

11th Annual Outstanding Service Award Presented to Lisa M. Ottoson at Nordic Christmas Fest

The success of the Scandinavian Cultural Center depends upon year-round volunteer service. Our volunteers bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our programs, exhibits, service projects, and community outreach. Each year we select one individual to receive the Scandinavian Cultural Center's Outstanding Service Award. The selection process is never an easy one because there are so many qualified and deserving candidates.



SCC Director Susan Young presents Outstanding Service Award certificate to 2011 recipient Lisa M. Ottoson.

Council. In accordance with our by-laws, accepting the position of Vice President requires a three year commitment on the part of the incumbent, that is, one year as Vice President, one year as President, and one year as Immediate Past President on both the Council and the Executive Board.

When Lisa's year as President came to an end, the Vice President was unable to assume the duties of President. By a unanimous vote of the Council, Lisa agreed to continue on as Council President in 2007. But her tenure did not end a year later. Due to extenuating circumstances, Lisa agreed to serve not one more but two more terms as President. In June 2011 she passed the president's gavel to Kim Kittilsbly, and continues to serve on the Council and Executive Board as Immediate Past President and Chair of the Program Committee.

In her community, Lisa has served on Pacific Lutheran University's Board of Regents and is a past president of the PLU Alumni Board. Currently, she is a charter member of the Greater Tacoma Peace Prize Committee; a member of Congressman Adam Smith's Technology Council; a member of BEST (the Bethel Education Scholarship Team); a member of Daughters of Norway Embla #2; and is on the Endowment Committee for the Daughters of Norway Grand Lodge.

At the Nordic Christmas Fest on Saturday, December 17, the 11th Outstanding Service Award was presented to Lisa Marie Ottoson. Lisa became a member of the Scandinavian Cultural Center in 1996 and in 2005 she joined the SCC Council. As time passed, Lisa's passion, commitment, positive attitude, dependability, and steadfastness became obvious to everyone.

After serving a year as Outreach Group Coordinator, Lisa was elected to the office of Council Vice President while simultaneously serving as chair of the Program Committee, undoubtedly one of the most demanding positions on the



Wang Center International Symposium ***“Our Thirsty Planet” February 23-24, 2012***

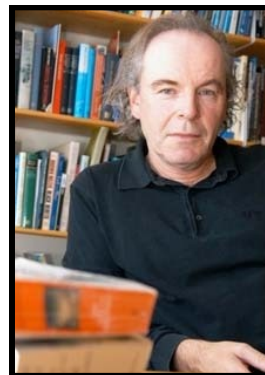
Every other year, the Wang Center at Pacific Lutheran University holds an international symposium that stimulates serious thinking about contemporary issues with a global scope. Students, faculty, staff, and the broader Puget Sound community are invited to engage with scholars and practitioners. This year’s symposium addresses the theme of water - a resource we are over-exploiting and over-using and yet the very resource upon which we must depend to survive. The two-day event draws on authors, business people, academics, and hands-on practitioners to address the great paradox of water. <[http://www.plu.edu/wang-center/International Symposia](http://www.plu.edu/wang-center/International%20Symposia)>



Keynote Speaker (February 23) Maude Barlow is the National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians and chairs the board of Washington-based Food and Water Watch. In 2008/2009, she served as Senior Advisor on Water to the 63rd President of the United Nations General Assembly and was a leader in the campaign to have water recognized as a human right by the UN. She is the author of sixteen books, including the international best seller “Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis” and “The Coming Battle for the Right to Water.”

Keynote Speaker (February 24) Terje Tvedt is a professor at Norway’s Center for Development Studies at the University of Bergen and a Professor II at the Centre for Development and Environment at the University of Oslo.

His participation in the symposium is presented in cooperation with the Thor Heyerdahl Institute of Larvik, Norway. Professor Tvedt is widely known in Norway for his television series "A Journey in the History of Water" and "A Journey in the Future of Water," which were also shown in the United States on the National Geographic and Discovery channels. His work emphasizes the importance of raising people's awareness and knowledge of the Earth's water supplies, water as a source of conflict and water as a vital resource in the struggle against poverty. (Symposium info continued on P. 3)



2012 Nordic Film Series in the SCC

Sundays, 2:00 pm, Free Admission

Denmark—Sunday, February 19, *Dancer in the Dark (Også i mørke)* (2000)

Danish director Lars von Trier directs a star studded cast featuring Icelandic music sensation Björk in the lead role of this extremely unusual musical set in 1960’s Washington State.

Finland—Sunday, March 18, *Black Ice (Musta jää)* (2007)

What would you do for love? Finnish director Petri Kotwica recounts the tale of Saara, a middle-aged physician who discovers the infidelity of her husband Leo with a younger woman, Tuuli. Under a false identity, Saara decides to befriend her rival Tuuli in preparation for her revenge.

Sweden—Sunday, April 22, *Autumn Sonata (Höstsonaten)* (1978)

Sweden’s most celebrated director, Ingmar Bergman, directs famed Swedish actress and Hollywood icon, Ingrid Bergman, in her final screen role. After having neglected her children for many years, world famous pianist Charlotte (Bergman) visits her daughter Eva in her home. To her surprise she finds her other daughter, Helena, there as well. Helena is mentally impaired, and Eva has taken Helena out of the institution where their mother had placed her. The tension between the two culminates to a wave of harsh words and exposure of true feelings that change their mother–daughter relationship forever.

Wang Center International Symposium

(In cooperation with the Scandinavian Cultural Center)

“Cold Recall: Reflections of a Polar Explorer” Exhibition

February 9—March 4

Public Hours: Sundays, 1-4PM, Tuesdays/Wednesdays, 11AM-3PM. Free Admission

On December 14, 1911, Norwegian Roald Amundsen and the crew of the Fram were the first explorers to reach the South Pole. This exhibit showcases images from the hand-colored lantern slides that Roald Amundsen used in public lectures about his expedition to the South Pole. Texts from Amundsen's own manuscripts from these lectures offer a compelling first-person account of this exciting journey. The exhibition also includes original film footage of the expedition. Produced by the Fram Museum, Oslo, Norway, the exhibition celebrates the 100th Anniversary of Amundsen's amazing feat.

Documentary Film, “A Sea Change: Imagine a World Without Fish”

Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 PM, Free Admission

This poignant film addresses the probability of a world without fish should humans continue to act and behave environmentally as we have for the past century. It's a frightening premise, and it's happening right now. *A Sea Change* follows the journey of retired history teacher Sven Huseby on his quest to discover what is happening to the world's oceans. The audience learns about ocean acidification as he embarks on a journey to revisit the communities of his childhood including Norway, Alaska and Seattle. *A Sea Change* explores the ecological, cultural, and economic effects of this alarming phenomenon. It is the first documentary to focus public attention on this impending but little-known crisis - the side effect of carbon dioxide emissions. Public concern about the warming of our atmosphere is widespread, while the other half of the global equation - the fate of our oceans and their falling pH - remains virtually unknown in the public domain. This film broadens the discussion about the dramatic changes in the chemistry of the oceans, and conveys the urgent threat those changes pose to our survival. According to scientists, such as Dr. Richard Feely of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), this catastrophe will play out in coming generations unless widespread awareness is raised about ocean acidification, its causes, and how to slow or stop it.

Lectures by Don Ryan and Liv Arnesen

Friday, February 24, 7:00 PM, Free Admission, Reception Follows

Donald Ryan, Ph.D., will present "**Scandinavia and Exploration: A Tradition of Extraordinary Accomplishments.**" This lecture celebrates of the noteworthy achievements of Nordic explorers on land, ice and sea. Ryan, is a member of the Humanities Division of Pacific Lutheran University and a Fellow of the Explorer's Club and the Royal Geographical Society. He also served as the full-time research associate of the celebrated Norwegian explorer, Thor Heyerdahl, during the last several years of Heyerdahl's adventure-filled life. (pictured right).

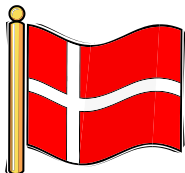


Liv Ragnheim Arnesen, born in Bærum, Norway, will present "**In Tailwind and Headwind - Stories from Arctic and Antarctica.**" Arnesen (pictured left), is a cross-country skier, adventurer, and motivational speaker. She led the first unsupported women's crossing of the Greenland Ice Cap in 1992. In 1994, she made international headlines becoming the first woman in the world to ski solo and unsupported to the South Pole, a 50-day expedition of 745 miles.

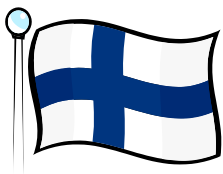


Godt Nytår (Denmark)
Onnellista uutta vuotta (Finland)

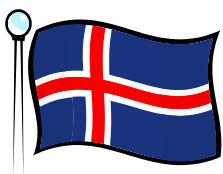
Scandinavians Ring in the New Year



Denmark: A majority of the Danish population eagerly await New Year's Eve traditional events. One among them is the New Year speech of the monarch. Another is the live broadcast of Town Hall Clock in Copenhagen at midnight. Both events are broadcast on radio and television. Bursting firecrackers are a vital part of the New Year's Eve celebration in Denmark. At the stroke of twelve, a preplanned show of fireworks begins, which illuminates the entire sky and skyline of the town. It is done with an old belief that loud noises of fireworks chase away evil spirits and negative energies. In most parts of Scandinavia, New Year's Eve celebrations are done with great joy and preparation. Of the many Danish cuisines served on New Year's Eve, kale is among the favorites. It is served with sprinkled sugar and cinnamon with white sauce. In Denmark, people save old dishes and then throw them at the entrance of the homes on the New Year's Eve. If one finds old broken dishes at the threshold of their front door, it is considered to be an optimistic indication that one has many good friends and well-wishers, and the coming year will see pleasant and flourishing relationships.



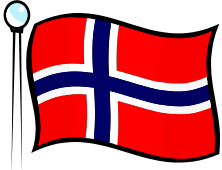
Finland: The New Year's Eve celebration in Finland is traditionally a boisterous and joyful event for adults and children, often spent with close friends and family. For children, the highlight of the evening is usually the fireworks that appear at midnight. After the fireworks display, people usually follow the tradition of telling the future from the shapes taken by melted tin. Shops sell special ladles and horseshoe-shaped tin for this event. After melting the tin in the ladle on the hot plate, it is rapidly poured into a bucket with cold water to see what shape it will take. New Year's Eve serving of meals usually consists of a buffet table with different cold and warm foods and snacks, such as potato salad, sausages, salads, meatballs, dip sauces and chips. At the stroke of midnight, when the fireworks begin, sparkling wine or champagne bottles are opened and people wish each other Happy New Year ("*Hyvää Uuttavuotta*").



Iceland: *Gleðilegt nýtt ár* is "Happy New Year" in Iceland. New Year's Eve is one of the great traditions in Iceland. It is almost as "holy" as Christmas Eve. On the evening of December 31, the mass at Reykjavik's cathedral is heard on the radio by most Icelanders at 6.00 PM. Those who cannot attend the mass itself are listening to it on the radio while enjoying a delicious family dinner. Fireworks and bonfires are very popular, often accompanied by shows, musical events, and food tables. Nightclubs in the city are very crowded and tend to stay open until at least 5:00 AM. *Áramótaskaupið* ("The New Year's Comedy") is an annual Icelandic television special, and is an important part of the New Year's Eve celebration for most. It focuses upon the recent year from a satirical standpoint, and shows little mercy towards its victims, especially politicians, artists, prominent businesspeople and activists.

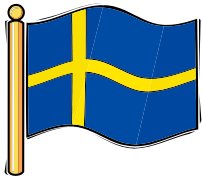
*Hamingjusamur Nýtt Ár (Iceland), Godt Nyttår (Norway)
Gott Nytt År (Sweden)*

with Similar Yet Unique Traditions



Norway: Norwegian New Year's Eve celebrations take on various forms, but all celebrations strive to revive the festive spirit. Some Norwegians can be found partying at night clubs while others enjoy spending time at home, or on a nearby beach, or at some beautiful countryside retreat. House celebrations include food and drink. Traditional dishes of pork, lamb, and turkey are served with wine and other beverages. Eating pork on New Year's Eve is considered to be a symbol of abundance of food resources in one's life in the coming year.

Apart from eating and drinking, music and dance are integrally involved with New Year celebrations in Norway. There is also a tradition celebrated by some that involves small children going from house to house singing special New Year songs. In turn, they are rewarded with candy, cookies, and oranges. The tradition is called *Nyttarsbukk* and it resembles a fusion of trick or treating and caroling. Adults also celebrate *Nyttarsbukk* by dressing up and visiting the homes of friends who in turn treat them with drinks. The preparation of the symbolic dish of rice pudding is a must in Norwegian New Year's celebrations. It is sweet in taste and eating it is believed to confer one with a sweet year ahead. Also, one whose dish contains the hidden almond is considered to have a lucky year ahead, with lots of wealth and good fortune.



Sweden: New Year's Eve in Sweden is not the carnival-like occasion it is in many countries. Swedes are apt to celebrate the New Year quietly at home with close friends and family, and many greet the coming year in front of their television sets. Ever since 1893, when the custom began at the Skansen open-air museum in Stockholm, the bells of Swedish churches have rung in the New Year at midnight.

Since the turn of the century Stockholmers have gathered at Skansen at midnight to hear a reading of Tennyson's "Ring out the old, ring in the new." When radio arrived on the scene in the 1920s, this reading was broadcast throughout the country, a tradition now carried on by television. If you know the right tricks, you can predict the fortunes of the coming year. According to ancient traditions, the turn of the year was considered a magical time, when people tried to foresee the future. Whatever happened the first day of the year was a sign for the New Year. If one received money, it was going to be a good year. If one got angry, it would be a dreary year. But if one wanted to have good health during the year, one was supposed to get up early and eat an apple. You might also tell the future by melting lead and casting the molten metal into a bowl of cold water. If the metal was smooth and shiny, you could expect to stay healthy; if it had a rough surface the health outlook wasn't too good. If the metal took the shape of a cross, it was considered very bad. If it looked like a crown it meant marriage. It was important not to carry anything out of the house on New Year's Eve, as this meant discarding happiness for the rest of the year. If the sun shone on New Year's Day, a good year could be expected.

From the Scandinavian Area Studies Program...



In my inaugural contribution to the *Scandinavian Scene* as Chair of the Scandinavian Area Studies (SAS) Program, I'd like to use this space to provide some updates on what's been happening in our program over the past fall semester. We welcomed a new member into the SAS Program Committee for the 2011-2012 academic year, Dr. Dean Krouk, a recent Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, who will be joining the faculty of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, beginning in the fall of 2012. Dean came to PLU to fill in for Troy Storfjell, my predecessor as Chair, who is currently on sabbatical in Tromsø, Norway. Another member of our Committee, our program's political scientist Peter Grosvenor, has also enjoyed part of his sabbatical in Manchester, England. I'm happy to report that beginning in Fall 2012, we will also have representation from PLU's History Department on the committee in the person of Mike Halvorson, who will be teaching our Vikings course in Fall 2013.

The terrorist attacks of July 22 of this year in Oslo and on Utøya resonated strongly amongst our faculty, with both of PLU's Norwegian professors in Norway at the time of the attacks. Claudia Berguson, who was teaching at the International Summer School in Oslo, shared her experience and perspectives on the events in a well-attended presentation entitled "Remembering Norway" in mid-September; Troy Storfjell and his family had just arrived in Norway for his sabbatical year two days prior to the attacks. Peter Grosvenor, in Manchester at the time of the wave of riots throughout England in August, has been sending back dispatches about the Scandinavian aspirations of the Scottish National Party and on the rise of the "True Finns," a far-right-wing political party with a reputation for racist rhetoric that evinces in its very name a politics of exclusion and who gained 19% of the vote and 39 MPs in the 2011 Finnish parliamentary elections.

Sadly, this past semester also saw the death of our colleague, Sir Audun Toven. Audun oversaw the creation of a Scandinavian Area Studies major, founding our program in 1976, and in the years since was an invaluable asset and a wonderful friend to Scandinavian Area Studies at PLU. The SAS Program has benefited most recently from Audun's work and generosity of spirit in the form of the Svare-Toven Endowed Professorship, for which he worked so hard and so long to bring to fruition. This Endowed Professorship, one of only four at Pacific Lutheran University, will be a boon to our program and enable us to offer even greater levels of innovation in teaching and research in Scandinavian Area Studies and Norwegian as we introduce these fields to new generations of students, and none of it would have been possible without Audun's engagement and devotion.

I'm happy to report on the health of the SAS Program both in terms of its curriculum as well as our extra-curricular offerings. We'll be offering some exciting courses in J-term and Spring 2012 in addition to our "Introduction to Scandinavia" course required of our majors, including "Norse Myth and Saga," "Migrant Literature," and "Faith and Reason in Scandinavian Literature." Our J-term and Spring enrollments are strong, and we are closer than ever to getting a minor in Scandinavian Area Studies on the books for Fall 2012, pending final approval.

It will be a musical year for the program, with our colleague Svend Rønning taking the helm of this year's Nordic Film Series (entitled "Nordic Echoes"), co-sponsored by the SCAN program and the SCC, and which focuses this year on films with a musical theme (See P. 2 for more details). Our annual Endowed Bjug Harstad lecture will take place on April 3, 2012, and will feature the violin soloist/Hardanger fiddler Eldbjørg Hemsing.

I look forward to the coming months in the program and wish all of you *god jul och gott nytt år!*
~Jennifer Jenkins, Chair, Scandinavian Area Studies Program

January/February 2012 Calendar

Public Hours: Sundays, 1:00-4:00 PM, Tuesdays/Wednesdays, 11:00 AM -3:00 PM.
Admission is free and open to the public.

- **Christmas in Scandinavia Exhibit—November 20, 2011—January 8, 2012**
No public hours on January 1
- **Norway: The Vikings, the Art, and the Music—January 11—February 8**
No public hours on February 7
- **Cold Recall: Reflections of a Polar Explorer —February 12—March 6**
See P. 2 for more details.
- **Nordic Film Series**
Sundays, February 19, March 18, and April 22, 2:00 PM, Free Admission & Refreshments
See P. 2 for more details.
- **Scandinavian Social Hour—Free Admission**
Students and community are invited to share their Scandinavian interests and learn a new craft or skill.
Sunday, January 22, 2:00-4:00 PM, Fireside Room at Garfield Book Company
Saturday, February 26, 2:00-4:00 PM, SCC
- **Wang Center International Symposium, “Our Thirsty Planet”**
Thursday/Friday, February 23-24. See Pgs. 2-3 for more details.
- **SCC Council Meetings**
Wednesday, January 11 and February 8, 5:30 PM
- **Norwegian (Beginning and Intermediate) Language Classes**
Contact Camilla at 253.380.2913 or <rico@plu.edu> for details.
- **Danish Sisterhood Meetings. Info: 253.843.2279—Newcomers Welcome**
Wednesdays, January 4 and February 1, 11:00 AM, Free Admission
- **Danish Sangaften. Info: 253.984.6700—Newcomers Welcome**
Sundays, January 15 and February 19, 6:00 PM, Free Admission

March/April 2012 Calendar

- **Multimedia Presentation by Archaeologist Dr. Marshall Becker, Ph.D.**
Saturday, March 10, 7:00 PM, Free Admission
“The Swedish Colony in North America 1638 – 1655:
Excavations at the Printzhof and What They Tell Us”
- **Norwegian Cooking Classes, Daughters of Norway, Embla #2**
Tuesday, March 13, Saturday, March 24, and Thursday, March 29, 10:00 AM, \$5 per class
- **Lessons in Rosemaling, Instructor: Marilyn Hansen 425.765.3694**
Saturday, April 21, Sunday, April 22 and Tuesday, April 24, 9:30 AM—3:30 PM, \$25 per class
- **Norwegian Heritage Festival**
Saturday, April 28, 11:00 AM—4:00 PM, Free Admission

*The Scandinavian Shop at the PLU Garfield Book Company
offers special monthly discounts to SCC Members.
January and February discounts will be announced early in January.
Be sure to check our website and your emails.*



Scandinavian SCENE

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