



THE DEPARTMENT OF SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES

HEJ OCH VÄLKOMNA!

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

SVENSKA HUSET



Barbo Osher Svenska Huset is an on-campus International Learning and Service House adjacent to the International Center. It is a unique house with special goals and traditions. The Swedish House is a place where students who know or are learning Swedish or taking Scandinavian Studies classes can live and use the language in their everyday lives. Several social events are hosted there that highlight Swedish or Nordic culture and traditions. Every Thursday the house hosts a “Fika.” Over the course of the academic year, there is also a “Kräftskiva,” a Lucia dinner, a Valborg bonfire, and a “Syttende mai,” event to celebrate the national day of Norway. From its very beginning in 1974, Svenska Huset has aimed to represent and present Swedish (and Nordic) culture on campus in a variety of ways. We have traditionally had one native/near-native speaker who serves as a “facilitator” and/or liaison person between the House and Gustavus’ Department of Scandinavian Studies.

- To find us on Facebook search: “Gustavus Adolphus College Scandinavian Studies”
- Follow us on the departmental blog at: <http://scandinavian.blog.gustavus.edu/>
- Join us Saturday, October 1, 2011, Homecoming weekend for our first annual alumni barbeque

NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR, HELENA KARLSSON

The Department of Scandinavian Studies welcomes you to our first biannual newsletter! It is a pleasure for us to share news about the department and what we are doing. As many of you probably know, the “old guard,” who founded and developed the Scandinavian program since the 1970s has retired. Roger McKnight, Roland Thorstensson, and Byron Nordstrom are now realizing their dreams outside of academia while Helena Karlsson, Kjerstin Moody, and Glenn Kranking have taken over the responsibility of educating students at Gustavus about the Nordic countries.

The department offers courses in the Swedish language as well as in the history, literature, and culture of the Nordic countries. We are taking over a well-developed curriculum, and we are molding it according to our expertise, particular interests, and vision for the future. While we will continue to have a focus on the Swedish language and Sweden, our vision also includes both a Nordic and a global outlook. In the 21st century, it is important to connect Scandinavian studies to European studies and to studies of the humanities at large. Glenn teaches a course on European minorities, for instance, and Helena has developed courses in Scandinavian multiculturalism and crime fiction. For next spring, Kjerstin will develop a course on Scandinavian modernism.

International perspectives are invaluable for a liberal arts education. We think that the study of Swedish and Scandinavian studies can be increasingly practical for the future. Considering the many areas where the Nordic countries have taken on a leadership role in the world—social welfare, health care, sustainable living, design, technology—studies in Swedish and Scandinavian studies can lead to interesting,

international careers in a wide range of fields. Because of the Swedish-Lutheran heritage of Gustavus, the Department of Scandinavian Studies has a role that supersedes the academic. By continuing to organize regular events on Nordic topics and invite speakers and guests from Sweden and the other Nordic countries, we seek to foster a culture that simultaneously respects the past and looks towards the future.

The department will have a specific opportunity next year, during the College’s Sesquicentennial celebration, to honor this dual role. In the fall of 2011, a visiting professor from Södertörn University in Stockholm, Ulrika Dahl, will be teaching a course on Gender and Sexuality in Scandinavia as a Fulbright-Hildeman scholar. Hanna Outakoski, a visiting professor from Umeå University, Sweden, will teach a course on Sámi culture during January 2012. Roger McKnight and Byron Nordstrom will be returning to teach courses in January 2012, and Helena Karlsson and Kjerstin Moody will lead 14 students on a study abroad trip to Stockholm and Berlin. All three faculty will conduct research in Sweden this summer.

We hope that the diversity of our scholarly interests, the variety of our course offerings, and the opportunities we envision for our students’ futures will continue to make the Department of Scandinavian Studies an interesting and vibrant place to be.



Departmental Banner

AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE



The American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis is a gathering place, museum, and cultural center where people can come together and share experiences relating to long-lasting ties with Sweden and connect with more recent immigrant communities in the area. ASI is currently undergoing some exciting changes. Over the course of the next year, construction is underway to create a new, inviting space to complement the Turnblad Mansion. ASI is also creating a special new partnership with Gustavus. In the new building there will be an office for Gustavus employees to work on admissions outreach, alumni relations, and educational programming. Both the Scandinavian Studies Department and ASI are excited about this new relationship.

-Catherine Keith, '12

Being an exchange student is a special experience; you get the opportunity to be a part of a different lifestyle and culture. You leave your family, friends, and even your languages, basically everything that makes you feel safe. Deciding to come to Gustavus included all of the above but there is something special about being a Gustie from Sweden. During my year here I have had the opportunity to experience and learn about American holidays and traditions. I have celebrated Thanksgiving, enjoyed all types of fried food, and learnt the bitter truth of American coffee. However this is not all—while doing all this I have also had the pleasure of experiencing the American interpretation of Scandinavian celebrations. I have enjoyed a weekly fika at the Swedish House, celebrated the festival of Lucia, and much, much more. I have realized the influence and the importance my culture has had in America and especially at Gustavus. Countless people have come up to me and shared their heritage. They have shown great pride in their roots and always been interested to learn more.

Even though I have been thousands of miles on the other side of the globe, Gustavus has been a home away from home.

-Ida Väisänen, Law Student
at Uppsala University



STUDY ABROAD

Gustavus' Scandinavian Studies Department has an extensive study abroad program, dedicated to teaching students about the Nordic countries. Gustavus has direct exchanges with several universities in Sweden including Uppsala University, Linneaus University in Växjö, and Mora Folkhögskola. In addition to direct university exchange, students have the option of taking part in a January term course or a semester-long group trip. Professor Helena Karlsson's J-term course, Stockholm and Berlin: The Northern European Metropolis focuses on the societies and cultures of these two cities through fiction, articles, film, and the social/cultural life of the city. Our Semester in Sweden program emphasizes experiencing Swedish culture through excursions, lectures, and classroom work as well as visiting important landmarks. This program begins above the Arctic Circle in northern Sweden and continues south throughout the term.

Our department emphasizes the importance of experiencing the Scandinavian cultures, and study abroad programs are also available in each of the other Nordic countries. Although it is not a requirement within the major to study abroad, the majority of our students do, and over the last ten years more than 100 students have spent for either one semester or an entire year in Scandinavia.

-Jill Rykken, '12



Sunset over Gamla Stan in Stockholm:
view from the af Chapman hostel

A NOTE FROM ABROAD

Jönköping, Sweden, is the last stop for the Gusties on the Gustavus Semester in Sweden program. The program, designed by Professor Emeritus Roland Thorstensson, is taught every other spring semester and its second year has been a great success. The group, 12 students and one Gustavus professor, left in January and began their adventure in the northern Sweden: Umeå, Jokkmokk, Porjus, Pajala, Jukkasjärvi, and Kiruna. After three weeks in Jokkmokk, they made their way south in February to the Dalarna province, spending a month in Mora. In early March they moved on to Uppsala and Stockholm. After their ten-day stint in Stockholm, the group

parted ways for a ten-day spring break. Three students spent their spring break in England, four traveled to Spain, two stayed to further explore Stockholm, two explored the Swedish island of Gotland, and one traveled to Austria. As April began, they each found their way to Jönköping and remained in the Småland province for their remaining time abroad as a group.

The students have completed five courses while abroad. Two classes were taught by Gustavus English Professor Eric Eliason while others were taught by guest lecturers, including Gustavus alumni. The courses include: People and Politics, The Sámi People, Study of Nature, Swedish Writers and the Nobel Prize, and Sweden Today. These classes ensure that their education is as well rounded as their trip. The Semester in Sweden program is a very unique and special opportunity. It differs from other study abroad experiences in that the group changes location regularly, ensuring that the students see different parts of the country.

Unlike other study abroad trips, the students all move together with the professor from their home university. This allows the group to get to know each other on a much deeper level. The group also has the unique privilege to act as ambassadors for Gustavus, making visits to friends of the college, which in turn offers unique opportunities.

The experiences the students have had are innumerable. Tours of a royal palace, parliament, churches, factories, companies, and museums are among the highlights. Students have participated in the historic Sámi Winter Market, attended the world's oldest and longest ski race (Vasaloppet), and have been pulled on a sleigh by a reindeer. The people the group has met along the way have had the greatest impact. Gustavus connections have been found at nearly every stop and with everyone the group has met, more have been created.

-Maddie Lang, '12



Semester in Sweden 2011 professor Eric
Eliason with a reindeer friend



GRADUATING SENIORS

VALERIE McCLUSKEY



I'm a senior Scandinavian Studies and History double major. To be completely honest, I "stumbled into" Scandinavian Studies once I got to Gustavus, and it was the best coincidence that could have happened. During the fall of my freshman year, I took Swedish 101, and through the language, came to discover the intricacies and depth of Scandinavian culture. During the spring of 2009, I was a part of the first group of the Semester in Sweden program. I often joke that the best time I spent at Gustavus was when I was in Sweden when asked about my college years, but I think it's true. I learned more not only about Sweden and Scandinavia during those five months, but it also forced me to step out of my comfort zone and learn more about myself and those around me as well—something I'm not sure I would have been able to do had I stayed in one place during these past four years.

I have also had the wonderful opportunity this past year to visit Bishop Hill, Illinois, the site of the once-utopia established by Erik Jansson, often credited as the leader of the first large group of Swedes to immigrate to America. As an Honors History major, I am writing my thesis on 19th century American religious utopias, focusing on Bishop Hill and

the Oneida community in New York State. At Gustavus, I have not only been able to discover new passions, but have also been able to pursue them academically, side by side, which has been so rewarding. Graduating is bittersweet, as I'll have to leave this wonderful department. I feel that Scandinavian Studies at Gustavus is unique in the way that faculty and students form such strong relationships, which I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to develop during these past years.

CHELSEA BOWEN



Hej! I am a senior Scandinavian Studies and Communication Studies double major. Comparable to most Minnesotans, I have roots in Scandinavia and being at Gustavus has been the perfect place to explore those interests. Learning Swedish has been a blast! I went abroad in for the spring semester of 2009 with Gustavus' Semester in Sweden program and had the time of my life! Having the opportunity to be above the Arctic Circle in Jokkmokk and studying the Sámi culture was truly a rich experience.

I have had great opportunities in combining my two fields of study in various research projects.

This spring I presented my research at the University of Saint Thomas' Communication Studies Undergraduate Research conference. The title of my paper is "Here Comes Pippi Longstocking! An Ideological Criticism of

Lindgren's *Pippi Longstocking*" and brings forth Lindgren's social critique of 1940s Swedish society through the use of the Pippi stories. Being able to intertwine my fields of study has been a very rewarding experience for me and I am very thankful especially for the supportive environment in the Scandinavian Studies department. I have grown so much during my time here!

ALEX LEGEROS



I chose to focus on Scandinavian Studies because, for many reasons, it is a part of my everyday life. My mom's side are all Danes (the happy kind), so I grew up with the same kinds of traditions, values, and history that we study here at Gustavus. Studying abroad in Sweden in 2009 on the Gustavus program and spending a month in Denmark afterward with my extended family made me realize what a part of my life those seemingly far-off lands are. I thought everyone danced around the Christmas tree, knew about *folkehøjskole*, and ate *kransekage* and *leverpostej*! I love living in the Swedish House and always try to bring the kind of cultural, linguistic, and historical education we get from the department into practice. Gustavus has been a great place for me as a student, and I am very thankful that our little Scandinavian Studies department has played such a big role in my time here.



MEET OUR PROFESSORS!



From left to right: Helena Karlsson, Glenn Kranking, and Kjerstin Moody on Honors Day 2011

HELENA KARLSSON

I graduated with an M.A. from Lund University, Sweden, and with a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. I teach Swedish from the beginning to the advanced level and courses in literature, film, and culture. My main research interests are multiculturalism, race and culture in the Nordic context, and contemporary Nordic film. I am mainly interested in literature and film as reflections of socio-political realities. I just developed a course in crime fiction for the fall, which will engage crime literature and film from all five Nordic countries from the 1970s to the 2010s. We will discuss topics like the social welfare system, Marxism, global capitalism, and immigration. When I don't teach, do research or chair the department, I like to run, ski, dance salsa, rollerblade, or do power yoga. I also like to travel; I visit Sweden and my family there as often as I can.

KJERSTIN MOODY

I grew up in Minnesota and graduated from Gustavus with degrees in Scandinavian Studies and English in 1998. I completed my Ph.D. in Scandinavian Studies with a minor in Comparative Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2010. My area of academic interest is 20th century and contemporary Scandinavian literature, poetry, in particular. I am currently working on a few pieces of writing on Swedish and Finnish poetry, including articles on Tomas Tranströmer and on Edith Södergran. The process of

developing new courses for the department is a joy; I will teach a course on Scandinavian modernism in the spring of 2011, and in the coming semesters, courses on Finland and Finnish culture, and the Icelandic sagas. It is also a pleasure to teach courses in our department's Swedish-language curriculum. Outside of my work at Gustavus, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, cooking, walking, biking, reading, and learning how to garden.

GLENN KRANKING

Like my colleague Kjerstin, I am also a 1998 graduate of Gustavus, with a double major in History and Scandinavian Studies. I grew up in New England, and after Gustavus worked as a journalist before continuing my studies with Masters degrees from the University of Washington and the University of Tartu in Estonia, and finished my Ph.D. in history at The Ohio State University. My research has focused on the Baltic Sea region, and in particular the Swedish minority population in Estonia. At Gustavus, I have taught Scandinavian, Russian, and European history, a Curriculum II course on world history, as well as a course on minorities. My January course on digital history, with student projects on the history of Gustavus, has received considerable interest. Beyond Gustavus, I am discovering the joy of home ownership, and in my spare time I enjoy singing and taking photographs.