

# FRIENDS OF SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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## Contents...

Abroad in Oslo	1
Endowment update	1
From the President's Desk	2
Line Mørkbak	3
Professor Michael Stern	3
Scandinavian Courses	3

## Scandinavian Folk Dancing

*Tuesdays, Oct. 9 - Nov. 13, 7 pm*

Instruction will focus on:

7-7:30 basic dances such as

schottisch, polka and mixers

7:30-8 intermediate dances such as

waltz, pols and hambo

8-8:30 bygdedans (native  
Norwegian dances) such as

springleik

Everyone is welcome, no partner is necessary, leather-soled shoes are recommended. Parking is available behind the Lodge. Suggested donation is \$4. Please contact Linda Gunn at [lindagunn@rio.com](mailto:lindagunn@rio.com) if you have any questions.

Sons of Norway Lodge  
1836 Alder St, Eugene

## Endowment Fund Established!

A \$5,000 donation from Bard and Mary Grinnell Bunaes gave the Friends the \$25,000 minimum needed to establish the Scandinavian Languages Instructional Endowment. The purpose of this fund is to support instruction in the Scandinavian languages, Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish, at the University of Oregon. With two tenured professors, Ellen Rees and Michael Stern, chiefly responsible for courses in Scandinavian literature and culture, the Scandinavian program relies on instructors to teach many of the introductory language courses. Interest from the endowment will help fund the salaries for these instructors.

The Friends truly appreciate the efforts of John Manotti from the UO Development Office and Ellen Rees in obtaining the contribution from Bard and Mary Grinnell Bunaes. We are also thankful for the very generous donations from our own members that made it possible for us to establish the endowment fund.

The Friends' fundraising efforts continue. Ultimately we need a \$350,000 endowment fund that can fully support one Scandinavian language instructor annually. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Scandinavian Languages Instructional Endowment in 2007. Tusen Takk!

## Abroad in Oslo

### Daron Yamauchi explores Norway

Many students dream of traveling abroad during their college years. Thanks to the Nina Grieg Study Abroad Scholarship linguistics student Daron Yamauchi is able to spend the year in Oslo, Norway.

The Nina Grieg Study Abroad Scholarship is awarded each year to a student or students who display a commitment to the study of Scandinavian language, culture, and society. Daron won the first annual award and was happy to talk about what she is doing in Norway.

*Where are you studying?*

I'm currently studying at Universitetet i Oslo, Norway. I'll be here until June, 2008.

*What drew you to that country and that language?*

I needed a second language for my linguistics major, and I'd always been interested in learning more about Scandinavia. Also, I'd been learning Japanese for a long time and wanted to try a language from a totally different part of the world. Another thing that drew me to the country was the fact that Norway plays such a big role in the world, yet it's a country that a lot of Americans hardly give any thought to.

*What was the most interesting thing you've seen or learned while there?*

I'd say the most interesting thing so far has been Oslo itself. It's very metropolitan, yet you can ride the T-bane (subway) out to the woods to hike or ski. There are museums and parks everywhere. I've walked around downtown

*Continued on p. 2*





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**From the President's Desk**

I hope that you enjoyed our annual midsummer picnic at Alton Baker Park. I missed the picnic this year, because I was on a textile tour to Norway and Sweden sponsored by Vesterheim, the Norwegian-American museum in Decorah, Iowa (<http://vesterheim.org/>).

The Vesterheim organizers did a tremendous job of scheduling visits to factories, artists' workshops, museums, as well as talks by experts. Some of the highlights were: the studio of Norwegian indigo dyer Axel Becker near Trondheim, the Överhogdal tapestries that are on display at the Jämtland County Museum, and a presentation by Swedish designer Elsebeth Lavold on Viking Knits.

Discovered in 1910, the Överhogdal tapestries were the most intriguing textiles of the tour. Motifs depicting animals, humans, boats, buildings, and trees were woven in brightly colored woolen yarn on a natural linen ground cloth. Carbon dating indicated that these textiles were created sometime during 800 and 1100 A.D., i.e. during the Viking period. They



were woven using a technique known as "snare weave" or soumak, probably on upright, warp-weighted looms. The wool yarn was dyed with vegetable dyes: red, blue, and yellow from the madder root, woad, and weld, respectively. The story of the Överhogdal tapestries has been interpreted in a number of ways: the conversion of Härjedalen to Christianity, the final scene from the Volsunge Saga, and Ragnarök in Christian symbolism. For more information, see <http://www.overhogdal.se/english.htm> -- or visit the Jämtland County Museum.

Before I close, I would like to welcome Camilla Mortensen as our newsletter editor. We will feature Camilla in a future issue of the newsletter.

I would also like to thank Linda Gunn for her many years of service to FSS. She is retiring from her position as FSS secretary/newsletter proofreader/picnic coordinator/etc. to pursue her musical interests. She is teaching a folk dancing class at the Sons of Norway Sonja Lodge on Tuesday evenings @ 7 pm. Please join us as we learn the waltz, hambo and springleik with Linda Gunn and fiddler David Elliker-Vägsberg. It's a lot of fun and great exercise!  
— Kathie Lindlan

**Abroad in Oslo continued**

and suddenly come across a park with a river in places you wouldn't normally think you'd find them.

*What about your experiences do you think others should know about?*

Studying abroad forces you to be social. Normally I wouldn't mind just hanging out at home reading, but if you try to do that here, or anywhere you might be studying, then what's the point of being there? I've met people from all over, and often it was a chance meeting at a party or waiting for the train. It doesn't hurt to do things on your own either. A large portion of the exploring I've done here, I did on my own. But because I was by myself there were times I was forced to use Norwegian to communicate, which is great because that's what I'm here to do.

## Scandinavian Faculty Update

Michael Stern has achieved tenure in the Department of German and Scandinavian, earning him the title of associate professor and time to work on his intellectual studies. He will spend his sabbatical writing his second book, *The Singing Socrates*, which will address Søren Kierkegaard and Friedrich Nietzsche's readings of the Greek philosopher Socrates.

Michael came to Scandinavian studies by way of a stint as a furniture maker in Sweden. There he learned Swedish and became intrigued that studying 19th century Scandinavia could shed light on current conflicts. "Human identity is fluid," he says, to study these philosophers "reflects on our world now."

This book follows closely on the heels of his forthcoming *Nietzsche's Ocean, Strindberg's Open Sea*. This work deals with the two one-time atheists who were fascinated by religion. It centers on Nietzsche's encounter with August Strindberg, an encounter Stern describes as "marginalized in intellectual history." The book will be published by Berliner Beiträge zur Skandinavistik, a publisher which is associated with Humboldt University in Berlin. It will be in press by the end of the year, Michael says.

Michael doesn't limit his writing to scholarly output; he is also at work on a novel and creates poetry books with his wife Sarah Grew. Michael writes the poetry while Sarah creates images and makes the books themselves. Sarah is an artist who works in mixed media painting. One of Sarah's recent projects is a social and natural history of Eugene composed of 63 panels, some paintings, some archival photographs, in Crescent Village in Northeast Eugene.

Michael and Sarah are also kept busy by a son, Yasha, and their recent family addition — a Husky/Golden Retriever puppy named Paco.



## New Board Member

Friends of Scandinavian welcomes a new board member!

Line Mørkbak, a native of Denmark, has been living in Eugene for the last two years, with her husband and daughter.

Line is a cross-cultural trainer and consultant with her business cultureCrossing. Through her business she teaches others to "merge into another culture easily," she says.

One of the reasons she became a Friends board member was because she found it "pretty unusual after moving so far" to find a group "keeping the language and culture alive."

"Being from a very small country," she says, "knowing someone is interested in your tiny little corner of the world, it's beautiful." Denmark is the smallest of the Scandinavian countries; its landmass could fit inside the state of Maine.

As a board member Line looks forward to throwing energy into fundraising and outreach, and bringing in visiting speakers. Velkommen!



## Fall 2007 Scandinavian Courses

SCAN 250 Scandinavian Fantasies:  
Masks and Ecstatic Experience  
Prof. Michael Stern

SCAN 354 Genres of Scandinavian  
Literature:  
Hamlet, Peer Gynt and the Stranger  
Prof. Michael Stern

NORW 101 First-year Norwegian  
Prof. Ellen Rees

DANE 101 First-year Danish  
Anina Rosenbaum (GTF)

DANE 201 Second-year Danish"  
Kim Moeller Mikkelsen (GTF)

SWED 201 Second-year Swedish  
Minna Pavulans (Instructor)

FINN 201 Second-year Finnish  
Sanna Ala-Kortesmaa (GTF)

SCAN 199 Conversation  
Camilla Mortensen (Instructor)

Did you know . . . December 6th marks the 90th anniversary of Finnish Independence?

