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Mail form and check(s) to:
UO Foundation
PO Box 3346
Eugene, OR 97403-0346

Friends of Scandinavian Studies
Department of German and Scandinavian
1250 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1250

Friends of Scandinavian Studies



Newsletter



*Visiting Professor
of Scandinavian,*

*David Gantt
Gurley*

The Friends would like to welcome Visiting Professor Gurley, who was hired by the Scandinavian program to teach Scandinavian literature and culture classes during Professor Ellen Rees' leave of absence.

Gantt Gurley received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 2007. Before coming to Oregon he lectured at the University of California's Scandinavian Department and was a Harry Starr Fellow in Judaica at the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University. His forthcoming book *Meïr Aaron Goldschmidt and the Poetics of Prose* examines one of Denmark's greatest nationalistic writers as first and foremost a Jewish artist, exploring his relationship to the Hebrew Bible and later Rabbinical traditions such as the Talmud and the Midrash as a form of poetics.

Prof. Gurley is currently working on a joint project that is mapping the sudden appearance of Rabbinic tales in eighteenth- and nineteenth- century vernaculars in Northern Europe. A central aim of the project is to illuminate the mechanisms whereby Hebraic thought is reawakened in the European consciousness. His research and teaching interests include ancient and medieval song culture, the birth of the novel, the Wandering Jew, Long Romanticism, Old Norse literature, the lyrical mode, Hans Christian Andersen, and notions of religiosity in the Danish Golden Age.

To reduce cost, future newsletters will be e-mailed, please contact Lona if you need a paper copy or to update your email address.

Did you know...

The Yamada Language Center (YLC) offers courses in Swedish and Norwegian.

Their mission:

to be the University's service and technology center for language teaching and learning. Besides supporting teaching efforts in Romance Languages, East Asian Languages, German and Scandinavian, Russian and East European Studies, and the American English Institute, YLC also is the home for the World Languages Academy (WLA) and the Self-study Language Program, two teaching programs focused on less commonly taught languages.

Check out their website:
<http://babel.uoregon.edu/>

Scandinavian Events

5th Annual Swedish Film Series

Whitey Lueck is organizing yet another wonderful Swedish film series during winter term 2010.

Fridays, January-March
7pm.

Please check the calendar on the FSS website:
<http://scandinavian.uoregon.edu/>
for details.



President's Letter

Dear Friends,

The semester is well underway and as the new president of FSS, I have been getting to know the department members and the overall objectives of our organization. First, I want to recognize and thank Kathie Lindlan, our outgoing president, for her hard work and dedication as president of FSS the past three years. She has done a tremendous job and I am sure her efforts, and especially her accomplishment of establishing a \$50,000 Scandinavian Languages Instructional Endowment, have benefits to many for years to come. Thank you!

I am very humbled and honored to be chosen as the next president. I am still feeling my way around to see how to best employ my skills in this position. I am born and raised in Bredebro, Denmark; a very small town in the Southwest region of Denmark. As soon as I finished school, Tonder Handelsskole, I was on the next plane out of Denmark on my way to Washington DC. I think it's very common for many young Danes to travel the world and explore foreign languages and cultures, and I sure was one of them.

Growing up so close to the Danish-German border, I learned to speak German, sort of by default, and expanding on that language was very easy. In DC I began to explore the Spanish language. When I moved to Miami, Florida it became a natural transition to further expand on Spanish. I studied French in High School, spent three months in Paris, and took classes at Florida Atlantic University. So one can say, I have a nice mix of language skills; good for travel in many areas of the world. By profession I have worked in management in various industries. Since in Eugene I worked in real estate office management until I opened my own real estate company, Select Plus Realty, located at 1601 Oak Street.

I simply love languages and feel very empowered and thrilled when I am able to converse in another language. It tickles me when someone asks: "So you are from Denmark... what language do you speak there...Dutch?!" Scandinavian history & languages are often misunderstood and not as widely studied as English, Spanish, German and French. For that reason, I am very happy to find a university which has a department of Scandinavian Studies and a non-profit organization which focuses on keeping these programs alive with awareness and funding.

Thank you for your continued support in our efforts at both the Department and the Friends of Scandinavian Studies!

Warm Regards, *Lona*

Tel: 541.206.4837
Email: lona@SelectPlusRealty.com

*Friends' President,
Lona L. Murphy*

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FSS Objectives:

The Friends of Scandinavian Studies(FSS) is a volunteer group whose purpose is as follows, as defined by our bylaws:

The purpose of this organization shall be:

- **To** encourage University of Oregon studies in the life and culture of the Scandinavian countries and the contributions of Scandinavian immigrants to the life and culture of the United States.
- **To** assist the University in bringing visiting speakers, films, or other special programs that will enhance its regular curriculum in Scandinavian studies and be of interest to the community.
- **To** assist in promotion and publicity for such events.
- **To** serve as a coordinating body for the exchange of information on such special events between the University and interested persons and groups in the community.

FSS has raised funds for scholarships and language instruction. In 2007 the Friends established a \$50,000 Scandinavian Languages Instructional Endowment. The earnings on the endowment will help fund language instruction indefinitely.

Volunteers Wanted! Call Lona for details.

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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.

Our Instructors



Ben Lode (Norwegian) grew up in a small town called Varhaug, which is located on the Southwest coast of Norway. He has two brothers, one younger and one older. He went to regular public school in Norway and played football and handball (not the American versions), and a variety of other sports. He also dabbled a bit with the guitar. He has attended the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, and the U. of O., and received a

B.A. in Journalism from both institutions. He also has a Masters degree in Communication and Society from the U. of O. He became interested in language education while he was a graduate student here, and began working for WLA as a Norwegian instructor in the fall of 2008.



Merlin Christophersen (Danish) is studying at the UO as part of his master's studies in Cultural Encounters and Danish at Roskilde University. His main academic interests lie in cultural symbolisms' influence on

identity constructions. He is this year's Danish instructor for Danish 101.



Harriet Ljungkvist Bagdade (Swedish) grew up in Alingsås, a small town close to Göteborg on the west coast of Sweden. With degrees in Sociology and Business from University of Göteborg. Harriet's professional life started out in Preventive Health Care in Sweden. To further this path she later went to Seattle to pursue graduate studies at School for Public Health and Community Medicine at University of Washington. Harriet's career plans changed when she married an American man and immigrated to the US. Through various employments and in different cities (Seattle, Chicago and now Eugene), she has been active in the Scandinavian community and always enjoyed teaching Swedish. During the last five years Harriet has been a part-time instructor at the Department of German and Scandinavian at the U of O.

Upcoming Classes

Winter 2010

SCAN 259 - Vikings through Icelandic Sagas: The Twilight of the Family Saga (G. Gurley)

Introduction to the social, political, and cultural expressions of Viking society through the Sagas, the unique prose narratives of medieval Iceland. All readings and discussion in English.

SCAN 341 Modern Culture: Change and Critique (M. Stern)

Examines the cultural changes that occur in Scandinavia from the French Revolution to the beginning of the 21st century and the reactions of Scandinavian artists and intellectuals to these new ways of interaction. Conducted in English.

SCAN 353 Scandinavian Women Writers (M. Stern)

Examines social issues, especially gender, in literature written by women from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. Primary emphasis on 19th- and 20th-century texts. All readings and discussion are in English.

SCAN 354 The Scandinavian Novel: The Decadent and the Disillusioned (G. Gurley)

Will explore the genre and theories of the novel and its development in the Scandinavian countries. From of the Danish Golden Age, we will follow the evolution of the novel into the aftermath of World War II. Readings and discussions in English.

Where in the world is...?



Logumgaarde Kirke in Southwest Jylland, Denmark.