A Message from the Chair, Kirsten Wolf

As this newsletter is being put together, the hustle bustle characteristic of the beginning of an academic year is abating. Faculty, staff, and students have established their schedules and taken stock of work to be done between now and June 2008. The year promises to be an exciting and busy one, as we experience continued growth. My colleagues and I have had the pleasure of welcoming no fewer than six new graduate students to the Department, so in addition to our approximately forty undergraduate majors, we now have about twenty graduate students, of whom roughly two-thirds are Ph.D. students pursuing studies in various areas of medieval and modern Scandinavian language, literature, culture, and folklore.

During my few weeks so far as Chair of the Department, I have had the privilege of being able to announce important and pleasant news. One of these announcements was the promotion of Tanya Thresher to Associate Professor. Promotions are the most concrete proof of recognition that colleges and universities accord faculty members, and the Department now consists of four Full Professors, one Associate Professor, one Assistant Professor, and three Lecturers. In addition, we are delighted to include among our faculty this semester Professor Ingeborg Kongslien of the University of Oslo, who serves as an American Scandinavian Foundation visiting lecturer.

At the same time, I have had to announce the retirement of Dr. Howard Martin, Dean and Associate Vice Chancellor of the Division of Continuing Studies. A scholar of Old Norse and Middle High German, Howard Martin has served on our Department's Executive Committee for many years. As such, he has not only witnessed but also helped shape the development of the Department over a long period of time. His strong support of the Department has been invaluable.

The editors of our newsletter have impressed upon me the need for brevity. Many announcements detailing the endeavors of the Department's faculty, staff, and students in the areas of research, teaching, service, and good citizenship could be made. About some of these endeavors, we invite you to read the following pages.

Norden—A place to experience Scandinavia at UW-Madison

In fall 2007 a brand new Language Floor, Norden, opened up. This Language Floor is intended for undergraduate students interested in practicing Scandinavian languages in daily life. Norden is one of several Language Floors partaking in a thriving International Learning Community (ILC). The powerful machinery of this community fosters unique opportunities for students to participate in the discussions of international issues as well as sharing cultures from all over the world. Norden is open for speakers of Norwegian, Swedish and Danish alike. We have already been successful at finding interest for Norden in the larger community, hosting activities where speakers of all three Scandinavian languages intermingle. Bonnie Bruce, from the UW-Foundation, gave us a generous donation of $1000 for the Norden project and we are very grateful. This money was used for the meal card for the program coordinator for Norden. So to Bonnie Bruce we say, “takk for maten.”
Judy Anderson—30 years, a celebration of her service to us

Chances are that if you have been in the department over the last 30 years, you have met the wonderfully vivacious Judy Anderson, our departmental academic specialist and spreader of good cheer. Arriving at the department of Scandinavian Studies in 1976, Judy came from the English Department, and the department has been blessed with her presence ever since. Judy, an avid animal rights advocate, spends a lot of her free time and energy volunteering for Angel’s Wish—a Wisconsin Based Non-Profit Coalition for Animals. Judy also is a foster mother to kittens, who are homeless and abused in addition to having five cats and three dogs. To honor her 30 years of service the faculty, staff and students have made a donation to Angel’s Wish in her name. She and John Herman, her partner of 33 years, live in the countryside outside of Madison, where they enjoy the peace and quite of country living. In addition to her work with animals, Judy has taken it upon herself to be the angel and advocate for several aging neighbors, who do not have relatives nearby. We in the department appreciate Judy for all she has done for the past 30 years. Thank you and congratulations!

Jim Leary

It is difficult to overstate James P. Leary’s contributions to the academic and public spheres of folklore. With a joint appointment in Madison’s Folklore Program and the Department of Scandinavian Studies, Jim is widely regarded as one of the most respected and knowledgeable scholars of American folklore, approaching his study of cultures in the Upper Midwest from a uniquely global perspective. Some of Jim’s most widely referenced and highly esteemed works include Wisconsin Folklore (1998), a shining example of collecting and representing regional folklore, So Ole Says to Lena: Folk Humor of the Upper Midwest (2001), a book that many have hailed as a model not only for regional humor studies, but for the study of humor in cultural contexts, and his most recent release, Folk Ability: How the Goose Island Ramblers Reinvented American Folk Music (2006), which investigates the fusion of Anglo-American and non-Anglo-European-American traditional music in the Upper Midwest. In addition to these important works, Leary has striven for decades to make his pioneering research on regional and Wisconsin folklore accessible to the general public and non-academic institutions by lending his expertise to numerous radio programs, exhibits, documentary films, and sound recordings. It is not surprising, then, to hear colleagues like Carl Lindahl of the University of Houston praise him in these glowing terms: “There is no living folklorist who knows the scholarship of American folklore better than does Jim Leary.”

We in the Department of Scandinavian Studies are proud to recognize Jim Leary here because this past spring, he was awarded the Kellett Mid-Career Award, which is designed to recognize mid-career faculty and encourage excellence in research, teaching and public service. Conferred annually by a faculty committee in the UW-Madison Graduate School and supported by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF), the award includes $60,000 in unrestricted research support. Leary has already begun to put Kellett funds to use on three Scandinavian American projects, two of which involve graduate students Anna Rue and Hilary Virtanen: Folk Songs from the Other America: Field Recordings from the Upper Midwest, 1937-1946, a multi-CD set and accompanying book; The Importance of Being Ole, a book on the origins and persistence of the comic “Ole” figure in American culture; and American and Norwegian Emigrant Novels (Draumen om frødig og jord: Ein studie i skandinavisk emigrantromanar).

This semester Ingeborg is teaching a course entitled “Contemporary Scandinavian Multi-cultural Literature and Culture” here at Wisconsin. She was interviewed recently by William Banks and Anna Rue. W: For twenty years or so you have been doing research into Scandinavian emigration to the United States, but recently you have developed an interest in immigration to Scandinavia. How did this come about?
I: This has to do with the kind of jobs you get, it wasn’t really

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Interview with Ingeborg Kongslien—Continued

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planned. We have to go back to the early 1970s when I was at the University of Chicago. When I got to Chicago in '71, I was absolutely uninterested in anything that had to do with Norwegian-Americans. For me, the reason for coming to Chicago, was that I was finished with university and I wanted to get out in the world. I thought it would be a good idea to teach Norwegian somewhere, and since I had spent some time in England, but didn't have any French or German in my degree, I actually wrote Einar Haugen at Harvard, who suggested the job at Chicago. In my letter to him I had written that I was interested in American universities, and that I was absolutely not interested in the Norwegian-American colleges. I got the job in Chicago – and enjoyed my two years there very much – and one day, the Swedish professor said that I would have to teach a class in the immigrant novel. Einar Haugen eventually became my very very close friend, and he never stopped teasing me about my not being interested in Norwegian-Americans. After my PhD (on Scandinavian emigrant literature), I got back into Norwegian as a second language, where we had not only linguistics – applied linguistics – we also had, or I developed actually, a literature and culture course, because at that time, I looked around and thought, what do the immigrants into contemporary Scandinavia write about? What is their literature like compared to the older emigrant literature? The new contemporary situation reminded me of this material I had studied, and I was curious to see what similarities and differences there were. So I sat down and read the Norwegian publications in the mid to late nineties, and then I got into the Swedish material, which was much richer, because Swedish immigration started earlier and was much larger. The first time I presented this material was not in Norway, because they were not that interested at the time, but at SASS people were so enthusiastic, because it was very new and this was really an encouragement to me. And as you know today, globalization and the development of a multi-cultural society is very much at the core of a lot of study.

A: You mentioned also that you noticed some similarities and differences between these two periods of immigration. Can you talk about the similarities?

I: The similarities are of course how writers try to define a situation where they have left their homeland, a change of language and culture, a process of integration, their negotiation of their identity in new surroundings. That is somewhat the same. And also this double-perspective, double-consciousness that goes far back in the American literature. This double-perspective is prevailing because they write in a situation where they relate to two homelands, two languages, two cultures. Of course what is different is that the Scandinavian-Americans, for example Rolvaag and Waldemar Ager, wrote in their native languages, and that meant that their readers were Norwegian speakers. Rolvaag, later, became a part of American Literature as well, through the translation titled Giants of the Earth. The contemporary writers with immigrant backgrounds in Scandinavia for the most part write in the language of their new homeland. There are some groups who have established a literature with their own language, Iranian and Kurdish groups in Sweden, but the majority of them have chosen to adopt their second language as their literary language. The 'grand old man' here is Theodor Kallifatides. He came to Sweden from Greece as a very young man in 1964 and he published a book of poetry after five years, and then he started writing novels in 1970. He has a large production on many topics, including cultural encounters and in particular, he has interest in perspectives in writing in a new language. Rubén Palma, a Danish writer of Chilean descent, has talked about the difficulty of acquiring a new literary language, but also has noted that there is a positive, creative aspect. Palma talks about how there can be a freedom not to have to adhere to the Danish tradition, and further to leave the old language behind when it is connected with repression and violence. The Czech-Norwegian Michael Konûpek has written a wonderful novel in 1993 called In sin tid [In its own Time]. There he has this consistent double perspective, he writes about a young man from Czechoslovakia who came to Norway and his integration process. He relates to his homeland and to Norway and tries to figure out Norway by using his experience from his background. Pakkis (1986) is a Norwegian young adult book by Khalid Hussain, who was a very young man, when he wrote the book. The reason it has had so much attention is that it was the first migrant novel in Norway and it tells about a young Pakistani boy’s integration process. One can see similarities with Rolvaag’s Peder Sær [Peder Vistorious] – how the second generation is more easily integrated into the culture, but at the same time that kind of crossing between different value systems. Like in Rolvaag, Hussain’s protagonist is caught between his traditional Pakistani parents and the pressures of his Norwegian peers. A notable writer is the Swedish-Irani, Fatema Behros, who has given voice to the experience of the female immigrant, for example in The Prisoners’ Choir.

A: Where does film-making fit into this

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Interview with Ingeborg Kongslie (Continued)

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phenomenon?

I: As of now, one can say that it is only in Sweden that there is a new multi-cultural literature that amounts to something approaching a tradition. In Denmark and Norway there is a very small production of "migrant literature," and in the Norwegian media there is the constant question of "Where is the great Norwegian immigrant novel?" But it seems that to express artistically this theme of immigration and multi-cultural experience, films have been particularly suited to this—maybe that is because it is the medium of our time.

W: Your work on contemporary immigration is decidedly pan-Scandinavian, much like here in the United States, where almost out of necessity we need to be proficient in more than one of the languages and literatures of Scandinavia. Would you say that your broader orientation is typical for Scandinavian Studies in the home countries?

I: I am definitely not in the majority. That impressed me when I first came here to Wisconsin (as a visiting professor in 1994), that your curriculum was very broad. In our (Norwegian) curriculum, we have a little bit of Danish and Swedish in addition to the Norwegian, so I think that you are more pan-Scandinavian. I think that at home there is still much more emphasis on . . . what would you call it? . . . our national literatures.

A: We were talking about the preservation of national literatures. Do you see many immigrants speaking or writing in dialects in Norway? Is the nyorsk agenda prevalent in these discussions?

I: First, speaking of dialect usage, this is diminishing among modern Norwegians— we don’t write dialect, we write either nyorsk or bokmål. And secondly, immigrants are to such a large degree living in the bigger cities. In our teaching of Norwegian as a second language it is 98% bokmål. The only discussion that has come up is that an immigrant child in school can ask to be exempted from nyorsk and instead study his own language. Others have said that this is a problem because if one wants to work in the civil service, they require the ability to use both languages.

A: I was curious because Stephen Walton, my nyorsk professor at the University of Oslo’s summer school had a discussion with our class about how some people think it’s difficult enough for children who are new to Norway to learn bokmål, so why would they want to saddle them with learning to speak dialects and write nyorsk on top of that? Yet a lot of people immigrating to Norway already have several languages and are “linguists” in that sense, and it might even be easier for them. It might even be seen as a lifeboat to nyorsk and the dialects.

I: Whatever you think about nyorsk, and I am a nyorsker myself, I have chosen when I lecture to speak in the standard nyorsk, not my dialect, and always write it. I think it is important to recognize that this is an expression of our culture. It happens so often, that people who are against nyorsk are so hooked on this idea that monolingualism is the best— we should use all our time to teach in bokmål. And then you see for example the children who come from the Phillipines, and realize that they were so good at learning the Norwegian, that it seems the more languages they know, the easier they acquire new ones.

W: Any words on the future of multi-cultural and migrant literary studies in Scandinavia?

I: This is my field, and I know other people who are not doing multi-cultural literature in the sense that I do but who are studying Nordic literature and trying to see how we can not just remain within the national framework. So sometimes when I talk about this I think it is the most central thing going on . . . And now, what I am doing is working with colleagues who are now not only concerned with the national aspects of our literature. For one, they are looking at the cosmopolitical, multi-cultural and post-national aspects of Norwegian literature.

Takk til Idun Lodge— Sons of Norway

The department would like to gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the Idun Lodge of the Sons of Norway through its annual Scandinavian Scholar Award.

Since its establishment in 1979, the award has been given to a student in the department with the purpose of advancing an appreciation of the culture of Norway by enabling the recipient to travel and study in the country. Money is raised through individual donations and the recipient is chosen by the lodge scholarship committee and his/her name is placed on a plaque that is housed in the departmental library. The scholarship is presented to the student at the 17 mai dinner, and traditionally the recipient is invited to present a talk at the lodge following their trip.

In 2007 the recipient of the award was Emily Paulson who used the generous donation to attend the Bergen Summer School. On behalf of Emily and all the other students who have been granted this scholarship, our sincere thanks to the lodge members and their continuous commitment to the department.
Our Faculty and Staff

Julie K. Allen's first year as an Assistant Professor of Scandinavian Studies here at UW has been an eventful one. In addition to finding her way around Madison, developing a dependency on the Dane County Farmer’s Market, and having a baby boy on May 5, she has taught courses in Fifth-semester Danish, Kierkegaard, and Scandinavian-American Heritage, as well as reviving the history of Scandinavia two-course sequence that had been defunct for several years. She has an article about the Danish Lutheran priest Peter Christian Kierkegaard appearing in the Fall 2007 issue of BYU Studies, another about Danish-American autobiography in the Fall 2007 issue of The Bridge (published by the Danish American Heritage Society), and she is the co-translator of an edition of Annotated Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen being published by W.W. Norton in November 2007. She is currently working on a book about Georg Brandes and Asta Nielsen.

Susan Brantly has just returned from a one-year research sabbatical and has taken up the Directorship of the Center for European Studies as well as the Directorship of the Bradley Learning Community. The Center for European Studies is funded by a Title VI grant and supports the teaching and learning of less commonly taught European languages in addition to arranging events promoting research on Europe, such as conferences and lectures by distinguished visitors. The Bradley Learning Community is a first-year dormitory that goes by the mottoes: “Learning is everywhere” and “Understanding is integration.” Brantly still has time to enjoy teaching her new course “Scandinavian Decadence in its European Context.” Further, she has just begun her two-year term as President of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies and looks forward to the annual conference which will be in Alaska this year. The following year, SASS comes to Madison.

Peggy Hager - Lecturer in Norwegian Language states: “teachers know how precious classroom time is and how challenging it is to find opportunities for students to be exposed to the target language outside the classroom. In addition, language students continually emphasize their struggle to understand a variety of speakers and dialects.” When she was awarded a Podcasting grant last spring to experiment with making video podcasts (vodcasts), her goal was to address both of these concerns. While in Norway this summer, she recorded short video clips of Norwegian speakers on a variety of topics of interest to my students. She was easily able to edit and convert these clips into vodcasts by using Apple’s iMovie software. In third semester Norwegian, these vodcasts are now posted on her class website with a listening activity to be completed outside of class each week. In this way all can extend language learning beyond the classroom.

Jim Leary recently published his book Polkahtly: How the Goose Island Ramblers Redefined American Folk Music with Oxford University Press. It explores the powerful Scandinavian contribution to Upper Midwestern old-time music. He has written a new introduction to and edited an appendix for Richard M. Dorson’s classic Bloodstoppers and Bearwalkers: Folk Traditions of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula (UW Press, spring 2008). And he has three big projects in-progress, several involving the able assistance of Scandinavian Studies graduate students: The Importance of Being Ole (and Lena), a book on the enduring figures of Scandinavian American folk humor; Folk Music from the Other America: Field Recordings from the Upper Midwest, 1937-1946, a multi-CD set and accompanying book that will include songs and tunes from Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, and Swedish immigrant performers; and a collaboration with the UW’s Mills Music Library and Vesterheim (the Norwegian American Museum in Decorah, Iowa) to establish a Norwegian American Folk Music Archive.

Tom DuBois spent the summer doing in writing and research, including fieldwork for his study of Nordic religious woodcarving. In August he attended an international conference on literature (Norlit) in Helsinki, where he delivered a plenary address on the concept of landtaking in Nordic literature. He wrote a book chapter on the linguistics and stylistics of oral tradition for a new handbook on medieval oral culture, and completed a number of chapters for his forthcoming book An Introduction to Shamanism (Cambridge University Press). He also finished editing on the volume Sanctity in the North: Saints, Lives, and Cults in Medieval Scandinavia (University of Toronto Press, due out in November 2007) and gave an interview about his new book Lyric Meaning and Audience in the Oral Tradition of Northern Europe (University of Notre Dame Press, 2006).

Scott Mellor is faculty director of the new Norden language floor, part of the International Learning Community, which gives students an immersion language experience. This year Norden filled the three student rooms allocated to Norwegian, Danish and Swedish, and next year it will hopefully expand. Scott is also a fellow in the Bradley Learning community which works on helping first year students integrate into life at the University. On the research front, he is working on submitting his book, Function and Formula in the Poetic Edda, it should be out in the Spring. And he is finishing two articles on Hans Christian Andersen with an eye on a larger Andersen project. Scott is a member of the Humanities Council of Wisconsin’s Speakers Bureau, so if you what to hear him lecture, please feel free to contact them. Finally, Scott is still working on distance education with the Andersen project and 19th Century Literature.
Our Faculty and Staff  Continued

Nete Schmidt has been teaching Danish, Contemporary Scandinavian Literature, Scandinavian Life and Civilization, and The Tales of Hans Christian Andersen. She has enjoyed it, and the department continues to attract more Scandinavian undergraduate majors. The Danish language table is blossoming, and she regularly represents the Department at SOAR, Study Abroad Fair, and the Majors Fair. Her book, **Beginner’s Danish**, including 2 CDs was published by Hippocrene Books, New York, and is written for the first year of self study or university instruction. She is developing a new class encompassing tales and contemporary science fiction, and her proposal for a class on Greenland has been accepted. Her current research focuses on contemporary Danish science fiction in the light of Foucault and Kristeva. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Danish American Heritage Society, and primary organizer of the Danish regional meeting with the theme of “Greenland, The Arctic Region and Ethnicity.”

Tanya Thresher was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in fall 2007 after a busy year. She participated in the International Ibsen Conference in Oslo in the summer of 2006 and is progressing with her project on melodrama in Ibsen’s work. She hopes to carry out research at the theater archives in Bergen next summer and further investigate Ibsen’s own experiences as a scenic and artistic director. This year Tanya taught courses in Norwegian and Scandinavian literature and has enjoyed working with local Norwegian-American groups. She was happy to host the annual Norway Seminar in fall 2006 and bring the show “The Death of Little Ibsen” to Madison as part of that event. Additionally she facilitated the visit of the Askepott youth theater group from Grimstad and their performance of “The White Horses of Rosmersholm” both on campus and at West High School.

Kirsten Wolf completed this summer her big research project on A Female Legendary from Late Medieval Iceland: Kirkjubæjarbók (Codex A M 429 12mo), for which she received a Vilas Associate Award, and is now working on a few hitherto unedited hagiographic texts somewhat related to Kirkjubær-bók. She proceeds to do research on Old Norse-Icelandic color terms, now as part of a larger research team comprised of scholars from the University of California at Irvine and the University of Iceland. Kirsten has a busy year ahead. She is Chair of the Department of Scandinavian Studies and is on the steering committees of both the Medieval Studies Program and the Religious Studies Program. She serves on many other university committees as well, including the Executive Committee of the Arts and Humanities Division, and has recently been appointed to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Niels Ingwersen has written a review article of four recent books on H. C. Andersen, which will appear in Scandinavian Studies.

This year Tanya taught courses in Norwegian and Scandinavian literature and has enjoyed working with local Norwegian-American groups. She was happy to host the annual Norway Seminar in fall 2006 and bring the show “The Death of Little Ibsen” to Madison as part of that event. Additionally she facilitated the visit of the Askepott youth theater group from Grimstad and their performance of “The White Horses of Rosmersholm” both on campus and at West High School.

Susan Brantly, Tom DuBois, and Dick Ringler have contributed to an article he has written on teaching Nordic literature in translation for an MLA a publication.

Dick Ringler has given a number of presentations, seminars, interviews, etc. in Iceland this past spring and summer in connection with the bicentennial of the birth of the poet and scientist Jonas Hallgrímsson. His new translation of Beowulf (“for oral delivery”) will be published by Hackett in October. He continues to give a short course on J. S. Bach’s cantatas for the Department of Liberal Studies and the Arts.

Emeritus Professor Dick Vowels is living in Meriter Terraces currently where he is about to celebrate his 90th birthday. Last year he generously donated his extensive Scandinavian book collection to the department, for which the faculty, students and library staff are most thankful. Dick continues his lively interest in jazz and keeps in contact with the department whenever possible.

Happenings in the Department

In fall 2006 the department was visited by two different Norwegian artist groups. Firstly Knut Erik Jensen, the director of the popular film “Cool and Crazy,” visited Madison with a film crew from NRK. They were recording footage to use in an upcoming documentary on Knut Hamsun in America. Having taken footage of farmsteads around Stoughton and talked to local individuals, the crew interviewed students on campus to hear of their impressions of the Nobel Laureate writer. Secondly the department was happy to host the award-winning Youth Theater Group Askepott Teater from Grimstad. In honor of the Ibsen Year, the group of five actors, three musicians, a director, and two chaperones was visiting Madison with their adaptation of Rosmersholm, “The White Horses of Rosmersholm.” While staying with several graduate and undergraduate students from the department, they held a workshop on campus and performed at Madison West High School to a large crowd of students. Both the workshop and the performance were well received, and we look forward to future collaboration with the group.
Graduate Students

Jenny Aune: I am a doctoral student in Old Norse and am writing my dissertation on Silence in the Sagas. I work in the English Department at Iowa State University where I teach introduction to literary study, composition classes, and honors seminars on the Vikings. I have earned several teaching awards, including an award for Excellence in Teaching First-Year Composition, and Collaborator and Outstanding Innovation Awards for Exemplary Contributions to Iowa State Learning Communities.

William Banks: After completing prelims in August 2006, I taught elementary Danish and conducted preliminary dissertation research during academic year 2006/07. This fall, I am a teaching assistant for Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature and am continuing research on my dissertation, tentatively titled ‘As if they all had the Tinderbox: Utopian Longings in Danish Literature, 1880-1930.’ In January, I will return to Denmark for eight months of further research, where I will be a visiting researcher at Aarhus University.

Christopher Bishop: I come to Madison from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Germanic Studies. I spent one year at Uppsala Universitet, Sweden. My primary research interests are Scandinavian Mythology, Folklore and Sagas. I am currently a Teaching Assistant for "The Tales of Hans Christian Andersen."

John Eason: I’m am doing research for my dissertation in Stockholm. I will be looking at Melodifestivalen as a phenomenon within the LGTB Swedish community, an event which offers liberatory potential through creating new spaces and outlets of expression in a nation on the forefront of equal rights. Last year, I worked as a lecturer at the University of Illinois as a Swedish lecturer, and this year I have the Barbara Morgridge Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship.

Randolph Ford: I received my BA in Scandinavian Studies from UW-Madison in 2000 and I have just begun my first year in the Masters Philology Program. It has been a pleasure to return to campus and the department after a seven year hiatus.

Tim Frandy: I am a Ph.D. candidate and spent last spring semester studying the northern Sámi language in the Giellagas-Instituthita at the University of Oulu, in northern Finland. This year I am back in Madison, teaching our department’s first year Finnish course with Fulbright scholar Rea Peltola. I recently published an article on Finnish-American poaching traditions in the Lake Superior region, and am currently working with Hilary Virtsen to develop an anthology of Upper Peninsula folklore.

Mathew Holland: I received my B.A. in History with honors from the University of Oregon in 2006. I also studied at Aalborg Universitet, Denmark from 2005-06. As a graduate student working towards an M.A. in Area Studies, I wish to continue my studies of the Viking period and Medieval Scandinavia.

Silja Ikäheimonen-Lindgren: I am continuing my work on my dissertation while living in Ontario, Canada.

Todd Michelson-Ambelang: I have just completed my MA in Scandinavian Philology and will complete my MA in Library and Information Studies in December. For my PhD, I am interested in the History of the Book and Literacy in Medieval Scandinavia. This year, I have the Barbara Morgridge Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship.

Kjerstin Moody: During the 2006-2007 academic year, I taught first-year Swedish and also assisted with our Nineteenth Century Scandinavian Literature distance-learning course. I’m most thrilled to report that the summer brought success in that endeavor called the prelims! This 2007-2008 academic year, I’m grateful for a fellowship from the American-Scandinavian Foundation, which is allowing me to conduct dissertation-related research at Helsinki University and Uppsala University.
Graduate Students Continued

Kari Synnøve Mørset:
My undergraduate degree includes Scandinavian language and literature, Theater and Film. In 2001 an MFA in Filmmaking and a MA in Photography from Ohio University was completed. Currently a dissertation on Sámi literature and coordination of this year’s new Scandinavian language floor: Norden.

Rea Peltola:
I am a Fulbright Exchange Visitor from Finland. I am teaching Finnish in the UW-Madison during the academic year 2007–08. At the University of Helsinki, I am preparing a PhD thesis in linguistics concentrating on Finnish and French verbal moods. I’m interested in contrastive linguistics, Finnish as a second language and differences between written and spoken discourses.

Carrie Roy:
I presented a paper at the American Folklore Society conference, a film on lutefisk at SASS, and attended the Medieval conference at Kalamazoo last year. I am currently in Iceland on a grant from Iceland’s Ministry of Education to complete the M.A. in Medieval Icelandic Studies. I will also be conducting a survey of a Viking period art motif in various Scandinavian museums and collections as part of research for my dissertation.

Anna Rue:
Since joining the department, I have been concentrating much of my research on Scandinavian-American Folklore. I presented two papers about Norwegian-American fiddling and “old-time” music; once at the American Folklore Society conference in October, 2006 and later at the SASS conference in April, 2007. In the spring I will be working with Jim Leary as a project assistant to help create a virtual archive of Norwegian American Folk Music.

Natalie Van Deusen:
I completed my M.A. in Scandinavian Philology in August 2007 and am currently working towards my Ph.D. My area of specialization is Old Norse-Icelandic language and literature with a particular emphasis on hagiography. I am a TA for “The Tales of Hans Christian Andersen” and a PA for Kirsten Wolf.

Hilary Virtanen:
I am an M.A. candidate and a Finnish-American folklorist. I research community among American descendants of Finnish groups divided by linguistic, religious, political, and ethnic differences. The New York and Los Angeles Finlandia Foundation chapters, the Knights and Ladies of Kaleva, and the USA Funds Access to Education program have supported my work.

Charlie Webster:
I am currently a candidate for the MA, studying Scandinavian linguistics and teaching first-year Norwegian. My research interests include applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, and language pedagogy. In August 2007, I had the opportunity to take part in the Faroese Summer Institute at the University of the Faroe Islands in Tórshavn, where I learned about Faroese language and culture.

Rachel Willson-Broyles:
I am Ph.D. candidate in Scandinavian Philology. I am interested in modern Swedish linguistics as well as literary and medical translation. I spent the summer of 2006 in Uppsala, Sweden, on a summer FLAS scholarship. This year I am having a lot of fun teaching first-year Swedish!

Ayako Yoshimura:
I received my BAs (cultural anthropology and folklore) from University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2002, and am back for a PhD after spending several years in Newfoundland and in Japan. My past research includes lutefisk, trolls, legends of the supernatural, personal experience narrative, and arts and crafts. I speak very poor Norwegian and ask for your patience.

Jim Leary Continued

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Scandinavian America, and a joint venture with UW’s Mills Music Library and the Vesterheim museum to establish a Norwegian American folk music archives.

We are also proud to announce that Leary’s recent book Polkahilly: How the Goose Island Ramblers Redefined American Folk Music has just been awarded the Chicago Folklore Prize by the American Folklore Society and the University of Chicago. Established in 1928, this prize is awarded annually to the best publication(s) in the field of folklore. Our heartfelt congratulations go out to Jim for these two great honors.
The Department of Scandinavian Studies takes pride in our students’ achievements and would like to highlight and congratulate the following individuals on their achievements by winning awards in pursuit of academic excellence and in advancing to the next level of their academic pursuits. Congratulations students!

Scholarship & Award Recipients

Summer 2006:
Natalie Van Deusen– Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS)
Rachel Willson-Broyles– FLAS
Charlie Webster – University of Bergen, Ygradsil, Larsen

2006/2007:
Marcia Blackman– Cullander
Tim Erlandson– Larsen
Tim Frandy– FLAS
Kjersti Kyle– Ygradsil
Andrea Larson– Sons of Norway
Kjerstin Moody– National Finlandia Foundation
Grace Thornton– Cullander
Susan Vincent– Larsen

Summer 2007:
Todd Michelson–Ambelang– FLAS
Anna Rue– FLAS, Ygradsil
Charlie Webster– FLAS, Larsen

2007/2008:
William Banks– University Dissertator
Phillip Creswell– Cullander
Naomi Crocker– Cullander
Andrew Daft– Gudrun Gytel Fond, Cullander
John Eason– Barbara Morgridge
Randolph Ford– University
BethAnne Freund– Ygradsil
Matthew Hansen– Cullander
Ann Ingebritsen– Ygradsil
Griffin Jones– Larsen
Annika Konrad– Larsen
Nora MacLaren– Larsen
Todd Michelson-Ambelang– Barbara Morgridge
Kjerstin Moody– American-Scandinavian Foundation
Kari Synnøve Morset– Ygradsil
Lena Olson– Sons of Norway
Emily Paulson– Sons of Norway
Carrie Roy– Icelandic Ministry of Education

Recent Graduates

Bachelor of Arts:
Fall 2006 and Spring 2007:
Emily Borzck
Johanna Hagen
Ryan Hiscox
Anna Koob
Karin Krull
Christine Kwitek
Kjersti Signe Kyle
Abigail Luedtke
Melanie Mikkelsen
Emily Paulson
Miranda Perdue
Jacqueline Quintanilla
Caitlin Riese
John Siebert
Gage Trader

Master of Arts:
Spring 2006:
Carrie Roy
Aaron Schmitt
Lorna Selley
Fall 2006:
Amy Thompson
Jason Sederquist

Spring 2007:
Todd Michelson-Ambelang
Natalie Van Deusen
Rachel Willson-Broyles
Fall 2007:
Tim Frandy

PhD:
Fall 2006:
Katarina Tucker
Spring 2007:
Vendula Jaster
Milda Ostrauskaite

Recent Departmental Alumni Academic Positions

- Milda Ostrauskaite (2007) Assistant Professor of Norwegian at Concordia in Moorhead, Minnesota.
- Mike Lange (2006) Assistant Professor as Core Faculty in Interdisciplinary Humanities and Social Sciences at Champlain College.
Lectures and Talks Given

- Andrew Nestingen, University of Washington, Seattle, November 2, 2006: "Aki Kaurismäki: National Cinema, Melodrama and the Shipping Container"
- Rochelle Wright, University of Illinois-Urbana, October 5, 2006: "Ibsen Transcriptions in Iran and India: Restaging of Ibsen in Contemporary Film"
- Svein Yngvi Eglisson, University of Reykjavik, April 30, 2007: "The Possibility of Pastoral Verse This Close to the North Pole: Ideas on the Nordic Element in Contemporary Icelandic Literature"
- Kathleen Stokker, Luther College, Decorah, IA, March 29, 2007: "Rituals and Remedies: Folk Healers in Norway and the New World"
- Dan Ringgaard, University of Århus, March 8, 2007: "Places - in Theory and From the Point of View of Literature."
- Dan Karvonen, University of Minnesota, September 14, 2007: "The Prosodic Structure of Pseudo-compounds in Finnish."
- Erkki Määtäinen and musician Jukka Karjalainen and his trio, September 26, 2007: "Finnish American Folk Culture: Three Films and a Performance."

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events
- October 10: Swedish author Jonas Has- sen Khemiri "Red-eyed Swedish Tigers" Public lecture at Virginia Harrison Parlor in Lathrop Hall/ 7 PM
- October 18: Danish vocalist Christina Dahl "Two People Who Love One Another: A Musical Exploration of Danish Cultural Identity" Lecture and performance at Morphy Hall in Humanities Building/ 8 PM
- October 19-20: Danish Teachers Regional Conference
  Oct. 19  Professor Søren Thuesen “Kalaallit Nunaat– Greenland: A Nation in the Making. Decolonization and Nation-building in Denmark’s Former Colony” Keynote address w/ reception at Madison Museum of Contemporary Art/ 8 PM
  Oct 20  Conference presenters include Professors Søren Thuesen (“Inuit Ways: Cultural Identity and Social Resource in Greenland’s Struggle for Self-determination”), Susan Brantly (“Karen Blixen and Hybridity”), Kirsten Wolf (“Iceland”) and Niels Ingwersen (“Danes in Wisconsin”) Public lectures at the Pyle Center/ 9 AM - 12:30 PM
- November 7  Professor Thomas DuBois “Lyric, Meaning and Audience in the Oral Tradition of Northern Europe” Public lecture/ discussion at Borders Books (3750 University Ave)/ 7 PM
- December 14  Departmental Glögg Party 1312 Van Hise/ 5 PM
- Language Tables:
  Danish: Thursdays, Liz Waters Cafeteria/ 11:30-12:30 PM & Rathskeller/ 7-8 PM
  Finnish: Thursdays, 1312 Van Hise/ 2-3 PM
  Norwegian: Wednesdays, Liz Waters Cafeteria/ 11:30-12:30 PM
  Swedish: Wednesdays, Rathskeller/ 5:30-6:30 PM