

FRIENDS OF SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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Contents...

<i>Fossegrimen</i>	1
<i>Simon Helton</i>	1
<i>From the President's Desk</i>	2
<i>Fundraising Update</i>	2
<i>Looking for...</i>	2
<i>Graduate Instructors</i>	3
<i>SCAN Courses</i>	3
<i>SCAN Events</i>	Insert

Mid Summer Picnic!

Sunday, June 24, 2007
noon-4 pm

Shelter 1,
Alton Baker Park,
Eugene

Dancing

Families

Potluck

Fun

Music

Join us!

Fossegrimen Reappears for the 2007 Midsummer Picnic

According to Norwegian folk lore, *fossegrimen* are fiddle-playing supernatural beings that dwell beneath waterfalls. The members of the group *Fossegrimen*, however, are members of a *dans orkester* that is dedicated to performing folk dance music from Norway and Sweden. The group plays for monthly dances in Salem and occasionally in the Portland and Seattle areas. *Fossegrimen* was founded by David and Claire Elliker-Vågsberg. David directs the group and performs on fiddle, the Norwegian *Hardanger* fiddle and Swedish *nyckelharpa*. Claire plays fiddle, viola and *nyckelharpa*. The other members are: Kurt Elliker, fiddle; Brian Wood, guitar and *nyckelharpa*; and John Blunt, bass. On special occasions *Fossegrimen* members wear regional costumes from Norway, known as *bunader*.



The *hardingfele* (Hardanger fiddle) and *nyckelharpa* are the national folk instruments of Norway and Sweden, respectively. The feature that most distinguishes the Norwegian *Hardanger* fiddle from the regular fiddle or violin is the set of four or five sympathetic strings that run beneath the fingerboard and add droning overtones to the sound. A Hardanger fiddle is typically decorated with mother-of-pearl inlay, and

(Continued on page 3)

Simon Helton: Continuing on after graduation!



Eugene native Simon Helton will depart for the University of California-Berkeley in the fall to continue his education as a graduate student in the Department of Scandinavian. Simon says he is thrilled about the opportunity to pursue Scandinavian Studies at Berkeley. His interest in the field was sparked by a class on Scandinavian short stories taught by Professor Ellen Rees.

He will graduate from the University of Oregon at the end of spring term with concurrent degrees in Philosophy and German with a Scandinavian Focus. As a student of Norwegian, Simon has already been to Norway a number of times. First he attended the Oslo International Summer School and after studied at the University of Oslo for a semester. In 2005,

NORTANA (Norwegian Researchers' and Teachers' Association of North America) awarded Simon a round-trip ticket to Oslo for his winning essay. The topic of his essay was The Norwegian Refugee Council.

Simon is interested in contemporary Norwegian writers such as Erlend Loe and Swedish "Indie Pop" music. His advisor, Ellen Rees is delighted for Simon and thinks he has real potential for contributing to the field.



**Friends' President
Kathie Lindlan**

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From the President's Desk

Yet another Oregon spring is here – rain, then sun, and then more rain...

Many thanks to naturalist (and FSS board member) Whitey Lueck for organizing a delightful Swedish film series during winter term. His mini-lecture preceding each film was always informative and the discussion afterwards thought-provoking. We are already anticipating his selection of films for 2008.

Our centennial celebration for Edvard Grieg was very successful. Soprano Marilyn Vondra, pianist Sandy Hull, and narrator (and FSS Treasurer) David Wurts gave their audience a truly inspiring performance in the sanctuary of Central Lutheran Church. FSS hopes to offer more Scandinavian musical events in the future.

We are now in the midst of our Tuesday evening folk dancing sessions at the Sons of Norway's Sonja Lodge. With instructor Linda Gunn's assistance we've made considerable progress in learning the hambo and pols. This is quite an achievement, as those of you who participate in Scandinavian folk dancing know. David Elliker-Vägsberg of *Fossegrimen* will accompany us once again on Hardanger fiddle at the annual May 17th celebration at Sonja Lodge and the midsummer picnic at Alton Baker Park. Please join us for these special occasions!

Kathie

**Endowment Fund
Update**

Thank you once again for your generous contributions to the Scandinavian Languages Instructor Endowment. Since our last update we have received one \$1000 donation, one \$500 donation, and numerous \$100 and \$50 donations. With \$15,000 from the Friends' account, concert revenue and these donations, we have met approximately \$22,400 of our \$25,000 goal. **We need just another \$2600 in donations this term in order to establish the endowment!**

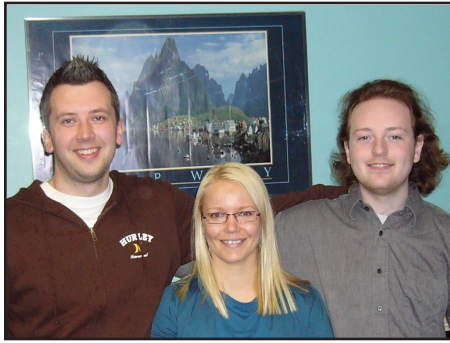
The Friends would especially like to thank Paul Holbo and Lynn Berg for their fundraising activities during the past couple months. Paul, a former UO Vice Provost, and Lynn, an award-winning Hardanger fiddle maker, took the initiative to solicit endowment contributions from members of the local Scandinavian-American community. Much of our income this past term resulted from their efforts.

It would be much appreciated if you would send your annual membership fees and endowment donations by June 30th. Please use the membership/donation form on the last page of the newsletter to mail your tax-deductible contributions.

THANK YOU!

LOOKING FOR a picture of Ed Thorstenberg.

Mr. Phil Hansen, a 1967 graduate of the currently-named Department of German & Scandinavian, is writing a history of the Department and has been unable to find a picture of Ed Thorstenberg. Thorstenberg was the first Scandinavian professor hired at the U of Oregon in 1913. He taught Swedish, Norwegian and Icelandic until 1928 when he passed away. He was the "Grandfather" of Scandinavian at the University. If anyone has a picture, please contact Phil Hansen @ Teriphilhansen@aol.com. (If you can't send an email, please call Kathie Lindlan @ (541) 344-6834.) Thanks for your assistance.



Left: Toralf Mjelde, Nina Laine, Jimmi Nielsen

UO Scandinavian Graduate Instructors

The German and Scandinavian Department has three graduate instructors teaching language courses in Norwegian, Finnish and Danish. All three are native speakers!

Toralf Mjelde: Norwegian Instructor

Toralf L. Mjelde is a native Norwegian and the current instructor for the Norwegian class at U of O. He came to the US two years ago to marry an American he met during his masters studies in Australia. His background is in languages and communication, and he has previously worked as a translator and teacher. Toralf loves soccer and music, and above all, teaching great students about Norway and the language.

Nina Laine: Finnish Instructor

Originally from Finland, Nina came the UO to complete her M.A./P.h.D in vocational education, where she is focusing on the trust in supervisor-subordinate relationships. She is the sole Finnish instructor in the department and is a true nature lover. She enjoys spending time in the outdoors and invites everyone to visit Finland and participate in the many available summer and winter outdoor sports! Her favorite place is Lappland where she goes for week long hiking adventures.

Jimmi Nicolai Tidemann Nielsen: Danish Instructor

Jimmi grew up in a small community in western Zealand, Denmark. He is currently studying American political history at the UO and will return to Denmark this summer to complete his thesis. He teaches second year Danish and finds the differences in Scandinavian countries to be interesting.

(Fossegrim continued from front page)

black pen-and-ink rosemaling, and topped with a carved head of an animal. The Swedish *nyckelharpa* is a bowed instrument with a keybox and played with a very short bow. Three of the top four strings play melody notes and the forth is a drone string; the remaining twelve strings vibrate sympathetically. The *nyckelharpa*'s 37 wooden keys are equipped with tangents that stop the string to produce the pitches. The player bows with the right hand and presses on the keys with the left.

All of the folk music that Fossegrimen plays originates directly from Norway and Sweden and is performed in the authentic style of the area of origin. This *dans orkester* plays music for *gammaldans* (vals, schottis/reinlender, masurka and polka) and *bygdedans* (regional dances such as *springar*, *gangar*, *polska* and *polsdans*) as well as *runddans* (couple dancing that is usually choreographed) and various "mixers." Please join the Friends of Scandinavian Studies as we celebrate Midsummer with food and dancing, accompanied by Fossegrimen.

2007 SCAN COURSES

The following courses for 2007 will be offered by the Department of German and Scandinavian.

SUMMER 2007

SCAN 315 - Cinema Tradit Scan, C. Mortensen

FALL 2007

SCAN 250 "Scandinavian Fantasies"
Michael Stern

NORW 101 "First-year Norwegian"
Ellen Rees

SWED 201 "Second-year Swedish"
Minna Pavulans

SCAN 354 "Genres in Scandinavian Literature"
Michael Stern

DANE 101 "First-year Danish"
Staff

FINN 201 "Second-year Finnish"
Staff

DANE 201 "Second-year Danish"
Staff

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