

Scandinavian Studies

Scandinavian Update

By Johanna Eriksson

The Scandinavian Program at the University of Michigan has had a great academic year. We are delighted to boast that we had full first- and second-year Swedish courses. Moreover, eight motivated and talented students enrolled in third-year Swedish. Following are more highlights:

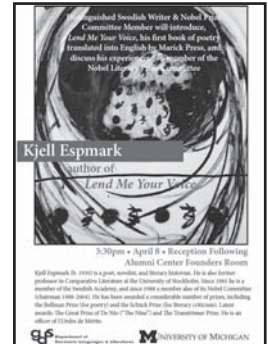
- Thanks to a generous grant from Barbro Osher's Pro Suecia Foundation, we were able to invite Professor David Östlund from Sweden to teach a course on the history of the Swedish Welfare Model during the Winter semester.
- The department's long-term goal is to secure funding so that we may offer a specialized course on Scandinavia that is taught in English on a regular basis. Professor Östlund's residence was a marvelous demonstration of the great impact that such a course can have.
- We continue our collaboration with Campeon Frigymnasium in Helsingborg, and had a wonderful study trip during spring break. For most students, this was their first trip to Sweden; for others, this was their first trip outside of the U.S. This collaboration provides a unique experience for students to participate in everyday Swedish life. Students are hosted by Swedish families, take part in schoolwork, and explore several cities, small towns and the countryside of south Sweden.
- On April 8th, the well attended Signe Karlström Event hosted Professor Kjell Espmark. He is a member of the Swedish Academy and its Nobel Prize Committee. Professor Espmark introduced, *Lend Me Your Voice*, his first book of poetry translated into English and discussed his experiences as a member of the Nobel Literary Prize Committee. Espmark was also a guest speaker in the third-year Swedish class.

- The Annual Signe Karlström Event provides an opportunity to showcase Swedish culture. It also attracts students and members of the community, which is a priority for our program. In the Fall of 2011, we plan to present tenor Mats Carlsson, in collaboration with the Jenny Lind Club and SWEA Michigan.

A number of students are planning to study or work in Sweden this summer:

- Second-year Swedish students Meredith Westerlund, Alex Redman and Britta Rosendahl will spend six weeks at Uppsala International Summer Session. This program combines intensive language studies with interesting weekend trips through Scandinavia.
- Two students have secured summer internships in Sweden: Second-year Swedish student Collin Wassell, who is majoring in composition at the School of Music, will spend the summer at Drottningholms Slottsteater, an authentic 18th century theater near the city of Stockholm. Andrew Tuck, another Music student, and Third-year Swedish student who is minoring in Scandinavian studies, will work as an actor at Fredriksdals friluftsmuseum in Helsingborg.
- Scott Templin (B.A. '11) has applied for a Fulbright grant to study immigration and integration in Sweden for the next academic year.

We continue to pursue our goal of providing all students who are interested in studying or working in Sweden with funding to cover the extra expenses that may prevent them from traveling abroad. If you are interested in helping us reach this goal, please contact me at johannae@umich.edu. *Thank you and have a great summer!*



Images from Kjell Espmark's presentation for the Signe Karlström Event (top) and David Ostlund's course flier (bottom)