



Finland's Education System and What We Can Learn From It

Tuesday, February 19, 2013, 7:00 PM, Admission is Free

During his trip to Finland, Hal DeLaRosby (left) had an opportunity to meet with Pasi Sahlberg (right). Sahlberg authored "Finish Lessons" where he recounts the history of Finnish educational reform and details how the Finnish strategy and tactics differ from those of the global educational reform movement and of the North American reforms in particular.



"Nearly everyone agrees the United States educational system is in need of improvement, but there is a variety of alternatives for education reform," says Pacific Lutheran University's Direct of Academic Advising, Hal DeLaRosby. In his lecture, "Finland's Education System and What We can Learn From it," Hal contemplates the success of Finnish education and investigates how the United States can learn

from it. The Finnish model has shown that there are alternate ways to build a good public education system that differs from those commonly offered in world education policy forms. Finland has, for the past ten years, been the highest scoring country on the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), a survey recognized for comparing secondary educational systems internationally on measures such as their average learning outcomes, their share of low-performing schools, the extent to which socio-economic background shapes learning outcomes, and how consistently their schools deliver high quality outcomes. Based on Hal's travels to Finland to meet with educational experts and a review of current literature on Finnish education, his lecture will investigate Finland's educational history, overview the current education system, explore Finnish "sisu" (strength of will, determination, perseverance, and acting rationally in the face of adversity). and discuss what the United States can learn from Finland.



Hal DeLaRosby (left) recently met with Jukko Valtasaari, Former Ambassador of Finland to the United States (right), in Helsinki. "Ambassador Valtasaari provided me with a history of Finnish neutrality during the world wars, and a better understanding of Finnish history, international relations, and work ethic." recalls DeLaRosby.

Celebrating Sámi National Day — “Sámi Álbmotbeaivi”

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Admission is Free and Open to the Public



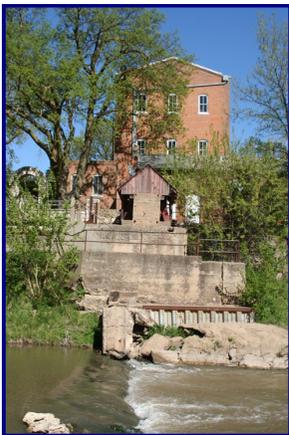
The Sámi National Day, or Sámi People’s Day, is celebrated throughout Sápmi, the land of the Indigenous Sámi in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. The celebration commemorates the first international, pan-Sámi organizational meeting held in Trondheim in 1917, marking the beginning of the Sámi rights movement. *Sámi Álbmotbeaivi* has been celebrated since 1993. Now, on its twentieth anniversary, PLU and the Scandinavian Cultural Center will celebrate the Sámi National Day for the first time.

Celebrations at the SCC will begin at 2:30 PM with refreshments and a brief talk by Professor Troy Storffjell. Then, at 3:00 PM, we will screen the one-hour documentary *Herdswoman (Hjordeliv/Eallonissonat*, Kine Boman, 2007), in Swedish and Sámi with English subtitles. The film will be followed by a panelled discussion of the film beginning at 4:00 PM.

At 7:00 PM, Sámi Professor Harald Gaski will present this year’s Bjug Harstad Memorial Lecture, titled “Celebrating the Return of the Sun and the Recognition of a People: The Sami National Day in the Context of Myth and Poetics.”

In his lecture Professor Gaski will explain why the Sámi consider themselves the descendants of the sun, and provide some background for the selection of February 6 for the Sámi People’s National Day. He will also show how myths have played an important role for the Sámi multi-media artist Nils-Aslak Valkeapää, setting his work in an international Indigenous context.

Harald Gaski is Associate Professor of Sámi Literature at the University of Tromsø in Norway, and an internationally well-known expert on Sámi literature and culture, and a leading researcher in the emerging field of Indigenous methodologies. He has written and edited a number of books, several of which have been translated into English.



“Uncovering My Scandinavian Roots”

Thursday, March 21, 7:00 PM, Free Admission

Lorna Nelson, Genealogist and Executive Director of the McPherson County Museum (left), Lindsborg, Kansas, will present a lecture entitled “Uncovering My Scandinavian Roots” on Thursday, March 21, at 7:00 PM. Lorna has served as the director of the McPherson County Museum since 1995. Overseeing the large museum collection, she has encouraged the development of the institution’s extensive research archives. Lorna holds a M.A. in History from Wichita State University, and formerly served as a supervisor of living history programs at museums in both Kansas and Missouri. With a life-long interest in history and many years of genealogy experience, Lorna’s introduction to Swedish culture and history began with her move to Lindsborg. Tracing her husband’s Swedish ancestry sparked her interest in Swedish genealogy. Assisting researchers who visit the museum’s archives

has further developed her interest and research skills in the field. The lecture will take up the question of how one should proceed in tracing one’s past in Scandinavia, with special emphasis on helpful tips and cautionary comments on problems one might encounter along the way.

Svare-Toven Professorship Helps to Launch New Initiatives

by Claudia Berguson



Happy New Year to Scandinavian Cultural Center members and friends! In the new year of 2013, my work as the Svare-Toven Professor of Norwegian and Scandinavian Studies includes a number of important initiatives that will become reality this semester. In this column I will include brief descriptions of three such initiatives. With its goal to help ensure that the programs of Norwegian and Scandinavian Area Studies remain robust and growing, the Svare-Toven Endowed Professorship grants time beyond teaching to establish new initiatives and it allows time for research that contributes to the field of Norwegian and Scandinavian Studies. As I see it, ensuring that the programs of Norwegian and Scandinavian Area Studies remain vibrant includes

integration of program initiatives into the campus community, the larger communities of Parkland, Tacoma and beyond, and the scholarly community.

First, it is very exciting news that PLU now is a full sponsor of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum and Peace Scholars Program. Established by a consortium of private Lutheran colleges and universities founded by Norwegians, the Nobel Peace Prize Forum is affiliated with the Nobel Institute in Oslo. When I first began my tenure as the Svare-Toven Professor, I worked with PLU administration to establish PLU as a part of this consortium. This initiative met enthusiastic support, and, with the approval of President Krise this fall, the initiative became a reality. The three-day Nobel Peace Prize Forum, held each March in Minneapolis, provides students, faculty and the general public unique opportunities to hear keynote addresses by former Nobel Peace Prize Laureates and to participate in workshops. The Peace Scholars Program is a recently established program for two selected students from each of the consortium schools to participate in an expenses-paid peace studies summer course in Norway. It is clear that the study of peace is highly relevant, and the Svare-Toven Professorship links this relevance to our campus community.



Second, a lecture on the minority New Norwegian language will be held March 18, 7:00 PM, Free Admission. The lecturer, Ottar Grepstad, (pictured above right) is the general director of the Ivar Aasen Centre in Ørsta, Norway, and served on the Norwegian Language Council for many years. He has written several books on New Norwegian as an official written language in Norwegian culture. Ottar Grepstad has twice hosted our PLU students in the J-term course on language and identity, and his lecture each time included his extensive research and insight into the state of minority languages. For many, the fact that Norway has two official forms of written Norwegian is little known, but the importance of being able to express oneself in one's own language is understood by all. The lecture is sure to be informative for all interested in language rights and the importance of preserving Scandinavian languages in our contemporary world. More information on the lecture will be forthcoming. (continued on Page 6)

2012 Nordic Christmas Fest

A Gala Event From Beginning to End

The 2012 Nordic Christmas Fest on December 15, was truly a beautiful evening—from beginning to end. The Scandinavian Cultural Center was transformed into a sea of gold and white décor surrounded by Christmas trees and sparking white lights.

Much goes into the planning and preparation for this special annual event. Program Committee Chair Lisa Ottoson and this year's planning committee (Karen Kunkle, Janet Ruud, Melody Stepp, Susan Young) attended to every detail (table decorations, seating assignments, printing place cards and programs, scheduling entertainment, arranging for multimedia support, procuring door prizes, and, last but not least, planning the menu).



Karen Kunkle (left) and Lisa Ottoson arrived early in the morning to begin decorating.



Janet Ruud (left) and Lisa Ottoson review guest list and the placement of name cards.



Entertainment was provided by duet “D n’ A” with Amey Herman on violin and Doug Heydon on guitar.



Outstanding Service Award recipient Melody Stepp and her husband Bill enjoy the festive evening surrounded by friends.

Melody Stepp Receives Outstanding Service Award

Each year the Scandinavian Cultural Center selects one individual to receive the Outstanding Service Award. Qualified nominees include those who have served or are currently serving as a member of the SCC Council. The prestigious award is given to those who display outstanding service and dedication to the SCC and its mission. The



2012 award was presented to Melody Stepp for her exceptional contributions to the Cultural Center. Since Melody joined the Council several years ago, she has served in various roles such as co-chair of the Exhibit Committee, co-chair of the Student Involvement Committee, host of Scandinavian networking events, and Vice President of the Cultural Council. Next year, Melody will STEPP (no pun intended) into the role of Council President where she will undoubtedly continue to demonstrate exceptional dedication, commitment, and leadership.

Melody believes in the mission of the Scandinavian Cultural Center and goes the extra mile in everything she does, from planning exhibits throughout the year, to filling in as a docent at a moment's notice, to serving on the Sankta Lucia and Nordic Christmas Fest committees. Melody presents a professional and competent attitude with genuine courtesy and optimism that never fails to impress and reassure. She is a "go to" person with a wonderfully generous spirit. It is no exaggeration to say that much of the Cultural Center's current success is specifically due to Melody's efforts. She is truly a gem and is deeply and greatly appreciated for all the work she has done and continues to do.

Sankta Lucia Fest—A Beloved Holiday Tradition

The 2012 Sankta Lucia Fest took place on December 2, in Lagerquist Hall. The event was well-attended and enjoyed by all. Just prior to the program, Lucia candidates gathered in the green room for the official sashing ceremony. Kiersten Bowers was named 2012 Sankta Lucia and will receive a \$500 scholarship from the Scandinavian Cultural Center. Kiersten is pictured below (right) as she receives the coveted red sash from SCC Director Susan Young. Anxiously awaiting the sashing, students strike a light-hearted pose for the camera (L to R: Sanna Vargas, Kindra Galán, Bonney Melton, Reland Tuomi, Katelyn Chrisman, Kiersten Bowers, Anna Milliren, Jen Dyer, Kristin McCarthy, Denae McGaha, Laila Caspersen-Andresen, and Meg Dolde).



Seattle to Host 2013 Icelandic National League of North America Convention

April 4 -7 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel

The Icelandic National League of North America is a cultural organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Icelandic heritage and strengthening the cultural bonds between Iceland and people of Icelandic descent or people with a love of Iceland in North America. The 94th Annual Convention will feature engaging and educational speakers, fantastic ancillary events, and outstanding entertainment. So far, confirmed speakers include Trish Baer, a University of Victoria Doctoral Candidate who will present on the Viking gods as depicted in centuries-old illustrations; Dr. Fred Woods from Brigham Young University, who will speak about the unique and earliest wave of Icelandic immigrants to Utah; Sunna Furstenau from North Dakota, who will reprise a lecture circuit talk she gave last summer in twelve locations around Iceland - an emotional tribute about the love of Iceland in America; Alene Moris from Seattle, who will speak about the strong role of women in Iceland and their progressive place in history; and Don Gislason from Vancouver, B.C., who will share a multi-media presentation about the Iceland Airwaves music festival. This is the first time in 94 years that the convention is being held in Seattle (and only the second time it's been in the States!).

Registration forms are available at www.inlofna on the 2013 Convention Page or through your local Icelandic Club. Contact David Johnson in Seattle via e-mail at Dj4Seattle@comcast.net or call him at 206-235-9596. Early registration discounts end January 31, 2013, so don't delay. Favorable hotel room rates have been secured starting at \$139/night. Reservations can be made on-line: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/IcelandicClub> or by phone at 1-888-233-9527 and asking for the special Icelandic Convention rate.

Svare-Toven Professorship continued . . .

Finally, my own research on the authorship of Sigrid Undset has, for the past year, included study of Sigrid Undset in exile in the United States during World War II. Though Undset is most known for her vivid fictional portrayals of medieval Scandinavia, her life as an author in exile is its own dramatic narrative. At the request of the Director of Special Collections at the National Library in Oslo, I began to research Undset's correspondence with American authors and scholars during her five years in the U.S. It is a little-researched Sigrid Undset one meets in these letters, one uprooted by war yet resilient in her efforts to establish a temporary home in the urban and intellectual environment of 1940s Brooklyn. I will be presenting a conference paper on Sigrid Undset's epistolary friendships at our national Scandinavian Studies conference in May, and I look forward to presenting a lecture to the PLU community in the future.

It must be said in conclusion that none of these initiatives would be possible without the insight of the Svare family to establish an endowed position in Norwegian and Scandinavian Studies, and that vision would not have become a reality without the dedication of the late Audun Toven and his constituents and friends. While efforts continue to bring the position to its full realization as an endowed chair, the vision is seeing its first fruits in the form of the study, discussion and research of peace, language rights and identity, and the writing of an author in exile. Thanks to all who have made the Svare -Toven Endowed Professorship possible. *Godt Nyttår!*

Calendar of Events

● **Exhibits**

Nordic Textiles, January 7-31

Nordic Literature: Fact to Fiction, February 1—May 31

Public Hours: Sundays, 1-4pm, Tuesdays/Wednesdays, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM, Free Admission

● **Danish Sisterhood Meetings. Info: 253.843.2279—Newcomers Welcome**

Wednesdays, January 2, February 6, March 6, April 1, May 1, 11:00 AM, Free Admission

● **Executive Board and SCC Council Meetings, Wednesday Evenings**

Executive Board: January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, (No meetings Jul/Aug)

Board: 5:30-6:15 PM, UC 212

Council: 6:15-7:15 PM, SCC

● **Danish *Sangften*—Newcomers Welcome—Free Admission**

Sundays, February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, 2:00 PM, Info: 253.984.6700

● **Greater Tacoma Peace Prize, Brunch with Bix**

Saturday, January 27, 1:00 PM, \$18.00 per person. Reservation Deadline: January 23.

For reservations, call Tom 253.752.8450 or send check to GTPP, PO Box 731143,

Puyallup, WA 98373

● **National Sami Day and Harstad Lecture, Free Admission**

Wednesday, February 6 (See Page 2 for schedule of events)

● **Finland's Education System and What We Can Learn From It (See Page 1)**

Lecture by Hal DeLaRosby, Tuesday, February 19, 7:00 PM. Free Admission.

● **Norwegian Cooking Classes, Daughters of Norway, Embla#2**

Tuesday, March 12, Sunday, March 17, Saturday, March 23, 10:00 AM, \$5.00 per class

● **Svare/Toven Endowed Lecture (See Page 6)**

Lecture by Otto Grepstad, Thursday, March 18, 7:00 PM, Free Admission

● **Uncovering My Scandinavian Roots (See Page 2)**

Lecture by Lorna Nelson, Thursday, March 21, 7:00 PM, Free Admission

*The Scandinavian Shop at the PLU Garfield Book Company
offers special monthly discounts to SCC Members
with membership card.*

January & February, 2013 —20% off glass birds



Scandinavian SCENE

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

12180 Park Ave. S.
Tacoma, Washington 98447-0003

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TACOMA, WA
PERMIT NO. 416

The *Scandinavian Scene* is a bi-monthly newsletter published for members and friends of the SCC.
Susan Young, Editor 253-535-7322/253-535-7349 Email: youngse@plu.edu Website: www.plu.edu/scancenter

EXECUTIVE BOARD

SCC Director-Susan Young
President-Kim Kittilsby
Vice President-Melody Stepp
Treasurer-Position Open
Secretary-Judy Scott
Immediate Past President-Lisa Ottoson
Advisory Member-James Albrecht, Dean of Humanities
Norwegian & Scandinavian Area Studies Programs-
Troy Storfjell, Jennifer Jenkins and Claudia Berguson
Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection -
Kerstin Ringdahl

GROUP COORDINATORS

Outreach-Ed Larson
Activities-Gunnulf Myrbo
Services-Lisa Ottoson

DOCENTS

Christine Beasley
Esther Ellickson
Margie Ellickson
Kate Emanuel-French
Joanne Gray
Julie Ann Hebert
Carroll Kastle
Delores Kastle
Carmen Knudtson
Janet Ruud
Lorilie Steen
Carol Voigt

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Artifacts-Susan Young
Classes-Position Open
Docents-Kate Emanuel-French
Endowment/Fundraising-Ed Larson
Exhibits-Susan Young/Melody Stepp
Hospitality-Karen Kunkle
Kitchen-Norita Stewart/Clarene Johnson
Membership Committee-Susan Young
Programs-Lisa Ottoson
Publicity-Karen Bell
Student Connections-Linda Nyland/Melody Stepp
Textile Curator-Linda Caspersen-Andresen
Webmaster-Susan Young

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Betty Larson
Marlene Lovstrom
Janet Ruud

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Laila Hansen
Tom Heavey
Maynard Hedegaard
Carol Kemp
Karen Kunkle
Marge Kunschak
Ulla Lindwood
Inge Miller
Gail Sawyer
Nicki Tollefson
Nancy Jean White

CORPORATE SPONSORS



Presenting Sponsor (\$5000+ level)
Wells Fargo Management

Major Sponsors (\$2001-\$4999)



IKEA-Seattle



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans