THE UPPSALA UNIVERSITY
U.S. ALUMNI CHAPTER

ANNUAL REPORT
2016
Dear Alumni,

We are pleased to present the Uppsala University U.S. Alumni Chapter’s Annual Report for 2016. 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 2016, including After Work Networking Events and Gasques, for our new and returning members to enjoy. In addition, the UU U.S. West Coast Chapter continues to grow, adding many new members and events this year. Moreover, the members of our newest sub-chapter, the UU U.S. Minnesota Chapter, continues to establish themselves and show great promise for continued work in 2017. 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 sixth consecutive Uppsala University Scholar in 2017. Finally, we would like to express our deepest thanks to our outgoing Board Members whose leadership has been invaluable to the Chapter’s growth and prosperity over the years: Lars-Arne Lundholm, Tom Moran, Anna Pettersson and Erik Post. 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 2017!

Per Ståhle
Chairman 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 2015 to October 2016.
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, Facebook, 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 2016) the U.S. Alumni Chapter has increased its membership by 25 percent during 2016 and currently has 408 registered members in the network.

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 2016 includes 286 members.

In 2016, the Chapter increased its presence online and started a Facebook page named Uppsala U.S. Alumni Chapter. In contrast to the LinkedIn group this page is public. The Facebook page is an additional channel for communication with alumni, which allows easy sharing of photos and information about upcoming events.

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 10 events to which alumni were invited during 2016. 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 2016.

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 2016 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](http://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 2016 been able to connect with and gather information about the Chapter through its website, LinkedIn Group, Facebook page, and the new Uppsala University Alumni Network. New for this year, is that alumni now can sign up for the Alumni Network with their LinkedIn accounts.

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.

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

You can also find us on LinkedIn and Facebook, where you can get information about the Chapter, its events, and connect with fellow alumni.

Bo Sundqvist, President of AFUU & Former Vice-Chancellor of UU

Johan Norberg, Malin Swartling and Stefan Swarrtling Peterson
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 19, 2015 the Chapter hosted its fourth 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 15 at the offices of Gibney, Anthony & Flaherty.

So far during 2016, five events have been organized for alumni in New York. On March 15, members were invited to a Spring Networking Event at Bryant Park Grill in midtown Manhattan. In April, Vice-Chancellor Eva Åkesson visited New Haven, which provided an opportunity to discuss some notable events at Uppsala University, but also highlight the important work done by Uppsala University U.S. Alumni Chapter Board Members and its plans for the future. Perhaps the most notable event of the year was the chapter’s Valborg Gasque hosted at Scandinavian House on April 29 where over 80 alumni and friends gathered to welcome the spring season. In June, the Uppsala University Scholar invited members and the board to join her for a mini 10 K run in Central Park to raise awareness of the Scholarship Foundation. In August, the Chapter hosted its second networking event for the year in collaboration with other alumni organizations at Zibetto, a Swedish-owned Italian espresso bar. The Annual General Meeting will take place on November 3, and in addition to this, 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 2017, 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.
On April 29, the Uppsala University U.S. Alumni Chapter celebrated Swedish Valborg with a traditional Gasque at Scandinavia House. More than 80 guests were on hand for the spring dinner, which featured Swedish classics such as gravlax and meatballs. The festive ambience was enhanced by a simulated bonfire, spring floral arrangements, spirited snap songs, a special performance by Sounds of Sweden, and the chance to reminisce about the good old days with fellow Uppsala University alumni. The evening 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.

U.S. West Coast Chapter ended 2015 by hosting an event with Dr. Erik Ingelsson, then Professor of Molecular Epidemiology at Uppsala University and now Professor of Medicine (Cardiovascular Medicine) at Stanford University. The topic was “Your Hear, Your Genes: Exploring the New Frontiers of Genetic Science.” The event was well received and attended by diverse group of 50 people including alumni and had the building not closed down at 10am, Professor Ingelsson would be answering questions till the morning hours.

The U.S. West Coast Chapter had a Christmas cocktail gathering in 2015 and continued to meet for food and drinks every 6-8 weeks. Students would join for food and on occasion the discussion would drift from Uppsala to the presidential election.

In 2016, the U.S. West Coast Chapter continued to host and co-host events aimed at increasing the visibility of Uppsala University locally, find Uppsala alumni residing in the Bay Area, and create meaningful meeting place for alumni and visiting students. The Chapter reached out to visiting Uppsala students and returning US students and tried to keep up local Uppsala University traditions. We hosted four events with speakers, celebrated Valborg, had a barbecue in June and met in smaller groups throughout the year.

In April, U.S. West Coast Chapter hosted Dag Blanck who talked about The Blue-Yellow Spangled Banner - American influence in Sweden. The event attracted a large audience of alumni and non-alumni alike and generated a spirited debate. We’re happy to see Professor Blanck becoming a regular speaker in the Bay Area.

In October, the U.S. West Coast Chapter hosted a well received and well attended event in beautiful Swedish-American Hall in San Francisco with Professor Henrik Williams talking on the topic of Women in the Viking Era. Professor Williams talked about women during the Viking era and how they were represented and memorialized on rune stones. The audience far exceeded the number of registered attendees, including Uppsala alumni who had not been to earlier events.
The UU U.S. Minnesota Alumni Chapter is in its third year as the second sub-chapter in the U.S. It was launched in April of 2014 with John Hasselberg appointed convening Chair of the Chapter. The core group of the Chapter now consists of about a dozen 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, the Swedish Council of America, and Gustavus Adolphus College. The committee had meetings in April and October at the Fika! restaurant at the ASI with very thoughtful discussions regarding opportunities available to the Chapter.

While visiting Sweden in April to June, Chairman Hasselberg was grateful to have been invited to join Vice-Chancellor Eva Åkesson and her colleagues in celebrating Valborgs-afton in Uppsala. It was a most enjoyable, inspiring, and once-in-a-lifetime experience to be able to participate in the sill lunch and the gathering of notables at Carolina Redviva to celebrate this event so central to, and uniquely expressed in, Uppsala. While in Uppsala, a very useful and informative meeting regarding UU alumni development and communication priorities was also had with Fredrik Åkerblom, Thomas Fredengren and Sarah Havren Schutz.

The UUAA—MN chapter, with the generous support of the American Friends of UU, will host a gathering in conjunction with the ASI in the Larson Hall on the evening of Wednesday 2 November 2016 where Professor Henrik Williams, UU’s noted runic scholar, will present “Runic Women: Priestess and Pilgrim, Slave and Queen”. He will also provide seminars earlier in the day on “Swedish Viking Age Runestones” and on “Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll in Runic Times.” The latter was a very popular presentation, drawing nearly two-hundred people, during his visit in April 2015. This lecture will be a public event that ought to give good publicity to UU which can be used to engage more alums and friends in the area. The Committee will meet again in mid-November to review the results of Professor Williams’ visit and strategize for 2017.

Overall, it has been a relatively quiet third year of building the UUAA-MN Chapter. We have added several new steering group members who are very enthusiastic and interested in expanding our relationships with other groups in the region as well as crafting our own unique programs in 2017. The Chapter looks forward to continuing to expand and build on our network of UU alumni in Minnesota in 2017. In laying these plans, several of us very much look forward to meeting Noelia Ollvid, UU’s new International Alumni Coordinator, for dinner on Saturday 29 October (in a restaurant in the building in the Dinkytown area of Minneapolis where Nobel Prize winner Bob Dylan lived when beginning his career!) to discuss our strategies with her.

We hope that 2017 will serve as a great opportunity for us to work together with the other Sub-Chapters to showcase the national group what opportunities there are here in Minnesota. A major focal point during next year will be to inspire interest both amongst alums and local friends of UU in the UUAA Minnesota Alumni Chapter.
MINNESOTA EVENTS

Valborg in Uppsala - April 29

John Hasselberg and Eva Åkesson

The view of the Valborg’s crowd from the balcony

Social gathering in the library salon
Support an American Student to study at Uppsala University

Excellence and Innovation since 1477
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Scholarships to U.S. students for study in Uppsala, Sweden
The Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce in New York and Uppsala University ask you for your support to The Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce in New York Scholarship Foundation for Study at Uppsala University.

To find out how you can contribute to the scholarship foundation please contact Olof Bruno at: tel +1 212 838 5530 or Olof.Bruno@saccny.org
American Friends of Uppsala University. www.afuu.org

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