



Scandinavian Studies

A Message from the Chair

TERJE LEIREN



Another Spring, another graduation. Sad as it is to see our students leave, leaving is, after all, the inevitable and natural conclusion of their studies at the university. So, we rejoice in their success and wish them all well on their journey of life. With their BA, MA, or Ph.D. degrees in hand, it is a journey which marks successful completion while signaling a new beginning. We wish them all "til lykke med reisen."

Since our last newsletter we have seen significant changes in the Department with sorrow and joy as well as growth and development. We were deeply saddened to hear of the sudden passing of our former colleague, Professor Leslie Eliason. She left our department in the early nineties to join the Evans School of Public Affairs before moving on to California and the Monterey Institute of International Studies. A truly remarkable teacher, she was loved and respected and will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

When Leslie left the department, she was replaced by Christine Ingebritsen who took on the responsibilities of teaching Scandinavian politics. A prize-winning and popular professor, Ingebritsen was recruited in 2004 to serve as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education. This past year, Christine has ably filled the role of Acting Dean and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education while teaching a course in international relations and completing two books published this Spring.

Dedicated teachers all, the faculty members of the Department of Scandinavian Studies have also established a remarkable publication record over the past two years. The exceptionally strong faculty scholarship demonstrates why the Department ranks among the very best Scandinavian and Baltic programs in the world. Professors Marianne Stecher-Hansen, Christine Ingebritsen, Andrew Nestingen, Jan Sjøvik, Klaus Brandl, Lotta Gavel Adams and Terje Leiren have all published books or had book manuscripts accepted for publication by major publishing houses in the past two years. Professors Stecher-Hansen, Nestingen, Guntis Smidchens and Ia Dubois were all nominated for major teaching awards at the University.

In the past two years, two of our distinguished colleagues, Lotta Gavel Adams and Jan Sjøvik, have been promoted to full professors at the University. With these promotions, the Department has now a faculty which includes three full professors for the first time in its 97-year history.

Our hard working graduate student teaching assistants also deserve mention as they constitute a significant teaching core in our first- and second-year language classes. As Teaching Assistants, graduate students are able to finance their education as 50% employees while learning their craft and maintaining a heavy load of seminar and other course work on the graduate level. Often unheralded, our teaching assistants are an important part of our teaching and research mission, and they also represent the future of Scandinavian studies. The Department's record of successful graduate student placement of its Ph.D. students in teaching positions around the country is unmatched in the field. Graduates of the Department of Scandinavian Studies are today found on the faculty of such renowned institutions as

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, *Associate 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, *Assistant 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, *Adjunct 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, *Auxiliary Faculty*
M.A., 1976, University of Wisconsin; Translation, fiction writing, publishing, Scandinavian literature

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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Swedish in Unexpected Places

"Hur mår du?" asked the shopkeeper.

Not an unreasonable question, really, but it was coming from a Kurdish shopkeeper in the heart of Iraqi Kurdistan. The date was December 2003, nine months after the U.S. invasion of Iraq. And he knew more than just "*Hur mår du?*", too.

Since the U.S. created the Northern No-Fly Zone in 1991 following the First Gulf War, Kurds have been returning to Iraqi Kurdistan to help re-build their country and to be reunited with their families. Sweden took thousands of Kurdish refugees in the 1970s and 1980s, and these Swede-Kurds were among the thousands returning to Kurdistan over the past 15 years, and especially since 2003.

Among the Swede-Kurds that I met was a Kurdish family who had lived in Sweden for 14 years. They invited me to spend *julafton* with them, and it turned out to be the MOST

WONDERFUL Swedish smörgåsbord dinner. They had a Swedish business partner visiting them at the time, and he helped to prepare a real smörgåsbord dinner complete with meatballs, potatoes, two kinds of cabbage, beets, and herring. They all spoke Swedish, including their darling daughters of six and eight years. We ate, laughed, and opened presents from the *jul tomten* (Santa). As I was getting ready to leave, I heard one of the girls asking her mother in Swedish how it was that the *jultomten* knew her clothing size even there in Kurdistan...

I first learned Swedish in Sweden as a high school exchange student two decades ago. Who knew that my best Swedish *jul* ever would come 23 years later in Iraqi Kurdistan?

KATHERINE MCDERMOTT

(Katherine is the Department's new administrator and a former high school math teacher.)

A Message from the Chair (CONTINUED FROM COVER)

the University of Wisconsin, University of Illinois, University of Minnesota, University of Oregon, University of Colorado, Indiana University, University of Washington, Pacific Lutheran University, St. Olaf College, Concordia College, and Gustavus Adolphus College, among many others.

After more than a decade of steady growth, it is a true pleasure to note that the Baltic Studies program at the University of Washington has reached the point where we have been able to hire a tenure-track faculty member. From the early promise of teaching the three Baltic languages when the program began in 1994, the hiring of a tenure-track Baltic Studies faculty member in 2006 symbolizes the growth and stability of Baltic studies at the UW. Today the program includes the teaching of the history, culture, folklore and politics of the Baltic states, in addition to several levels of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian languages. I congratulate Dr. Guntis Smidchens on his tenure-track appointment and welcome him as the first Assistant Professor of Baltic Studies at the UW.

Related and of considerable significance for the Baltic Studies program and for the Department is the establishment of the Department's first Endowed Professorship in Baltic Studies. The Kazickas Family Foundation in New York has seen fit to establish the Kazickas Family Foundation Endowed Professorship in Baltic Studies in the Department and at the University of Washington. We are truly honored to have been selected by the Foundation as the recipient of their remarkable generosity and commitment to their Lithuanian heritage and the future of Baltic Studies in America.

As exemplified by the Kazickas Endowed Professorship and other endowed scholarship funds, growth in the Scandinavian and Baltic programs could not take place with State financial support alone. The University of Washington is a public university, but it is increasingly dependent on private support. For smaller programs and departments such as Scandinavian Studies, private support is not only important, it is absolutely critical!

Excellence among the faculty inspires students and builds programs. Excellence among faculty facilitates cutting-edge research. Excellence among faculty strengthens the study of the Nordic and Baltic countries in America, and excites students and encourages intellectual discovery on a multitude of levels. More than anything else, I believe, that continuing academic excellence and the long-term success of the Department of Scandinavian Studies depends on private support. Opportunities for students to do challenging research, take exciting classes and experience life-transforming study abroad trips are enhanced and guaranteed by private support.

Be it large or small, I would encourage you to think about making a contribution to support the continuing excellence of the students, the faculty and the Department of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington as we near the celebration of our centennial year, 2009-2010.

Professor Malan Marnersdóttir, Visiting Fulbright Scholar from the Faroe Islands



It is an honor for me to receive the grant, and I am very proud to be chosen for it. At the University of Washington I have been teaching a course about Faroese literature in a post-colonial perspective even as I continue with my own research on the subject. During my stay I am writing an article on literature's role in the National Movement that started

in the Faroe Islands in the 1880s. Literature and especially poems that became songs defined the concept of the Faroe Islands as a nation. The patriotic songs created the Faroese nation that became an idea that poets developed during the 20th century into a set concept. Towards the end of the century a certain opposition has come forward, poets started to deconstruct these concepts of what the Faroese nation is. The discourse about the nation has primarily been a discourse lead by men; women's contribution have been rare and when they occurred they have been ridiculed. These are some of the issues I have been working with in connection with my course this spring quarter at the Department of Scandinavian Studies.

The stay also makes it possible for me to broaden my knowledge in art history with Patricia Failings' course on Art after WWII. American art and culture are influential everywhere in the world, not least in the Faroe Islands. In a wider perspective art has of course contributed with visual definitions of the Faroe Islands, and this course helps me to see how this role is carried out by modern Faroese art.

In terms of my future work on this subject I am about to propose how Faroese literature can be included in the Comparative History of Nordic Literary Cultures lead by Mark Sandberg, Stephen Sondrup, Karin Sanders and others. This literary history is a contribution to the International Comparative Literature Association's series of comparative regional histories devoted to the development of literary culture.

My stay in the U.S. offers great opportunities for me to see and experience other parts of the country. I have been to Madison, Wisconsin, Berkeley, California and Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma. It is a great pleasure for me to meet colleagues these places, and I am enjoying my stay very much.

Everywhere I come it means a lot that I can introduce myself as a Visiting Fulbright Scholar. For instance when I met three ornithologists at Neah Bay on the Olympic Peninsula. They told me about the birds they were counting and the Visiting Fulbright Scholars at the Olympic National Park Research Center. In return, I told them about the Faroe Islands and the shortage of food for puffins which led to a poor puffin catch in 2005.

In Port Townsend I met a group of women, The Raging Grannies, who invited me to participate in their addressing of the true Mother's Day. This was my lesson this 14th of May: Mother's Day was originally a day for peace suggested by Julia Ward Howe who wrote the Battle Hymn of the Republic. In 1872 she wrote the Mother's Day Proclamation which was read by me and other ladies in Port Townsend on Mother's Day 2006.

Here the ends meet. The Fulbright Program was established shortly after World War II by Senator J. William Fulbright in order to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries. He thought that through educational exchange, people would better understand citizens and cultures of other nations. I hope that I have contributed to the understanding of Faroese literature in America – I myself have certainly learned a great deal about American culture.

Annica Kronsell, American Scandinavian Foundation Visiting Lecturer

Cherry trees in full bloom and splendor in the Quad welcomed me as I set foot at the Department in early March. I am teaching the course Environmental Norms in International Relations to a group of 25 smart and enthusiastic UW students. During my spring term stay I am also taking the opportunity to give talks and attend conferences in places like San Diego, Berkeley, Eugene, and Oxford, Mississippi. I am also meeting research colleagues and attending events here at the UW as much as I can during my stay.





Leslie Carol Eliason 1959-2004

It was with great sadness that the Department of Scandinavian Studies received word of the death of one of its most energetic and talented members, Leslie Eliason, who died on April 12, 2004 after a short severe illness. She died at the University of California San Francisco Medical Center where she had been flown from Bosnia for additional cancer treatment.

Before she became ill, Leslie was on sabbatical from the Monterey Institute for International Studies. Her fellowship at the University of Central Europe in Budapest, Hungary included a contract with the George Soros Open Society Institute to run several seminars in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, where she became ill. Despite outstanding medical treatment at the University of Sarajevo Hospital and then at UCSF, her cancer was too advanced to be stopped.

Leslie was a scholar, teacher, and promoter of Scandinavian studies for more than twenty years. Her interests were stimulated in high school when she left Allentown, PA for a senior year at Holstebro Gymnasium in Denmark on a Rotary Club Exchange Program. After graduating from the University of Virginia with highest honors in 1981, Leslie spent another year of study at Århus University in Denmark on a Danish Marshall Fellowship. She continued her studies of political science as a fellowship student at Stanford University where she earned her PhD in 1988. She was a member of the Department of Scandinavian Studies before transferring to the Evans School of Public Administration. She remained an adjunct professor in Scandinavian Studies and Political Science while teaching public policy. In addition to her teaching and research at UW, she managed the Humphrey and other international scholarship programs that brought dozens of students and visitors to the campus and region. In 1997, she was invited to join the faculty of the Monterey Institute for International Studies in California as an associate professor in the Graduate School of International Policy Studies. Her fields of expertise included comparative education policy, world politics and international political economy.

Leslie was known for her enthusiasm and encouragement of others, particularly students, younger scholars, and foreign visitors. Her efforts to mentor women colleagues were also widely recognized. A natural leader, Leslie served on the Executive Board of SASS and other scholarly organizations. She also published many professional articles, chapters and other contributions, as well as editing books. Beyond her initial interest in Scandinavia, Leslie developed a keen expertise in the new democracies of central and eastern Europe, which she was pursuing when she fell ill. Among her recent publications is *Fascism, Liberalism, and Social Democracy in Central Europe: Past and Present*, which she edited with Lene Bøgh Sørensen (Aarhus University Press, 2002).

But a list of her scholarship and achievements cannot fully capture her vivacious personality, ready smile, encouraging words, love of teaching, and the cause of knowledge and social justice. Her family, students, colleagues, and not least the community of Scandinavian scholars, have lost a bright light. Those of us who knew her will never forget her warmth and energy.

Leslie Eliason is survived by her parents, two brothers and sisters-in-law and their families. Leslie's final request was that any memorial remembrances be made in the form of contributions to The Leslie Eliason Fund, c/o Col. William T. Eliason, 101 Allen Harris Drive, Yorktown, VA 23692, to be equally shared by the Sarajevo office of the Open Society Institute and the University of Sarajevo hospital for comforting patients and colleagues whose needs fall outside of official funding policies.

"Hvil I Fred"

CHRISTINE INGEBRITSEN, *University of Washington*
ERIC EINHORN, *University of Massachusetts*

Latvian Lectureship at the UW

The Latvian language program at the UW expanded dramatically this year, thanks to the generous support of the Latvian government. The Latvian Ministry for Special Assignments for Society Integration Affairs allotted half of the money needed to establish a Latvian language lectureship, and the other half was provided by the University of Washington's Dean of Arts and Sciences together with the Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies.

This will be the third jointly funded lectureship in the Department of Scandinavian Studies, as we have similar arrangements with the governments of Denmark and Finland. Marking the beginning of this international collaborative project, Aigars Kalvitis, Prime Minister of Latvia, visited the UW in summer of 2005. In a meeting with UW administrators, he pointed out that the UW is the only American university to teach Latvian: "The Government of Latvia wishes to express its gratitude to the University of Washington, for its contributions to American knowledge about Latvia and Latvian language, culture and history."

The lectureship is producing dramatic results. This year the Scandinavian Department was able to double the number of Latvian language courses it offers, offering both first-and third-year instruction. The number of students enrolled in Latvian studies has doubled this year as compared to previous years! A side benefit has been the expansion of contacts between our Baltic Studies Program and Latvia's leading academic institution, since the Visiting Lecturer, Iveta Grinberga, is a member of the faculty at the University of Latvia.

Langins Fund supports guest lectures on Latvian topics

Six years ago, Mrs. Zigrīda Langins of Bellevue, WA, established an endowment of \$30,000 for the support of lectures on Latvian topics at the UW. In this past year, four events were made possible thanks to interest earned by the fund: A lecture by Dr. Sarma Eglite entitled "*A Faith-Based Nongovernmental Organization in Latvia: Zvannieki foster home for children*"; a concert and lecture by the Latvian folklore group, "*Vilki*"; as well as class visits by Marisa Way-Rogainis, who discussed her research on the letters of a Latvian deportee in a Norilsk labor camp and Dr. Aldis Purs, historian and coauthor of the book, *Latvia: The Challenges of Change* (Routledge, 2002).

A Bequest to support Lithuanian studies at the UW

Bernice Kellogg, a teacher and professional genealogist, passed away in San Mateo, California on March 20, 2005, at age 84. In her research about her own family's Lithuanian roots, she succeeded in tracing back her ancestors to the 1600s! In the last two years of her life, Mrs. Kellogg corresponded with the Scandinavian Department regarding its courses in Lithuanian language, a topic close to her heart. She left a bequest of \$265,000 to the UW Baltic Studies Program to establish the Kellogg Endowment Fund. According to her wishes, interest earned by this fund will be used to support two English-language translation projects, and then scholarships for students in the Lithuanian studies program at the UW. The translation projects are expected to begin in 2008, and will include works by two of Mrs. Kellogg's favorite Lithuanian authors: the classic prose author, Žemait (1854-1921), and Alfonsas Eidintas, former Ambassador of Lithuania to the USA.



New Endowment from Kazickas Family Foundation

Last year, we were honored to receive a donation from the Kazickas Family Foundation, establishing an Endowed Professorship in Baltic Studies. The donation of \$250,000 will receive a 50% match from the UW. The new endowment will help the UW attract and retain distinguished faculty in Baltic Studies.

The Kazickas Family Foundation was established in 1999 by Joseph and Alexandra Kazickas and their four children. It is actively involved in a wide range of projects in Lithuania: It has helped renovate and restore churches and historic palaces in Vilnius; it has donated nearly 1,000 computers to schools throughout Lithuania; it has given scholarships to worthy students in the arts and sciences, and has supported several international academic exchange programs for secondary students as well as youth conferences for civil society, art and music festivals, and professional training programs.

The Kazickas family escaped from the Soviet occupation of Lithuania in 1944. As a result of a fellowship from Yale University to study for a doctorate in economics, Joseph Kazickas was able to settle in the United States in 1947. Over the next decades, he made his mark as a successful business entrepreneur, but never lost his emotional connection to Lithuania, convinced that one day his country would be free. When the independence movement, Sąjūdis, gained force in the late 1980s, Kazickas used his many political and social connections to lobby for international support of Lithuania's liberation. He and his daughter Jurate were in Vilnius on March 11, 1990, when Lithuania declared its independence from the Soviet Union.

Jurate Kazickas visited the UW campus in May of 2005 to present the Foundation's donation to the Baltic Studies Program. She also gave a guest lecture in the class on 20th century Baltic history, where she offered a first hand account and analysis of the events surrounding Lithuania's declaration of independence. It is a twist of fate that as an infant, Jurate Kazickas arrived in the United States on a ship named after the great World War II journalist, Erie Pyle, because she also became a well known American journalist, an author of five books, two films and many published articles. Her best known book, titled *War Torn*, is about the experiences of women journalists in Viet Nam who, like herself, were among the first women reporters to write reports from the front lines of a war. She recently edited a translation of her father's autobiography, a critical primary document in the history of Lithuania's independence movement.



Jurate Kazickas, Guntis Šmidchens, Ieva Butkute (Lithuanian Teaching Assistant), May 19, 2005

She told about her reasons for supporting the UW's Baltic Studies Program: "I feel privileged to be involved. When my father started the Foundation, he wanted to help his beloved homeland Lithuania recover from fifty years of Soviet oppression. I feel that the work of the University of Washington's Baltic Studies Program fits perfectly in our mission. It brings attention to Lithuania and the other countries of the Baltic. It celebrates our rich culture, history, heritage and traditions. And most importantly, it brings a new generation of scholars to that very special part of the world. And for that, I thank you."

Lithuanian poet speaks at UW

In December of 2005, the prominent Lithuanian poet and literary scholar, Professor Tomas Venclova visited campus for two events: A poetry reading and a lecture on the "Cultural Mythologies of Vilnius." Venclova is author of many books and articles about Lithuanian, Polish and Russian literature, as well as the cultural history of Lithuania's capital city, Vilnius. He is recipient of honorary doctorates from three European universities, and was awarded the highest honor of Lithuania, the Order of Gediminas.

Venclova's poetry reading was attended by about thirty students and faculty, among them members of the "Baltic Cultures" class. A student volunteer read each poem after the author's commentary. Many students later wrote to say that they had never been fans of poetry, but this encounter with the author had opened their eyes to a new world. "He has an amazing charisma about him," wrote one student. The poetry reading was filmed, and thanks to technical help from Steve Moran at the UW Language Learning Center, it is now available for online viewing at <http://depts.washington.edu/llc/olr/lithuanian/venclova-poetry.php>.

These events were made possible thanks to funds from the endowment established at the UW by the Raišys and Liffick families of Seattle.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Kurt Lundquist

BA IN SCANDINAVIAN AREA STUDIES AND
SWEDISH, 2001

Life outside of the University certainly is different, yet it is still filled with learning. I've tried to travel as much as possible and spent time in both Cuba and Mexico recently. I bought a house with my brother in 2002 located at 29th Ave NE and 57th; a short walk to the school. In October 2003 I started a Window and Gutter Cleaning business with a longtime friend, Marty Lund. Marty graduated in 2001 as well with a BA in History and English. Considering both our names and educational background our business name seemed natural. Valhalla Window and Gutter Cleaning. We are still waiting for Odin to call but until then others can reach us at (206) 229-3845. I miss the department and I often think about all the people there who helped shape my life along the way.

Fae Korsmo

I'm getting into history of science right now, in my spare time. It turns out that Scandinavia still holds keen interest for me, notably the 20th century Swedish glaciologist Hans W:son

Ahlmann, a glaciologist and statesman (ambassador to Norway). Ahlmann married a woman from Bergen and lived in Bergen for a time. He had real foresight into climate warming and alerted the U.S. to the importance of studying the polar regions following World War II. Someday I hope to get back to Sweden to study his papers at the archives.

For now I am working on science policy issues with the National Science Board. I write our annual reports on merit review, communicate with counterparts from abroad on how the National Science Foundation functions, and manage our external evaluation process.

Esther Beate Foote

Esther graduated in 2003 with a degree from the Communications Department and Jackson School of International Studies, with coursework focusing on Scandinavia. Esther is currently the Sales & Marketing Manager for the website www.Norway.com. The website, which is the largest website about Norway and 'Norwegian America,' has over 7 million unique annual users, and is owned by the Norwegian American Founda-

tion headquartered in Seattle. Esther drives revenue for the website by helping Norwegian American businesses reach their target audience and also develops strategies for building content on the website. "One of the most exciting things in my job is figuring out new and creative ways to present modern Norway to a Norwegian American audience," she explains. Norway has so much to offer beyond the traditional 'lutefisk and lefse' jokes. Norway is an important partner for the USA in so many ways." Esther also serves on the Advisory Board for the Department of Scandinavian Studies.

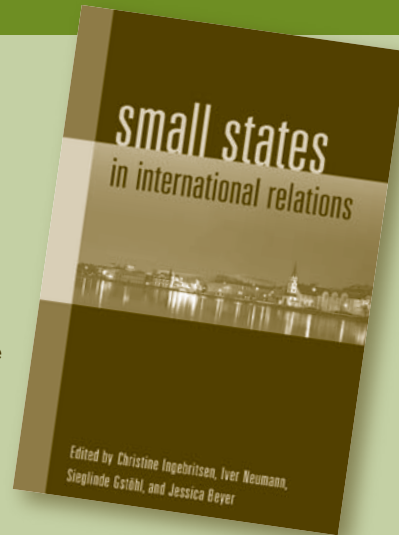
We want to hear from you...

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

New Directions in Scandinavian Studies

The Department of Scandinavian Studies and the University of Washington Press has established a new series titled "New Directions in Scandinavian Studies." With Christine Ingebritsen and Terje Leiren as General Editors, the series offers interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the Nordic region of Scandinavia and the Baltic States and their cultural connections in North America. By redefining the boundaries of Scandinavian studies to include the Baltic States and Scandinavian America, the series presents books that focus on the study of the culture, history, literature and politics of the North.

The first publication in the new series is *Small States in International Relations*, edited by Christine Ingebritsen, Iver Neumann, Sieglinde Gstöhl and Jessica Beyer. This volume of classic essays highlights the ability of small states to counter power with superior commitment, to rely on tightly knit domestic institutions with a shared "ideology of social partnerships," and to set agendas as "norm entrepreneurs."



Swedish Institute Lauds UW Swedish Program



The Swedish program at the University of Washington was decreed to be one of the two best in the world by the Stockholm-based Swedish Institute. The recognition came in 2003 and was accompanied by a monetary prize of 10,000 Swedish kronor. The Swedish program at Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic, was also cited by the Swedish Institute. The Swedish faculty members, Lotta Gavel Adams, Professor, and Ia Dubois, Senior Lecturer, were given special citations for their work in making the Department of Scandinavian Studies Swedish program the best institution for the teaching of Swedish language and culture outside of Sweden.

Dubois attributes the award to the Department's unique blend of Scandinavian culture courses, including literature, politics, history and film courses, in addition to the strong Swedish language instruction. According to Professor Gravel Adams, "It is really our students who make us shine."

Department Adds Finnish Major

Pending final approval by the Washington State Higher Education Coordinating (HEC) Board, the Department will begin offering a major in Finnish in the coming academic year. The first tenure-track faculty appointment in the Department in 1990 led to the development of a Finnish program comparable to the existing Danish, Norwegian and Swedish programs. As a result of the support of the government of Finland and the Finnish-American community of Washington state, a visiting lecturer of Finnish and scholarships for students in the program were established. Students interested in declaring a major in Finnish should meet with Professor Lotta Gavel Adams, the Undergraduate Academic Advisor.

Faculty News

KLAUS BRANDL

Senior Lecturer

This has been another exciting and productive academic year. Here are some of the highlights: I am currently in the process of finishing up the last chapter of my methods book project. The book is scheduled for publication by Prentice Hall in 2007. In cooperation with my colleague Prof. Bansleben from the Departments of Germanics, I have completed the assessment phase of our hybrid course development project. I also embarked on a new project, the development of a language curriculum for Bengali. As part of this project, I will spend two weeks in Bangladesh in June to conduct teacher training for the Bengali Summer Institute.

IA DÜBOIS

Senior Lecturer

Ia Dubois has had an inspiring year with continued research and teaching. She continues her comparative study on perspectives on sexuality in Scandinavia. Thanks to the Lars Jonsson Family Fund, and its focus on faculty exchange with Linköping University, Ia will spend Fall Quarter 2006 in Linköping turning her book project into a concrete reality. The graduate poetry course was the most exciting teaching this year as she reformatted it to include more works by the latest generation poets whose works reflect issues in today's multicultural Scandinavian society.

LOTTA GAVEL ADAMS

Professor

An exciting year is coming to an end, my first after being promoted to a full professor, a great but humbling honor. But my hectic life at the Department seems to be going on as before. In January, I helped organize the first Scandinavian Department Undergraduate Orientation, a coordinated event to spread the word about Majors and Minors in our Department. I counted 146 interested undergraduates in attendance who were happily munching on donuts and bagels and drinking hot cider, while listening to me and my colleagues tell about our program, courses, expectations, and outcomes.

On the scholarly front, a couple of my articles have found their way into print: "Fredrika Bremer: Passionate Promoter of Peace and Women's Rights" was published in *Female Voices of the North II* by Praesens Verlag in Vienna, and "Strindberg, Vetenskap och Manlighet" was published in *Det gäckande könet: Strindberg och Genus* by Symposium in Stockholm. Presently, I am checking the galley-proofs for an article on the Swedish Nobel Prize winner in 1916 Verner von Heidenstam for an edition on Nobel Prize Winners in Literature in the series *Dictionary of Literary Biography* to be published this summer. At this year's SASS conference in Oxford, Mississippi, the land of magnificent magnolia grandifloras and of Nobel Prize winner William Faulkner, I gave a paper continuing my exploration of masculinities in Strindberg's works.

IVETA GRINBERGA

Visiting Lecturer

I started to work as the Visiting Latvian Lecturer in September 2005 and have spent my time preparing for First Year Latvian and Latvian Literary and Cultural History for motivated, open and active American students, which I find very inspiring in my own work. In addition to my teaching job, I am working on my Ph.D. dissertation about Latvian second language acquisition. I have also been involved in local Latvian community activities as a volunteer teacher at the Seattle Latvian School. In March, I made a presentation at the American Latvian School Teachers' conference in Chicago.

KAROLIINA KUISMA

Visiting Lecturer

My second year as the visiting lecturer has been interesting and fun. I have taught second and third year Finnish as well as Kalevala and the Epic Tradition, which all have been intensive and insightful experiences. We have had a lively group of nine second year students, a high number I wish to keep up! I have also very much enjoyed visiting other departmental courses sharing a little bit about Finnish children's literature and war time history, to mention a few of the most recent topics.

I am also starting my second year on the local Finlandia Foundation's board. I serve as the secretary, a pleasant position that keeps me well-informed about current Finnish events in the greater Seattle area. In the summer, as usual, I will be attending the annual lecturer seminar in Finland updating my knowledge of what's going on in the homeland.

CHRISTINE INGEBRITSEN

Associate Professor

Christine Ingebritsen has just completed a year as Acting Dean and Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education and is delighted to be rejoining the Department. Two new books are coming out, *Small States In International Relations* and *Scandinavia In World Politics*. Thanks to the Department of Scandinavian Studies for supporting my role as Acting Viking Dean.

TERJE LEIREN

Professor

The past two years have been among the busiest for a long time. Reappointed Department Chair for a third five-year period in 2005, Leiren promises this term will be his last. He was especially busy during the 2005 commemoration of the centennial of the dissolution of the Swedish-Norwegian Union in 1905. He gave numerous scholarly and public talks on the modern Norwegian monarchy and Norwegian independence. He worked with Gerald Anderson, the UW Nordic Librarian, on an extensive Suzzallo Library exhibit commemorating the dissolution in 1905. Leiren also participated in, and was interviewed for, a 2005 PBS documentary on the late Norwegian Crown Princess Märtha of Norway produced by Steinar Hybertsen of Shybert Productions in Colorado, and he also appeared in a History Channel documentary on the building of a Viking boat for the series "The Big Build." The boat was launched near Deception Pass on Fidalgo Island.

Along with Christine Ingebritsen, Leiren helped to launch a new book series with the University of Washington Press called "New Directions in Scandinavian Studies." The first volume, *Small States in International Relations*, was published in April, 2006, in cooperation with the University of Iceland Press. Several more volumes are planned. Finally, as the academic year 2005-2006 comes to a close, the Department is in the middle of its ten-year academic review. Following the submission of a comprehensive Self-Study, the Review Committee appointed by the UW Graduate School has conducted interviews with faculty, staff, students, and advisory board members. It is an extensive and exhausting process that is intended to evaluate and renew the academic efforts of the Department as it approaches its own centennial celebration in 2009-2010. Following a hectic year in the Department, Leiren says he is ready to join another UW Alumni Tour on its trip to Scandinavia in July.

ANDREW NESTINGEN Assistant Professor

In 2006 I have been working to complete a book titled *Criminal Scandinavia: Popular Culture and the Welfare State*. The book shows how popular culture became a newly important forum for cultural and political debate in Scandinavia during the 1990s. I explain how authors and filmmakers modified the conventions of popular forms such as the police procedural novel, the crime film, melodrama, and others to convey their political points. The book will be published by the University of Washington Press in the series *New Directions in Scandinavian Studies*, edited by colleagues Christine Ingebritsen and Terje Leiren. Evidently one book leads to another. I'm also at work on a book about contemporary Finnish filmmaker Aki Kaurismäki, which will be published by Wallflower Press, a UK film publisher whose books are distributed in the US by Columbia University Press. It is tentatively titled: *The Cinema of Aki Kaurismäki: Shadows and Paradise*.

In spring quarter 2006, I am co-taught a new course with Eric Ames. The title is *Crime Scenes: Investigating the Cinema*. The course uses the crime film to introduce students to the study of film, Scandinavian and German film history, as well as to the cinema's culture of violence. Check it out at <http://courses.washington.edu/crmscns>. For the website, thanks is due to Scandinavian Studies Ph.D. student Peter Leonard, who is one of the course's TAs, and who has done an outstanding job.

JAN KROGH NIELSEN Visiting Lecturer

In my second year as the Visiting Danish Lecturer, I have been teaching second and third year Danish as well as Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature. In October 2005, I attended the Danish American Heritage Society's International Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. I wrote a couple of entries on the Danish poet Inger Christensen for *Companion to 20th-Century World Poetry* (Facts on File). This summer, I will be teaching the literary culture component of the Danish summer program, Copenhagen Classroom 2006, as well as function as the on-site Program Coordinator.

JAN SJÄVIK Professor

Jan Sjävik has spent the year teaching his regular courses, writing about 19th century Norwegian literature, and seeing his book *Historical Dictionary of Scandinavian Literature and Theater* through to publication (it appeared in April, 2006, published by Scarecrow Press). At the Annual Meeting of the Society for the advancement of Scandinavian Study in Oxford, Miss., he read a paper on an autobiography written by the Norwegian-American scientist H. P. K. Agersborg. In August he will present papers at international conferences in Turku, Finland (on Jonas Lie) and Oslo, Norway (on Ibsen), followed by papers on Ibsen to be given at the PAMLA in Riverside, California, in November and at the MLA in Philadelphia in December.

GUNTIS ŠMIDCHENS Assistant Professor

Guntis Šmidchens began teaching as a Visiting Lecturer at the UW in 1993; since then his title changed to Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer. He has now accepted the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Scandinavian Studies, beginning in fall of 2006. He will continue to teach a variety of courses on Baltic history, culture and society, and the popular undergraduate course, "Introduction to Folklore." This spring, Guntis was elected President of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS), to serve as President Elect in 2006-2008, President 2008-2010, and Director-at-Large 2010-2012. At the end of June, he will accompany a group of UW alumni on a tour of the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea.

MARIANNE STECHER-HANSEN Associate Professor

Marianne Stecher-Hansen recently participated in a conference entitled "Denmark and the Black Atlantic" (<http://blackatlantic.engerom.ku.dk>) in Copenhagen (May 06) where she delivered a paper on Danish Colonialism and Thorkild Hansen's Slave Trilogy. Over the past academic year Professor Stecher-Hansen delivered invited plenary lectures on at the International Hans Christian Andersen Conference in Odense (August 2005), at the international Danish American Heritage conference in Des Moines (October 2005). She was also invited to speak at the Smithsonian (November 2005) as part of Norway's Centennial Celebration, lecturing on Knut Hamsun. With the support of a generous grant from the SCAN|DESIGN foundation, Marianne is developing new programs at the UW: an interdisciplinary Summer program in Denmark: *Copenhagen Classroom* (<http://depts.washington.edu/scand/copenhagenclassroom>) and a SCAN|DESIGN fellowship program to support undergraduate and graduate study at Danish Universities.

Student News

IEVA BUTKUTE

As a concurrent degree student in Scandinavian Studies and the School of Law, I am now finishing the first year at the UW School of Law. In the summer I am going to take part in a youth expedition to Siberia, which is sponsored by the Lithuanian government and the Lithuanian-American community. The goal of the expedition is to visit the sites and cemeteries of many Lithuanians who were exiled to Siberia by the Soviet government. In the fall I am looking forward to teaching second-year Lithuanian.

ROBERT DELONG

After retiring from 30 years of local government service, I applied to the masters program (area studies) in the Department of Scandinavian Studies for the fall 2005 term. I have been intensely interested in Scandinavia most of my adult life and felt that this was the time to focus on it and hopefully make some contribution to the field of Scandinavian Studies.

During that term I began my classwork which should lead to the accomplishment of the master's degree in 2007. I feel extremely fortunate to have been awarded a Jonsson Scholarship which is enabling me to participate in the exchange program with (Sweden's) Linköpings Universitet, where I am now studying during their spring semester. I am taking classes in their Masters in European and International Relations program. Specifically I am concentrating on European Union studies which are helping immensely in terms of understanding political decision-making in today's Scandinavia.

I will be in the intensive Norwegian language program in Bergen, Norway this summer, and then it's back to Seattle in the fall to finish up my classwork and launch the thesis work.

MARGARETA DANCUS

For the last two years, Margareta Dancus has been very much engaged by teaching first-year Norwegian and working with the Norwegian civil society at large and the Norwegian fishermen's civil society in particular. After graduating in June 2006, she plans to continue toward a PhD in the Department of Scandinavian Studies. In her dissertation, she will write about fish, oil, and energy issues from a cultural studies perspective.

TOM JOHNSON

I am a continuing PhD student in the Department. I am completing a second year as a Swedish instructor, during which I successfully completed my PhD Qualifying Examinations, and continued work on my dissertation. My primary research interests include Old Norse literature and linguistic study and Swedish folklore, specifically the Cuning Tradition of Sweden in the 18th and 19th centuries in Sweden. I hope to complete my dissertation on the folk grimoires, or Swedish Black Art Books (*svartkonstböcker*), during the 2006-07 academic year.

ADRIENNE HAYES

After my first year of graduate studies I have decided to focus on the role of Norwegian NGOs in international mediation efforts. This summer I will be attending a two-week-long course at the Center for Small State Studies at the University of Iceland. I will then travel to Norway to conduct research for my thesis.

RALITSA LAZAROVA

During my first two years as a graduate student at the Department of Scandinavian studies, I have been enjoying taking courses at the Department and teaching first-year Swedish. Right now I am working on my MA thesis which deals with the postmodern rewrites of canonical works of 19th century Scandinavian literature. Thanks to a generous grant which was awarded to me by the Peterson's Family Scholarship committee, I will be able to spend the summer in Sweden, after which I will be looking forward to resuming my studies at the department and continuing to serve as a teaching assistant for Swedish.

PETER LEONARD

Peter Leonard received his MA degree in Swedish Literature in June, 2005. During the summer of 2005, he interned at Microsoft where he worked on user interfaces for online consumer products and services. He is continuing in the program towards a Ph.D., while serving as the webmaster for the Simpson Center for the Humanities. In November 2005, he moderated a reading and discussion with the Swedish author Jonas Khemiri at Scandinavia House in New York City. Sponsored by the Consulate General of Sweden, the event drew dozens of attendees to hear one of the most innovative stylists of Swedish prose discuss his work.

GERGANA MAY

This has been a busy year for me! Besides enjoying the experience of teaching second-year Norwegian for the first time, I defended my dissertation in April on Henrik Ibsen titled "Man at the End of History: Henrik Ibsen's Works in the Light of French Post-Hegelian Theoretical Thought." I will soon be furthering my career by assuming a position as a Lecturer and Coordinator of Norwegian Language and Culture at Indiana University in Bloomington. My husband Tobias and I have also been enjoying parenthood; we welcomed our first child, baby Kalina, in February.

MARK SÄFSTRÖM

I plan to complete my MA degree in Area Studies this June. I am currently finishing a thesis that examines the influence of 19th century Swedish clergyman and author Paul Peter Waldenström in North America, titled *"Lektor Waldenström comes to America; Travel Literature and the Cultivation of a Transitional Identity Among Swedish Diaspora Publics"*. Next fall, I intend to continue in the PhD program with the goal of developing myself as a historian and biographer.

MIA SPANGENBERG

I have been formally invited into the PhD program in Scandinavian Studies. I plan on pursuing my interests in representations of masculinity in current Finnish literature and film and will be working on an article based on my MA thesis this summer. I am especially looking forward to developing my Finnish class and meeting my new students in the fall. To balance my life and school work, I will be climbing Mt. Hood in June as part of an effort to raise funds to fight breast cancer sponsored by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. It is exhilarating to be training and getting into really good shape while raising funds for such a great cause. I also hope to be travelling in Finland, Germany and Denmark in August to visit friends and relatives.

ESTHER SUNDE

I am thrilled to be back in the fascinating world of Scandinavian Studies after a long hiatus. I am currently a part-time graduate student, while working full-time as a faculty librarian at South Seattle Community College. I'm enjoying taking classes in the department, and plan to write my master's thesis about Edith Carlmar, Norway's first woman film director.

ERIK SUNDHOLM

I finished all requirements for the Masters Degree winter term 2006. In May, my paper was presented at the University of Copenhagen's *"Denmark and the Black Atlantic"* conference. I am looking forward to commencement in June and putting all that I have learned to use working as a distributor of Scandinavian technical marine products at Harris Electric Inc. I have thoroughly enjoyed my studies. Thanks to all the great people in the department and to my wife Kerry for the support.

ANNE VESTERGAARD

I am enjoying my second year as a Master's student and a TA very much. I have taken a lot of interesting courses of language, literature, and pedagogy and am currently working on my master's thesis on the reading of literature in an online environment. Teaching first year Danish has been very rewarding and has given me a new, interesting perspective on my mother tongue. After graduation, I am returning to Denmark and hope to get appointed as a teacher of Danish and Spanish. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for contributing to a very inspiring stay here in the US.

Visitor from Estonia

In May of 2006, Evelin Lehis visited campus to speak in a class taught by Christine Ingebritsen, "Modern Scandinavian Politics." She compared and analyzed recent economic developments in North Europe and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania since these three countries since they joined the European Union in 2004. After completing her undergraduate studies in Estonia, Lehis continued her graduate research as a guest scholar at several prominent European and North American universities. She is currently working at the World Bank as an expert on Environmentally & Socially Sustainable Development, and working toward a doctoral degree at the University of Denver.



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Professor Marianne Stecher-Hansen addresses this year's Masters and Ph.D. graduates. The graduates (L to R) are Mark Säfström, Anne Toft Vestergaard, Margareta Dancus, Kevin Karlin, and Gergana May. (Not pictured here: Erik Sundholm and Mia Spangenberg.) (Photo by: Peter Leonard)

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