development of a textbook for Bangla is making great progress and I am part of a larger project coordinated through the Language Learning Center which just submitted a \$150,000 grant application to the Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

PAT CONROY Associate Professor

Patricia Conroy has been on medical leave this year. She has been missed in the Department, and her colleagues and students await her return in the Fall.

IA DÜBOIS Senior Lecturer

Ia Dübois had an exciting and productive 2006. After the academic year, she presented a paper on Lars Gustafsson's fiction at the University of Bielefeld in Germany. During the summer she taught a course at UW and wrote the introduction to an anthology of Swedish women poets, *To Catch Life Anew* (2006) edited by Eva Claeson. In September Ia went to the University of Linköping on a faculty exchange scholarship from the Lars Jonsson Family Fund. There, during the Fall Quarter, she wrote and conducted research on her book project—Sexuality in Scandinavia. She was invited to give three seminars at different departments and a couple of lectures in local high schools. The Scandinavian Studies Department certainly got good visibility in Linköping during that time. Now, she is very excited to be back teaching at the UW and enjoys her students, courses and colleagues more than ever.

LOTTA GAVEL ADAMS Professor

During the Winter and Spring Quarters, my focus has been on administrative tasks as I served as the Department's Acting Chair. In spite of less time spent on teaching and research this year, I was able to bring an article on Swedish Nobel Prize winner Verner von Heidenstam to press. In addition to teaching courses on Swedish Women Writers and the Modern Swedish Novel, I also taught two of my favorite courses in English, "Scandinavian Children's Literature" and a graduate seminar on "Scandinavian Drama." The seminar's topic of "theater as a forum for social and political debate," allowed us to read and discuss works by my favorites: Strindberg, Ibsen and their modern counterparts, Lars Noren and Jon Fosse.

As we celebrate the centennial of the publication of Sema Lagerlöf's *Nils Holgerssons underbara resa genom Sverige* (The Wonderful Travels of Nils Holgersson's Through Sweden) in 2007, I was invited to give a lecture in March at the Nordic Heritage Museum on this classic and its visionary messages on ecology and the responsibilities of human beings in this world. I also gave a lecture at the University Women's Club in Seattle, exploring the question of whether Strindberg was a misogynist or a feminist. A passionate and sophisticated discussion with profound insights is as much fun in a public forum as it is in a classroom seminar.

On the service side, I spent much time on the University's Royalty Research Fund Subcommittee for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences committee, reviewing proposals, writing recommendations and participating in marathon meetings. I also took two short trips to Tucson where I serve as the examiner for a Critical Languages Program in Swedish at the University of Arizona. A few days of warmth and sun during the cold and rainy Seattle winter did not hurt. I am also continuing as a member of the search committee for a new Executive Director of the Nordic Heritage Museum.

IVETA GRINBERGA Visiting Lecturer of Latvian

In my second year as the Visiting Latvian Lecturer, I have been working on developing the First and Second Year Latvian programs. Working with the second year Latvian class has been very valuable experience for my own research about teaching Latvian as a foreign language. This year I have continued to volunteer as a teacher in the Seattle Latvian School and to participate in various social events. In January, I presented a lecture about the famous Latvian poet Rainis, and in March lectured about developing reading skills at the ALA National Teachers Conference in Shelton, WA. I have particularly enjoyed meeting with the Latvian Book Club, discussing pearls of Latvian literature. Next summer I am going to present at the Nordic-Baltic regional conference of the World Federation of Language Teacher Associations which will be hosted in my home city of Riga.

CHRISTINE INGEBRITSEN Professor

Christine Ingebritsen joined the "Nordic Spirit" Conference on "Grieg, Genes and Global Reach" February 9–11th and presented a talk on "Scandinavia's Role in the World Today." The theme is also published in the 2007 Winter issue of *Scandinavian Review*. Ingebritsen is beginning a new research project exploring the policy responses to global climate change in Scandinavia, and the rest of the world. The project benefits from faculty mentoring by UW scientists Marcia Baker and Richard Gammon and collegial work with Karen Litfin, Dept. of Political Science. She will present a paper at the annual meeting of the Society for Scandinavian Study on Svante Arrhenius, the Swedish scientist who is associated with the first publication identifying the "GE" or Greenhouse Effect in 1896. Ingebritsen continues to support the UW Common Book Project and the Bergen/Trondheim Faculty Exchange Program. Ingebritsen has been promoted to **Professor** effective September 16, 2007.

KAROLIINA KUISMA*Visiting Lecturer of Finnish*

My third year as Visiting Lecturer has been interesting and eventful. I have taught second and third year Finnish as well as *Kalevala and the Epic Tradition*, all of which have been intensive and insightful experiences. I have also very much enjoyed visiting other departmental courses in order to share a bit about Finnish children's literature, Finnish folklore and war time history, to mention a few of the most recent topics. I am also still serving on the local Finlandia Foundation's board. I serve as the secretary, a pleasant position which keeps me well-informed about current Finnish events in the greater Seattle area. This year looks especially busy as Finland is celebrating her 90th year of independence on December 6, 2007. The students and I are looking forward to participating in memorable events that provide content and context to topics we deal with in the classroom!

TERJE LEIREN*Professor*

On sabbatical leave during two-quarters of the year, Terje Leiren, completed the manuscript for *The Norwegian-American Plays of Marcus Thrane*, and delivered it to the publishers – the University of Washington Press and the Norwegian-American Historical Association. In the meantime, he has begun work on a new project, "Norway's Founding Family," in which he examines the role of Nicolai Wergeland, Henrik Wergeland and Camilla Collett in the establishment of an early nineteenth century Norwegian national identity. Prior to joining another UW Alumni Tour of the Nordic region in the summer, Leiren was invited to present a paper at a conference on Norwegian emigration in Bergen, Norway, in early summer. Otherwise, the new book series with the UW Press, "New Directions in Scandinavian Studies," keeps him as the co-general editor, busy reading and evaluating manuscript submissions. The second book of the series was published this Spring.

ANDY NESTINGEN*Associate Professor*

My wife, Karen, and I became the parents of a healthy and thriving little girl, Ella Zinnia, helping to make 2006 the happiest year of my life. Ella's eagerness to learn and interest in things about her have also inspired my work in the Department of Scandinavian Studies. During the last year, I signed a contract with the University of Washington Press to publish my book, *Popular Fictions and Social Transformations in Scandinavia*, which is forthcoming in the Spring, 2008. In the book, I argue that popular films and novels have taken on new importance in the Nordic region since the 1980s, becoming an arena of creating debates that are reshaping attitudes about individual and group identities and revising political commitments. I also began work on a book entitled *The Cinema of Aki Kaurismäki: Shadows and Paradise*. As part of my research for the book, I spent ten days in Helsinki during December 2006, collecting marketing material, correspondence, and journalism about Kaurismäki's films at the Finnish Film Archives. I also completed an article about the director entitled "Aki Kaurismäki and the Melodrama of Demand." Many of the ideas for these research projects have found their beginnings in teaching and conversations with students, for example in seminars and classes such as "Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Finnish Literature and Culture" and "Scandinavian Cinema." This past year also brought news that I have been promoted to **Associate Professor** and granted tenure at the University. It has been a happy year for Karen, Ella, and me, and also one in which I have benefited from much encouragement, inspiration, and good advice from colleagues and students, not least about how to be a daddy.

JAN KROGH NIELSEN*Visiting Lecturer of Danish*

In October 2006, I participated in the meeting for the Danish lecturers in North America and did a presentation on the use of Danish rap music in the language class (rap music exemplifies and models significant sentence-level stress patterns in Danish). In addition to Danish classes, I have taught a Masterpieces

of Scandinavian Literature class. It is a pleasure in this class to see how excited the students are about as diverse topics as Södergran's poetry, Ibsen's "The Doll's House," Kallas' *The Wolf's Bride* and J. P. Jacobsen's *Niels Lyhne*. In the summer, I will once again be the on-site coordinator for the Danish summer program, Copenhagen Classroom.

JAN SJÄVIK*Professor*

Jan Sjävik has spent the academic year teaching some of his regular courses, including upper-division courses in Norwegian language and literature, SCAND 150, *Norwegian Literary and Cultural History* (58 students), and his graduate seminar in critical theory. During Spring Quarter, 2007, he will offer, for the second time, SCAND 480, *Kierkegaard and European Decadent Literature*. He has also presented papers at conferences in Åbo, Finland; Oslo, Norway; Riverside, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Honolulu, Hawaii, many of them on Henrik Ibsen. His most recent book, *Historical Dictionary of Scandinavian Literature and Theater* (Scarecrow Press, 2006), has already been acquired by many libraries in the U.S. and Europe, and he is currently at work on another volume for the same publisher.

GUNTIS ŠMIDCHENS*Assistant Professor*

After a decade serving as Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in the department, Guntis Smidchens was appointed to fill a newly established tenure-track faculty line as Assistant Professor of Baltic Studies in 2006. The new position places an increased emphasis on research along with the lofty expectations of continuing to build the unique Baltic Studies program that Smidchens played a principal role in establishing. In the past year, he translated "My Motorcycle," a series of nineteen poems written in 1965 by the Latvian poet Imants Ziedonis. The translations were accepted for publication this Spring by the journal *Latvian Literature*. The poems document a time when the poet actually did race through the landscape of Latvia on his "Izh" motorcycle, intensely seeking the meaning of life; on the other hand,

Graduate Student News

MARGARETA DANCUS

I received my MA degree in Scandinavian Area Studies in June, 2006. After spending the entire summer in the Pacific Northwest, I came back to school this time as a Ph.D. student and a second-year Norwegian TA. Teaching Norwegian for intermediates has been both challenging and rewarding. I have learned a lot, developing my teaching skills, and enjoyed it tremendously. November 2006, with the generous support of our department, I was able to participate in an international conference in Tallinn organized by *The European Voluntary Associations (EVA)*. The title of my paper was: "Civil Society: The Renegade Child of Neoliberalism- A Study of Norwegian Fisheries". This was a great opportunity to learn more about civil society scholarship in the Nordic countries. Since December 2006, I have also been working with The Speech and Natural Language group (SNL) at Microsoft for a Norwegian Bokmål Spellchecker. The coming summer, I will be teaching an intensive class of First-Year Norwegian together with my colleague Adrienne Hayes.

ROBERT DELONG

I spent last winter and spring as an exchange student at Linköpings universitet in the International and European Relations Master's program, and am extremely grateful to the Jonsson Family Scholarship Fund for this tremendous experience. This academic year I feel very fortunate to have been awarded a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) grant, and am working on completing my class requirements as well as doing initial work on my master's thesis that will focus on aspects of the escape of the Danish Jews to Sweden during World War II. This summer I will be returning to the University of Oslo International Summer School to participate in an intensive Norwegian language program to further those skills. I am hoping to obtain my master's degree in December of this year.

ADRIENNE HAYES

The past two years have been filled with exciting and enriching opportunities. During the summer I attended a course at the Center for Small State Studies at the University of Iceland. I also traveled to Norway for research towards my thesis, which examines Norway's role as a mediator in the Guatemalan and Sri Lankan conflicts. I have enjoyed my second year as an instructor in first-year Norwegian, and look forward to teaching Norwegian during the summer. I plan to complete my MA degree in Area Studies in June and will be searching for jobs that advocate human rights.

KARIN HEDSTRÖM

So far the 2006-2007 academic year has been filled with excitement and successes. I have found myself really enjoying teaching a wonderfully enthusiastic group of 20+ students in Beginning Swedish. Teaching is really rewarding, and under the guidance of the department and the more experienced Teaching Assistants, I am learning and growing in my teaching abilities every day. I am teaching the intensive Swedish course this summer with Ralitsa Lazarova, and I am looking forward to this opportunity. I have narrowed down my area of interest to immigrant and Swedish identity, and have been taking many highly challenging and rewarding classes in the Scandinavian Studies Department, as well as in a few others. Being a new member of the Scandinavian Studies department at the University is challenging and rewarding, and an experience that I enjoy very much.

TOM JOHNSON

Tom Johnson is a third year Doctoral Candidate, with specializations in Medieval Norse literature and Swedish folklore. In 2006 he was advanced to candidacy (meaning he is now "All But Dissertation" or ABD), and is now working industriously to finish his academic study of Swedish folk grimoires or *svartkonstböcker*, handwritten manuscripts with rural folk magical content written by practitioners during the 17th through 20th centuries, specifically in Sweden. He is enthused by

the subject matter, and the relative paucity of academic studies on just this subject, thus making his study a valuable contribution to scholarship on the topic. He also had the great honor and pleasure to have been able to teach upper division undergraduate classes in the department during Fall and Winter Quarters, *Sagas of the Vikings* during Fall, and *Nordic Mythology* during Winter, both classes that made use of his expertise in Medieval Scandinavian literature. Spring Quarter finds him back among the ranks of departmental TAs, when he will assist with la Dübois' popular class, *Sexuality in Scandinavia*. He anticipates a completed dissertation by the end of Spring Quarter, 2007.

KIRSTINE KASTBJERG

I received my MA degree from the University of Aarhus in 2006, majoring in English and Nordic Studies. Arriving from Denmark in September, 2006, I am a first year Ph.D. student in the Department of Scandinavian Studies. My dissertation will explore currents in nineteenth century literature, Danish, German, British, and American, with an emphasis on the Fantastic. I teach first-year Danish, which is an eye-opening and enriching experience. I truly enjoy learning, not only different approaches to second-language teaching, but teaching methods and pedagogical skills in general.

KYLE KORYNTA

I began my Master's degree in Scandinavian Literature this year after working as an Art teacher in Anchorage, Alaska for 2 1/2 years. With seven years teaching experience from the Concordia Language Village, Skogfjorden, I have enjoyed teaching first year Norwegian at the university level and look forward to my second year of teaching in the fall. I have decided to write my Master's thesis on the drama of Henrik Ibsen. Ibsen's plays connect with my artistic and literary interests. I am interested in how his plays critiqued society and how they were received by audiences then and today. I plan to do more research on Ibsen and Norwegian drama this summer in Norway in preparation for my Master's thesis.

RALITSA LAZAROVA

Thanks to the generous support of the Scandinavian Department, I was able to spend part of the summer of 2006 in Scandinavia. I attended the Swedish Institute's course for Swedish teachers abroad which took place on Tjörn (North of Gothenburg). It was a wonderful opportunity to meet teachers of Swedish working at universities all over the world and learn about new teaching materials and current trends in Swedish culture and literature. In August I attended a conference in Turku, Finland which was dedicated to the theme of *Borders in Nordic Literature*. I completed my MA degree in Swedish literature in November, 2006 and am currently continuing in the program towards a Ph.D. I also continue to serve as a teaching assistant for Swedish. I had the opportunity to teach intermediate Swedish during Autumn quarter 2006. It proved to be a challenging and inspiring experience, and I am looking forward to teaching intermediate Swedish again next year. During the summer I will teach intensive Swedish.

PETER LEONARD

Peter Leonard, MA, is studying contemporary Danish literature as a Scan|Design Fellow at the University of Copenhagen. While in Denmark, he is taking courses in the departments of Comparative Literature and Danish Literature, including "Testimony from the Welfare State" and "Theory of the Short Story." Although Peter had not studied Danish formally before coming to Denmark, he took a three-week advanced Danish Language at the University before the semester began. In addition to coursework and research for his doctoral thesis, Peter is interning at Copenhagen University's academic press, Museum Tusculanums Forlag. A travel blog from Copenhagen is linked from the Department's home page.

MELISSA LUCAS

Hilsen fra København! It's been nearly two months now since I arrived to study at Copenhagen University on a Scan|Design Fellowship. It feels like two weeks! We had three weeks of language classes, a week off, and then the regular semester

classes began. I'm taking a class in Spoken Danish, one in Written Danish, another in Phonology (in the Linguistics department), and a fourth in the Danish Novelle. The latter has been the most challenging, but now that I have found a good bookstore/cafe ("Paludan" on Fiolstræde), it has worked out much better: I go in, order a pot of tea, and read for hours. What a delight!! Other delights here have been meeting some great foreign students (especially from the Czech Republic), hitting the museums, and just living a normal daily life (buying groceries, meeting friends, cooking, reading...), but of course everything "normal" is actually exciting because I live it through the lens of a different language.

RENNESA OSTERBERG

I have enjoyed my first year as a Ph.D. student here at the University of Washington. I have been honored to receive a Research Assistantship this year, which has allowed me to gain a variety of experiences and skills working with faculty on projects focusing on Finnish film, Baltic Studies, and Karen Blixen. My personal research interests are contemporary Norwegian literature, women's writing, and the development of metafiction in Nordic literature. I look forward to being a Norwegian TA next fall.

MARK SÄFSTRÖM

I am thoroughly enjoying this first year of my PhD studies. The MA thesis that I completed last June on the North American travel writing of Paul Peter Waldenström has evolved into a broader study of the Scandinavian immigrant communities. My dissertation will focus on how the Lutheran Pietist movement that accompanied the immigrants to North America impacted the development of their communities, as well as how Pietism was expressed differently in this context in comparison to earlier movements in Scandinavia and Prussia. This summer will involve a trip to Uppsala, Sweden for more language study and research.

MIA SPANGENBERG

Mia Spangenberg is steadily working towards attaining Ph.D. candidacy. She will take her General Examinations in June, and she will present a colloquium paper on her dissertation for all interested faculty, students and the general public in May. Her dissertation project, entitled "It's Raining Men! Masculinity in Finnish Fiction and Film 1995-2006" will study the discourse of masculine crisis in the reception of several popular novels and films in contemporary Finland. Mia has been awarded the Birgit Baldwin Fellowship, which will allow her to conduct her dissertation research in Finland during the academic year 2007-08. In the summer, Mia looks forward to an intensive period of Swedish study and climbing in the Cascades.

ESTHER SUNDE

I continue to enjoy learning new and fascinating things in Scandinavian Studies. It's truly a privilege to be a student in this department. This past year I've expanded my horizons with Old Icelandic, Faroese Literature, Postcolonial Scandinavian Literature, as well as Drama, and this Spring Quarter I'll be studying Cinema. I'm interested in Norway's first woman film director, Edith Carlmar. I anticipate doing more research and writing about her as she is the topic of my master's thesis.

GUNVOR JØRGENSEN*Visiting Graduate Student*

Gunvor Jørgensen, visiting graduate student from the University of Aarhus, Denmark, spent a research quarter at the UW during Spring, 2007. Majoring in English and Nordic Studies, she is currently working on her Master's thesis on Isak Dinesen/Karen Blixen. "I am thrilled at this invaluable opportunity to develop my insights into the works of Isak Dinesen and to widen the analytical scope of my thesis," she said. Professor Marianne Stecher-Hansen serves as her UW supervisor for the project. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank the department for inviting me here," Jørgensen stated.

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Faculty News (CONTINUED FROM 15)

for Ziedonis, the motorcycle itself became a metaphor for life and creativity. Guntis admits, however, that he himself has been on motorcycle twice, both times as a passenger. (Guntis adds that on one of those occasions, the speed exceeded 100 miles per hour!) From motorcycles to folklore, Smidchens also published an essay, "Notes on the Latvian National Hero, Lāčplēsis," in *The Journal of Folklore Research*, and his article, "Heroic Legends and the Sources of Nonviolent Political Action in the Baltics," was accepted for publication by *Slavic Review*. Here, he examined literary adaptations of three Baltic national heroes: Estonian Kalevipoeg, Latvian Bearslayer, and Lithuanian Mindaugas, and found that, as authors reinterpreted the stories over the past century, violence receded and other, non-violent actions increased in importance. Guntis also studied the state of the field of Baltic Studies in North America. Together with the Scandinavian Department's Research Assistant, Renessa Osterberg, he wrote an overview of 440 Ph.D. dissertations written over the past century on topics related to Estonia, Latvia

and Lithuania. Guntis also taught courses on the history, culture and current politics of the three Baltic states, a course on Baltic and Scandinavian immigration to the US, and an introduction to folklore studies which enrolled 150 students.

MARIANNE STECHER-HANSEN Associate Professor

One of the highlights of Professor Stecher-Hansen's academic year was an invitation to speak at the University of Oslo. The invited lecture on "Refugees and Immigrants in Nordic Literature," was delivered on March 21 as the opening lecture in a series on Law and Literature. Stecher-Hansen took the opportunity to stop over in windy Copenhagen to meet with five UW Scan|Design Fellows engaged in a semester-long study exchange at Danish universities. During the same week, new exchange agreements between the UW and Aalborg University and with the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen were also formalized.

Otherwise, Stecher-Hansen has been quite busy this year directing two new programs, the *Copenhagen Classroom* summer program and the *Scan|Design Fellowship* program, both supported by a generous 2007 grant of \$110,000 from the Scan|Design Foundation, while also serving as Graduate Program Coordinator and supervising the Danish program. A highlight of this year's course offerings has been her popular course on "War and Occupation in the Nordic Region: History, fiction and Memoir," taught during the Winter Quarter 2007. The course resulted in five undergraduate students choosing to write their senior essays on topics relating to Scandinavia during World War II. There are also a couple of articles in the pipeline and, in April, Stecher-Hansen presented her new work on Karen Blixen and colonialist literature at the annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study in Rock Island, Illinois.



Department Graduate students on an outing to Snoqualmie Falls this spring. Back row (L to R): Mark Safstrom, Ieva Butkute, Margareta Dancus, Ralitsa Lazarova, Rennesa Osterberg, Kyle Korynta, Adrienne Hayes. Front (L to R): Karin Hedstrom, Kirstine Kastbjerg. Photo: Courtesy of Katherine McDermott



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