SHS Graduate Student Paper Prize 2011

Congratulations to City University of New York Graduate Center art history Ph.D. student Kerry Greaves. Her paper, “Pedagogy, Provocation, and Paradox: Denmark’s Kunstneres Studieskole,” has been awarded the SHS Graduate Student Paper Prize for the best paper presented by a graduate student at the 2011 annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study in Chicago.

Give to the SASS Centennial Campaign

At the 2010 SHS Luncheon in Seattle, then SHS President Jennifer Eastman Attebery challenged the membership to give generously to the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study’s Centennial Campaign for Scandinavian Studies. The campaign will build an endowment to subsidize operation of the SASS journal *Scandinavian Studies*, a publication that is central to our scholarly work. To reach its goal, SASS members need only donate, on average, $81.50 per year over a four-year period ($326). Attebery issued a challenge to SHS members to meet or exceed the $326 needed to reach the goal. If, on average, our members pledge $326, Attebery will round her own pledge up to an even $1,000. Current President Nancy L. Wicker has also pledged the same. When you pledge, make sure that you identify yourself as an SHS member. Pledges may be sent in a message to scandinavianstudiescampaign@gmail.com. If you have already pledged, please send a message to the same address identifying yourself as an SHS member.

The Einar and Eva Lund Haugen Memorial Scholarship

The Einar and Eva Lund Haugen Memorial Scholarship is intended to support outstanding graduate students whose doctoral dissertations examine a Scandinavian or Scandinavian-American topic in history and the social sciences. The grant can be used for all aspects of dissertation work, but preference will be given to those who need to conduct research in archives and libraries or to pursue fieldwork or excavation in places remote from their home institutions. The stipend is $5,000 for use during the period June 1, 2012–May 31, 2013.

Applicants must be enrolled in a doctoral program in North America and must be members in good standing of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavia Study. The deadline for receipt of application materials for the 2012–2013 scholarship is January 15, 2012, with notification of results in February. Submit application materials by email to: haugenscholarship@gmail.com (no hard-copy submissions, please).

For more information about the Haugen scholarship and how to apply, please visit the
fellowships and grants link on the SASS website, http://www.scandinavianstudy.org/site/. For questions not answered on that website, please contact this year’s committee chair, Tracey Sands (enozar@comcast.net).

MINUTES OF THE 2011 BUSINESS MEETING

In accordance with the SHS Constitution, minutes of the annual business (membership) meeting are published in this newsletter. The most recent meeting was held at the Hilton Hotel, Chicago, on Saturday, April 30, 2011.

Luncheon speaker Dag Blanck

At the 2011 luncheon business meeting, SHS member Dag Blanck (Docent and University Lecturer at the Swedish Institute for North American Studies, Uppsala University, and Director of the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College) gave a talk, “On the Origins of Scandinavian Studies in America,” in honor of the centenary of SASS. His engaging lecture focused on several early figures and organizations that served key roles in SASS during the first half of the 20th century.

Blanck’s presentation was held in lieu of the usual lunch-time announcements from members about their activities and achievements. Instead, members were encouraged to report their news to this newsletter.

Financial statement

The April 2011 balance in the SHS coffers was $1228.30 (compared to $1418.30 the previous year). This was expected to increase after collection of the remainder of dues.

2011 election results

Dean Bennett was elected to SHS Vice President, Jason Lavery to Secretary-Treasurer, and Clarence “Chip” Sheffield to the Executive Committee. They took office after the 2011 SASS meeting.

SOCIETY BUSINESS FOR 2012 AND BEYOND

Call for candidates

Candidates are invited for election to a four-year term on the SHS Executive Committee that will become vacant after the 2012 Salt Lake City SASS meeting. The seat is currently held by Shelly Nordtrop-Madson.

Those interested in nominating themselves or other members to this position are invited to submit nominations to SHS President Nancy L. Wicker nwicker@olemmiss.edu by January 5, 2012. Elections will then be held by email. Our constitution gives voters 21 days to submit ballots.

SHS-sponsored panels for SASS 2012 and 2013

In 2011, SHS sponsored a luncheon presentation by Dag Blanck instead of regular sessions of papers by SHS members.

In addition to the standard panel format used at previous SASS conferences, the 2012 conference will also include special in-conference seminars or “streams” that link multiple sessions focusing on a special topic. SHS is planning to sponsor sessions that result from the conference “stream” on “Values, Belief, and Community” proposed by Jason Lavery and Dean Krouk. If you have proposed other sessions relating to history (broadly defined) and would like SHS sponsorship, please contact Nancy L. Wicker.

It is also not too soon to be planning for panels for the SASS meeting in San Francisco, May 2–4, 2013.

Membership dues!

If you know or think that you are behind on your dues, please contact SHS Secretary-Treasurer Jason Lavery. Membership is $15 annually.

AHA affiliation

SHS plans to pursue affiliation with the American Historical Association (AHA). One of the requirements for affiliate societies is that a group must have a newsletter for three years. Now that SHS has passed that milestone, we are ready to proceed and would like to determine how many SHS members are active in AHA. Please let Wicker know if you are a member.

Scandinavians in the West conference

Discussions have begun for a conference on “Scandinavians in the West” to be held in Seattle in 2013 or 2014. The plan is to focus on Scandinavian history and culture in the Intermountain and West Coast states, as well as Alaska, Hawaii, and British
Columbia in Canada. If you have a project or would be interested in presenting a paper, contact Dag Blanck or Terje Leiren.

SHS website

Submissions to and comments on the SHS website should be sent to webmaster Mary Slind. Back copies of the newsletter are also available on the SHS website: (http://www.norse.org/shs/shs.htm).

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

For the first time, this newsletter features a longer report from one of our members, in addition to shorter notices about members’ recent activities. I encourage you to send your updates and reports to the Newsletter Editor.

Bjork awarded Fulbright

Ulf Jonas Bjork, Professor in the Department of Communications at Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis, will hold a Fulbright Fellowship at The Swedish Institute for North American Studies, Uppsala University, during spring semester 2012, lecturing on American Journalism and Mass Media in a Swedish Context.

Gonzalez tenured and promoted

Joe Gonzalez has been tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Liberal Studies at California State University, Fullerton.

Jason Lavery on Finnish elections

Jason Lavery, Associate Professor of History at Oklahoma State University, was interviewed by the Greek Daily Vima and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation after the Finnish parliamentary elections in May.

Slind promoted

Mary Slind has been promoted to full professor and has also become department head of the Department of History at Luther College.

Wicker edits Medieval Archaeology

Nancy L. Wicker, Professor of Art History at The University of Mississippi, was named an Associate Editor of Medieval Archaeology.

Atterbery reports on Fulbright

Jennifer Eastman Atterbery has returned to Idaho State University after spending 2010–2011 in Uppsala as a Fulbright Distinguished Professor. She offers the following report on her time in Uppsala.

Some Reflections on the Fulbright Experience

Jennifer Eastman Atterbery

During January–May 2011 I enjoyed observing the lengthening of Nordic days from my first very dark and later very sun-lit office in Engelska Parken, the series of joined buildings that make up the humanities campus at Uppsala University. The name comes from the park beside the campus, which is known as the English park because it is not neatly arranged in geometric and balanced beds and borders. The English department where I was located as the Distinguished Fulbright Professor in American Studies, is, of course, a language department in which language and linguistics are at least as important as literary studies. Uppsala is unusual in having the only American literature professorship in Sweden, currently held by Dr. Danuta Fjellestad, whose research concerns visuality in contemporary print texts. The university also has an American Studies Institute (SINAS), directed for many years by Professor Eric Åsard, whose specializations include political rhetoric and the American presidency. The department is roughly one-third American literature and American studies, one-third British literature, and one-third language/linguistics. Among the many excellent Americanists is Dag Blanck, well known to us in SHS and SASS.

With these scholars as temporary colleagues, I had an intellectually stimulating semester—one that really demonstrated what a Fulbright should be. The entire humanities campus at Uppsala University hummed with the faculty and students’ deep engagement in intellectual activity. Both departments and institutes sponsored so many events—seminars, lectures, symposia—that every week I received announcements for events that intersected with my interests. For example, the annual lecture sponsored by the Hugo Valentin Institute was delivered by Docent Nanci Adler from the Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam, speaking on “narratives of loyalty” told by Communist party members in the mid-20th century, an inquiry pulling together history, folklore, narratology, psychology, and political science. Many of the institutes at Uppsala similarly
attempt to nurture inquiry in research areas that cut across disciplines, the kind of interdisciplinary work that we value at SASS.

My time during March was dominated by the course I taught, 20th-century American Indian folklore and literature. My students were sharp, hard working, and eager to participate in discussion. They made my job easy, fun, and gratifying. I had students from Sweden, the USA, Turkey, Greece, and Canada. Because of this mix of points of origin we found it additionally interesting to compare our cultures. The Swedish system places high expectations on the students. There is less contact time in the classroom, but students are expected to devote full time to their studies outside of the classroom. With two 2-academic-hour seminars per week, the number of pages assigned per week is roughly 200 pages of secondary texts or the equivalent of two novels, if primary texts. Students are encouraged to go beyond this assigned reading by exploring related topics on their own. Yet, there is relatively little assigned writing, usually the equivalent of one short report and one longer essay or take-home examination. Participation in discussion is assumed to contribute to the students’ grades, but without quantifying what that means. For course grades I had only three choices—high pass, pass, or fail—which represented a real lack of flexibility and range from my American point of view.

In addition to teaching the course, I had several speaking engagements: at Uppsala, Södertörn University (Stockholm), Linnaeus University (Växjö), and the University of Münster, Germany. But the bulk of my time was spent in research and writing. What a pleasure it was to have colleagues just down the hall who were interested in and knowledgeable about Swedish America, with whom I could discuss many of the issues that arose as I wrote! Additionally, the Swedish library system was essential in providing hard-to-locate secondary sources. A research trip in April to the Emigrant Institute, Växjö, allowed me to examine some additional primary sources: fieldwork notes compiled by an early 20th-century creative writer, Albin Widén, who surveyed and interacted with Swedish-Americans in the period between the two world wars. By the time I left Sweden at the end of May, my book manuscript on the spring-to-summer holidays was half-finished. I look forward to sharing some of my conclusions with SHS/SASS members in paper presentations.

Faculty in Uppsala worry about the future of the humanities and they complain about having to attend administrative meetings, but these worries and complaints are minor in comparison to the quality of their teaching and research experience at Uppsala. I treasured my time there and have attempted to internalize and bring back with me to the Rocky Mountain West a sense of the kind of intellectual engagement I saw around me in Sweden.

**Society of Historians of Scandinavia**

Officers (date term of office ends)
President: Nancy L. Wicker (2013)
Vice President: Dean Bennett (2013)
Secretary-Treasurer: Jason Lavery (2015)
Immediate Past President: Jennifer Eastman Attebery (2013)

Executive Committee
Michelle Nordtorg-Madson (2012)
Glenn Kraning (2013)
Joseph Gonzalez (2014)
Clarence “Chip” Sheffield (2015)

Webmaster
Marv Slind

Newsletter Editor
Nancy L. Wicker (2013)