

**Scandinavia National Advisory Board
Crown Council Report
April 2013**

Summary of Discussion Topics

The Scandinavia National Advisory Board met in October and in February. In those meetings the board worked on creating a Gustavus Swedish heritage and connections statement.

The Gustavus mission statement says, “Gustavus Adolphus College is a church-related, residential liberal arts college firmly rooted in its Swedish and Lutheran heritage.” Online at the Gustavus website is a statement about the meaning of the College’s Lutheran heritage. There has never been such a statement about the meaning of the College’s Swedish heritage.

Below is the statement the SNAB has developed. This statement will be posted online, followed by an extensive list of connections between the College and Scandinavia. The list of connections is still in progress. See the start of the list below.

Gustavus, Sweden and Scandinavia: Heritage and Connections

Gustavus celebrates its deep and ever-expanding relations with the people of Sweden, Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea region.

In 1862 Swedish Lutheran immigrants in Minnesota started the school which would, in 1876, be named Gustavus Adolphus College ([Link to history webpage](#)). Gustavus continues to embrace the values shared by its visionary founders in their commitment to educate students for community benefit and personal development. Of course much has changed in Sweden and at Gustavus since 1862. Many new areas of shared interest, rich relationships and deep connections have been and continue to be developed between Gustavus and organizations and people in Scandinavia. These provide rich opportunities for learning that greatly enhance the Gustavus experience for current students of all faiths, interests and backgrounds.

Gustavus inspires and enables students to prepare themselves for life and work in an ever more complex, diverse, globally engaged and interconnected world. In doing so, Gustavus celebrates its Swedish immigrant heritage and draws inspiration from contemporary Sweden's emphasis on environmental stewardship, individual self-reliance, artistic and technological innovation, and humane and egalitarian public policies.

Items to Move Forward to Board of Trustees

The group would like the Board of Trustees to review and approve this statement on the College’s Swedish heritage and connections.

Upcoming Discussion Topics

At meetings in late April in Sweden and in early May at Gustavus, the group will work to create strategies to recruit more students from Sweden to study at Gustavus.

Scandinavia National Advisory Board Members:

Elin Ahlden '98 - Sweden
Martin Bertilsson - U.S.
Chelesa Bowen '11 - U.S.
Chris Carlson '86 - U.S.
John Clemedtson '84 - U.S.
Paul Cole '79 - U.S.
Craig Engwall '86 - U.S.
Kristen Gray '83 - U.S.
John Hasselberg '74 Chair
Gunilla Jonsson - Sweden

Glenn Kranking '98 Campus Facilitator
Amy Herbert Leval '97 - Sweden
Lars Lofgren '58 - Sweden
Daniel Lundberg '98 - Sweden
Henrik Nordstrom '88 - U.S.
Julia Paraskova '99 - Sweden
Elise Peters '91 - U.S.
Magnus Ranstorp '85 - Sweden
Linda Wallenberg '75 - U.S.

Connections with Sweden and Scandinavia

Academic Connections

Out of Scandinavia artist-in-residence program:

The College initiated this artist-in-residence program in 1989 to develop stronger cultural ties with the Nordic countries and to make American audiences better aware of Scandinavia's contributions in the humanities and the arts.

<https://gustavus.edu/scand-studies/Scanstud/out.php>

MAYDAY! Celebration of peace and justice:

The 2012 topic was "Multicultural Sweden", featuring Swedish journalist Dilsa Demirbag-Sten and playwright Jonas Hassen Khemiri.

<https://gustavus.edu/events/mayday/>

Wallenberg Lecture Series:

Started in 1983, this an annual lecture focusing on the cause of peace and justice in honor of Raoul Wallenberg. Gustavus was the first college or university in the U.S. to confer upon Raoul Wallenberg an honorary doctorate, in absentia. His sister, Nina Lagergren, accepted the degree on his behalf in April 1982.

<https://gustavus.edu/calendar/the-legacy-of-raoul-wallenberg/35641>

Visual Arts

150 Years of Swedish Art display in the Hillstrom Museum of Art in 2012

<https://gustavus.edu/calendar/hillstrom-museum-of-art-exhibition-150-years-of-swedish-art/36067>

Department of Scandinavian Studies

<https://gustavus.edu/scand-studies/>

Department Faculty:

Helena Karlsson, 2007-2012

Glenn Kranking, 2009-

Roger McKnight, 1975-2007

Christina Melin, 1974-75, SI lecturer
Kjerstin Moody, 2010-
Byron Nordstrom, 1974-2009
Carl Olsen, 2012-
Sarah Stevenson, 1980-1983, part-time teacher of Swedish
Edi Thorstensson, 1976-2009, Scandinavian librarian; College and Church archivist
Roland Thorstensson, 1971-2010
Gabiella Åhmansson, 1973-74, SI-lecturer (SI = the Swedish Institute, Stockholm)

Leave replacements:

Catarina Almquist-Lasse Brink, 1997-88 and 1994-95, Swedish language, Scandinavian literature
Martin Göthberg, fall 1989, Swedish language, film and theater
Per Lindberg and Hans Strååt, 1988, two members of the Royal Dramatic Theater in Stockholm, worked with the departments of Scandinavian Studies and Theatre in the staging of *Our Time on Earth*, a play by Vilhelm Moberg
Melissa Lowe, 1979-80
Brian Magnusson, 1992-93, Swedish language, Scandinavian art
Verne Moberg, 1984-85, Swedish Language and Scandinavian theater
Paul Norlen, Spring, 2005, Swedish language, film
Stewart Oakley, University of East Anglia, Norwich, swapped places with Byron Nordstrom and taught courses in Scandinavian history, winter and spring, 1984
Erik Voss, 2003-04, Swedish language, Nordic literature, Finnish culture

Visiting Faculty:

Anna Aronson, 1993, Mora exchange, Swedish folklore/Swedish folk music
Staffan Eklöf J-term, 1990, Mora exchange, Sports in Sweden/Cross-country skiing
Berhard Erling taught a class on "Scandinavian Religious Thought as a part of the "Scandinavian Cluster," 1977-79
Bengt-Åke Gustafsson, Växjö University, 1989 – 90, Management
Britt Halvarsson, 2001, Anders Zorn
Margit Hielle, 1992 Mora exchange, Swedish material culture/birch bark weaving
John Lofgren, Director of the American Swedish Institute, taught a course on Scandinavian art and art history, 1979
Jay Lutz, J-term 1987, The Music of Carl Michael Bellman
Hanna Outakoski, J-term, 2012, Sami culture
Lennart Sacrédeus, 2007, 2008, Nordic Politics
Berit Stenberg/Edi Thorstensson, 1991, Mora exchange, Weaving and fiber arts
Lars and Carina Svensson, Växjö University, 1987 – 88, Accounting
Krister Stoor, 2002, 2004, 2010, Sami culture
Kjell Westerdahl, 1994, Mora exchange, Winter survival course

American Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) and Hildeman/Fulbright scholars:

Krister Stoor, ASF scholar, winter-spring 2004, Sami culture, Indigenous people
Ulrika Dahl, Hildeman/Fulbright scholar, fall 2011
<http://scandinavian.blog.gustavus.edu/2011/07/18/welcome-ulrika/>

Bernadotte Institute on World Affairs:

From 1950 to 1965, the annual Bernadotte Institutes brought world leaders to campus for discussion of current affairs. The institutes served as a catalyst for the creation of the Peace Education Program at Gustavus.

Campus Visitors:

(Roland Thorstensson has a list of other speakers, artists, etc.)

Study Abroad

Institutional Partners

Beginning in the early 1980's Gustavus has had exchange relationships with the following institutions of higher education in Sweden. Since 1997, an average of nine students per year study for at least a month at one of these universities.

Uppsala University (early 1980s)

Växjö University/Linnaeus University (since early 1980s)

Mora Folk School (since 1985)

January Courses

Semester in Sweden Program:

<https://gustavus.edu/scand-studies/program.php>

A new semester program in Sweden was launched in January 2009. This five-month, five-course program takes students to the far north (Jokkmokk, located on the arctic circle), the eastern seaboard (Stockholm), the heartland (Mora and Dalarna), the western seaboard (Göteborg), and the southernmost Swedish provinces.

2009 – 13 students

2011 – 12 students

2013 – 12 students

Gustavus Music Ensembles Travel in Scandinavia

Gustavus Wind Orchestra traveled to Scandinavia in 1985, 1990, 1998, 2002

Gustavus Jazz Lab Band traveled to Scandinavia in 1976, 1982, 1988

Gustavus Choir traveled to Scandinavia in 1967

Athletics

Men's basketball team traveled to Sweden

Swedish International Students

Bernadotte International Student Scholarship Program:

With the funding of the Bernadotte Library in 1950, the College encouraged a strong contingent of international students to enroll at Gustavus with the support of a scholarship fund in honor of Count Bernadotte.

<http://www.internationalstudent.com/scholarships/809/Count+Folke+Bernadotte+Memorial+Scholarship>

Student Travel Grants:

Since 1994 donors have provided funding for a student in the sciences who speaks Swedish to participate in a summer research program at the Alfred Nobel Museum School for Young Scientists at Karlskoga. Since 1999 a donor has provided funding for a premedical student to have an internship at one of the Karolinska hospitals in Stockholm, the University Hospital in Uppsala or a rural hospital, Mora Lasarett. In 2012 a Gustavus Student, Dawn Comstock, was awarded the Swedish Council of America's Glenn Seaborg award. This enabled her to participate with other international science students in the Nobel Ceremony festivities in Stockholm in December 2012.

Campus Facilities

Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library:

<https://gustavus.edu/library/archives/LibraryHistory.php>

1950 - The original library was a memorial to Count Bernadotte, and was dedicated by his widow, Countess Estelle Bernadotte Ekstrand and son, Count Bertil

1972 - The current building was dedicated by Princess Christina

Jussi Björling Recital Hall:

Gustavus has honored the artistry of world renowned Swedish tenor, Jussi Björling, by naming its primary concert hall after him.

Linnaeus Arboretum:

<https://gustavus.edu/arboretum/history.php>

The first trees for an arboretum were planted in 1973 by Gustavus biology professor Charles Mason. As part of the College's 125th anniversary celebration in 1988, the College dedicated the spaces as the Linnaeus Arboretum in honor of Swedish botanist, Carl Linnaeus.

Nobel Hall of Science and Wallenberg Lecture Hall:

<https://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/nobel/foundation/>

Authorized by the Board of the Nobel Foundation, the Nobel Hall of Science was dedicated in 1963 in the presence of the Chairman of the Board of the Nobel Foundation, its executive director, and 26 Nobel Laureates. That occasion gave the impetus for the annual Nobel Conference. The Knut and Alice Wallenberg Auditorium was dedicated as part of a building renovation in 1996.

Barbro Osher Svenska Huset (Swedish House):

The Swedish House serves as a cultural center and Swedish language residence for students of Swedish language and native Swedish speakers. It was dedicated in 2001 and includes a tapestry by Anita Graffman, commissioned by Ms. Osher for the House.

Campus Events

Nobel Conference

<https://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/about/>

The Nobel Conference is a signature program for Gustavus. It is a world-renowned annual conference of laureates and researchers. It is the only such conference in the U.S. officially sanctioned by the Nobel Foundation

Festival of St. Lucia:

<https://gustavus.edu/events/stlucia/>

The Festival of St. Lucia, which is traditionally celebrated on December 13, begins the Christmas season in Swedish custom. The festival is celebrated at Gustavus with a chapel service featuring a court of five sophomore women chosen for their leadership, service to the College and others, charity, kindness, and thoughtfulness. The service is followed by a Scandinavian smörgåsbord luncheon and program.

Swedish Royal Family Visits

<https://gustavus.edu/royalvisit/>

June 1950 - Countess Estelle Bernadotte and son Count Bertil visited for the dedication of the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library

May 1958 - Prince Bertil visited as a part of Minnesota's Centennial

May 1962 - Countess Estelle Bernadotte visited on behalf of the Bernadotte Institute

Sept. 1964 - Countess Estelle Bernadotte and son Count Folke visited

Oct. 1972 - Princess Christina visited for the dedication of the new Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library

April 1976 - King Carl XVI Gustaf visited Gustavus during the U.S. Bicentennial where Evelyn Young and staff served a banquet in Lund Arena

Nov. 1979 - Prince Bertil and Princess Lilian visited and placed a wreath by the commemorative plaque for the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library before celebrating the 50th anniversary of the American Swedish Institute

Nov. 1982 - Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia visited and unveiled the sculpture titled *Sun Glitter* created by Carl Milles

Sept. 1996 - Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia visited for the re-dedication of Nobel Hall

October 2012 – Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia visited for the College's Sesquicentennial Celebration

Gustavus Office Suite at the American Swedish Institute

<https://gustavus.edu/president/asi/>

In 2012, Gustavus opened the Edward and Patricia Lindell Office Suite in the Nelson Cultural Center at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. The space provides Gustavus a Twin Cities presence for outreach to alumni and prospective students and allows for educational programming for the entire Gustavus community. It also symbolizes a more intentional partnership between Gustavus and the American Swedish Institute.

Three Crowns Logo

The use of the three crowns started at Gustavus in the 1950s in conjunction with the College's link to the Bernadotte Foundation of Sweden. The three crowns is the national emblem of Sweden, yet that history has long been debated. Some say the three crowns represent the "Swedes, Goths and Wends" kingdoms in Sweden. Some say that it represents the Kalmar Union of Sweden, Denmark and Norway. Others say it represents Magus Eriksson's (early 1300s) three kingdoms, Sweden, Norway and Scandia. Though we may never know its exact origin, we do know that the three crowns is a symbol of our heritage.

Board of Trustees

Baron Stig Ramel, former Executive Director of the Nobel Foundation – Board member
Ake Bonnier, Bishop of the Skara Diocese, Sweden - Board member since 2008

In the summer of 2011, the Board of Trustees held a meeting in Stockholm, Sweden to help Board members develop further awareness of the College's heritage and deepen relationships with Swedish Partners.