

# Scandinavian Studies

## Message from the Chair

TERJE LEIREN



Celebrating the centennial of its founding is a significant milestone for any institution, no less an academic department at a major research university. Since its establishment by an act of the Washington State Legislature in 1909, the Department of Scandinavian Studies has grown and prospered, largely due to the dedication of its faculty and staff and the excellent character and quality of its students. To commemorate the milestone, several celebratory events, including lectures, dinners, special programs, and conferences are being scheduled between now and the summer of 2010. Please stay in touch with us, check our departmental website, and plan to attend as many events as you can over the next two years.

Of course, at the heart of what we do in the Department is teaching and scholarship. Cutting-edge research and innovative teaching enhance and broaden our knowledge about, and appreciation of, the Nordic region. Our comprehensive language programs and wide range of course offerings focusing on the five Nordic countries and the three Baltic countries make the Department unique in the world. The UW is the only North American university that regularly teaches Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian. In 2009–2010, we will celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Baltic Studies program.

By its very nature, the teaching at a research university is informed by the research of its teachers. All of the faculty in the Department of Scandinavian Studies are active scholars who bring their research back into the classroom, whether it be for a graduate seminar on literary theory, a discussion of Strindberg's *Paris*, a broad introductory course on Scandinavian culture, or an advanced undergraduate course on the cinematic expressions of Scandinavian attitudes about sexuality or crime fiction. Faculty engagement in public lectures and programs helps to bring this research to the broader community.

Like all institutions, the Department experienced several milestones over the past year, some were joyous and some were sad. It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of our wonderful colleague Associate Professor Emeritus of Swedish, Lars Gunnar Warne, who passed away after a long illness on October 4, 2007, at the age of 78. His love for teaching and respect for his students served as an example for us all. He will be missed.

The end of the 2007–2008 academic year also brings to a close the long and successful teaching career of Professor Patricia Conroy who will retire in June after serving the Department for thirty-six years. Pat has been the mainstay of our Old Norse and Medieval program who also contributed regularly to Danish language instruction. She was Chair of the Department from 1990 to 1995 when



# 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 Sjävik**, *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

## STAFF

### **Katherine McDermott**, *Department Administrator*

### **Tina Swenson**, *Program Assistant*

## EMERITI FACULTY

### **A. Gerald Anderson**, *Instructor*

### **Henning Sehmsdorf**, *Associate Professor*

### **Birgitta Steene**, *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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# Baltic Studies

## A Message from the Chair (CONTINUED FROM COVER)

she stepped down to focus on her teaching, something she does with a passion for excellence. Because retirement does not mean disappearance, Pat can teach two classes a year for the next five years under terms of a faculty rehire program.

Other news from the Department can be found in this newsletter, but let me conclude my message on a couple of positive and hopeful notes. Since bringing Finnish language and culture instruction into the Department in 1990, we have sought to establish a Finnish major. It is not simply a matter of desire, it also involves dealing with a rigorous vetting process that all new programs at the University of Washington must undergo. Though there are some hurdles yet to overcome, we are optimistic that a Finnish major will be in place in the Fall, 2008.

A similarly positive development which bodes well for the long-term health of the Department is the wonderful news that we could make three professorship appointments this year. As the result of three extremely generous private gifts, the Department has appointed three members of the faculty to special professorships. Marianne Stecher-Hansen was appointed Scan|Design Foundation Term Professor in Danish Studies in recognition of her dedication to, and work for, Danish studies. Her appointment ensures and enhances continued cooperation between the UW and several Danish educational institutions through faculty and student exchanges

and research collaboration. By its support, the Scan|Design Foundation has become an extremely important partner in developing major research collaboration between Denmark and the Pacific Northwest.

Two endowed professorship appointments were also made this year. Professor Ann-Charlotte Gavel Adams was appointed the Barbro Osher Endowed Professor of Swedish Studies in 2008 in recognition of her work in Swedish literature and culture. As the Osher Endowed Professor, Gavel Adams will have added opportunities to develop her research and to facilitate an increased understanding and appreciation of Sweden in America. Professor Terje Leiren was appointed as the first Sverre Arestad Endowed Professor in Norwegian Studies in September, 2007. Established by a major private gift in honor of the late Professor Arestad who taught at the UW for over forty years, the Arestad Endowed Professorship supports the teaching and research of the chair holder, but it also supports students and visiting scholars and artists that enhance Norwegian studies at the UW.

So, as we approach our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, we can look back with appreciation to the faculty, staff, students and friends of the Department of Scandinavian Studies. Thank you, and please don't forget to join us over the course of the next two years as we celebrate the Department's centennial and begin the journey of the next 100 years.

## Meet Our Staff

### KATHERINE MCDERMOTT

*Department Administrator*

Katherine has served as the Scandinavian Department's Administrator for the past two years. Katherine's introduction to Scandinavia came at an early age when her father used to tell "Herr Per" stories, which were tales about a Norwegian troll who was transformed into a man by the love of a good woman. She spent her senior year of high school in Lund, Sweden at which time she learned to speak Swedish, despite the excellent English spoken by almost every Swede she met. In college, Katherine studied mathematics and Chinese and later became a high school math teacher. After several other detours, including a Masters in Public Administration and six months teaching English in Northern Iraq (2004), she is now happily ensconced in Raitt Hall, home to the Department of Scandinavian Studies.

### TINA SWENSON

*Program Assistant*

Tina recently joined the department as Program Assistant after receiving her BA in Swedish from the University of Washington. Tina's parents emigrated from Sweden in the mid-1960s and settled in Ballard. She grew up speaking Swedish and, for a short time, attended a school for Swedish-speaking children on Saturdays. Traditions such as hunting for chanterelle mushrooms, cross country skiing, and celebrating midsummer all became a regular part of her life along with celebrating American traditions such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Halloween. In 1988, Tina lived in Stockholm while working in the human resources department at Postterminalen Stockholm Klara (the main mail terminal in Stockholm). Tina has enjoyed getting to know the faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students and is glad to be working with such wonderful people.



## Dr. Hans Blix Delivers a Serious Message on Arms Buildup and Receives a Rock Star Welcome at the UW

BY LOTTA GAVEL ADAMS

It is a rare occurrence when rock star status is accorded to a diplomat, especially one who is famous for his forthrightness, his unswerving honesty, his integrity, and his determination to fight for arms control and non-proliferation. But that was the case with Dr. Hans Blix, who visited campus on October 18<sup>th</sup> 2007, at the invitation of the Department of Scandinavian Studies. The public lecture entitled "From a Cold War to a Cold Peace: Time for a Revival of Disarmament" was presented in recognition of the newly established Barbro Osher Endowed Professorship in Swedish Studies. Barbro and her husband, Bernard Osher, were in attendance at the events surrounding the Blix visit.

It was not a surprise to us that Dr. Hans Blix was widely admired in the Scandinavian community and beyond, but the response to the lecture was overwhelming. The largest room in Kane Hall, which holds 700 people, sold out a month before the lecture. An adjacent 300-seat lecture hall where the audience could watch a simultaneous projection of the lecture served as a back-up for enthusiastic fans.

Dr. Blix earned his fame as the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission for Iraq from 2000 to 2003. In that capacity, he announced that his team had found no signs of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq – and that they had looked at every possible site (700 in all).

Dr. Blix's message at his University of Washington lecture was strong and clear: There are no longer any significant ideological or territorial conflicts between the superpowers of the world that warrant a continued nuclear arms buildup. "We are sleepwalking into a new arms race," said Blix. He argued for increased faith and reliance on the United Nations as our best hope for peace in the world. He quoted

Kofi Annan, a friend and former U.N. Secretary General who said that "the U.N. will not be able to take us to heaven, but hopefully it will help prevent us from going to hell."

In addition to the public lecture and the graduate seminar, Dr. Blix addressed the World Affairs Council Fellows at a breakfast meeting and gave a radio interview to the local NPR affiliate, KUOW. Dr. Blix was accompanied during the Seattle visit by his wife, Eva Kettis, former Ambassador for Arctic Affairs in Sweden. The Blix visit to Seattle concluded with a dinner cruise, which was hosted by Swedish Honorary Consul Lars Jonsson and attended by President Mark Emmert and other dignitaries.

From a Cold War to a Cold Peace. Time for a Revival of Disarmament?

**Hans Blix**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2007  
7-9 PM, KANE HALL 130, UW SEATTLE

Presented by:  
Department of Scandinavian Studies  
University of Washington

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Image provided courtesy of the  
UW Alumni Association



## In Memoriam — Lars G. Warne

(1928 - 2007)

Lars Gunnar Warne, Associate Professor Emeritus of Scandinavian and Comparative Literature at the University of Washington, passed away October 4, 2007. Lars was born October 12, 1928 in Orrabäck, Småland, Sweden, the son of Svea and Joab Warne. After university studies at Lund and certification as a secondary school teacher, Lars came to the U.S. in 1957 intending to stay for one year. He worked in the travel industry and taught at the Cathedral School in San Francisco before beginning graduate school at age 40 at the University of California, Berkeley. After completing his PhD, he taught at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver for two years before joining the faculty at the UW Department of Scandinavian Studies in 1976.

A gifted and compassionate educator, Lars received an Excellence in Teaching award from the College of Arts and Sciences, but his teaching extended far beyond the classroom. Many former students were mentored by him as they wrote dissertations and established careers. His own publications include *Per Olof Sundman: Writer of the North* (1984) and *A History of Swedish Literature* (1996), which he edited for University of Nebraska Press.

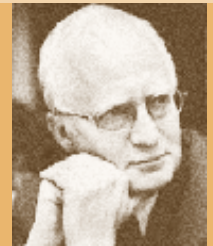
In addition to his scholarly interests, Lars was an art collector and gourmet cook. Gardening remained an abiding passion for Lars, and in retirement he spent countless hours in the P-Patch near his home.

Lars is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Olof and Shelagh Warne of Vargön, Sweden, several cousins in Sweden and the U.S., and the many friends and former students around the world whose lives he enriched and whose company and conversation he enjoyed so much.

## Kjetil Flatin, Distinguished Alumni Lecturer

Kjetil Flatin (Ph.D., 1971), chosen the Department's 2008 Distinguished Alumni Lecturer, visited the University of Washington in March. Flatin, a resident of Oslo, Norway, and an internationally renowned education administrator and teacher, presented a lecture in which he spoke of the influence of Scandinavian studies on his life and work.

Following his graduation, Flatin taught at the University of Chicago as well as the UW. In 1978, when he accepted a position at the University of Oslo as the Director of the International Summer School, he began a long career in educational administration and student affairs. He is a founding member of the Norwegian Program for Development, Research and Education and was the prime mover in the establishment of the European Association for International Education. He headed a national Norwegian commission on Higher Education which authored "the Flatin Report" outlining a new national educational policy and organizational reforms for parts of the Norwegian higher education system. Flatin's visit to Seattle included his participation in the ninety-eighth annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study in Anchorage, Alaska. The Distinguished Alumni Lecture was sponsored by the Sverre Arestad Endowed Professorship and the Walter Johnson Visiting Lectureship Fund.



## Report from Jonsson Exchange Student

ANDREA MACPHERSON

This exchange means a great deal to me on both a personal and academic level. Two years ago, during my third year of studies at the University of Washington, I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, which is cancer of the lymph nodes. I had to immediately put school on hold in order to go through treatment which included both chemotherapy and radiation. At this point in my life, I had always thought that studying abroad might be something I would like to do. However, after my battle with cancer, I made a promise to myself that as soon as I was healthy, I would go to Sweden. Now that I am here in Linköping, I feel that I have come full circle. Studying here is also helping me accomplish the research needed in order to complete my Senior Thesis, which is about the programs and assistance available to cancer survivors in the United States compared to in Sweden. This is very important for my future because I want to work in this field and improve the quality of life for other survivors like myself. Learning about this newly developed field on an international level really helps expand my horizons and allows me to make many more contacts in the cancer field, both in Sweden as well as other European countries.

I am currently taking business classes that will teach me the business and leadership skills needed for starting a non-profit organization. These classes include: Process View on Management as well as Leadership and Culture. Also, since I am very interested in climate change, I am also taking the courses entitled Environmental Law and Economics and Flora och Fauna i ett klimat i förändring. I decided that instead of continuing Swedish Language courses while I am here, that I would jump right in and take a class that is taught in Swedish. It has been a challenge for me, but I am loving every minute of it!



*UW students at Linköping University in Sweden:  
(L to R) Andrea MacPherson and Mary Swanson  
with an unidentified student*



### So Similar — and So Different!

**PETER ANDERSSON** *Senior Lecturer, Linköping University*

As a Visiting Jonsson Family Lecturer during Fall quarter, I had the opportunity to teach an Economics class at the UW, generously hosted by Department of Scandinavian Studies. Teaching in Sweden and the USA is similar because science is truly global. We all have Power Point and whiteboards. Students are interested and ambitious — well, most of them.

As a teacher I was less regulated in the USA: curricula are not decided upon by the faculty board; teaching and assessment are left up to the teacher's discretion.

Being an exchange teacher opened new perspectives. I found differences greater in society than at the university. Living everyday life allowed me to get below the surface and understand underlying values. I have returned to Sweden as a richer, more humble, and — maybe — more confused person. I am indeed thankful for the time at the Department of Scandinavian Studies.

## Baltic Studies, from A to Ž

The Baltic Studies program has moved ahead on several lively new projects. "We want to popularize Baltic literature on campus and in the United States," comments Guntis Šmidchens, "and so this year we're featuring authors from A to Ž (Ž is the last letter of the alphabet in Latvian and Lithuanian), beginning in November with Aspazija, a fantastic Latvian feminist playwright, and concluding this spring with Žemaitė, a founder of modern Lithuanian prose traditions."

Aspazija was brought to life on campus by Dr. Baņuta Rubess, an internationally recognized playwright, director and scholar of Latvian literature, who lectured on the topics, "So you want a revolution: Aspazija and her pen," and "Fire and Erotica: Aspazija's *Silver Veil*." Rubess also participated in a screening of her newest film, "Escape from Troy," and had lunch with the Seattle Latvian book club.

We have been happy to welcome a number of scholars from the Baltic region this year: Mr. Silver Pramann (Estonia) was a visiting Humphrey scholar in the Evans School of Public Affairs; he was on campus this year in order to study American nongovernmental organizations. Latvian graduate students Zigurds Greivulis and Aivis Grīslis came to Seattle through the Valle Exchange Program in the School of Engineering. Joerg Hackmann (University of Greifswald,

Germany) gave two lectures on Estonian history. And in April, Professors Bernd Henningsen (Humboldt University, Berlin) and Mai-Brith Schartau (University College of Södertörn, Sweden) arrived on campus for "Baltic Sea Region Information Days." They gave several lectures and hosted a well-attended information stand on the HUB lawn. In spring quarter, Vilnius University Professor Meilutė Ramonienė visited campus to discuss Lithuanian language proficiency testing, and lectured on minority language education in Lithuania.

*Left to Right: Professors Mai-Brith Schartau (University College of Södertörn, Sweden) and Bernd Henningsen (Humboldt University, Berlin) on campus for Baltic Sea Region Information Days; Rubess promotional poster for the centennial performance of Aspazija's Silver Veil*



## Kellogg Fellow: Translating a Lithuanian Classic

Thanks to a generous bequest by Bernice Kellogg, the Baltic Studies Program has begun a new, ambitious project: We plan to translate and publish a collection of short stories by the classic Lithuanian author, Julija Beniuševičiūtė-Žymantienė, (1845-1921), better known by her pseudonym, Žemaitė. Žemaitė is a founder of the Lithuanian prose fiction tradition, and a pivotal contributor to the emergence of feminist thought in Lithuania. Although her works are very well known in her native country, they remain largely unknown abroad.

In 2008, we proudly welcomed our first Bernice Kellogg Fellow, Professor Violeta Kelertas, Chair of Lithuanian Studies at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and author and editor of many books and articles about Lithuanian literature. She was in residence on campus during the winter and spring quarters, and presented several lectures about Lithuanian prose and problems of translation. "Ever since I translated one of Žemaitė's short stories in my dissertation, I have always wanted to bring more of her work to the English-reading audience," said Prof. Kelertas, "and I am very happy that this Fellowship gives me the opportunity to do so!"

## Latvian Book Club : Books, Food, and Philanthropy

The Seattle Latvian Book Club was started in March of 2002, with the purpose of reading Latvian books and supporting the Baltic Studies Program at the UW. At every meeting, each participant contributes \$25 to the Baltic Program Fund. Donations add up: In the summer of 2007, total club contributions surpassed \$10,000!

The group focuses on classical Latvian literature, and reads about five books a year. Since some of the chosen books are not readily available, a few copies have to be circulated among the members. At Christmastime, each member shares a favorite poem with the group.

Meetings usually take place on a Friday, from 11 am to 2 pm, in other words, lunch time! Meals are related to the book they're reading. Vaira Pelēkis Christopher, leader of the group, tells us that it has been fun to research and try out old Latvian recipes. When the book was set in 1920s Riga, for example, the table was set with old silverware, "fancy" open-faced sandwiches and exquisite liqueur served in crystal glasses. Farm life in earlier centuries, on the other hand, was reenacted and consumed with *batviņi*, served in a wooden bowl: *Batviņi* is quite easy to make in summertime: *To a soup made with smoked meat and groats, add beet, sugarbeet and/or (preferably fresh) cabbage leaves, various vegetables, and chives. Serve with sour cream.*



Vaira Pelēkis Christopher, Baņuta Rubess, Robert Stacey (Divisional Dean, College of Arts and Sciences), Guntis Šmidchens (Assistant Professor of Baltic Studies), Molly Purrington (Associate Director of Development, Humanities Division).

The University of Washington's Office of Development invited the group to campus in November of 2007, to celebrate the club's literary, culinary and philanthropic activities. For that meeting, they read the classic Latvian drama, "The Silver Veil." A special guest at the luncheon was Baņuta Rubess, who directed the centennial anniversary performance of that play in Riga. Professor Terje Leiren, Chair of the Department of Scandinavian Studies, thanked the group and presented two copies of a recent UW Press Publication, *Danish Cookbooks*.



## Grove Graduate Travel Fund Endowed

In the nearly eleven years since the untimely passing of Leslie Ann Grove (1960-1997), members of her family and the Scandinavian community have contributed to a memorial fund in Grove's name. This year we are delighted to announce that this fund has been endowed by a very generous gift from Loo-Ann Grove, Leslie's mother.

Leslie was an assistant professor of Norwegian language and culture at St. Olaf College and held a Ph.D. from the Department of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington. At the time of her passing, Leslie was married to Keith Moen and was mother to Henry and Sofia. The Leslie Ann Grove Fund for Graduate Student Travel will provide support in perpetuity for travel for Department graduate students. We are grateful to the Grove family for this opportunity to continue Leslie's legacy of a love of language, literature, and teaching.



## Appointments Announced for Three New Professorships

### Ann-Charlotte Gavel Adams Appointed Barbro Osher Endowed Professor of Swedish Studies

Lotta Gavel Adams, Professor of Swedish studies and a specialist on the writings of August Strindberg, has been appointed the Barbro Osher Endowed Professor of Swedish Studies. The appointment, following a formal vote by the UW Board of Regents, is for a five-year term. The Barbro Osher Endowed Professorship was established with a major gift from the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation and its President and founder Ms. Barbro Osher.

Gavel Adams has published two well-received critical textual editions of Strindberg's *Inferno* and *Legender* in the Swedish National Edition of Strindberg's Collected Works. She is also the editor of a *Dictionary of Literary Biography* edition of *Twentieth Century Swedish Writers*, the author of several scholarly articles and reviews, and a passionate advocate for Swedish studies in North America.

### Terje Leiren Appointed Sverre Arestad Endowed Professor in Norwegian Studies

Following the recommendation by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and a formal vote by the Board of Regents of the University of Washington, Professor Terje Leiren was appointed the first Sverre Arestad Endowed

Professor in Norwegian Studies in September, 2007. Established through a major private donation, the Sverre Arestad Endowed Professorship supports faculty and students in the Department of Scandinavian Studies in Norwegian studies and further serves to support important initiative that strengthen the Norwegian program. Leiren, appointed for a five-year term, specializes in Scandinavian and Scandinavian-American history with an emphasis on nineteenth century Norway. His most recent publication, *Selected Plays of Marcus Thrane*, was published in 2007 by the University of Washington Press and the Norwegian-American Historical Association.

### Marianne Stecher-Hansen Appointed Scan|Design Foundation Term Professor in Danish Studies

Marianne Stecher-Hansen, Associate Professor of Danish and Scandinavian literature and culture, has been appointed to be Scan|Design Foundation Term Professor in Danish Studies.

Stecher-Hansen is the author of a critical study on the documentary works of Thorkild Hansen. In addition, she has edited two major volumes in the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* series: *Danish Writers from the Reformation to Decadence, 1550-1900* and *Twentieth Century Danish Writers*.

Stecher-Hansen's appointment to the Scan|Design Foundation Term Professorship represents a continuing commitment to the Department of Scandinavian Studies and the University of Washington by the Scan|Design by Inger & Jens Bruun Foundation as well as a significant strengthening of the cooperation and interchange of scholars, programs and ideas between the United States and Denmark in many critical areas. Stecher-Hansen helped to establish and currently directs the highly successful Scan|Design Fellowship Program and is also the director of the Copenhagen Classroom which she coordinates on site with Jan Krogh Nielsen.

As the Scan|Design Term Professor, Stecher-Hansen directs the popular Copenhagen Classroom summer program and the semester-long exchange program with several Danish universities and higher education institutions.





# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

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## Tim Raines

(M.A. SCANDINAVIAN LANGUAGE & LITERATURE, 2004)

I just landed a job at Skyline High School in the Issaquah School District teaching European Studies. I could not have imagined a job where I would get to teach exactly the subject I am best at and most passionate about. Wow! I threatened to turn it into a Scandinavian program during my interview, which elicited a lot of laughter.

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## Elizabeth Weise

(B.A. SWEDISH, 1986)

I graduated with a degree in Swedish Language and Literature in 1986. I'm now a science reporter with USA Today. I started out at KUOW, then moved to the Associated Press before hiring on at USA Today in San Francisco. I haven't had many occasions to use Swedish, but every now and again I end up interviewing a researcher in one of the Scandinavian countries and then I take the interviews in Swedish. I do use it more than the Mandarin I also studied at the UW, though I hope to cover the Olympics in Beijing in 2008 as one of our 'color' reporters, so I may yet have use of that as well. I now live in San Francisco, with my partner Lisa and our two daughters, Eleanor and Margaret.

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## Jim Swanson

(B.A. SWEDISH, 1959)

For many years I have read about people and events in the UW Scandinavian department with appreciative interest. I'm sure there are now very few who remember me. I did have some classes with Birgitta Steene during Walter Johnson's sabbatical year, and if Delores Hall is on the mailing list then there are two under whom I studied who are still around — and perhaps some student colleagues who studied in the Department. I served for a few years as membership director of the American Scandinavian Foundation until being drafted into the army. Then I went on for graduate work at North Park Theological Seminary and served for 40 years in pastoral and chaplaincy positions with the Evangelical Covenant Church. With the older generation in that denomination of Swedish heritage the use of Swedish language and knowledge of Swedish culture often came in handy. While I've done a modest amount of translating my retirement projections in that area are still on back-burner. A few years back my wife and I enjoyed several weeks in Sweden, and I've kept touch in both Swedish and English with a number of friends and relatives. I'm grateful for the experience of having been a part of the UW Scandinavian department, and the instruction and friendship which were a part of that — the instruction, friendship and wise counsel of Walter Johnson above all. My last place of ministry was as Chaplain of a Covenant Retirement Community in south Florida, so in retirement we simply moved out of the cost and congestion of the Lauderdale area to New Smyrna Beach in east central Florida, south of Daytona and NE of Orlando. Greetings to any who even know who I am — now about 50 years since being active on the UW campus.

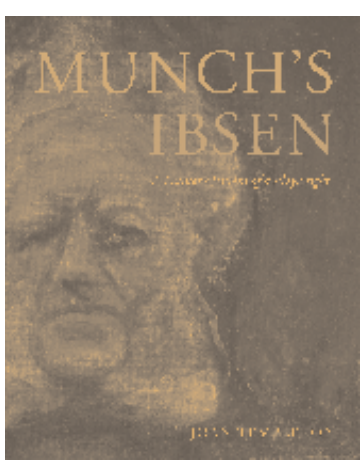
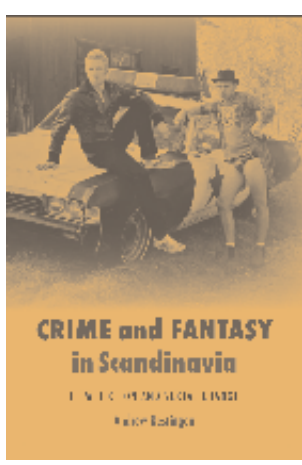
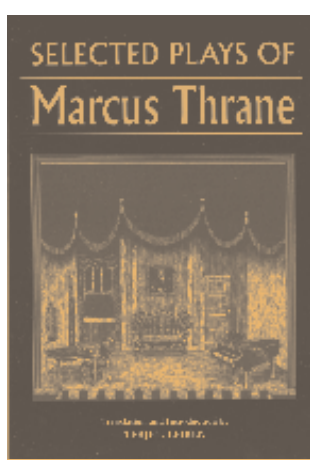
Alumni! We would love to hear from you.

Let us know where you are and what you are doing.

## Three New Books from New Directions in Scandinavian Studies

The University of Washington Press series, "New Directions in Scandinavian Studies," will publish three books this year. Andrew Nestingen's *Crime and Fantasy in Scandinavia: Film, Fiction and Social Change* explores the changing nature of civil society in Scandinavia through the lens of popular culture. Joan Templeton's *Munch's Ibsen: A Painter's Visions of a Playwright*, draws on a mass of printed and archival material to provide a comprehensive account of the relationship between the two great Norwegian modernists, Henrik Ibsen

and Edvard Munch. Terje I. Leiren's *Selected Plays of Marcus Thrane*, presents six translated plays from the Norwegian-American Theater of Norway's nineteenth-century political radical, Marcus Thrane. This book was published with the Norwegian-American Historical Association. The co-General Editors of "New Directions in Scandinavian Studies" are Christine Ingebritsen and Terje Leiren, faculty members in the Department of Scandinavian Studies.



### Graduate Student Wins Baldwin Fellowship

Ph.D. student Margareta Dancus has won a prestigious fellowship to study abroad in Norway during the 2008-2009 academic year. Dancus is the recipient of a Birgit Baldwin Fellowship from the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study. Dancus is currently writing her dissertation on Norwegian popular film and TV produced in the last decade. The fellowship will allow her to do archival research and conduct interviews. She will spend one semester affiliated with the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Oslo and the Norwegian Film Institute. She will spend her second semester at the Department of Media Studies at the University of Bergen.



### Graduate Student receives Textual Studies Award

Ph.D. student Ralitsa Lazarova has received a Textual Studies Award, which is granted by the Comparative Literature Department Textual Studies Program. The grant will enable Lazarova to conduct archival and reception research in Stockholm. Lazarova is currently working on her dissertation on contemporary Swedish fiction, with the preliminary title True Stories: Fiction and Emotion in Contemporary Sweden.





## Faculty News

### KLAUS BRANDL Senior Lecturer

This has been a year of many events and changes. I started the academic year spending fall quarter on sabbatical. I attended a conference on task-based language teaching in Hawaii where I gave a talk. In November, my methods book, entitled *Communicative Language Teaching in Action: Putting Principles to Work*, appeared in print. Having worked on this project for several years, this was exciting news. Further change involves my position as a foreign language pedagogue. Next year, I will be sharing my duties equally as a TA coordinator and as an applied linguist in the Department of Germanics.

### PAT CONROY Associate Professor

Every once in a while I am reminded of one and another student I have had in a class or two I have taught, and that leads to thoughts of others and still others. And so most of you have been in my thoughts during the years since we met together to investigate some aspect of Scandinavian literature and culture. All I can say is that I have had some pretty great students over the years, and "tak for samværret!"

### IA DÜBOIS Senior Lecturer

It has been a busy and wonderful year at the department. Our courses are larger than ever which keeps me busy as the Undergraduate Adviser. It is great to follow the students' development and, particularly, to see so many go abroad to study in Scandinavia. Our third year Swedish students have been enticed by Jan Guillou's descriptions of life in Sweden during the nation-formative years around 1200. The books about the Folkung Arn still inspire much discussion and research among these students. My presentation entitled "The Eugenics Movement in Sweden and von Krusenstjerna's von Pahlen series," at this year's SASS meeting at Fairbanks, represents my latest work—popular Scandinavian movements in the 1930s. I am eagerly awaiting summer to return to my writing desk. New Year's was both challenging and exciting as I dislocated a shoulder and became a grandmother. I am happy to report that the arm works well again and the promotion to grandmother is a continued joy.

### LOTTA GAVEL ADAMS Professor

In Fall Quarter 2007, I helped to plan for Hans Blix' visit to campus. It turned out to be an exceptionally successful event, and it was an honor to receive him at the UW. In the Fall, I also taught a fun and rewarding course on Scandinavian and Baltic Women Writers. In October, I gave a talk to the Daughters of Norway in Chimacum, Washington, on "Swedish Women in History and Literature" focusing on Saint Birgitta, Queen Kristina, Anna Lindh, Fredrika Bremer, Selma Lagerlöf, and Kerstin Ekman. In November, I gave a lecture at the Women's University Club on Kerstin Ekman as a crime novelist and ecologist. I also lectured on Tove Jansson's Moomin World at the Nordic Heritage Museum in the series celebrating 90 years of Finnish Independence. For winter and spring 2008, I am happy to report that I am on sabbatical to dedicate myself to research on August Strindberg and Paris. I started out in my home office on Vashon, but then headed for Stockholm and Paris to dive into the archives.

### IVETA GRINBERGA Visiting Lecturer

This year I am teaching *Latvian Literary and Cultural History* as well as *First and Third year Latvian*. It is always a pleasure to observe students as they begin learning Latvian knowing nothing or only couple of simple words such as *labdien* (good afternoon) or *paldies* (thank you) as they advance to reading Latvian poetry and prose in the original. For the Baltic Studies program it has been a year focusing on Aspazija, a remarkable Latvian poet. Students found her creative and controversial work outstanding and enjoyable. In June I will present a paper *An apple, a ball and early exposure to Latvian* at the Association for the Advancement Baltic Studies conference hosted by the University of Indiana. It is hard to believe that three years have passed since I arrived from Riga and started to teach Latvian at the UW.

### CHRISTINE INGEBRITSEN Professor

Professor Ingebritsen presented her recent publications at the University of Indiana, Bloomington in a visit hosted by Scandinavian Dept. Ph.D. recipient Gergana May. She also traveled to Oregon for a presentation on Scandinavia in world politics and the role of Scandinavian countries as "norm entrepreneurs" in global agenda-setting. Her new course, "Scandinavia and the Global Environment" focuses on the eco-leadership of the five northern European societies; and the role of "tamed capitalism" in responding to global climate change. She co-edits, with Terje Leiren, the series for UW Press, "New Directions in Scandinavian Studies;" serves on the American-Scandinavian Foundation's Fellowship and Grants committee; the Scandinavian Fulbright Committee; and the Board of the Centre for Small State Studies, University of Iceland. She supervises Qualifying Papers for the Henry Jackson School of International Studies including "Norway and the EU," "Scandinavia and the Global Environment," and "A Cold War Solution to a Post-Cold War Problem."

### KAROLIINA KUISMA Visiting Lecturer

Karoliina Kuisma has spent most of the academic year on leave taking care of her newborn daughter, Kaisa. In addition to her previous research interests, she has become interested in bilingualism as she is planning to bring Kaisa up both Finnish and English speaking. During the fall she lectured on the topic of bilingualism at the Nordic Heritage Museum as a part of a lecture series celebrating 90 years of Finnish Independence and gave a work shop for the West Coast Finnish school teachers.

**TERJE LEIREN***Professor*

Back from a six-month sabbatical leave, it is as though I had not been away. Thanks to Lotta for stepping in as Acting Chair. She did a wonderful job! I was able to focus on the manuscript of my translation of the *Selected Plays of Marcus Thrane* which has now been published cooperatively by the University of Washington Press and the Norwegian-American Historical Association. In September, I was honored with a five-year appointment as the first Sverre Arestad Endowed Professor in Norwegian Studies. It has been a privilege to be a member of the faculty for thirty years and an honor to serve as Department Chair for the last one and a half decades. It's great to be back in the classroom working with students and continuing work with several constituencies in the Department and across the College in preparation for the celebration of our centennial anniversary in 2009-2010.

**ANDY NESTINGEN***Associate Professor*

My book *Crime and Fantasy in Scandinavia: Fiction, Film, and Social Change* was published in May; the book has inspired other film and popular-culture research. Continuing the book's study of filmmaker Aki Kaurismäki, I worked this year on *The Contrarian Cinema of Aki Kaurismäki*. The research included an interview with the director at his office in Helsinki. My research interest in film also led to work on another new book called *New Nordic Cinema: The Emergence of Regional Film Culture*, which I am co-authoring with Prof. Mette Hjort. Carrying on *Crime and Fantasy's* research on Nordic crime fiction, Finnish colleague Paula Arvas and I are preparing a volume of articles titled *Criminal Scandinavia: Nordic Crime Fiction*. Keep the volume in mind, if you enjoy the work of such luminaries as Håkan Nesser, such pleasures as Danish TV crime series, or are intrigued by such topics as "Dirty Harry in the *People's Home (Folkhemmet)*" or "Meaningless Icelanders" (on the novels of Arnaldur Indriðason). In 2008-2009, Karen, Ella, and I will be in Helsinki, where I'll be a fellow at the University of Helsinki's Collegium for Advanced Studies.

**JAN KROGH NIELSEN***Visiting Lecturer*

This year I designed and taught a new Danish class on Danish pop/rock/rap music from *Steppeulvene* to *TV-2* and *Jokeren*, a class which turned out to be both interesting and fun. I gave a talk on Hans Christian Andersen's art (with an emphasis on his impressive paper cuts) at the 2007 *Danish Cultural Conference* in Oregon. In August 2008, I will be the on-site coordinator for the Danish summer program, *Copenhagen Classroom*, as well as teach the week that focuses on ecocriticism and Danish literature in collaboration with professor Marianne Stecher-Hansen.

**JAN SJÅVIK***Professor*

Jan Sjøvik has spent the year in teaching and research, as well as serving as the chair of the Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs, a university-wide body that considers matters related to the UW faculty. His most recent book, *Historical Dictionary of Norway*, has just been published by Scarecrow Press; its format is similar to that of his earlier *Historical Dictionary of Scandinavian Literature and Theater* (2006). At the SASS conference in Fairbanks, Alaska, he presented a paper on Arne Garborg's novel *Mannfolk* and Knut Hamsun's novel *Sult*. Hamsun is also the subject of a new course, SCAND 482, *Knut Hamsun and Early European Modernism*, which he will offer for the first time during Spring Quarter, 2008. Jan's daughter Rachel is following the example of two older brothers and is currently attending the UW as an undergraduate, and his youngest son Benjamin plans to become one in the fall.

**GUNTIS ŠMIDCHENS***Assistant Professor*

Guntis Smidchens is entering his two-year term as President of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies. In May, he gave the keynote address at the Conference on Baltic Studies, hosted this year by Indiana University. The title was "Advancing Baltic Studies in the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies: Interdisciplinary, Regional, Useful, and Fun." In April, he was invited to speak at the opening of the film, "Singing Revolution," at the Wisconsin Film Festival. Recently he has been studying the history of the Lithuanian partisan war for independence, which lasted from 1945 to 1953; he wrote the introduction to the English translation of a diary by Lionginas Baliukevicius, a leader of the partisan resistance. That book is due out this summer, published in Vilnius by the Lithuanian Genocide and Resistance Centre.

**MARIANNE STECHER-HANSEN***Associate Professor*

As the director of the *Copenhagen Classroom*, the *Scan|Design Fellowship program* as well as the coordinator of the Department's graduate program and Danish program, Stecher-Hansen has been very busy this year with administrative duties and program development. In addition to administrative duties, Marianne taught a graduate seminar which dealt with 19th-century Scandinavian short prose; an advanced undergraduate course on War and Occupation in the Nordic Region: History, Fiction, and Memoir; and a popular lecture course on Hans Christian Andersen and the Fairy Tale. At the annual Scandinavian Studies conference, Stecher-Hansen contributed to a roundtable panel on the topic of "Nordic Colonialism and Postcolonial Theory." An article on "Romantic and Modern Metatexts" was published in *Hans Christian Andersen – Between Children's Literature and Adult Literature* (2007) and an invited review essay on Christian Jungersen's *The Exception (Untagelsen)* in *The Literary Review* (Spring 2008). In February 2008, Marianne received the wonderful news of her official appointment to the *Scan|Design Foundation Term Professorship in Danish Studies*.

## Student News

### IEVA BUTKUTE

Ieva continues to teach Lithuanian in the Department of Scandinavian Studies. She also leads weekly Lithuanian language conversation table meetings. Ieva is excited to be finishing her studies at the Department of Scandinavian Studies and the School of Law. Upon graduation Ieva plans to visit her native Lithuania as well as other Baltic and Scandinavian countries. In the fall, she will be joining the international law firm of Dorsey & Whitney, LLP as an associate attorney.

### MARGARETA DANCUS

I completed course work both in our department and in the Program of Theory and Criticism, and I am currently preparing for my qualifying exams. In October 2007, I participated in an international workshop on Nordic visual studies in Stockholm where I presented a paper. I continued teaching Second-Year Norwegian and, during the summer, I co-taught the Intensive Norwegian class. In September 2007, I facilitated a seminar on teaching in a diverse classroom at the TA Conference. Next academic year, I have the privilege to have been awarded the Birgit Baldwin Fellowship from SASS which will allow me to conduct research in Norway.

### ROBERT DELONG

Having completed my coursework and foreign language requirements for a Master's in Area Studies, I confess to a growing, very premature sense of nostalgia for my time as a graduate student in the Department of Scandinavian Studies. I am sure that my thesis committee will concur that this feeling is premature as there is much work to do on my thesis, which will focus on an aspect of the escape/rescue of the Danish Jews during World War II. I plan to complete my degree requirements in the fall. I have a profound sense of gratitude for the amazing academic experience of the last few years. My sense of gratitude towards faculty, staff, and fellow students is almost overwhelming. I have learned much from all of you.

### KARIN HEDSTRÖM

During my second year at the Dept. of Scandinavian Studies, I have enjoyed and accomplished much. As a second year Masters student, the year has been filled with teaching, research, and writing. I have presented at two conferences this year: at the SASS conference in Fairbanks, Alaska and at the Care, Work, and Diversity conference here at the UW. My thesis deals with the situation of non-Nordic immigrant women in the Swedish labor market. I am grateful for all the support and direction I have received in my masters work from the department.

### TOM JOHNSON

Tom Johnson is a PhC (that's ABD, All But Dissertation for non-specialists) in the Department, finishing up his dissertation on folk belief regarding village healers [klokfolk], sorcerers [trollfolk] and witches [häxor], especially as illustrated by the notebooks those village folk owned and used to perform their arts [svartkonstböcker]. He is so close to finishing now that he can taste it, and will doubtless begin his worldwide speaking tour after its defense. Call the Department Office to inquire about a guest speaking appearance near you.

### BRITTA KALLEVANG

This March I presented a paper titled "Donald Davidson's 'triangulation' at work in Saarikoski, Hollo, and Trilogy" at the Nordic Translation Conference at University College in London. I fully enjoyed the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with professional translators of the Nordic languages. Finally, I'm extremely pleased to be awarded a FLAS scholarship to study in Norway for summer and academic year 2008-2009. For spring quarter, I will be immersing myself in texts on ecocriticism and environmental politics.

### KIRSTINE KASTBJERG

Thanks to support from the Scandinavian Department, I was able to spend the summer of 2007 in Denmark conducting dissertation research, which I will continue in the summer of 2008 as well. My dissertation will be a broader study of the Gothic and Fantastic genres in Danish literature, focusing on B.S.

Ingemann, H.C. Andersen and Karen Blixen. Academic year 2007-2008 offered several conferences, which allowed me to present preliminary research for my dissertation and receive valuable feedback. This has also been my second year of teaching Danish at the University of Washington, an experience which continues to be greatly enriching and rewarding.

### KYLE KORYNTA

I am in my second year of the Master's program in Scandinavian Literature and am enjoying teaching first year Norwegian again this year. I was fortunate to spend last summer in Bergen and Oslo taking a language course with Sommerkurs i Bergen and doing independent research on Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*. My research at the Ibsen Center has provided me with the research and material for my Master's thesis on *Hedda Gabler*. My thesis focuses on Hedda and the various struggles she faces with society and boredom. This February in Fairbanks, Alaska I gave a SASS conference paper entitled "The Boredom Paradox and Hedda Gabler's Aesthetic Responses to Boredom".

### RALITSA LAZAROVA

I have now completed the required course work for the Ph.D. program in Scandinavian Languages and Literature and the Certificate Program in Theory and Criticism in the Comparative Literature Department. My dissertation focuses on contemporary Swedish novels that have a special affinity to documentary, biographical, and autobiographical narrative, such as those of P.O. Enquist. I hope to spend part of the next academic year in Sweden, where I will collect materials and interview the authors I work with for my dissertation. This year I have also continued to serve as a Swedish instructor and Lead TA for the Scandinavian Department. During Summer quarter 2007 I taught Intensive Swedish to a group of enthusiastic and indefatigable students, all of whom continued onto the 200 level Swedish class.



**PETER LEONARD**

I've been a Visiting Researcher at Uppsala University, as part of my Fulbright fellowship. In November, I presented my research at the International Migration & Ethnic Relations conference in Bergen. I've traveled often to Copenhagen and Malmö to partake in literary seminars and conferences. I have agreed to write an article for the journal of the Centre for Multiethnic Research on second-generation Danish and Swedish literary trends. I have also completed a book review for *Scandinavian Studies*, which was published in Fall 2007. I was also gratified to find out I had been awarded the Aurora Borealis prize for best graduate student paper in literature for my presentation at the SASS conference in 2007.

**MELISSA LUCAS**

I have been back from Denmark now for a year, and have been putting my newly honed language skills to work as a TA for beginning Danish. Thanks to generous support from Scan|Design, we have been able to offer beginning Danish classes in the mornings and also in the evenings. I've just finished two quarters of teaching, and am excited to teach again next year. This (spring) quarter I am a TA for la Dubois' class on Sexuality in Scandinavia and I am continuing on with Old Icelandic, which has been great fun. This quarter and in the summer I will be working on my thesis and preparing for exams in December this year. Between teaching and studying, I'm staying very busy, which is great!

**RENNESA OSTERBERG**

I have enjoyed a very busy second year in the PhD program. Thanks to generous support from the Scandinavian Department, I was able to travel to Scandinavia over the summer of 2007 to attend the Sommerkurs i Bergen and then the Copenhagen Classroom. This academic year, I have enjoyed teaching a classroom of enthusiastic students Beginning Norwegian. In October 2007, I gave a paper at the Aesthetics and (Self) Deception Conference at University of Washington. In March I attended and

presented a paper at the very first Nordic Translation Conference in London and then attended and presented a paper at the annual SASS conference in Fairbanks, Alaska. I plan to spend the summer in Seattle preparing for my qualifying exams and researching for my dissertation.

**MARK SÄFSTRÖM**

I am currently in the initial phases of dissertation research. With the generous assistance of a fellowship from the American-Scandinavian Foundation, I will be spending three months in Stockholm, Sweden this summer. During this time I will be conducting research at the National Archives. The subject for my dissertation is the life and career of Swedish clergyman and politician Paul Peter Waldenström, and will focus on his turn-of-the-century travel accounts of North America. In addition, I have very much enjoyed teaching first-year Swedish this year, and I look forward to another good group of students next year.

**HEATHER SHORT**

I joined the department in the fall as an MA student in Norwegian Language and Literature, after having spent two years teaching elementary and middle school and one year studying and living in Norway. I was ready to jump back into academic life, however, and have spent this year as a Research Assistant in the department, and working hard in my classes. I also presented a paper at SASS this year, which was a great experience. I am still in the preliminary stages of research, but my thesis will address multi-culturalism and the intersection of Norwegian culture with newer immigrant cultures.

**MIA SPANGENBERG**

Mia Spangenberg is spending a stimulating year in Finland as a Birgit Baldwin Fellow conducting research for her dissertation "It's Raining Men! Masculinities in Contemporary Fiction and Film." She has also been participating in various graduate seminars and has been able to share her research in various fora. She enjoyed meeting up with the department for the SASS conference in

Fairbanks this year and received much positive feedback on her paper discussing female masculinity in the detective series by Finnish writer Leena Lehtolainen. Mia is looking forward to returning to Seattle in June and plans to finish her dissertation and graduate in June 2009.

**ANNE LINE ANDERSEN:  
VISITING GRADUATE STUDENT**

As a visiting graduate student from the University of Aarhus, Denmark, I have the amazing opportunity to study at the Department of Scandinavian Studies this academic year. This has given me the unique opportunity to study the literature and culture of my region, Scandinavia, from new and interesting angles. Through my classes I have worked with Scandinavian poetry and prose, and I have been able to cast a feministic angle on my studies through the classes "Scandinavian Women Writers" and "Women in Cinema". This quarter I am taking "Sexuality in Scandinavia" and expanding my interdisciplinary skills in "Opera and Film".

**ANU KARJALAINEN:  
FULBRIGHT FINNISH LANGUAGE  
TEACHING ASSISTANT**

Last year, Fulbright Finland launched a new program: Finnish Language and Culture Teaching Assistants. I was chosen to teach the first year Finnish class and study as a visiting graduate student at the UW during the academic year 2007-08. So far the year has been great. It's been challenging to get to know the American university system and fun to work with my students. Besides the teaching, I have had excellent opportunities to concentrate on my Ph.D. research. I am investigating what kind of resources multilingualism provides to Finnish Americans in Seattle.

## Book review: Christian Jungersen's *The Exception*.

Translated by Anna Paterson. New York: Nan A. Talese/Doubleday. 2006.

Reviewed by Marianne Stecher-Hansen

In subsequent newsletters we hope to present more book reviews by Department faculty and graduate students.

Christian Jungersen's *The Exception* is a keenly intelligent psychological thriller. Even at 500 pages, it moves along at a heady pace. The setting and plot may seem unlikely for this level of suspense: the relationships of four Copenhagen women who work at the Danish Center for Information on Genocide (not a real place, but close enough to the Danish Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies where Jungersen conducted some of his research). The subject matter is grim (albeit timely): genocide, work-place harassment, and the psychology of evil, but Jungersen's novel engages and entertains the reader without falling into mystery novel clichés or academic pedantry. This is no conventional novel, but a masterful blend of crime fiction (John le Carré comes to mind), psychological realism, documentarism, and literary modernism. At the same time *The Exception* delivers a searing existential portrait of modern individuals who grapple with ethical choices and political idealism in a desensitized information age.

The plot is spun from the distinct perspectives of the four women who staff the DCIG office: Iben, the information officer, and Malene, the project manager, are smart, sexy young women vying for the same man (a well-known leftist journalist); Camilla, the secretary, and Anne Lise, the librarian, are reserved forty-something women, each guarding her past and private lives. The action of the novel is launched already on the first page when Iben receives a threatening email from an anonymized server: revenge\_is\_near@imhidden.com (don't try the address). A Serbian war criminal, the subject of some of Iben's articles published on the DCIG website, is immediately suspected. However, in the suffocating and increasingly poisonous atmosphere of the work place (the male director is usually in meetings elsewhere, negotiating the survival of the center), suspicion quickly shifts from dangerous war criminals to inscrutable colleagues. The librarian, ostracized by the other women and

insulated within the library walls, is targeted as a suspect. The reader then sees Anne Lise emerge as the victim of vicious forms of work-place harassment which threaten to destroy her mental health, her family, and her career. Thankfully, Jungersen's skillful narrative construction is such that the reader is never entirely sure whether the attacks are imagined or real, nor whether the attacks are perpetrated by colleagues or by an outsider.

As each woman's frantic and tortured daily existence is narrated from her own experiential perspective, the reader is constantly engaged in divergent accounts of unusual events (the parts of the novel are headed, "Iben," "Malene," "Anne Lise," or "Camilla," an exercise in subjectivity which brings to mind Faulkner's experiments). Madness and the potential for 'psychic murder' (as August Strindberg called it)—and, not least, motives for homicide—abound in this little society of women, not a subtle microcosm of the 20th-century genocidal rampages which are the Danish Center's *raison d'être*. The narrative is interspersed with a series of articles composed by Iben dealing with the "psychology of evil." Depicted as a razor sharp intellectual, dedicated colleague, and cunning friend, Iben is troubled by nightmares of a harrowing experience as a hostage, while working for an aid organization in Kenya. Unstable and paranoid (haunted by another self), Iben carries a knife strapped to her leg while bicycling through the rain-soaked streets of Copenhagen. She is the most intriguing and memorable of Jungersen's complex heroines.

The documentary aspect of Jungersen's method (his extensive study in social psychology, the psychology of mass murder, genocide studies, and personality disorders) is evidence of the author's passionate and authentic commitment to intellectual inquiry. What convinces ordinary people to participate in genocidal purges by day and enables them to return home in the evening to read bedtime stories to their children? The question has long fascinated modern historians and novelists, and it is clear that Jungersen has done his homework on it. *The Exception* plays out a number of responses

to this dark enigma of humankind. Self-sacrificing behavior is rare in this murderous world, it is an "exception" (hence the title) to the rules of mass psychology.

*The Exception*, already a European best-seller, has been sold for publication in seventeen countries around the world. Translations have already appeared in Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Norwegian, Swedish as well as in English. Such a masterpiece might be unexpected from a little Danish writer; *The Exception* (originally published in 2004 in Danish as *Undtagelsen*) is his second novel; the first, *Krat* (Thickets) appeared in 1999 and was an award-winning best-seller in Denmark but is not yet available in English.

Yet Jungersen's native Copenhagen is hardly a back-water to world literature. The ethical interrogations of Søren Kierkegaard's *Either/Or* (1843) and the dark pessimism of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Shadow" (1847)—a tale about a learned man whose shadow (or *doppelganger*) turns on him—are among Jungersen's literary antecedents. Peter Høeg's international best-seller *Smilla's Sense of Snow* (1993) is a more recent Danish blockbuster in this hybrid genre which combines psychological realism with crime fiction and documentary techniques.

The forty-six year old Christian Jungersen now divides his time between Dublin and New York. His books are arduous productions, involving years of research and abstinence from reading material outside of the subject matter of his writing. Jungersen's next novel is eagerly awaited—hopefully, it will find its way immediately into a competent English translation.

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## Gergana May

*Coordinator for Norwegian Language and Culture; Lecturer in Germanic Studies and West European Studies  
Indiana University, Bloomington*

In Fall 2006, after earning her Ph.D. from the Department, Gergana May joined the faculty of Indiana University in Bloomington, IN, as a Lecturer in Germanic Studies and West European Studies. Her current position involves teaching beginning through advanced Norwegian language and Scandinavian literature or Scandinavian culture in English. Dr. May reports that her students in Norwegian have been “really talented and dedicated, and most of them have decided to pursue a Minor in Norwegian, which is now offered through the Germanic Studies department.” In her first year at Indiana, May taught a course on Henrik Ibsen and, this year, developed a new culture course titled *The Multiethnic North*, both of which have been very popular, with enrollment reaching maximum capacity. May is also responsible for community outreach and extra-curriculum activities. With the help of colleagues on campus who include Scandinavia in their teaching and research activities, she has helped to start a Scandinavian Lecture Series. She currently coordinates a Scandinavian events calendar, organizes a coffee hour, Scandinavian film series, delivers lectures on Scandinavia for community organizations and overall tries to be a resource for anything Scandinavian on campus. In addition, her two-year-old daughter keeps her busy at home.

## Anu Karjalainen

*Finnish Fulbright TA*

Through an agreement with the Institute of International Education and the Fulbright Student Exchange program, the Department hosted Finnish Graduate Student Teaching Assistant, Anu Karjalainen, this year. While working on her doctoral degree in Finland, Anu spent the past academic year learning about America, studying the intricacies of teaching methodology, investigating issues of multi-lingualism among Finnish-Americans, and teaching first-year Finnish to 13 eager students. “The UW seems to be a great place to study,” she notes, “although I’m amazed by the amount of reading students are expected to do for each course.” Anu has also been active in her contacts with the Finnish community in the Puget Sound region. She taught a beginning Finnish class for the Seattle chapter of the Finlandia Foundation and she joined several Finnish-American organizations. Along the way, she says, she has gotten to know many people of different immigrant generations and heard their stories.

Anu has also had the chance to travel while in America. She participated in the Scandinavian Studies conference in Fairbanks, Alaska, drove along Highway 101 from Seattle to California, and attended the Fulbright student conferences in New York City and Washington, D.C. Also, while at the UW, Anu got to meet and have lunch with the Prime Minister of Finland and listen to a lecture by the Dalai Lama. “That doesn’t happen every day,” she said.

*Anu Karjalainen on the  
Seattle waterfront.*



## 2008-09 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**ALF KRISTIAN AULIE-SIMRAD  
SCHOLARSHIP**  
Devyn Remme

**ANN-MARIE AND GUNNAR  
GAVEL SCHOLARSHIP**  
Sarah McConkey

**GERTRUDE D. HOLDAL  
SCHOLARSHIP**  
Marie Vanderbilt-Mathews

**KALEVALA SCHOLARSHIP**  
Kristen Hillgren

**MARTIN AND RUTH  
METZON SCHOLARSHIP**  
Kirstine Kastbjerg  
Nikolaj Lasbo  
Vidang Nguyen

**NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN  
COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP**  
Kendra Wendel

**PETERSON SCHOLARSHIP**  
Karli Anderson  
David Jessup

**POUL O. NIELSEN  
SCHOLARSHIP**  
Thomas Godshalk  
Ian Thompson

**SCANDINAVIAN EXCHANGE**  
Kevin de Voss  
Ingrid Hamberg  
Margareta Dancus  
Britta Kallevang

**SCOTT NELSKOG MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP**  
Lisa Wilcox

**SYNNØVE LIEN FIELDING  
SCHOLARSHIP**  
Evan Moe  
Heather Short

**SWEDISH CULTURAL CENTER  
SCHOLARSHIP**  
Sonja Ostling  
Emily Van der Harten

**DR. WERNER AND MARGIT  
WEINGARTEN SCHOLARSHIP**  
Dana Ryen



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*Anna Bjartmarsdóttir Sveinbjörnsson,  
 UW Nordic Librarian*

## Nordic Studies Librarian

Anna Bjartmarsdóttir Sveinbjörnsson is the Nordic studies librarian at the University of Washington Libraries. She is responsible for the selection of materials for inclusion in the Nordic collection, and all reference and library instruction work associated with the collection. She works in close collaboration with the Scandinavian Studies Department to promote Scandinavian studies and the collection, both on the campus and in the community. Anna has a background in Scandinavian languages and is fluent in both Swedish and Icelandic.

Anna is Icelandic and was born in Reykjavík. She moved with her parents to Montréal, Canada where she lived for five years. The family then moved to Lund, Sweden where Anna attended grade school. After that the family moved to Anchorage, Alaska where she went to high school and where her parents still live. After finishing high school, Anna moved to Stockholm, Sweden where she attended Stockholm's University. She majored in theater studies and history of ideas. After her years in Sweden, Anna moved on to Vancouver, British Columbia to complete an M.A. in theater and film studies at the University of British Columbia. Anna went on to do her M.A. in library science at State University of New York, at Albany. Before settling in Seattle, Anna spent three years as an instruction librarian at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. Anna came to Seattle in October of 2006, as the new Nordic studies librarian at the University of Washington and has been serving the department, the library, and the community ever since.



Department graduate students at the SASS conference in Fairbanks, Alaska in March 2008. Front row (L to R): Kirstine Kastbjerg, Karin Hedstrom, Heather Short. Middle row (L to R): Mia Spangenberg, Margareta Dancus, Ralitsa Lazarova. Back row (L to R): Anne Line Andersen, Kyle Korynta, Ieva Butkute, Anu Karjalainen, Mark Säfström. Not pictured: Rennesa Osterberg.

  
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