

# FRIENDS OF SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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

## Contents...

<i>A Tribute to Virpi Zuck</i>	1
<i>Edvard Grieg In Story and Song</i>	1
<i>TUSEN TAKK!!</i>	1
<i>From the Presidents Desk</i>	2
<i>Scandinavian Events</i>	2
<i>Swedish Film Series</i>	3
<i>Scandinavian Courses</i>	3

## TUSEN TAKK!!

Your support for the UO Scandinavian Languages Instructor Endowment has been tremendous. Numerous donations of \$100-or-less and several donations of \$1000-or-more – in addition to the Friends' \$15,000 contribution – have increased the endowment fund to nearly \$20,000.

We still need at least \$5000 to reach our goal of \$25,000, the minimum amount that is needed to establish an endowment through the University of Oregon Foundation. If you have not yet contributed, or would like to make an additional contribution, please do so now. These contributions will help us secure funding from the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation and other foundations. This funding will provide the UO Scandinavian Studies program the stability it needs to flourish.

Please use the membership/donation form on the last page of the newsletter to send your contribution to the UO Scandinavian Languages Instructor Endowment fund.

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU!!



## A Tribute to Virpi Zuck

Virpi Zuck, professor emerita in the Department of German and Scandinavian is officially leaving the department after over 30 years of services and dedication. Virpi is known and respected for her humble demeanor and extraordinary accomplishments. She has been instrumental in the department's development—bringing the level of Scandinavian Studies and languages to the point it is at today.

Born in Finland, she grew up in a bilingual town where both Finnish and Swedish were spoken. Although initially interested in the study of medicine she went on to study Nordic Philology, Scandinavian Literature and Linguistics. At the UO her research and teaching focused on 20th century Scandinavian women

writers and Finnish Swedish narrative from the late 19th century. She was editor-in-chief for the *Dictionary of Scandinavia Literature*, a literature encyclopedia covering prose from all five Nordic countries, Faroese, Inuit, and Sami.

Virpi was hired in 1974 as a tenure-track Swedish-Finnish professor.

(Continued on pg. 3)



## Edvard Grieg in Story and Song

Marilyn Vondra, soprano  
Sandy Hull, pianist  
David Wurts, narrator

Sunday, March 11th at 4:00 pm  
Central Lutheran Church

\$10 donation (students and seniors \$5 donation)

Proceeds will benefit the UO Scandinavian Languages Instructor Endowment Fund

The Friends of Scandinavian Studies are delighted to present soprano Marilyn Vondra in an original vocal recital. "Edvard Grieg in Story and Song" features seventeen of Grieg's most beautiful songs – fourteen in Norwegian and three in German. The program also features a narrator who gives a brief biography of Grieg and intersperses the music with brief explanations of the songs and anecdotes about Grieg, his wife Nina, and Ibsen. The concert commemorates the 100th anniversary of Grieg's death.

New York City soprano Marilyn Vondra has performed leading operatic roles with regional and Manhattan opera companies. Her performances have been critically acclaimed by *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, and *Opera News*. *The New York Times* described Vondra's Alice Tully debut on the concert stage as "impressive."

Pianist Sandy Hull has a dual career as a performer and a teacher. Hull performed solo and chamber music in Seattle before she returned to Eugene and established the Hull/Csonka Piano Duo. Hull and Csonka have appeared at the Newport Ernest Bloch Festival – Two Piano Institute as well as locally. Hull teaches piano in her private studio.

Narrator David Wurts is a composer of classical music who has been greatly influenced by Norwegian composers. He serves as the treasurer of the Friends of Scandinavian Studies.

*We hope to see you there!*



**Friends' President  
Kathie Lindlan**

*Friends of  
Scandinavian Studies*

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## From the President's Desk

Happy 2007! For the first time the Friends rented a table at ScanFair in early December. The Scandinavian Heritage Foundation sponsors this holiday festival and market annually in Portland. The Friends advertised the Scandinavian Studies program with a large and colorful poster in UO's green and yellow.

We were surprised to hear so many people, including alumni, say they were unaware of a Scandinavian languages program at the UO. The recent name change to the Department of German and Scandinavian should help this problem, but the Friends must do more to make the Scandinavian Studies program known. We intend to mail brochures to all the Scandinavian-related organizations in Oregon. We encourage you to tell others about our program as well.

There were also many questions about participation in the UO Study Abroad program. At next year's ScanFair we will have brochures for the seven UO Study Abroad programs in the Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. We met one UO alumnus who had participated in the UO Scandinavian program, both on campus and in Norway. He could not have been more enthusiastic about his experiences!

The Friends learned that the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation is fundraising to build a Scandinavian Cultural Center in Portland. We encourage you to become better acquainted with our sister organization at <http://www.scanheritage.org/>.

Hope to see you at the folk dancing sessions, the Swedish film series, and the Marilyn Vondra concert this term!

Kathie Lindlan

## Scandinavian Events

*Events are free and open to the public unless otherwise specified.*

January - March (see page 3 for details)

**Swedish Film Series**

Tuesdays, February - May, 7:00 pm

**Scandinavian Folk Dancing**

Sons of Norway Lodge, 1836 Alder St. Eugene

Cost: \$4 donation

Instruction will focus on easy mixers and basic dances, including waltz, schottisch, hambo, mazurka and polka. If there is interest, "springar" and "gangar" - native Norwegian dance forms referred to as "bygde dans" - will also be included.

Sunday, March 11, 4:00 pm

**Concert: "Edvard Grieg in Story and Song" with soprano Marilyn Vondra**

Central Lutheran Church, 1857 Potter St, Eugene

Cost: \$10 donation (seniors & students: \$5 donation) at the door. Sorry, we are unable to accept credit cards. Proceeds will benefit the UO Scandinavian Languages Instructor Endowment Fund.

Winter Term

**Conference: "Political Theology and the Question of the Limit"**

Speaker Dr. Michael Stern, University of Oregon

Location TBA

*For more information, visit German and Scandinavian events online.*

# Swedish Film Series

All Films Start at 7:00 pm in 221 McKenzie Hall

Friday, January 12

***The Slingshot (Kadisbellan) 1993***

Friday, January 19

***Together (Tillsammans) 2000***

Friday, January 26

***The New Land (Nybyggarna) 1972***

Friday, February 2

***Under the Sun (Under Solen) 1998***

Friday, February 9

***Pelle the Conqueror (Pelle Erobreren) 1987***

Friday, February 16

***Elvira Madigan 1967***

Friday, February 23

***All Things Fair (Lust och Fagring Stor) 1995***

Friday, March 2

***Song for Martin (En Sang for Martin) 2001***

Friday, March 9

***House of Angels (Änglagård) 1992***

Friday, March 16

***House of Angels: the Second Summer (Änglagård: Andra Sommaren) 1994***

For more information visit <http://scandinavian.uoregon.edu/friendsevents.php>

(Virpi Zuck Continue from pg. 1)

She worked closely with Ingrid Weatherhead, who focused on Norwegian language and literature, and together they shaped the Scandinavian curriculum. In the 1970s there was a boom in persons interested in learning about their heritage and "roots", as Ingrid Weatherhead described. The Scandinavian classes were growing and both Virpi and Ingrid took on a vigorous teaching load to accommodate the growing interest.

Throughout her time with the department Virpi served as head of the department and as a beloved professor, advisor and colleague. She also played a continual role in building international relationships between the UO and international

universities and scholars.

An example of Virpi's efforts was her involvement in the 2004 UO- hosted symposium called "Medical Ethics in Cross-Cultural Perspective: Scandinavian and North America." Virpi was instrumental in the creation, design and organization of this event. Part of this required recruiting Scandinavian speakers who gave interesting insights from a Scandinavian perspective. The symposium was developed under a larger three-year project aiming to increase the visibility of Scandinavian Culture by promoting collaborative, cross-cultural, and cross-disciplinary studies and dialog within the Northwest.

Virpi also worked with the UO's

Office of International Programs to promote faculty and student exchange between Scandinavian institutions and the UO.

Those who know Virpi call her a model of what a professor ought to be: whole heartedly conscientious in her teaching, hard working and demanding of herself as well as her students. She is a thoughtful scholar but would tell you she is not. She never brags about her accomplishments; she does not even mention them. She is a pleasant woman and easy going in human relationships. To say the least, Professor Virpi Zuck will be missed, but her presence will long remain with the department and with those she touched.

## SCAN Courses 2006-07

First-year Finnish and Swedish, second-year Danish and Norwegian and third-year combined SCAN languages courses are offered. The literature and culture courses listed below are taught in English and available to the public through the UO Community Education Program (<http://cep.uoregon.edu/>).

## WINTER 2007

SCAN 259  
"The Saga and Hybrid Culture"  
(Michael Stern)  
SCAN 352  
"Scandinavian Crime Fiction" (Virpi Zuck)

## SPRING 2007

SCAN 315  
"Scandinavian Cinema"  
(Ellen Rees)  
SCAN 354  
"Philosophical Fiction" (Michael Stern)

**USE THIS FORM**  
to ensure that your  
name stays on  
our mailing  
list

# FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

## Membership Renewal

Please continue your support of Scandinavian Studies at the UO. *Nonprofit contributions are tax-deductible.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

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- \$1000 BENEFACTOR** (lifetime membership)  
 **\$100 SPONSOR**                       **\$50 PATRON**  
 **\$30 FAMILY/INDIVIDUAL**         **\$5 STUDENT**

## For a Friend: A Gift of Membership

Purchase a membership in your friend's name, and we'll send them a notification and a copy of this newsletter.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Friend's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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.)

Check enclosed. Amount (AGCDOS): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



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