

UW Department of Scandinavian Studies

The Eau Claire Retreat Celebrates 25 Years!

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Eau Claire Retreat

by Carol "Orange" Schroeder

Most cold February nights the lodge at the Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall Creek, Wisconsin is silent, its stuffed owls and other creatures waiting quietly for another round of summer campers. But once a year for the past 25 years the winter air has been filled with the sounds of Swedish folk dancing, and the tantalizing aroma of Scandinavian foods. The lodge comes alive on the Friday evening of the Midwest Scandinavian Retreat weekend, as more and more groups of students and faculty members arrive from schools such as the University of Wisconsin - Madison, St. Olaf, Luther, Gustavus Adolphus, and nearby University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. Eventually there are more colorful Scandinavian sweaters gathered in this woodland lodge than at a Sons of Norway annual meeting.

What started 25 years ago as an idea for fellowship and intellectual exchange among the many area colleges teaching Scandinavian Studies has grown over the years into an institution that helps spark enthusiasm for the field in students not even born when the Retreat began. Schools take turns chairing the event, arranging for the talks, movies, and other programs and handling registration from all the participating colleges. This year's 25th annual retreat, like the very first, was hosted by the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

As with past retreats, the 25th allowed plenty of free time for reading, skiing, and socializing at the nearby Sherwood Inn. Attendees were treated to hearty meals, including a festive Saturday night smorgasbord of Scandinavian foods. There was a multimedia presentation about a new

web site for the Icelandic poet Jónas Hallgrímsson. There were movies in the camp's observatory. There were lectures on opportunities for studying abroad, on translating, on Viking research, on woodcarving - and even a very brief slide show on the history of what is now a beloved winter tradition, the Midwest Scandinavian Retreat itself. Hope to see you there next year!

Distance Education Courses

The Scandinavian Studies Department is looking eagerly towards the millennium - and to the new trends in university education. According to a report by the National Center for Education Statistics, 90 percent of all academic institutions with more than 10,000 students, and 85 percent of those institution with enrollment between 3,000 and 10,000, plan to offer at least some distance education courses. The report also states that more than half of these students enroll in these types of courses through their local two year public institutions. In fact, eighty-four percent of the students enroll through either a two-year or four-year public university. This bodes extremely well for the University of Wisconsin system.

Keeping this new information in mind, and due to the success of the Norwegian 101 Distance Education Course last summer, several new courses are in developmental stages. Norwegian 102 has already been added to the summer courses offered by the Department. A five week Kalevala course will be taught by Kim Nilsson to students in Madison and students at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. And, the popular course on "The Tales of Hans Christian

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Andersen" - one the Niels Ingwersen has taught a bit too often - is presently in the process of being made into a distance-learning course, i.e. video and website. The administrative problems are many, for this is a new venture for the university. Ideally the course will be taught in its new special effects format for the first time during the spring semester of 1999. We hope to report progress in the next newsletter.

If you would like to look at this report, *Distance Education in Higher Education Institutions*, in more detail, it is located online at nces.ed.gov.

An Adventure INTIME

Last year the Learning Support Services on campus started in INTIME program, through which selected faculty members are provided with technology and technical support to enable them to incorporate multimedia presentations in the classroom. Susan Brantly's "Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature: the Twentieth Century" was selected for participation in the program, and the new "high-tech" version of the course debuted this spring semester. Each lecture this semester has been enhanced with slides, video, and/or video clips in a PowerPoint format.

"My Ingmar Bergman lecture never looked so good. For years I have relied on verbal descriptions to prod student's memories of the film screening, but now we can all look at the same slide of the scene and analyze it. Further I can show clips of the Bergman parodies in *Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey* and *The Last Action Hero*, which drives home the point of Bergman's contemporary relevance in a way that gets everyone's attention. PowerPoint makes it all flow together seamlessly."

Student response so far has been enthusiastic, but more importantly the visual aids do seem to enhance the students' ability to grasp complex topics, such as modernism and postmodernism. "When trying to discuss a topic such as artistic innovation, you can't always know what the literary background of each student will be. How can you recognize innovation, when you're not familiar with tradition? A reference to stream-of-consciousness narration may simply escape a freshman who hasn't read Joyce. If you put up a slide of Velasquez' *Las Meninas* next to Picasso's painting by

the same name, then everyone is immediately on the same page."

Brantly says is a convert, and plans to use PowerPoint presentations in as many of her classes as is feasible.

Raoul Wallenberg Memorial

Susan Brantly acted as an informant on Raoul Wallenberg at a meeting of the City of Madison Park Commission on January 14, 1998. Working as a Swedish diplomat in Budapest, Wallenberg is estimated to have saved between 20,000 and 100,000 lives during World War II. The commission then voted to erect two memorial benches in Marshall Park on Lake Mendota inscribed: "To honor the memory of Raoul Wallenberg" and "In gratitude to the Righteous." The benches are being funded by a private donor. A formal dedication will take place on May 3, 1998 at 9:00 am at the site in Marshall Park.

Congratulations Doctor Dawn!

Last spring Dawn Tommerdahl received her Ph.D. from the Department. The title is *** and the abstract is as follows:

This study examines the figure of the radical intellectual in six representative works spanning nearly three decades in the authorships of Espen Haavardsholm and Dag Solstad. A discussion of "intellectual" as a sociological concept provides the groundwork for analysis of the texts. Following various definitions of "intellectual" in a general sense, the focus shifts to an examination of the particular traits of a radical intellectual. The introductory section ends with a brief look at China, one of the revolutionary societies idealized by Norwegian Maoists.

Protagonists in the novels from the 1970s typify the process of the political conversion. Moving from independent socialists to committed Maoists, they demonstrate that their political choice is based on the emotional appeal of the idea, not on Maoist ideology.

Novels from the 1980s and 1990s show the effects of political disillusionment. Novels written in the early 1980s depict the

decline of the Maoist movement as the protagonists look back on their radical pasts. Although both Haavardsholm and Solstad show that Maoism fills an existential need only temporarily, neither seems to have any regrets about the political choices he made.

The novels from the 1990s vividly show the abiding concern with social issues. Although Haavardsholm and Solstad no longer exhibit traits of politically radical intellectuals, they remain critical of Norwegian social institutions.

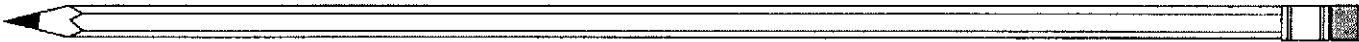
At least as prevalent as the social criticism is the individual's search for wholeness and meaning in his life. The underlying assumption that the world is splintered shows the modernist beginnings of Haavardsholm and Solstad. The degree to which their protagonists find fulfillment indicates how far the authors move from that starting point.

New Dissertator!

Troy Storfjell withstood the academic torture and passed prelims in December. Ph. Cand. Storfjell's area of specialization is the representation of Sami in Norwegian literature. He is currently researching the construction and contestation of tropes of Sami identity in Norwegian literature.

Student Wins Aurora Borealis Prize

Lisa Rainwater van Suntum was recently awarded the Auroar Borealis prize by the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study. Each year two students, one in the social sciences and one in the humanities, are rewarded for outstanding papers given at the previous SASS Conference. Lisa's paper was titled "Understanding August Strindberg's *Den starkare*: A Dialectic of the New Woman?"



March 21, 1998

Dear Friends,

As promised, a gathering of the Friends of Scandinavian Studies will take place on September 26, 1998. The tentative schedule is as follows.

Friday, September 25th.

8:00 Meet for milk and cookies at Kosta's on State Street.

Saturday, September 26.

6:00 Farmers' Market on the Square.

11:00 Tour of Monona Terrace.

12:30 Brown Bag Lunch.

6:00 Cash Bar at Tripp Commons, Memorial Union.

7:00 Banquet.

More information on page 4 in this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you in Madison and thanks a hole bunch!

Kim Nilsson

Susan Brantley

Dick Rindler

Tanya Thresher

Judy Anderson

P.S. Please RSVP two weeks beforehand with Judy 608/262-2090.



Welcome to Our New Master's Students!

The Department has the pleasure of working with two upcoming academics, Jennifer Jenkins and Stokes Schwartz.

Jennifer is originally from Mentor, Ohio. She received her BA (96) in German from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and MA (97) in German from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. She is currently working towards a Ph.D. in the field of modern (1750-present) German literature as well as a Master's degree in Scandinavian Studies with a focus on modern Swedish literature.

Stokes, from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received his BA (97) in Scandinavian Studies from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. He is currently working on his Master's degree with an emphasis on *Nynorsk* literature, including the works of Aasta Hansteen, Noline Vonen, and Bolette C. Pavels Larsen. He is currently teaching two Norwegian courses through the university's Outreach program.

Norwegian through Outreach

The Division of Continuing Studies offers two Outreach Courses in the Norwegian language during the 1998 Spring semester. Beginning Norwegian 2 runs from January 28 through April 1 and meets Wednesday evenings 7:30-9:00. Intensive Beginning Norwegian 1 is scheduled to start April 6 and continue through May 4. This course meets twice a week on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00. Both are taught in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere by Stokes Schwartz, a graduate student in the Department of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. For further information about these or future offerings, please call (608) 262-2451.

Good Afternoon, Mister Schoolfield!

Professor Emeritus from Yale University, Mr. George Schoolfield, is currently a Halls-Bascom Visiting Scholar in the Department. He is here for three weeks teaching in the Scandinavian Decadence class. Students are treated to a witty cascade of literary and cinematic references - from the *Odyssey* to *The Devil's Advocate* - that would put the most cultured person to shame. At the end of the semester he will return to Yale University where he will teach a seminar on Rilke's *Duino Elegies*.

Daniel Rabuzzi

On February 12, students and faculty alike were entertained by this History Professor from Luther College. His lecture, entitled "The Economic Role of Women in Scandinavia and the Baltic in the 18th and 19th Centuries," was accompanied by slides and amazing stories of affluent and successful business women from this time period. Dr. Rabuzzi found it most interesting that in the middle of the last century, just as legislative reforms were giving women more legal rights, the small number of women in business were being pushed out of the economic circles in which they previously had been active. He also noted the difficulty in obtaining information about these women as their names and identities have been virtually erased from the official records.

What are you up to?

As each new edition of this newsletter arrives, we hope to be able to bring you information about our alumni. This column is wholly devoted to you! Please send any information that you wish to share to toe editor. Hope to ear from you soon!

Julianne Haahr (MA '92 in Danish) is currently working on another MA in the School of Library and Information Studies at University of Wisconsin - Madison. She plans to finish in May of this academic year.

Mary Visher (MA '79 in Norwegian) switched to sociology shortly after she graduated from our Department. She received her Ph.D. in

1984. She is currently living in the San Francisco Bay Area with her Norwegian husband and two kids.

Friends of Scandinavian Studies

A gathering of the Friends of Scandinavian Studies will take place on September 26, 1998. On the evening of September 25th, the early birds will meet for drinks at Kosta's on State Street. Then on Saturday, in memory of all those years in college when we always crawled out of bed early, the Farmers' Market on the Square will be the first order of the day (6:00-11:00). A Tour of Monona Terrace, the Frank Lloyd Wright Center, has been scheduled for 11:00. From 12:30-3:00 there will be a Brown Bag Lunch in 1418 Van Hise. In an informal setting, we'll show you what we've been up to lately. There should be time for questions and reminiscing as well. The Cash Bar at Tripp Commons in Memorial Union will open for business at precisely 6:00 pm. Please arrive hungry as the lavish banquet commences at 7:00.

There is no need to worry about lodging as we have reserved a block of 25 rooms for both Friday and Saturday night at the Lowell Center Guest House at 610 Langdon Street. It is centrally located and modestly priced (approx \$49 single, \$58 double). Rooms should be booked directly with the Lowell Center Guest House by September 3rd (Phone: 608 256-2621). Identify yourself as one of the Friends of Scandinavian Studies. If you feel like treating yourself to more luxurious accommodations, we can recommend the following at considerably higher prices: Mansion Hill Inn, 424 N Pickney (608 255-3999); The Edgewater, 666 Wisconsin Avenue (608 256-9071); or The Concourse Hotel, 1 W Dayton (608 257-6000).

As for nutritional intake, the plan includes breaking bread together twice on Saturday. We will treat you to a modest lunch, but there will be a price tag attached to the banquet. We will be contacting you during the summer about the menu and price of the banquet. We will need a firm RSVP for both food