

# SCANDINAVIAN SCENE

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Upcoming Exhibit: Textile Technologies  
Upcoming classes and events  
Fall Schedule  
and more...







## SCANDINAVIAN COUNCIL MEMBERS 2018-19

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\*Elected Officers

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings Scandinavian Cultural Center Members,

Welcome to the new year here at the SCC! Hopefully you have had a wonderful summer and enjoyed the beautiful (HOT!) weather!

Let me take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new SCC Council President. My name is

Gerda Hunter and I have been involved with the SCC just five short years. Many of you may already have heard my story: at a cookie baking session in the SCC kitchen I asked Melody Stepp about a “very minimal volunteer opportunity!” Well, let’s just say those are my “Famous last words” or in other words, “Careful what you wish for!” Since then I have served as Hospitality chair creating table decorations and working on events and exhibit openings. It has been a lot of work, but really a lot of fun! And the best part has been meeting the wonderful members that make things happen here at the SCC.

Now, as your new President, I am looking forward to getting acquainted with more of you. And that is my

highest priority for the year. You can look forward to being contacted by letter, postcard, or phone call and I encourage you to come to the events and exhibits that our Director, Dr. Jason Schroeder, has planned for you. You will find the dates and times listed in this edition of the Scene. An equally important priority for the year is increased student involvement. With the start of the new academic year here at PLU, we will reach out to the students and invite them into the SCC. After all, wouldn’t we like to meet them and enjoy their energy and enthusiasm for learning?!

Finally, I would like to hear from you, our SCC members, on what you would like to see for the SCC. After all, this is YOUR organization! Let’s make sure we have your input to the year’s activities. And don’t forget that from cooking and rosemaling classes to exhibits and banquets there are many of those already on the calendar. Please feel free to contact one of us on the SCC Council. We look forward to talking with you and seeing you here at the SCC.

I am looking forward to serving as your SCC Council President. Let’s make this a great year together!

– GERDA HUNTER



## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WRITING A SHORT ARTICLE FOR THE SCANDINAVIAN SCENE?

We are seeking articles about the early years of the SCC for the upcoming 30th anniversary of the SCC in May 2019. Contact us at [scancntr@plu.edu](mailto:scancntr@plu.edu) for details.



# FROM THE DIRECTOR



As some of you may have noticed or seen on Facebook, there was a terrible rainstorm in Parkland on Wednesday, Sept. 12, a monsoon that inundated the SCC exterior stairwell turned into a veritable Niagara Falls and nearly flooded the SCC. This happened just

as the SCC Council meeting was to begin. Your Council leapt into action, as you can see in these photos. All your artifacts were kept safe and the

Center is happy and dry now thanks to their prompt and energetic deeds.

I had written what I hoped would be a hopeful message about my first year as your director, looking forward to the coming year, but the Council's actions speak louder than any sentences I could craft: we are a community and we worked together for common goals, because we are Nordic-Americans. I am grateful to the SCC Council and I look forward to working with them for you, our members!

– JASON SCHROEDER



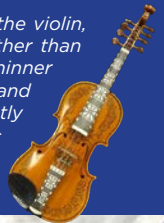
# A VISIT FROM SVEND RØNNING

At the end of the Spring Semester at PLU, Professor Svend Rønning from Music stopped by. Dr. Schroeder had asked Professor Rønning to stop by and give an assessment on our fiddles and Hardanger fiddles, as well as tips on conservation. He took a look and gave us some ideas about caring for the instruments, including that the fiddles should be tuned at least once a year, which we will now do.

If you are interested in Hardanger fiddles and Norwegian-American folk music, I recommend my colleague Dr. Marcus Cederström's fascinating post found here: <http://folklorethursday.com/folk-music/the-devils-instrument-hardanger-fiddles-and-norwegian-american-folk-music/>



*A Hardanger fiddle is very similar to the violin, though with eight or nine strings (rather than four as on a standard violin) and thinner wood. Four of the strings are strung and played like a violin, while the rest, aptly named understrings or sympathetic strings, resonate under the influence of the other four.*





# STUDENT EXHIBITS

We have been fortunate to have several students set up exhibits as part of their final projects for Spring Semester 2018. They will be up through November!



## JORDAN HARRIS

collected stories from Leonard Hammerquist and collaborated with Mr. Hammerquist to design an ancient knife style for this exhibit in a Larson Cabinet.



In the main SCC hall, **KAYLA MATLOCK** created a display about huldrefolk and fairies in Scandinavian and English traditions.



Also in the main SCC hall, **STEVEN MONCADO** interviewed Svend Rønning for his spring course project and produced an exhibit Hardanger fiddles.

## MEET COLLIN BROWN, VISITING PROFESSOR

**Hei, hei!** My name is Collin Brown, and I am Visiting Instructor of Nordic Studies here at Pacific Lutheran University. I am currently finishing up my Ph.D. in Germanic Studies from the University of Texas at Austin, and am also a PLU alum (Class of 2010). My dissertation is entitled *Conversion, Heresy, and Witchcraft: Theological Narratives in Scandinavian Missionary Writings*. It focuses on how Lutheran missionaries in the 17th through 19th centuries portrayed the traditions of the indigenous Sámi of northern Scandinavia, in terms of the prevailing ideas surrounding witchcraft of the period.

My other areas of research include older Germanic languages (such as Old Norse and Old English), the early Middle Ages, religious studies, as well as modern popular culture. So far at PLU, I've taught courses on modern Norwegian language and culture and Weird Fiction, along with a course last spring on Nordic folklore. In the 2018-19 academic year, I also will be teaching courses on the Vikings, Scandinavian film, and early Germanic literature. When I am not teaching and researching, I enjoy travelling, watching 80s movies, and hiking with my wife Robin (also a PLU alum) and our dog, Ripley.



# ANNUAL THOR HEYERDAHL LECTURE: “HEYERDAHL’S GYRE” by Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m., SCC

Much of the life of Norwegian explorer, Thor Heyerdahl, evolved around the oceans. His love of the sea and its role in human history inspired him to become an outspoken international advocate for a clean and healthy global environment. This year’s annual lecture will address this theme with an informative and provocative presentation by a prominent oceanographer, Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer. Ebbesmeyer is well known for his study of “flotsametrics,” the travel and deposition of human debris as it circulates in the world’s oceans. During his research, he named 11 oceanic gyres of currents covering 40 percent of the world’s oceans after the greatest sea explorers in history including the Columbus and Viking Gyres of the

North Atlantic Ocean. For the Pacific he chose Thor Heyerdahl. In his lecture titled “Heyerdahl’s Gyre,” Ebbesmeyer will share observations and conclusions that are fascinating yet alarming for their implications concerning our planet’s future.

Ebbesmeyer is the author or co-author of numerous scientific papers in the field of oceanography. A popular first-hand account of his work can be found in the book, *Flotsametrics and the Floating World: How One Man’s Obsession with Runaway Sneakers and Rubber Ducks Revolutionized Ocean Science*. He is also the editor of the Beachcombers Alert newsletter, with its surprising reports of things washed ashore.





# COMING SOON! TEXTILE TECHNOLOGIES EXHIBIT

Grand Opening and Public Reception Wednesday, Oct. 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Presentation at 7:15. Sneak preview of the exhibit starting Sept. 30.

Beginning with the sneak-preview exhibit opening Sept. 30, the SCC will display the vast universe of textiles. The exhibit will include sources from fish skins to flax, demonstrate techniques of twining, weaving, nålbinding and more. We will display the dyeing process, what's used and how, as well as the myths and folklore surrounding it. We also will show how some of our modern products are produced, where the techniques come from, and how they affect our daily lives.

The SCC will display costumes from our collection, including examples from the Sámi, Icelandic, Norwegian, Finnish, Danish and Swedish pieces. Although textiles are important as cover and protection, they also portray the individuality of communities



through costume design, techniques used, and use of available raw goods, which are so important to producing fibers, colors and medicines. Curated by Linda Caspersen and Melody Stepp.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

We will be setting up the **SCC'S CHRISTMAS TREES** on Nov. 14. Join PLU students and Council members to decorate the trees again this year. Set up will begin at 10:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. We invite you to show up and help. We will need Christmas light and decoration de-tanglers, decorators, tree raisers, and people of good cheer throughout the day.

Nov. 18, join us for another edition of the **CHRISTMAS EXCHANGE (THE SWEATER EXCHANGE)** in Anderson University Center room 133 and the Danish Sisterhood Holiday Bazaar in the SCC. Send an email to [scancntr@plu.edu](mailto:scancntr@plu.edu) to reserve a table at the SCC Christmas Exchange. The events run from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Dec. 5, 6:30-8 p.m., join us in the Ness Family Chapel for the **NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**, followed by a reception in the Ness Family Lobby.

Mark your calendars for 5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 8 for the SCC's annual **CHRISTMAS BANQUET** in the SCC. The banquet will be Swedish themed this year and we will have a visit from special guests!

The final event in our busy Christmas season is the **SANKTA LUCIA CELEBRATION**, at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 11 in the SCC. Join us for singing and dancing, as well as the crowning of this year's Sankta Lucia. There will be lussekatter other Lucia day treats and goodies to eat!





# 2018 FALL CALENDAR

## OPEN HOURS

Sunday: 1-4 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

*All events take place in the SCC and are free unless otherwise noted.*

- Sept. 30 (Sun) ..... Docent Appreciation Luncheon
- Oct. 3 (Wed) ..... Danish Sisterhood, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Oct. 3 (Wed) ..... Textile Technologies Exhibit Reception, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 10 (Wed) ..... Norwegian Cooking Class, 10 a.m.-noon, \$5
- Oct. 10 (Wed) ..... SCC Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Oct. 11-13 (Thu-Sat)..... Rosemaling Class by Marilyn Hansen, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Oct. 17 (Wed)..... Annual Thor Heyerdahl Lecture, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 20 (Sat)..... Norwegian Cooking Class, 10 a.m.-noon, \$5
- Oct. 21 (Sun)..... Danish Sangaften, 1 p.m.
- Oct. 23 (Tue)..... Norwegian Cooking Class, 10 a.m.-noon, \$5
- Oct. 24 (Wed)..... Swedish Cooking Class, 10 a.m.-noon, \$5
- Oct. 27 (Sat)..... Danish Cooking Class, 10 a.m.-noon, \$5
- Nov. 7 (Wed)..... Danish Sisterhood, 11 a.m.
- Nov. 14 (Wed) ..... SCC Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 17 (Sat) ..... Nordic Exchange/Danish Sisterhood Holiday Bazaar,  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Nov. 18 (Sun) ..... Danish Sangaften, 1 p.m.
- Dec. 5 (Wed)..... Norwegian Language Service, 6:30 p.m. Ness family Chapel
- Dec. 8 (Sat) ..... SCC Christmas Banquet, 5:30 p.m., \$45
- Dec. 11 (Tues)..... St. Lucia Celebration, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 12 (Wed) ..... SCC Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 16 (Sun)..... Danish Sangaften, 1 p.m.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE SCANDINAVIAN CULTURAL CENTER

As a member, you will have the opportunity to volunteer in areas of specific interest to you. For example, SCC members serve on the Scandinavian Cultural Center Council, teach cooking and language classes, help with exhibit preparation and much more. Another way to volunteer is by serving as a docent during regularly scheduled public hours. To find out more about volunteering, send us an email at [scancntr@plu.edu](mailto:scancntr@plu.edu) or call 253-535-7349.



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