A Message from the Chair, Kirsten Wolf

After having caught our breath from hosting the National Institute for Summer Scandinavian Studies, faculty and staff in the Department of Scandinavian Studies geared up for a busy fall semester, which is now drawing to an end. My colleagues and I have worked hard, and we have had the pleasure of welcoming two new graduate students to the Department. In addition to our approximately fifty undergraduate majors, we now have over twenty graduate students, of whom more than two thirds are Ph.D. students pursuing studies in various areas of medieval and modern Scandinavian language, literature, culture, and folklore and writing dissertations on topics ranging from utopia and the Danish welfare state to Icelandic versions of the Gospel of Nicodemus to Melodifestivalen as a phenomenon within the LGBT Swedish community.

At the heart of our activities in the Department is teaching and research. Our language programs include Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, Sami, Old Norse-Icelandic, and, occasionally modern Icelandic. In addition, we teach a wide range of courses in the fields of Scandinavian linguistics, Scandinavian literature, Old Norse-Icelandic literature, and Scandinavian folklore. Within the last year, we have added exciting new courses to our curriculum, including "Greenland: Past, Present and Future" and "Criminal Utopias" on Scandinavian science fiction and crime literature, and we are now making plans to expand our distance course offerings. "Criminal Utopias" is just one example of our teachers bringing personal research into the classroom, be it undergraduate lecture courses on topics such as the writings of Hans Christian Andersen, the Scandinavian heritage in America, Scandinavian mythology, Scandinavian literary masterpieces, and the Vikings or graduate seminars on Strindberg, the Kalevala, and Old Norse-Icelandic paleography and philology. All of the faculty and staff in the Department are active researchers, and this year has seen important publications from the Department in the form of both books and articles. Many more projects are in the works or at press; these comprise studies of religious woodcarving in Scandinavia, the Poetic Edda, Finnish language workers' songs, Scandinavian saints' lives, Ole and Lena impersonators in the Midwest, Ibsen and melodrama, Old Norse-Icelandic color terms, and perceptions of Denmark in Wilhelminian and Weimar Germany.

Further announcements detailing the endeavors of the Department's faculty, staff, and students in the areas of teaching and research could be made. About some of these endeavors - many of which could not have been undertaken without the gifts of generous donors to the Department - we invite you to read the following pages, which also include information about the upcoming meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study in Madison this spring, and an interview with the oldest member of the Department, Emeritus Professor Richard (Dick) Vowles.

Norden—A place to experience Scandinavia at UW-Madison

Norden has benefited from the generosity of several donors. Norden was created at the instigation of Patrick Rumble, the then Director of the Center for European Studies. European Studies offered seed money to support the graduate student living in Norden for the first two years. The Division of University Housing supplies each year a single room for the student to live in. Even with this generous support, the problem remained of how to find funds for the graduate student's meal card, a standard feature of all ILC graduate appointments. Bonnie Bruce of the U.W. Foundation came to the rescue the first year, with a gift of $1,000. The second year, Kim Nesselquist of the Norwegian-American Foundation stepped up with another gift of $1,000, stating: "This project is great—taking language, culture and international knowledge to a new level." Happily, for the coming year, The Barbro Osher Pro-Suecia Foundation has provided a grant of $20,000 which will support the graduate student and provide funds to offer stipends to the undergraduates living in

(Continued on page 3)
Jim Leary Awarded Prestigious Kellett Mid-Career Award

Last spring our newsletter included a short piece about Professor Jim Leary’s recent scholarly awards, namely the University of Wisconsin’s Kellett Mid-Career Award, which includes $60,000 of flexible funds for scholarly purposes. Recently, Jason Schroeder and Anna Rue sat down with Professor Leary to learn more about how he is using his award and how the Scandinavian Studies Department is benefitting from his initiatives.

We asked Professor Leary how he has used his award thus far, and he said that he has spent money on several interrelated projects, some of which he is personally pursuing and some which are collaborative efforts involving other funding sources and graduate students from the department. Currently, Leary is working on a book tentatively entitled The Importance of Being Ole and Lena, which took him to North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin this past summer to photograph and conduct interviews with Ole and Lena impersonators. He used some funds for travel related to this and other projects, like researching the Norwegian-American figure Whitewater Ole, a logging legend from northern Wisconsin, other legendary and historical “strong man” figures, and on Finnish language workers’ songs especially in connection with the Industrial Workers of the World.

Leary is also working on larger collaborative archiving efforts of folklore documentation to make information more accessible throughout the region and beyond. Anna Rue is a project assistant on the Norwegian-American Folk Music Project, which is an initiative to create a virtual archive of this music, linking sound recordings and images from the Mills Music Library here at the University, the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, and from individual collections. Leary has used Kellett funds and monetary contributions from Vesterheim and the National Endowment for the Arts to finance this project.

In addition to this project, Leary is also collaborating with a number of individuals on a project entitled Folk-songs of the Other America: Field Recordings from the Upper Midwest 1937-1947. Leary describes it as “a project that works with field recordings that were made for the Library of Congress by three folklorists in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Those recordings amounted to about 2,000 different performances in more than 25 different languages with 30 or more different cultural groups.” Leary has used Kellett funds to procure digitized recordings of the neglected Finnish language performances and has selected about 160 performances that he hopes to publish in a box set of CDs, a DVD of silent film footage, and a book with translated lyrics of these songs. Hilary Virtanen, a Finnish-American folklorist and Ph.D. candidate in the department, has also been working as a project assistant to compile biographies of some of the performers that Leary will include in the project.

We asked Leary how these projects fit into the larger picture of Scandinavian Studies and folklore. “I’m a folklorist who works mostly in the Upper Midwest as a region, but I’m real interested in all the different peoples here and their pluralism, their separate cultural trajectories, but also all this creolized stuff – how they interact with one another. One can’t work in this region without working with the Scandinavian-Americans and it’s clear that for a lot of these people the ‘Scandinhoovian’ identity is also a regional identity. By being an Upper Midwestern-oriented folklorist I have to be also a kind of Scandinavianist.” Leary also commented on the collaborative nature of these projects by saying, “part of what I’ve tried to do then is to find people with common interests, and it seems to me by finding partners and finding work to do that is relevant to the region and finding funding sources then it’s possible to support graduate students and build programs and to continue in some of these areas. I hope I’m part of a larger movement that just conceives of and values the importance of culturally diverse traditions in this region and the need to document them and write about them but also make public programs and public accessibility.”

Leary concluded with thoughts about the regional importance of projects like those he is contributing to with his Kellett Award: “These things were public to begin with and still are, but for their immediate community and obviously as times change you want to keep that up. The model of the scholar as extractor and reprocessor for a completely different audience or just squirreling away this material – obviously, I do some of that, but a lot of what we can do in this region is to get it out there so all sorts of people can look at it and that’s good for everybody because it’s a way to get other people excited and then they can in some ways contribute additional knowledge.”
The Department will be hosting the 99th meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS) this upcoming spring. With the possibility of more than 200 active participants in 56 sections of the conference, the department is looking forward to establishing an interesting and diverse program. The conference will be held at the Monona Terrace, a perfect welcoming spot, due to its close proximity to State Street and the beautiful setting on the lake shore.

Susan Brantly, the current president of SASS, has high hopes for this upcoming event, which will give scholars and graduate students the chance to present their research and build good public relations in the profession. While participants and visitors of the SASS conference are mainly from North America, promotion abroad encourages scholars and graduate students from other countries to partake and raises awareness for Scandinavian Studies programs and research conducted outside Europe.

Visitors can look forward to a keynote address on Thursday evening by Knut Vollebæk, former ambassador of Norway. This event will most likely be open to the public, and the Scandinavian Studies Department would like to welcome members of community groups like Ygdrasil, Sons of Norway, the Scandinavian American Club, and Torskeklubben to enjoy the speech. A plan is in the working to enable these friends of Scandinavia and the Department access to the whole conference, which usually is only open to SASS members and scholars from abroad.

Among several prominent Scandinavian authors, Susan Brantly hints that Sami filmmaker Nils Gaup, may attend a Sami Pre-Conference, and show his latest blockbuster film, The Kautokeino Rebellion. The conference will conclude Saturday night with a banquet and dance.

More information will be available online closer to the conference at: [http://scandinavian.wisc.edu/sass/index.html](http://scandinavian.wisc.edu/sass/index.html)

**Norden Article continued**

Norden. It is our hope that this will eliminate an economic barrier, which has prevented some students from living in Norden in the past. The future of Norden looks bright, and we thank all its supporters!

As a result of our supporters, we look forward to a more successful year than ever with more student interest in being a part of Norden House. Norden is part of the International Learning Community which includes houses in several different languages as well as people who are generally interested in international issues. Here is what some of the students have to say about Norden:

Norden er et veldig bra sted å bo, med mange aktiviteter [Norden is a very good place to live with many activities].  
- Juliana

I Norden lærer vi mye om Norge, Sverige og Danmark og vi spiller Kubb! [In Norden we learn a lot about Norway, Sweden and Denmark and we play Kubb!].  
- Corinna

Her i Norden är alla som äkta vikingar.  
[Here in Norden everyone is like a true viking].  
- Dirk

Du träffar bra personer i Norden och i de andra husen i Adams Hall [You meet good people in Norden and in the other houses in Adams Hall].  
- Jillian

Det er det beste stedet å bo fordi du får mange internasjonale opplevelser [It is the best place to live because you get several international experiences].  
- Anjuli

Man skal bo i Norden eftersom det är ett bra sätt att larma sig skandinaviska språk. Om du tänker att larma dig svenska, kan du också larma dig norska och danska på samma gång.  
[One should live in Norden since it is a good way to learn the Scandinavian languages. If you are learning Swedish, you can also learn Norwegian and Danish at the same time].  
- Annika
Our Exchange Programs

Umeå University - a university town in northern Sweden

Umeå University was established in 1965 and presently has 27,000 students enrolled in 56 departments. The University has five faculties and offers a broad spectrum of research and instruction. It is one of the northernmost universities in the world, located in the city of Umeå that has a population of 110,000 people and is one of the fastest growing towns in Sweden. Thus, the environment is perfect for any student desiring an authentic Swedish experience in an inviting city with a rich and varied cultural life as well as numerous opportunities to enjoy the outdoors.

Courses are being offered both in English and Swedish, and exchange students are, naturally, highly encouraged to pursue Swedish language study as one of the best ways to integrate into the society. Housing consists of furnished apartments with private bathrooms and shared kitchens, and the students also have the option of eating in one of the numerous cafeterias on campus. We are very happy with our exchange program with the Faculty of Social Sciences and asked Noah Mergendahl, Scandinavian Studies Major and Norden Resident 2007-2008, who is a current participant in the program, to share his experiences:

“As someone who has studied the Swedish language for only two years, I have thrown myself into the culture and the people without any previous experience. It has been fun, challenging, frustrating, rewarding, and many other things. My classes are going just fine... I just finished a course on Swedish Social Welfare in Comparative Perspective, which was very interesting I always want to learn more about how Sweden’s social democratic model differs from the U.S. ‘liberal’ model, and the other European models too.

I have been meeting a lot of new people, both other international students and Swedes... So, my Swedish is getting better, slowly but surely. As an international student, I am part of a ‘buddy program,' where they take about 20 of us each and pair us up with 3-4 Swedish students. There are about 17 such groups. We have activities and parties together with our groups, which is a great way both to meet new people and to improve my Swedish.

One of the most difficult things about studying has been the culture itself. I am a very extroverted American, and I think that it takes many Swedes by surprise... It has taken some getting used to. I am trying not to think of cultural traits (both Swedish and American), in terms of positive or negative, but rather to look at things with multiple perspectives.

Umeå … is very much a student city, which makes it similar to Madison. This helps to make me feel less homesick. I am fortunate in that there are plenty of things for young people to do on the weekends, such as going to clubs, corridor parties, concerts, hiking, biking, and much more. One thing I particularly enjoy is biking through the city. I haven’t got quite used to the sun being low in the sky at midday, and I’m not sure if I will, and I am somewhat nervous about the four hours of daylight during winter in this part of the country. I am entirely grateful to be having the experiences that I am.”

For information about the Umeå program, please contact Susan Brantly sbbrantly@wisc.edu

Aarhus, Denmark - A new program

In the fall of 2008, the Scandinavian Department sent its first undergraduate student to Aarhus on the newly established Madison-Aarhus exchange. “Danish” Scandinavian major Jillana Peterson will be spending a semester in Aarhus, followed by a semester in Copenhagen.

As an alternative to a staying in Copenhagen, the Aarhus exchange offers an exciting experience at the internationally renowned University of Aarhus located in the center of the second largest city in Denmark. Founded during the Viking age, and with approx. 365,000 inhabitants, Aarhus is a vibrant city offering a wide variety of activities in the arts (theatres, concerts, lectures, etc.), city life, and on the many beaches. The river and harbor areas have been rejuvenated and are now home to numerous restaurants and bars.

Students can enroll in courses in English in over 30 subject areas, and those with proficiency in Danish may take advantage of additional courses.

Jillana Lois Peterson is spending a year studying abroad, first in Aarhus and then in Copenhagen. She grew up in rural Northwestern Wisconsin and early on started developing an interest in her Scandinavian heritage. Through the online church records, she traced her Danish ancestor back to 1774, and this interest in her background led to her decision to become an International Studies Major and a Scandinavian Major as well as obtaining a Certificate in European Studies. In Denmark, she will be taking classes on global issues, gaining a fresh perspective on current events involving the US and a European view on globalization. Following her year abroad, she will return to UW Madison to finish her degree and then join the Peace Corps.

For about the Aarhus program, please contact Nete Schmidt: aschmidt2@wisc.edu
In 2007, Nete Schmidt was approached by Professor Marianne Stecher-Hansen, University of Washington, about a new and potentially very rewarding fund that was established by a woman named Gudrun Gytel, residing in Colorado. She desired philanthropically to help American students studying abroad in Denmark by giving them a stipend to help cover living expenses.

In the following year, the foundation has become a reality with a board of three members, of which she is one, in addition to a Danish lawyer, to take care of the administrative duties.

Scandinavian majors with Danish as their language, and with more than 3 semesters of Danish, are eligible to apply for a substantial scholarship. The deadlines are April 1 and November 1, and the application should contain a personal statement and a recommendation by a professor.

For information about the Gudrun Gytel Fond contact Nete Schmidt: aschmidt2@wisc.edu

The Gudrun Gytel Fond

Since 2005, the Department has sent students to the Telemark University College in Bø for either a semester or year-long exchange. Bø is centrally located in Telemark and only two hours from Oslo by train. The area provides excellent opportunities for outdoor activities such as hiking, skiing, and fishing, and a community that gives students a true taste of Norway.

Telemark University College has approximately 4500 full-time students and offers a wide range of programs within the areas of business administration, computer science, health and environmental science, sports and outdoor life, culture and the humanities. Several short semester programs are specifically tailored to accommodate international students. Courses that are taught entirely in English include Alpine Ecology and Environmental Management, Business Administration, Scandinavian Studies in Telemark, and Outdoor Life and Eco-philosophy along with a one-year course on Norwegian language and civilization for foreign students. Students reside in dorms on campus and are encouraged to fully integrate into campus life through participation in clubs etc.

The program has been growing year by year, and we are sending the most students ever to the campus this year. Students are often supported by scholarships from local Norwegian organizations.

Ross Snover attended the college with no prior experience of the Norwegian language and is now about to complete a major in Scandinavian Studies. He particularly enjoyed the outdoors life in Telemark and the opportunity his stay afforded him to hike in the mountains and visit other towns in the Telemark region. Since his return he has worked as an ambassador to Norway by giving talks about his experiences to local school children. He states, “I had the time of my life in the heart of Norway.”

Nora McLaren spent a year at the college. In describing the town of Bø, she says, “It is in a beautiful part of Telemark and the access to free nature is amazing. One just has to walk 20 meters from the Breisås dorms to be in the forest and hiking.” About life in Bø, she states, “When in Bø, I was introduced to an entirely new hobby that I never would have expected to enjoy: rock climbing. The Bø Klatreklubb owns a bouldering hall that is open to members 24 hours a day. I plan to continue climbing for a very long time and had it not been for the climbing club in Bø, I never would have realized how great this sport is.”

For information about the Bø program, please contact Peggy Hager:
A Analog Archival Work in a Digital Age

During the summer of 2008, five members of the department went to Scandinavia in order to work with original research material, housed in archives. Archival work is a way for researchers to become better acquainted with original texts that are not available to them in their home institutions. In the field of philology, one possible reason for a researcher to visit an archive is to be able to work with original texts to ensure that the aesthetic qualities of the originals can be assessed. Often digital materials have been reworked to enhance the aesthetic quality of the documents. In the field of literature and culture studies, one possible reason for visiting an archive is to find background and biographical information on an author or person of interest. These items are often handwritten or unpub-
lished and can be treasure troves of information for the researcher; however, it takes many hours of reading and research to go through the myriad documents.

With the help of a fellowship from the American-Scandinavian Foundation and funding from the Graduate School and the Center for European Studies, Professor Kirsten Wolf spent time last summer in the Arnamagnaean Collection, Copenhagen, completing two projects. One was an edition of one of the three versions (version II) of the Old Norse-Icelandic Legend of Saint Margaret, which is preserved in three medieval manuscripts. This version, which is a very close translation of the Latin legend, has never been edited. The other was an edition of the hitherto unedited Old Norse-Icelandic translation of the Latin Translatio et Miracula Rotomagensia (an account of the translation of the relics of Saint Catherine of Alexandria to Rouen and the miracles that took place there), which is preserved in only one manuscript from around 1500. Kirsten also used the opportunity to start work on a new edition of the Old Norse-Icelandic legend of Saints Faith, Hope, and Charity and hopes to complete this project when she returns to the Arnamagnaean Collection next summer.

Professor Tanya Thresher was able to carry out research in Bergen, Norway, at the University of Bergen’s Theater Archive with funding from the American-Scandinavian Foundation, the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, and the Center for European Studies. During her time at the Theater Archive, she was able to read Ibsen’s prompt books kept as he worked as a scenic and artistic director on productions at Det Norske Theater from 1851-1857, read memoirs from the actors involved in the theater, and establish a historical context for Ibsen’s later success as a dramatist. A particular treasure in the archive was a visual card catalogue compiled by the first librarian at the theater that contains meticulously detailed illustrations of props, costumes, and theatrical equipment. This catalogue in particular allows scholars to fully envision how Ibsen’s productions were realized on the stage and understand the inner workings of the theater. Thresher also utilized local museums and libraries to read reviews of the Norwegian theater in general and gain a fuller understanding of the theatrical environment in Bergen in the mid-nineteenth century. This material will be used on a planned book on Ibsen, melodrama, and gender. She wishes to thank the very gifted archivist, Tove Jensen Holmås for her help in working with the materials at the Theater Archive.

(Continued on page 12)
On a cold November morning, I had the pleasure of meeting Dick Vowles and talking with him about Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin and his long service to Sweden. While I knew that Professor Vowles had held a joint position in Scandinavian Studies and Comparative Literature from 1961 until his retirement in 1985 and that he had served as chair in both departments, I was unaware of his strong ties to Sweden, a country he claims stands at the very center of his life story.

After completing a BS in Chemistry, Professor Vowles spent a year in Stockholm as a graduate student and co-authored three articles with the 1929 Nobel-Prize winning chemist Hans von Euler-Chelpin, who was awarded the prize together with Sir Arthur Harden for his work on the role of enzymes in the fermentation of sugar. Professor Vowles particularly remembers the advice of a visiting Professor from Columbia who recommended singing lessons as the best training for teaching. Additionally inspired by his love of jazz, Professor Vowles claims his lecture style was in the same school as Professor Harvey Goldberg, who was according to Vowles a “low-key ironic teacher.” Vowles improvised lectures, seldom reading from notes, and paced the lecture hall in order to have more contact with his audience. Unlike many scholars, Professor Vowles enjoyed interruptions from students as it encouraged an active dialogue and kept him on his toes. One of the most popular courses Vowles taught was on Scandinavian film, a course, which against the advice of a dean, he devoted entirely to the works of Ingmar Bergman, and consequently had to turn away students at the door. One of the most popular courses Vowles taught was on Scandinavian film, a course, which against the advice of a dean, he devoted entirely to the works of Ingmar Bergman, and consequently had to turn away students at the door. A workshop on Washington Island in the 1970s was also devoted entirely to Scandinavian film and was visited by actors, directors, and scholars from Scandinavia. Vowles still remembers a lecture given by the famous Swedish actor Max von Sydow that he claims was the best lecture he ever heard on Shakespeare.

Currently Vowles is writing his life story, and I, for one, am eager to discover more about a man who has devoted long years of service to the department and been an exemplary diplomat and proponent of Scandinavia and particularly Sweden.

- Tanya Thresher
Our Faculty and Staff

Assistant Professor Julie K. Allen had a very productive 2008-09 year. Her course on Scandinavian Heritage in America, offered in Fall 2007 and again in Spring 2009, has been very popular with students, not least because of the study of Scandinavian-American foods that culminated in a Yuletide Food Fest. The 2-semester History of Scandinavia sequence has also been a great success, allowing students to trace themes in Scandinavian culture from the Viking Age through the Black Plague, the Reformation, the Napoleonic Wars, WWII Resistance movements, up to the present day. She’s made tremendous progress on the archival research for her book about how the Danish literary critic Georg Brandes and the Danish silent film star Asta Nielsen shaped perceptions of Denmark in Wilhelminian and Weimar Germany, as well as publishing articles on Ruth Berlau, who collaborated with the German playwright Bertolt Brecht, in the Brecht Yearbook 33 (2008) and Arthur Schnitzler’s Traumnovelle in Modern Austrian Literature (June 2009).

Judy Anderson is still working in the department, nearing 32 years. She and John live with 3 dogs and 7 cats. She continues to look after her 95 year-old neighbor and has recently adopted another kitten. Judy hopes to travel to another warm place this winter after enjoying her visit to Costa Rica last year. Judy and the Van Hise Js (Jackie and Jane) continue their fun adventures throughout the state and when the economy improves they hope to expand their horizons, possibly to Minnesota. :-)

Susan Brantly is busy co-editing, together with Tom DuBois, The Nordic Storyteller. Essays in Honor of Niels Ingwersen, which is due to be released early next year. In the past year, she has published articles on the historical fiction of P.O. Enquist and Ola Larsmo, and recently, she was invited to join the editorial board of The Journal of Northern Studies based in Umeå. She is enjoying her second year as Director of the Bradley Learning Community, a freshman dormitory focused on promoting integrative learning and enhancing the first-year experience. She is also the Director for the Center of European Studies, a Title VI program that supports the teaching of the less-commonly-taught languages and research on Europe. The SASS Conference being held in Madison in the spring will mark the end of her two-year term as SASS President.

Peggy Hager, Lecturer in Norwegian, likes to quote Egil ‘Drillo’ Olsen, the famous Norwegian player and coach (who recently served a short stint as the coach of the Iraqi national soccer team), who was asked what made him a successful coach. His quick reply was ‘feedback’ I give my players lots of feedback. Feedback has always played an important role in Peggy’s language classes. With 45 language students spread between her two language classes, providing feedback is a time-consuming, but ultimately rewarding part of language teaching. Since our last newsletter, Peggy and Tanya have hosted several guests from Norway. Professor Judith Torvik visited Madison this summer to update us about exciting additions to our Bø, Telemark, program. Professor Øyvind Gullichsen and his wife Kari Grønningeater from Bø visited Madison to speak to Norwegian classes. This fall, Arnfinn Malme (Director of the Larvik Museum) and Bjørg Alm (Principal of Gokstad elementary school in Sandefjord) visited us from Larvik, Norway, and accompanied Norwegian classes to the special photography exhibit Century of Change in Norwegian Landscapes at the Norwegian American Genealogical Center.

Jim Leary’s edition of Richard Dorson’s Bloodstoppers and Bearwalkers: Folk Traditions of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, with a new introduction and appendix of additional tales (many concerning Swedes and Finns), was published in May 2008 by UW Press. In the summer he gave talks on folk music, humor, and healing at Norsk Hjemkomst in Moorhead and Finn Fest in Duluth. He also tracked down a cycle of legends concerning a Norwegian immigrant lumberjack, “Whitewater” Ole Hone, who drowned in a log jam on the Chippewa River in 1905, and interviewed and photographed Ole and Lena impersonators in the wilds of North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. He continues to work, with the able assistance of grad students Anna Rue and Hilary Virtanen, on a Norwegian American Folk Music Archives project and a multi-CD/book package that includes remarkable field recordings from the 1930s and 1940s by immigrant Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, and Swedish folksingers and musicians.
Our Faculty and Staff continued

This is the second year that Scott Mellor is director of the Norden language floor, and he is pleased at its early success. Scott has also continued his work with first-year education, both by continuing as a faculty fellow for the Bradley learning community and by teaching a FIG. The idea is an off-shoot from the experimental college started by Alexander Meiklejohn the 1920s, a First-Year Interest Group (FIG). It consists of a group of 20 first-year students, who live in the same residence hall or "residential neighborhood" and who also enroll in a cluster of three classes together, thereby continuing their education beyond the classroom. Last spring, Scott was awarded the academic staff excellence mid-career award for 2007-2008. On the research front, his book Analyzing Ten Poems from the Poetic Edda: Oral Formula and Mythic Patterns is at the publishers and should be out soon. He is now working on an article about the mythic patterns found in Volsunga saga.

Nete Schmidt continues teaching first and second year Danish, and also attempts to immerse the students in Danish language and culture via Danish language table and other cultural events. She is currently doing research on Scandinavian science fiction and crime literature and has proposed a new class on this topic both for a regular course and a distance course. Furthermore, she continues translating documents and letters and is part of a research project about emigrant / immigrant narratives. She is the undergraduate majors adviser and participates in all conceivable informative events propagating the benefits of Scandinavian Studies and has, in this context, just hosted a visit by a Danish author. In the near future, she hopes to return to teaching literature and area studies along with the Danish language.

Kirsten Wolf serves as department chair again this year. She is this semester teaching "Introduction to Scandinavian Linguistics" and "The Icelandic Sagas." Additionally, she serves as the advisor of a number of M.A. and Ph.D. students in Old Norse-Icelandic philology. Kirsten spent several weeks this summer doing research in the Arnamagnaean Collection at the University of Copenhagen, where she worked on getting her book, A Female Legendary from Late Medieval Iceland: Kirkjubœjarbók (Codex AM 429 12mo) ready for press and also completed editions of the Old Norse-Icelandic translation of the Miracula Rotomagensia and the Old Norse-Icelandic legend of Saint Margaret. Kirsten recently signed a contract with Saga Forlag in Iceland to translate five Sagas of Icelanders into Danish and continues to do research on Old Norse-Icelandic color and color terminology. Her most recent studies in this area are forthcoming in Skandinavistik and Journal of English and Germanic Philology.

The book Romance and Love in Late Medieval and Early Modern Iceland: Essays in Honor of Marianne Kalinke, which she co-edited with Johanna Denzin, is now at press.

After a busy spring semester that among other things saw the establishment of a course in Nynorsk, Tanya Thresher spent the summer at the University of Bergen’s Theater Archive doing research for her project on Ibsen. She also made use of the local museums and libraries and took a brief trip to Oslo during which time she visited the Center for Ibsen Studies. A highlight of her Bergen trip was the opportunity to spend time with colleagues at the Nordic Institute, especially Professors Bjarby and Aarseth who generously offered feedback on her work. A day-trip to Televåg, the small coastal town that played a vital role in the resistance movement, which was ultimately destroyed by the Germans during World War II, was memorable due to the personal recollections of Professor Aarseth. And, contrary to popular belief about Bergen, during her stay, it barely rained at all!
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:
I returned in August from a lucrative seven-month research trip to Aarhus, Denmark, during which I was also able to participate in the both the Nordic Translation Conference in London as well as the semi-annual IASS meeting in Gdansk, Poland. Back in Madison, I am currently engaged in a number of areas: teaching a Hans Christian Andersen section, leading a Danish-language discussion group on Kierkegaard, serving as graduate assistant for the World Literature Symposium, as well helping with preparations for the upcoming SASS meeting. Progress on my dissertation project on utopia and the Danish welfare state continues, with a target date of summer 2009.

Christopher Bishop:
I am asserting myself in the area of folklore. This semester, I have conducted field work on the Iron Range of Minnesota and presented on the continuity of Nordic undead/ghost traditions at the annual American Folklore Society conference. I continue to work as a TA in the Andersen course.

Susanne Fahn:
I came from Germany to Madison via Iceland, and am a second year PhD student and TA for the Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature lecture. My dissertation is on the Icelandic versions of the Gospel of Nicodemus, which combines my main fields of interest: paleography and medieval Icelandic manuscript studies.

Randolph Ford:
I am now in my second year in the MA philology program and intend to take my exams at the end of the coming spring semester. Having taught ESL in the past, it has been an interesting and challenging experience teaching writing to native English speakers in the Hans Christian Andersen, Comm-B course this fall.

Tim Frandy:
After completing my MA and writing my preliminary exams this past year, I am currently co-president of our graduate employee local and conducting fieldwork in the Upper Midwest with fishermen, berrypickers, hunters, and trappers. I am also preparing to spend next year abroad to conduct similar fieldwork in Sápmi.

Mathew Holland:
I received my BA from the University of Oregon in history in 2006. My area of interest is Scandinavian history with an emphasis on the Viking Period. After completing my second year towards an MA in Areas Studies, I am currently researching the evolution of Iron Age swordsmithing in Denmark.

Todd Michelson-Ambelang:
I graduated with a second MA in December 2007, this time in Library and Information Studies. Last summer, I traveled to Norway and Denmark to look at manuscripts in preparation for my dissertation and to attend the International Summer School in Manuscript Studies at the Arnamagnæan Collection in Copenhagen. I currently teach first-year Norwegian.

Kjerstin Moody:
It’s great to be back in Madison after a rewarding research year at the University of Helsinki and Uppsala University in 2007–2008. This fall semester I’m enjoying teaching third-semester Swedish as well as working on the second chapter of my dissertation, which focuses on traces of the political in Karin Boye’s poetry collection För trädets skull (1935).
Kari Synøve Morset:
I am currently a dissertator in the PhD literature program and I am also the coordinator for the Scandinavian language floor called Norden. In 2001, I completed an MFA in Filmmaking and an MA in Fashion Photography from Ohio University. My undergraduate degree from NTNU, Norway, includes Scandinavian Language and Literature, Social Anthropology, Theater and Film.

Carrie Roy:
After completing a second MA (in Medieval Icelandic Studies at the University of Iceland) during my year abroad, I have been working with information and data gathered from my summer survey of over 400 Viking period artifacts from collections in throughout Northern Europe. I have enjoyed presenting papers on this research into Norse art, belief, and material culture and am looking forward to several more opportunities to share my work with local groups and organizations in the coming months and more conferences in the spring semester. I am currently a TA for Intro to Folklore.

Anna Rue:
After taking my MA exam last spring, I have continued my studies in the area of Norwegian-American folklore. Most recently, I have been examining Norwegian-American wake and funeral traditions in the Upper Midwest and am also currently employed as a Project Assistant to Jim Leary on the Norwegian-American Folk Music project. I spent last summer working closely with collections held at the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in my hometown of Decorah, IA, and am now digitizing many of the recordings from their collection at the Mills Music Library here in Madison.

Jason Schroeder:
I received a BA in Comparative History of Ideas from the University of Washington. My research interests are in folklore, particularly the relationship of material objects to oral narratives, and 18th-century Scandinavian views of the human body. This semester I am working as a TA for Folklore 100.

Natalie Van Deusen:
I am a Ph.D. student in Scandinavian Philology, focusing on Old Norse-Icelandic hagiographic literature. I will take my prelims in January, and will then concentrate on writing my dissertation, which will include a new and digital edition of the Old Norse-Icelandic legend of Saints Mary Magdalene and Martha. I am currently a TA for Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature.

Hilary Virtanen:
This year, I’ve published two articles and, with Tim Frandy, am proposing a book on Upper Michigan folklife. I have presented papers at FinnFest and at the American Folklore Society and received fellowships from the FLAS program and two Finlandia Foundation chapters. Finally, in August, I received my MA degree.

Rachel Willson-Broyles:
I am PhD candidate in Scandinavian Philology. I am interested in modern Swedish linguistics as well as literary and medical translation. This year I am teaching first-year Swedish, doing coursework for my Ph.D. minor in the linguistics department, and working on some exciting translation projects.

What is Norden House?
Norden House is a part of the International Learning Community, located in Adams Hall, along Lake Mendota. It is a place where undergraduate residents can improve their skills in speaking and reading Nordic languages, interact with other students interested in Scandinavian Studies, partake in Nordic-oriented programming every week.

It might be too late to apply for next year, but it’s never too early to think about the following year...

For more information please visit the following URL:
http://www.housing.wisc.edu/ilc/languageprograms.html

Click on “Continuing Students” or “Returning Residents.”
she was able to view films in which Nielsen acted; these were in the midst of being restored or had previously been restored. Professor Allen would like to thank archivist Simon Ofenloch at the Deutsches Filminstitut and archivist Ute Klawitter at the Bundesfilmarchiv for their help in her archival work.

PhD Students Natalie Van Deusen and Todd Michelson-Ambelang took a course at the Arnamagnæan Collection’s Fifth Annual Summer School in Manuscript Studies, which was held this year in Copenhagen, Denmark. Due to their work with Professor Wolf in her course on Paleography and Philology, they were able to forgo the beginner’s class and take the advanced course. They spent time transcribing documents housed in the Collection, and learning about tricks of the trade when working with documents from all eras of history. They worked with documents from both Eastern and Western Scandinavian language origins and in both the Latin and Runic alphabets. With the help of fellowships from the Ygdrasil Society, the two were able to fund their trips. An exciting point of the trip for Natalie was the opportunity to view one of the manuscripts which she plans to use in her dissertation.

(Continued from page 6)

Language Tables:
This semester Danish, Norwegian and Swedish Tables have been active:
- Danish Table meets Tuesdays from 7-8 PM at the Rathskeller.
- Norwegian Table meets on Thursdays on every other week from 3:30-4:30 in the Rathskeller.
- Swedish Table meets Wednesdays from 5-6 PM in the Rathskeller.
Check the Department website calendar for updates next semester.
In addition, several movie nights have been held in Danish, Swedish and Norwegian—the latter two were held at the Adams Extension, so both Language Students and Norden Residents could take part.

Gløggfest
For as long as anybody in the department can remember, the department has held a gløggfest, and this year is no different. The party will be held on December 12, from 4:30-6:30 PM.