Dear Alumni,

We are pleased to present the Uppsala University U.S. Alumni Chapter’s Annual Report for 2015. Since its establishment in 2012, the Chapter has seen great success, and has continued to increase its alumni outreach each year. This year is no exception, and we are happy to report that we now have more registered members in our Alumni Network than ever before. We are so grateful to each and every one of our members for their support and attendance at our events.

The New York Chapter has hosted a vast array of events in 2015, including Speaker Events, After Work Networking Events, Special Seminars, and Gasques, for our new and returning members to enjoy. In addition, the UU U.S. West Coast Chapter continues to go from strength to strength, adding many new members and events this year. Moreover, the members of our newest sub-chapter, the UU U.S. Minnesota Chapter, have quickly established themselves and show great promise for continued work in 2016. Events from each of our U.S. chapters are presented in more detail on pages 8 through 12.

On behalf of the UU U.S. Alumni Chapter, we want to express our sincerest gratitude to the American Friends of Uppsala University, without whom we would not be able to continue the work we do, and who enable our continuous collaboration with SACC New York through the initiative of a fifth consecutive Uppsala University Scholar in 2016.

Finally, we would like to express our deepest thanks to our outgoing Chairman, Rolf Marquardt, whose leadership has been invaluable to the Chapter’s growth and prosperity over these past two years. We also wish to thank our longstanding board member, Anna Aggeryd, who dedicated so much of her time and her many talents to serve the Chapter. Both Rolf and Anna have returned to Sweden after several successful years in New York. On behalf of the entire Chapter, we wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

We are excited to see what next year will bring, and we look forward to seeing you at our many events in 2016!

The Board of Directors
UU U.S. Alumni Chapter
Founded in 2012, the Uppsala University U.S. Alumni Chapter is the U.S. division of Uppsala University’s International Alumni Chapters. The chapter aims to create and maintain a strong relationship between the University and its alumni through events and activities in the United States, in addition to spreading the word to prospective students and encourage fundraising to the University.

The UU U.S. Alumni Chapter has two regional sub-chapters; Minnesota and the West Coast, in addition to the founding chapter located in New York.

Uppsala University U.S. Alumni Chapter is intended for anyone who has studied, works or has worked at the University, currently or permanently residing in the United States. Honorary Doctors, visiting researchers, Board Members, and others with close relations to the University are also counted as alumni and invited to be a part of the Alumni Chapter. Membership in the U.S. Alumni Chapter is free of charge.

A large part of the Chapter’s activities is alumni outreach. Our goal is to reconnect alumni to Uppsala University and to celebrate the many old traditions that create the unique student life in Uppsala. The Chapter organizes several events per year in three areas; New York City, Minneapolis and the San Francisco Bay Area. These events provide a great setting for networking and reconnecting with friends, as well as finding new acquaintances.

The Annual Report is published every year in connection with the New York Chapter’s Annual General Meeting & Gasque in November. This report serves to describe the Chapter’s activities from November 2014 to October 2015.
Identifying and connecting alumni in the United States is the Chapter’s main purpose. Recruiting alumni to become a part of the U.S. Chapter is an ongoing process, facilitated through LinkedIn and social media outreach, word-of-mouth, and the University register.

Alumni are considered members of the U.S. Chapter when they have registered in Uppsala University’s Alumni Network. Since the Chapter’s initiation in 2012, we have seen a continued growth in membership every year. To this date (November 2015) the U.S. Alumni Chapter has increased its membership by 20 percent during 2015 and currently has 326 registered members in the network. With this we have reached the objective for this year, as set by the Board, to achieve an increase of registered members by 20 percent at year’s end.

Membership in the U.S. Alumni Chapter continues to be free of charge in order to lower the threshold and attract all alumni present in the United States.

In 2013, a LinkedIn group named “Uppsala University US Alumni Chapter” was created to increase the reach and visibility of entering the Chapter. To keep the LinkedIn group relevant for networking and event information purposes, it is a closed group that alumni and friends of the University can request to join. The group has since its inception grown significantly and as of November 2015 includes 281 members.

The demographics of the U.S. Chapter in the Uppsala University’s Alumni Network reflect the U.S. Chapter sub-chapter locations. The largest percentages of alumni reside in the greater New York area, the California area, and the Minnesota area. A significant percentage of alumni have indicated that they reside in Sweden, which reflects the movements of Uppsala University alumni between Sweden and the U.S.
The UU U.S. Alumni Chapter has since its foundation been generously supported by the American Friends of Uppsala University (AFUU)—a non-profit organization that supports research and education at Uppsala University. Without the continued support of AFUU, the UU U.S. Alumni Chapter would not be able to organize events that are free of charge to alumni.

The UU U.S. Alumni Chapter hosted more than 14 events to which alumni were invited during 2015. The large majority of these events have been free of charge in order to attract all alumni. American Friends of Uppsala University have generously sponsored and contributed between 50 - 100 percent of all costs associated with the larger events organized by the Chapter in 2015.

In addition, Uppsala University has kindly provided the UU U.S. chapter with printed marketing material, brochures, and giveaways during the year.

Fundraising
A long-term objective for the Chapter is to encourage fundraising to Uppsala University through American Friends of Uppsala University. Contributions to AFUU are deductible by donors as provided by law. To lower the threshold and encourage contributions by alumni to AFUU, the UU U.S. Chapter in New York has in 2015 continued last year’s initiative to offer alumni the option to contribute when they sign up for events. Through this initiative, the Chapter has increased the number of alumni who donate, and we are hopeful that it will provide alumni with a simple way to support the University.

Please visit www.afuu.org to support AFUU and Uppsala University.
The UU U.S. Alumni Chapter continues to develop and expand its channels for communication with alumni. Alumni have during 2015 been able to connect with and gather information about the Chapter through its website, LinkedIn Group, and the new Uppsala University Alumni Network. The Chapter has also continued to develop its email marketing strategy in 2015, and implemented a Calendar of Events to be sent out to members at least twice a year, to keep them up to date on what’s going on in the different sub-chapters.

Alumni Network
In the spring of 2015, the UU U.S. Alumni Chapter launched a new alumni network to keep alumni in touch with the Chapter and the University. The new network functions primarily as a database for alumni coordinators to use, where the previous system served more as an interactive platform for the use of alumni. The switch was made to transition from a platform reliant on alumni being active themselves, to a database serving the needs of alumni coordinators’, in order to facilitate their work in outreach and contact with alumni.

Calendar of Events
One initiative of the U.S. Alumni Chapter in 2015 was to expand its email marketing strategy to include Calendar of Events. The Calendar of Events will be sent out to all members at least twice a year—one in the spring and one in the fall—and should include the upcoming events for all three sub-chapters, in an attempt to both increase the visibility of the Chapter’s events, and to enforce a sense of community between the sub-chapters. The first Calendar of Events was sent out to all members in the U.S. in early September of 2015, informing recipients of the upcoming fall events for all three chapters.

For more information about the Uppsala University Alumni Network, please visit alumnnatverk.uu.se.

You can also find us on LinkedIn, where you can get information about the Chapter, its events, and connect with fellow alumni.
The UU U.S. Alumni Chapter was founded in New York in 2012, in connection with the inauguration of the Uppsala University Scholarship at the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce in New York. Both the Chapter’s Board of Directors and the Uppsala University Scholar is based in the area. The New York Chapter has close to 500 alumni located in the Tri-State area on its main email list, of which between 20-45 people attend each event.

The Chapter has since its foundation established three annual events, a Spring Speaker Event, a Fall Speaker Event, and the Gasque & Annual General Meeting in November. Each year, the New York Chapter has organized between three to five events for alumni and friends of the University at various renowned locations in New York City.

On November 13, 2014 the Chapter hosted its third annual Gasque, an event which gathered 40 alumni at the Harvard Club of New York City, and the year was capped off with a Christmas Networking Reception on December 10 at the offices of Gibney, Anthony & Flaherty.

So far during 2015, three events have been organized for alumni in New York. In April a Spring Speaker Event was held with guest speaker Professor Henrik Williams, Professor of Scandinavian Languages at UU, as a stop on his tour around North America. In July, the chapter hosted a relaxed After Work Networking event at a restaurant in Midtown, and a Fall Speaker Event featuring Professor Peter Wallensteen, Senior Professor of Peace and Conflict Research at UU, was held on October 13 at 3 West Club. The Speaker Events are presented in more detail on the following page.

The New York Chapter will host its fourth annual Gasque on November 19 at the renowned Harvard Club of New York City. The Gasque will be preceeded by the Chapter’s Annual General Meeting, which serves as the Chapter’s highest policy making organ. The meeting will give alumni the opportunity to hear what the Chapter has been up to during 2015, and all members present at the meeting have the right to vote. In addition, alumni will be invited to a Holiday Networking Reception on December 15, to enjoy traditional Swedish holiday treats and to get together one last time before the Holidays.

The UU U.S. New York Alumni Chapter aims to continue its alumni outreach in 2016, and hopes to further strengthen the Chapter’s presence in the greater New York area. Furthermore, the Board has decided to schedule and announce the dates for the two main events of the year—Valborg and the Gasque—at least six months in advance, to enable as many alumni who want to attend as possible to be able to do so. The goal is to make these events staples in the New York Chapter’s event year, and to continue to increase the number of attendees by each year.
NEW YORK EVENTS

Spring Speaker Event - April 9

On April 9, the UU U.S. New York Chapter hosted its fourth annual Spring Speaker Event at the Harvard Club of New York City. Guest speaker for the event was Professor Henrik Williams, Professor of Scandinavian Languages at Uppsala University. The event was attended by 30 alumni who gathered to listen to Professor Williams’ creative presentation entitled “Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll in Runic Times.”

Guests were in good spirits as Professor Williams told alumni the interesting stories and discoveries what can be found in the runes spread across Scandinavia. After the presentation, guests enjoyed passed hors d’oeuvres and complementary drinks while networking inside the beautiful venue.

The evening was generously sponsored by American Friends of Uppsala University.

Fall Speaker Event - October 13

This year’s Fall Speaker Event gathered 25 alumni at the 3 West Club in Midtown Manhattan on October 13, with the inspiring Professor Peter Wallensteen, Senior Professor of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University, as our honored guest speaker. Guests were treated to an enlightening presentation by Professor Wallensteen on “Global Conflict Trends, the Role of Major Powers and the Challenges to the UN”.

The presentation explained the definitions of basic terms used in Peace and Conflict Research, explored the trends that can be found in today’s global conflicts, and concluded with some suggestions for resolutions to these conflicts. The presentation was directly followed by an engaging Q&A session, after which guests were treated to a cocktail reception with Italian hors d’oeuvres, and networked with old and new alumni in the charming Midtown venue.

The Fall Speaker Event was generously sponsored by American Friends of Uppsala University.
The Uppsala University U.S. West Coast Alumni Chapter was founded in late 2013. The Chapter consists of a core group of four to five people, in addition to Chairman Lars K. Johansson.

The West Coast Chapter’s objective for 2015 has been to continue to increase visibility of Uppsala University in the Bay Area, attract more Uppsala alumni, help visiting Uppsala students in any capacity it can, act as liaison for U.S. students planning to study in Uppsala, and to commence local Uppsala University traditions. The Chapter also started two programs in 2015, aimed at providing speaking opportunities for alumni in Uppsala when they visit Sweden, and to help students and alumni with networking for jobs and internships in the Bay Area.

The Chapter has hosted several events so far during the year, including three events with speakers, celebrated Valborg, had a barbeque in June, and met in smaller groups throughout the year. In February, the Chapter hosted a seminar on antibiotic resistance with Professor Diarmaid Hughes of UU and Anna Zorzet, Coordinator of ReAct Europe at UU, and in late April alumni were invited to celebrate the traditional Valborg Celebration. In May, Dag Blanck, Director of the Swedish Institute for North American Studies at UU, paid a visit to San Fransisco to host a seminar on “Transatlantic Dreaming”, and in October, the Chapter hosted a seminar given by Erik Ingelsson on the topic of “Exploring the New Frontiers of Genetic Science”. In addition, Helena Engfeldt organized and hosted a visit to UC Berkeley for visiting students from Uppsala University. A selection of these events are presented in more detail below.

Honorary Dr. Jack Kirch was an inspiring presence throughout the year. As an alumnus of several leading U.S. universities, he has good insights and helped with ideas, as well as acted as a mentor for students. He also helped build bridges with UC Berkeley and attended all events.

Before the year is over the Chapter is planning on organizing another smaller get-together with the local network as well as a Christmas Luncheon at the end of the year.

The Chapter is exploring having a Gasque in 2016, possibly together with other Swedish universities. They have set a goal of attracting 15 new members for the President’s club for 2015/2016.

**WEST COAST EVENTS**

**Panel Discussion - February 12**

The West Coast Chapter hosted a panel discussion on “The Global Threat of Antibiotic Resistance: The Truth and the Path Ahead” on February 12. More than 50 alumni and friends gathered at the offices of K&L Gates in San Fransisco to listen to enlightening presentations by Diarmaid Hughes, Professor of Medical Molecular Bacteriology at Uppsala University; and Anna Zorzet, Coordinator of ReAct Europe at Uppsala University. The presentations were preceded by an engaging welcoming speech by Barbro Osher, Honorary Consul General of Sweden in San Fransisco, and they were followed by an interesting panel discussion about the status of antibiotic resistance research today, and where the world is headed. The event was capped off with a networking reception.
On October 15, the West Coast Chapter hosted a very well-received seminar given by Erik Ingelsson, Professor of Molecular Epidemiology at Uppsala University. The seminar was skillfully moderated by Susanne Fors, and the topic for the evening was “Exploring the New Frontiers of Genetic Science”. Around 40 alumni and friends attended the event and the discussion continued into the night.

On the last day of April, the West Coast Chapter invited alumni for the second year in a row to celebrate the Swedish Valborg tradition together. This time the event was hosted at Sens restaurant in the financial district of San Francisco. About 25 students came and celebrated this happy event which included traditional Swedish student hats but less song and less Aquavit than in the old days. The event was very well-received by those who participated, and the Chapter hopes to continue the tradition of a Valborg dinner in the years to come.

In early summer, Helena Engfeldt of the West Coast Chapter organized and hosted a special visit to the University of California, Berkeley for visiting students from Uppsala University. The event was well-received by the participating students who got a unique view of the beautiful campus.

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Visit to UC Berkeley - May 23

Speaker Event - October 15
The UU U.S. Minnesota Alumni Chapter is in its second year as the second Chapter in the US. It was launched in April of 2014 with John Hasselberg appointed initial convening Chair of the Chapter. The core group of the Chapter now consists of eleven people. The group continues to benefit greatly from the many close relationships that already exist between institutions and organizations in Minnesota and Uppsala, including the Minneapolis-Uppsala Friendship Committee, the City of Minneapolis, the University of Minnesota, the American Swedish Institute and Gustavus Adolphus College.

In that context, three events occurred during 2015 that significantly raised the profile of UU in Minnesota. In the spring, Professor Henrik Williams, Professor of Scandinavian Languages at UU came to MN for a number of lectures. You can read more about these events on the following page. In connection with this, the MN Chapter was proud to work with the American Swedish Institute to co-host a Board of Directors meeting of the American Friends of UU. The group traveled to Alexandria to attend Professor Williams’s talk there on Saturday and returned to Minneapolis on Sunday for an open house fika for UU alumni and friends at the Fika! Café at the ASI, after which the group celebrated with dinner at the Dakota Jazz Club and heard 13-year-old jazz and classical piano prodigy, Emily Bear. Following the AFUU board meeting on Tuesday, a closing dinner was held at Robert Stein’s favorite restaurant, Kinkaid’s in Bloomington. This visit provided a significant strengthening of MN/UU relationship, which was further enhanced by the appointment of the ASI’s President and CEO, Bruce Karstadt, to the AFUU Board of Directors at that meeting.

Furthering and deepening connections between MN and UU also occurred when Hasselberg led a small faculty research trip group to Sweden in August, a trip that included several meetings at UU. The group met with with Isak Stoddard, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development and the CEMUS program, Ulrika Persson-Fischier, Director of the School for Entrepreneurship in the Engineering department of the Ångström Laboratories, and Pirko Tamsen, Director of Uppsala University Innovation at the Uppsala Science Park (who was also a member of the Uppsala Delegation to Minneapolis in September). Research collaboration and exchange possibilities were discussed with each of them.

Two days later the group met with the staff of SWEDESC (Swedish International Center for Education for Sustainable Development) at Uppsala University-Campus Gotland. They also met with one of Campus Gotland’s leading environmental program leaders, Dr. Karin Bengtsson, and with the founder of the Wind Power master’s program there, Richard Kohler, to discuss sustainable development and environmental policy priorities on which the Chapter could perhaps build collaborative relations. In September, a most exciting and valuable set of UU-related events occurred when a delegation from the city and commune of Uppsala and UU visited Minnesota to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Uppsala-Minneapolis Sister City agreement. Please read more about this exciting event on the following page.

Overall, it has been a most richly eventful second year of building the UUAA-MN Chapter. With new steering group member interest, the Chapter looks forward to expanding and building on their network of UU alumni in Minnesota in 2016. The Chapter will be meeting with the Minneapolis-Uppsala Friendship Committee on November 4 of this year to develop a strategy for sending a delegation from MN to Uppsala in 2016. This will likely be a major focal point for the organizing for the next year and a great way to inspire local interest in the UU U.S. Minnesota Alumni Chapter.
In April and May, noted UU runic scholar, Professor Henrik Williams, presented a series of lectures in the region, beginning with a visit and presentation on April 14 at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN, followed up by his amusing and insightful “Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll in Runic Times” at the American Swedish institute in Minneapolis. This was attended by approximately 180 people—and all our UU brochures were taken that evening! The next day he presented his “From Odin to Christ: How Runes Speak of Religion” at the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library at St. John’s University. Continuing from there westward, he also spoke on April 18 in Alexandria, MN, to address the popularity of rune-stones and runic writing, and then returned to the American Swedish Institute on May 5 to do three interactive seminars on various aspects of runic history, writing and research. About 80 people attended each of these seminars. This tour was most ably organized by Loraine Jensen, one of the most engaged and enthusiastic UUAA-MN members, who is also the founding Chair of the American Association for Runic Studies.

Delegation from Uppsala & Uppsala University - September 17 - 22

From September 17 to 22, a delegation from the city and commune of Uppsala and UU visited Minnesota to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Uppsala-Minneapolis Sister City agreement. The majority of delegation members were representatives from UU, including Vice-Chancellor Eva Åkesson, Vice-Rektor Torsten Svensson, and former Vice-Chancellor Bo Sundqvist. A celebratory dinner was held to mark the 15th anniversary of the Uppsala-Minneapolis Sister City relationship on Friday evening the 18th. On Sunday evening a reception was held at the Radisson Blu specifically to celebrate UU alumni.

Speakers included Vice-Chancellor Åkesson, Professor Robert Stein of UMN Law, Dr. Dag Blanck, Director of SINAS, Mattias Dahlberg, Dean of the UU Faculty of Law, and John Hasselberg, Chair of UU U.S. Alumni Chapter MN. On the 22nd Vice-Chancellor Åkesson and a few colleagues drove to visit Gustavus Adolphus College where they met with President Rebecca Bergman and Vice President Thomas Young. This visit significantly firmed up the working relationship between UU and GAC going forward, especially as regards UU-Campus Gotland.
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