

FRIENDS OF SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Published fall, winter & spring for the Friends of Scandinavian Studies



Study Abroad students take time out for a photo in Denmark.

INSIDE...

Professor Ellen Rees	2
New GTF	2
Winter SCAN Classes	3
Study Abroad Statistics	3
Membership Renewal Form	4

Friends of Scandinavian Studies

Department of Germanic
Languages and Literatures

202 Friendly Hall
1250 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1250
(541) 346-4051

<http://scandinavian.uoregon.edu>

Board Members

Harriet Bagdade, *President*
Linda Gunn, *Vice President and Secretary*
Kathie Lindlan, *Treasurer and Webmaster*
Michael Stern, *Department Representative*
Roger Adkins, *Member*
Joel Cherrytree, *Member*
Tom Mills, *Member*
Michael Raymer, *Member*
Virpi Zuck, *Member*

Editor

Callie Gautreaux

Contributors

Harriet Bagdade
Marj Biehler
Linda Gunn
Virpi Zuck
Ellen Rees

© 2005 Friends of Scandinavian Studies
The UO is an equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This publication will be made available in accessible formats upon request.

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

I sometimes dream of a sustainable society where there is no need for money. An intelligently organized setting where wisdom is abundant and resources emanate from the common need to provide a rich culture with an innate interest in learning. It is my favorite dream, and at times I think it truly could work. Then I get called back to reality and the need for money is there. In fact it is here. Right now.

Our Scandinavian Studies program is in a dire situation. We have excellent professors and the students are there, but with limited resources the professors have to take on more teaching responsibilities than they should. This cuts into their research time, which in turn delays tenure and recognition. It is a situation unfair to professors as well as to students.

(Continued on Page 2)



Friends' President
Harriet Bagdade

Calendar of Scandinavian Events

Tuesday, January 11 • 7:00 pm • International Resource Center/EMU

Scandinavian Film Series: *Ofelas (Pathfinder)* – Nils Gaup brings the snowfields and mountain wastes, the ancestral lands of his kin, to icy life in this glittering and desolate poem to a people. Based on a legend handed down and down for a thousand years, Gaup's hypnotic first film is mythic realism, a chivalric fairy tale that sets a lone boy with his poor bow against a glacial evil. (dir. Neils Gaup, 1987, 88 min., Sami with English subtitles, contains brief scenes of graphic violence)

Tuesday, February 8 • 7:00 pm • International Resource Center/EMU

Scandinavian Film Series: *Cold Fever* – An off-beat road movie with breathtaking landscapes and dream-like imagery as shamed businessman Hirata travels to Iceland to perform a ritual at the site of his parents' untimely death. (dir. Fridrik Thór Fridriksson, 1995, 85 min., English, Icelandic, and Japanese, with English subtitles)

Tuesday, March 1 • 5:00 pm • 110 Willamette Hall

Scandinavian Lecture: Author, translator, and 20-year Oregon resident, Lars Nordström, will lecture on Harry Martinson (1904-1978), the 1974 winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Tuesday, March 8 • 7:00 pm • International Resource Center/EMU

Scandinavian Film Series: *Leningrad Cowboys Go America* – A comedy about the Leningrad Cowboys, a terrible accordion band from Finland, who nevertheless come to America to become rock stars. After their arrival in the U.S., the outrageous musicians go on a small-scale tour filled with misadventures and peculiarities. (dir. Aki Kaurismäki, 1991, 80 min., English and Finnish, with English subtitles)

All FSS events are free and open to the public. Check the website calendar for information updates (<http://scandinavian.uoregon.edu>).

(Continued from Page 1)

Our board has searched for different solutions and we met with Professor Susan Anderson, head of the Germanic Languages and Literatures Department. We have seen that the program is greatly helped when Scandinavian graduate students come to the UO for further studies. They can help teach the language courses at minimal cost for the department. However, a solution is needed in the event a Scandinavian graduate student is not at hand. To remedy this, the FSS board recently voted unanimously to raise funds sufficient to pay one instructor per year from the proceeds. The targeted amount is \$300,000.

We are asking for the generosity and ingenuity of our members, of citizens and organizations of Oregon, and of alumni to reach our goal. As always, we're open to your suggestions.

Sincerely,
Harriet Bagdade

New GTF Joins Friends

Callie Gautreaux is the new Graduate Teaching Fellow working with Friends of Scandinavian Studies. She is a second-year law student with a B.A. in International Affairs and Hispanic Studies from Lewis & Clark College.

Before coming to law school, she served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay. She also studied in Spain as an undergraduate.

Contact Callie at:
cgautrea@darkwing.uoregon.edu or
(541) 345-3194



Friends of Scandinavian Studies Welcomes Ellen Rees to Eugene



Ellen Rees at home with her husband and their newborn baby, Eivind.

Friends of Scandinavian Studies welcomes Ellen Rees, a native of the Pacific Northwest, to the University of Oregon. Rees grew up in Bellingham, Washington, and later completed undergraduate studies at Evergreen State College. She went on to complete her M.A. and Ph.D in Scandinavian Languages and Literature at the University of Washington.

Rees' academic specialties include modernism and prose fiction. Currently, Rees is writing a book about Cora Sandel, a 20th century Norwegian writer, which was the subject of her thesis and dissertation. She also enjoys teaching Norwegian language and film courses.

Rees brings to the UO experience teaching in both the Scandinavian and American university systems. Prior to a seven-year professorship at Arizona State University, she taught Norwegian

for foreigners in Oslo. She also taught literature in Finland. It was during an internship with the Nordic Heritage Museum when her interest in Scandinavian Studies took root. Rees was on track to become a museum curator, "but my love of literature won out over my love of art by a slim margin!"

Rees first lived in Norway in 1983-84, when she went to Stange as a Rotary exchange student. She returned in 1993-95 as a Fulbright scholar and language teacher in Oslo. She later worked as a program leader for the Oslo Year Program in 2003-2004. Additionally, she has enjoyed many summers in Norway.

Coming back to the U.S. has been something of a culture shock for Rees and her family. Rees says she now sees things very differently through the eyes of her Norwegian husband, who had never lived in the U.S. before. They miss the ocean and "he is still trying to find decent bread here!" Rees' husband is a graphic designer who is currently taking art classes at the UO. They had their first child, Eivind, in December.

Rees says that her first impression of the UO campus was the feeling of "coming home" after many years in Arizona. She is especially impressed by her colleagues in German and Scandinavian Studies and is happy to be back in the Pacific Northwest.

As this newsletter is ready to go to print, we are learning about the horrific tsunami disaster in southeast Asia and its effects on countless numbers of people. Our hearts go out to the citizens of the affected areas and to the visitors from many countries.

Numerous Scandinavian families have been touched by the devastation. May they find solace and may 2005 mark the beginning of hope and healing for them and for the whole world.

Study Abroad Statistics

In the 2003-04 academic year, 813 UO students participated in study abroad programs. According to the Open Doors 2004 Report on International Education Exchange (published by the Institute of International Education), over 20% of UO undergraduates participate in study abroad during their time at the UO. Based on 2002-03 data, this places the UO second only to Stanford University among Pac-10 institutions.

Fifty-four students chose to study in Scandinavia in 2003-04. This was a 46% increase over the 2002-03 academic year. The most popular Scandinavian study abroad destination is Denmark, where 39 students studied last year. Eight students chose Sweden, six studied in Norway, and one studied in Finland.



Above: The University of Oslo campus. Below: Students using a computer station.



A Visit to Scandinavia

Marj Biehler, UO Overseas Study Programs

In June 2004, I had the opportunity to attend the DIS (Denmark's International Study Program) conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. The DIS program is the most popular Scandinavian study abroad program for UO students. In 2003-04, 31 students participated in the DIS program, up from 23 students in 2002-03.

During my visit, I also had a chance to visit the UO's brand new exchange partner — the University of Oslo. This partnership started in 2003 and has helped two UO students study in Oslo. The University has a gorgeous campus and great computer access capabilities. Roger Adkins is the UO Study Abroad Coordinator overseeing this program.

Winter Scandinavian Studies Courses

In addition to Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish language courses, the following Scandinavian literature classes will be offered Winter term:

SCAN 340: Emergence of Nordic Cultures and Society

Prof. Linda Gunn. 14:00-15:20 UH.

Early Roots of Scandinavian Identity through Folklore. We will sample nordic mythology, a saga, a legend, folk tales, ballads, folk music and dance, and finally a folk epic as they have been performed and/or recorded by individuals, artists and scholars in various parts of Scandinavia. The impact of these cultural contributions will be viewed individually as artistic works and in terms of their role in establishing national identity as well as international recognition for Scandinavian countries. Of ultimate interest will be how national folk traditions have evolved and continue to influence national identity in Scandinavia today.

SCAN 315: Cinema Traditions in Scandinavia

Prof. Virpi Zuck. 18:00-20:50 M.

Today's Danish cinema has been called "the West's most compelling cultural voice." It is not the first time, however, that Scandinavians have assumed the role of cinematic trailblazers. During the early years of the 20th Century when film was still in its infancy, Denmark and Sweden were among the most influential countries in Europe within film production. The great

auteur of the Danish cinema is Carl Th. Dreyer, whose film, *Passion of Joan of Arc*, has acquired a veritable cult status among cinema enthusiasts. Ingmar Bergman, the illustrious Swedish film and theater director, still active today, has frequently acknowledged his indebtedness to the Swedish silent era film directors, Victor Sjöström in particular. Like Bergman later, Sjöström and his compatriot, Mauritz Stiller, created in the 1920s a fresh visual language of their own.

The course traces the evolution of Scandinavian cinema from its beginning to today, analyzing the work of individual directors who have established themselves as major forces in the art of filmmaking and observing key stylistic elements through the decades and across the countries.

A preliminary list of films to be screened and discussed includes:

- *The Outlaw and his Wife* (V. Sjöström, 1918)
- *Passion of Joan of Arc* (Carl Dreyer, 1926)
- *Day of Wrath* (Dreyer, 1943)
- *Seventh Seal* (Ingmar Bergman, 1956)
- *Fanny and Alexander* (Bergman), 1982)
- *Babette's Feast* (Gabriel Axel, 1987)
- *Children of Nature* (Fridrik Fridriksson, 1991)
- *The Celebration* (Thomas Vinterberg, 1998)
- *Man Without a Past* (Aki Kaurismäki, 2002)
- *Dogville* (Lars von Trier, 2003)

FRIENDS OF SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

For You: Membership Renewal

Have you renewed your Friends membership recently?
Please continue your support of Scandinavian Studies at the
UO. *Nonprofit contributions are tax-deductible.*

Name _____

Address _____

_____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

E-mail _____

Please register me to receive periodic e-mail updates.

\$1000 BENEFACTOR (lifetime membership)

\$100 SPONSOR **\$50 PATRON**

\$30 FAMILY/INDIVIDUAL **\$5**

Check enclosed. Amount: \$ _____

**Payable to: UO Foundation—Friends
of Scandinavian Studies**

Please charge my: Visa MasterCard Discover Amer. Express

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____

Amount: \$ ____ Signature: _____

Return to: University of Oregon Foundation, PO Box 3346, Eugene OR 97403-0346



FRIENDS OF SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES
Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures
1250 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1250

For a Friend: A Gift of Membership

Do you have a friend whom you'd like to introduce to the
Friends? Purchase a membership in your friend's name, and
we'll send them a notification and a copy of this newsletter.
Simply fill out your own information at left and the informa-
tion about your friend below.

Friend's Name _____

Address _____

_____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

For additional gift membership(s), please enclose your
friends' address(es) on a separate piece of paper.

_____ **GIFT MEMBERSHIP(s) @ \$25 each =** _____

(Feel free to duplicate this form.)