DEPARTMENT OF SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES

The Department of Scandinavian Studies researches and teaches about eight countries with different but related languages and cultures. Faculty expertise stretches from the Vikings to the Nobel Peace Prize, from Henrik Ibsen to Karen Blixen to Scandinavian poetry, from the Baltic Singing Revolution to Nordic Noir. Scandinavian Studies offers opportunities to look at the world from a variety of perspectives, and to understand how small nations have played global roles.

Highlights

The Department of Scandinavian Studies was established by an act of the Washington State Legislature in 1909.

In 2003, the Swedish Institute honored the Department of Scandinavian Studies’ Swedish Program, identifying it as one of the two best Swedish programs outside of Sweden.

The Department’s Baltic Studies program is the only such program in the U.S. and celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2014.

The Department’s Finnish Program celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2015.

An endowed professorship has been established in Baltic Studies.

Endowed chairs have been established in Norwegian and Swedish Studies.

Education

Students can earn a BA with a major in Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish (with emphasis on languages and literature) or Scandinavian Area Studies (with emphasis on history, politics, folklore, and Baltic Studies). Graduate students can earn an MA degree in Scandinavian Languages and Literature or Scandinavian Area Studies. A PhD is available with an emphasis in languages and literature. The Baltic Studies program offers courses in the languages and cultures of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Average class sizes within the department are relatively small and students have easy access to the faculty.

Study abroad programs are offered in the Scandinavian and Baltic countries for full-year, one-quarter, or September-only terms. Special study abroad courses are also occasionally offered.

Graduates from the department have gone on to successful careers in a wide range of occupations, including teaching, government service, business, and industry.

Most recently, graduates have found extensive opportunities in the field of information technology with the numerous software and internet companies in the Puget Sound Region.

STUDENTS (Spring 2017)

- 29 Undergraduate majors
- 28 Undergraduate minors
- 6 Master of Arts student
- 7 PhD students

DEGREES AWARDED (2016 - 2017)

- 15 Bachelor of Arts degrees
- 2 Master of Arts degrees
- 14 Departmental minors

MAJOR STUDENT AWARDS (2015-2017)

- American-Scandinavian Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
- Kielland-Løvdal Fellowship
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Dean's Medal in the Humanities
- Alvord Fellowship in the Humanities
- Fritz Fellowship in the Humanities
- Nadia Christensen Scholar in Nordic Studies
Faculty

Awards and leadership roles for Department of Scandinavian Studies faculty have included:

5 American-Scandinavian Foundation Grants
1 Knight of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit
3 Presidents of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study
1 Swedish Collegium for Advanced Studies Fellow
1 University of Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies Fellow

Scholarship

Faculty research includes the comprehensive study of Scandinavian and Baltic Literature, history, politics, and culture. Current research projects include rhetoric and critical theory in Norwegian literature, perception of Vikings in history, the plays of August Strindberg, the roles of small states in international relations, globalization and identity construction in Finland, and Baltic folklore, song, and identity.

Strong interdisciplinary ties with other departments include Comparative Literature; History; Political Science; Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies; Sociology; Drama; Architecture; and the Jackson School of International Studies.

Outreach

By working with its Advisory Board, the Department of Scandinavian Studies has maintained exceptionally close ties with various Scandinavian and Baltic communities. Department faculty serve regularly as facilitators, speakers, and area specialists for community organizations and groups, including ethnic venues throughout the Baltic and Scandinavian communities of the Northwest such as the Nordic Heritage Museum.

Faculty and Student Support

Chairs and Professorships
Barbro Osher Endowed Professorship of Swedish Studies
Kazickas Family Endowed Professorship in Baltic Studies
Sverre Arestad Endowed Chair in Norwegian Studies

Department Fellowships & Scholarships

The Department awards meritorious students support from the following funds:

Alf Kristian Aulie-Simrad Endowed Fund
Synnove Lien Fielding Endowed Fund
Nadia Christensen Endowment
Ann-Marie & Gunnar Gavel Endowment
Leslie Grove Memorial Fund
Gertrude Holdal Endowment
Kalevala Endowed Fund
Bernice Kellogg Endowed Fund
Kielland-Lavdal Fellowship
Langins Endowed Fund
Terje Leiren Endowed Fund
Martin & Ruth Metzon Fund
Scott Nelskog Memorial Fund
Edwin Vickner Endowed Fund
Paul O. Nielsen Educational Endowment Fund
Norwegian American Community Fund
Peterson Family Endowed Fund
Raisys/Liffick Endowed Fund
Scandinavian Exchange Fund
Kathe & Ragnar Steene Endowed Fund
SWEA Endowment
Tetri Endowed Fund
Totoraitis/Roberts Endowed Fund
Dr. Werner & Mrs. Margit Weingarten Fund
John Phillip and Tasha Morgridge Endowed Fund for Scandinavian Studies

AREAS OF SCHOLARSHIP

Scandinavian Literature and Culture
Scandinavian and Baltic Folklore
Scandinavian Politics
Scandinavian History
Scandinavian-American History and Culture
Scandinavian Cinema
National Identity in Scandinavia
Ibsen, Strindberg, Hans Christian Andersen
Baltic Studies
Small States in International Relations
Sexuality and Society
Globalization

FACULTY (Autumn 2017)

3 Professors
1 Associate Professor
2 Assistant Professors
1 Senior Lecturer
4 Visiting Lecturers
6 Emeritus Professors

last update: December 2017