

Rachel Weiner:

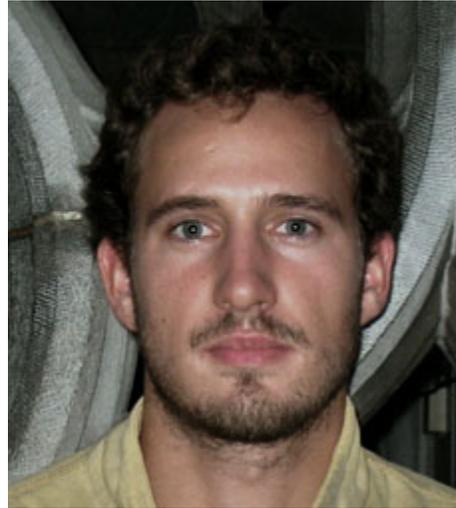
In Love with Sweden

I just finished my degree in Scandinavian Studies after spending fall term at Uppsala University in Sweden. I'm now working as an intern at the Swedish Institute, a government agency in Stockholm that works to share information about Sweden with the rest of the world, and I hope to find a job here in communications as a writer, editor, or translator when my internship is finished in June. I love Sweden and am so thankful that the Friends of Scandinavian Studies helped me to get here!

I started studying Danish my first year at the University of Oregon and continued with it as one of my main subjects during my second year of school, which I spent at University College London in the UK. During that time, I made many friends from Scandinavia and traveled to Sweden several times, which is when I fell in love with the country. Though I returned to U of O, I knew I had to get back to Sweden as soon as possible, and was thrilled to be able to spend my last year on exchange at Uppsala! I now speak fluent Swedish, having sadly given up on pronouncing Danish for the time being, and love experiencing all the different cultural aspects of Sweden, from cycling to kanelbullar.



Here is a picture of me experiencing my first semla in Göteborg!



David Lebech

David Lebech: From Danish to Computer Science

When asked to write about yourself, it is difficult to know where to begin but here goes: Besides being a Danish teacher at the University of Oregon, I am also a first year Master of Science student in Computer Science and a Fulbright grantee for the academic year 2008-2009.

I received a Bachelor of Science in Software Technology from the Technical University of Denmark in August 2008, just before I left Denmark to study abroad in the US. My time here so far has been very exciting with both good academic and social experiences. I have a small class of only 2 Danish students which gives a quite unusual class atmosphere with almost constant direct interaction between me and the students and also a more relaxed environment. I have enjoyed teaching very much so far and as an unexpected benefit, I have gotten to know my own language much better than I did before.

For my own studies, I am currently very interested in artificial intelligence, especially machine learning and cognitive science, and I try to take as many courses in *Continued on other side.*

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the fields as possible. As an undergraduate, I did not have any specific focus but instead got a very broad background knowledge about different aspects of computer science which serves me well as a graduate student.

Living in America is not very different from living in Denmark, except for the social benefits we have like free health care and free education. I like the culture here very much, especially the laid back “organic” west-coast mentality. One thing I noticed in particular, is how good work is much more acknowledged here than in Denmark where the famous “Jantelov” thrives in many places.

However, I should probably not generalize too much about anything, because I have not yet explored the vast diversity of the US, but I look very much forward to doing that and I hope that my remaining time here will be just as enriching as my experiences have been so far.

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