FSS Member Profile: Tom Mills

A Trustworthy Friend

Anyone with a connection to Scandinavian Studies at the University of Oregon should know the name Tom Mills. Before his retirement in 2005 he served as the university’s Associate Vice President for International Programs, and he has been instrumental in establishing nearly all UO Scandinavian study abroad programs, from Bergen to Tampere, as well as the Mills Study Abroad Scholarship Fund.

Professor Emerita Virpi Zuck says of Tom “His support for the Scandinavian program was unwavering. He was always there if I needed to seek counsel.”

Tom Mills, a strong advocate for the Scandinavian Studies program.

“In October 2007 the Mills International Center officially replaced the former International Resource Center in a wonderfully renovated space in the UO Erb Memorial Union. Tom has dedicated his career to welcoming students from all around the world to the UO, and the Center reflects that hospitality and spirit of international exchange.

With roots in Naustdal in western Norway, Tom has kept his love of Scandinavian culture and traditions alive, despite his demanding 35-year UO career. Tom recalls family life growing up in Spokane, WA fondly:

“...Norwegian at the University of Oslo and conducted research on the Norwegian education system.

Tom has also been very active in the Friends of Scandinavian Studies, serving as our very first president from 1986–89, and is now back on the Board again. He’s been a strong advocate for the Scandinavian Studies program both officially and as a private citizen, and his hard work has produced tangible results, particularly in giving UO students the experience of living in a Scandinavian country.

Virpi Zuck sums up Tom’s numerous contributions best: “In short, in Tom Mills the Scandinavian program had a trustworthy friend, and I’m ever grateful for his collegiality and friendship.”
Dear Friends,

Fall is here — and another academic year is starting at the University of Oregon. The Scandinavian program is celebrating a significant milestone, the first graduate-level Scandinavian course in the history of the Department of German and Scandinavian. Professor Ellen Rees will teach this course, SCAN 407/507 Space and Place in Literature, during fall term. Please see the Upcoming classes on page 3 of this newsletter — and enroll!

Before fall term gets underway, we’d like to acknowledge everyone who contributed to the success of the Midsummer Picnic at Alton Baker Park last June. The music and dancing and food and friendship were indeed special.

Fossegrimmen played wonderful Scandinavian folk music on the Norwegian Hardanger fiddle, the Swedish nyckelharpa and other instruments. Harriet Bagdade and Robert Burger introduced and lead the lively Scandinavian folk dancing. David Elliker-Vaagsberg and Bill Anthony brought poles and decorations for the maypole, while others brought greenery and beautiful flowers. Many decorated the maypole. And everyone contributed delicious food or drink to the potluck. Thank you, everyone!

Odin Lodge of Vasa, Sonja Lodge of the Sons of Norway, and the Friends of Scandinavian Studies jointly sponsor our annual Midsummer Picnic. We hope to have other local Scandinavian-related organizations — Danish, Finnish, and Icelandic — involved in the future as well. Please reserve the third weekend of June for the 2009 Midsummer Picnic when you’re making plans.

Thank you, everyone!

Best wishes,

Kathie Lindlan

President’s Letter

Thank you!

June 24, 2008

Dear Friends of Scandinavian Studies,

I want to thank you sincerely for the generous scholarship you have awarded me for the upcoming academic year. Next year I will be studying on exchange in Uppsala, Sweden, thereby completing my degree in Scandinavian Studies. As you undoubtedly know, living in Sweden is expensive, and your support has greatly helped me to be able to participate in the program. During my time in Sweden I will study Swedish language and literature; I am confident this experience will be invaluable to me as I pursue my goal of obtaining a Master’s degree in translation and continuing on to a career in film and television subtitling. I could not be more excited to go to Uppsala, and again I thank you for helping to afford me this opportunity. Please let me know if I can keep you updated in any way about my time spent in Sweden.

Thank you again,

Rachel Weiner

Upcoming classes

FALL 2008
SCAN 251 Text and Interpretation
Tues & Thurs 4:00-5:20 (Stern)
SCAN 407/507
Space & Place in Literature
Mon Wed Fri 4:00-5:20 (Rees)
Begining language courses:
FINNISH 101
Mon Tues Wed Fri 11:00-11:50
NORWEGIAN 101
Mon Tues Wed Fri 11:00-11:50
SWEDISH 101
Mon Tues Wed Fri 11:00-11:50
Intermediate language courses:
NORWEGIAN 201
Mon Tues Wed Fri 10:00-10:50
DANISH 201
Mon Tues Wed Fri 11:00-11:50
SCAN 399/SWEDISH 301
Scandinavian Languages for Reading Knowledge
Mon Wed Fri 12:00-12:50 (Rees)
Prerequisite: two years of Danish, Norwegian, or Swedish, or the equivalent.
WINTER 2009
SCAN 259
Vikings Through Icelandic Sagas
Tues & Thurs 12:00-1:50 (Stern)
SCAN 351
Periods in Scandinavian Lit.: Romanticism & the Modern Breakthrough
Tues & Thurs 2:00-3:20 (Stern)
For those of you not formally enrolled at UO, you may take courses through the Community Education Program:
http://cep.uoregon.edu/

Please use the form on the last page to keep your Friends’ membership up-to-date and to donate to the SCANDINAVIAN LANGUAGES INSTRUCTIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND in your end-of-year charitable giving

Mange Takk!

Help Wanted

Our current board members request your immediate assistance on the Board of the Friends of Scandinavian Studies

Available positions include:
• President or Treasurer
• Vice President or Secretary
• Active Board Member

Some current board members hold multiple positions, and would like to see greater participation from you!

Please contact Kathie Lindlan [klindlan@earthlink.net] if you’re interested in this opportunity to support the UO Scandinavian program.