Dear Alumni,

We are happy to present you with the Uppsala University U.S. Alumni Chapter’s Annual Report for 2017. We cannot believe that the Chapter is already in its sixth year. We are still growing and we are hoping to reach 500 members in the US before the end of the year. We are grateful for every single one of our members and we are happy to see so many of you at our regular events. We have had the privilege of sharing an Uppsala scholar with Swedish America Chamber of Commerce in New York all of these five years. I ask you all to join me to thank this year’s scholar, Erika Rahmqvist, for her excellent work and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. We will all have to pitch in a little more since the scholarship program has been discontinued.

This year, the New York Chapter hosted an array of different events, including after work gatherings, gasques, cultural visits, and speaker events, all of which were well attended and appreciated. We are continuing our collaboration with other Swedish alumni organizations in New York, and we are pleased to have such good relationships with other alumni chapters.

In addition, the UU U.S. West Coast Chapter continues to grow, adding many new members and events this year. I want to take this opportunity to welcome Maria Ingelsson as new Chairman for the UU U.S. West Coast Chapter, and to thank Lars E. Johansson for his service these past years. The West Coast Chapter continues to grow, as does the UU U.S. Minnesota Chapter. As a token of our appreciation for our sub-chapters and all the work that they do, we decided to have this year’s Annual General Meeting and Fall Gasque in Minnesota, something we are all looking forward to. The gasque will be hosted by John Hasselberg, our Minnesota Chairman.

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.

I want to thank you all for the last two years as I have over the chair to my successor at the annual meeting. We are excited to see what next year will bring, and we look forward to seeing you at our many events in 2018!

Per Ståhle
Chairman
Uppsala University
U.S. Alumni Chapter
BOARD OF DIRECTORS UU U.S. ALUMNI CHAPTER

Chairman, UU U.S. Alumni Chapter 2016-17

Per Ståhle
SVP & Local Partner
BTS

Vice-Chairman, UU U.S. Alumni Chapter 2016-17

Dan-Oscar Antson
Technology Licensing Officer,
Center for Technology Licensing, Cornell University

David W. Johnson
Senior Counsel
Gibney, Anthony & Flaherty

Olivia Kraus
Director
Ursus Books and Prints

Maud Bruce-About
Student: Master in Communication for Development, Malmo University

Bo Thörn
Chairman,
Hamlet Packaging, Corp

Marianne Andersson
Treasurer
American Friends of Uppsala University

Lars E. Johansson
Partner
K&L Gates LLP

Chairman, UU U.S. Minnesota Sub-Chapter

John Hasselberg
Professor, Global Business Leadership
College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University

Chairman, UU U.S. West Coast Sub-Chapter

Maria Ingelsson
EVP, Legal and Human Capital
Favro NA Inc.

Uppsala University Representative

Noelia Ollvid
Alumni Relations Coordinator
Uppsala University

Ex Officio

Erika Rahmqvist
Uppsala University Scholar 2017
SACCNY
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, as well as 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, is working 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 has to do with alumni outreach. Our goal is to reconnect alumni to Uppsala University and to celebrate the many old traditions that constitutes the unique student life in Uppsala. The Chapter organizes several events per year, taking place in 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 to the Chapter’s Annual General Meeting & Gasque in November. This report serves to describe the Chapter’s activities from November 2016 to October 2017.

One of the main purposes of the Chapter is to identify and connect alumni in the United States. Recruiting alumni to become a part of the U.S. Chapter is an ongoing process, facilitated through LinkedIn, Facebook, social media outreach, events, 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 2017) the U.S. Alumni Chapter has 404 registered members and the goal is to reach 500 members by the end of 2017. The estimation is that we will be able to reach the goal by big margins, thanks to the many events for the Global Alumni Day (see page 7).

Membership in the U.S. Alumni Chapter continues to be free of charge 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 2017 includes 330 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. During 2017, there has been ongoing discussions about opening new subchapters in different locations. There has been some interest from Los Angeles, Chicago Washington D.C. and Seattle. That way, the U.S. Chapter would reflect more parts of the U.S. and we would also be able to reach more members.
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 8 alumni events during 2017. The majority of these events have been subsidized with the help of AFUU, in order to attract all alumni and we are grateful for their support.

In addition, the strategic and operational support generously provided by Uppsala University during the year has been vital for realizing these successful events.

**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 2017 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.
Alumni network

The UU U.S. Alumni Chapter continues to develop and expand its channels for communication with alumni. Alumni have during 2017 been able to connect with and gather information about the Chapter through its website, LinkedIn Group, Facebook page, and the Uppsala University Alumni Network. A shortcut name for the website was created during 2017 to make it easier for alumni to find the website and to make the web address better fit to printed material: www.uu.se/us alumni.

In 2017, Uppsala University celebrated their Global Alumni Day for the first time, with alumni organizing events in 62 cities in 45 countries. 9 cities in the U.S. celebrated the Global Alumni Day and the opportunity to recruit new members to the U.S. Chapter was seized. The estimation is that 150-170 new members were recruited which is a considerable increase in membership!
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 are based in the area. The New York Chapter has close to 300 alumni located in the Tri-State area on its main email list, of which between 20-80 people attend each event.

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

During 2017, six events have been organized so far and at least two more are planned before the end of the year. In March, the Chapter organized a private guided tour for Uppsala University alumni at The Swedish Exhibition at The Morgan Library & Museum with a following mingle. In April, the annual Valborg gasque was held at beautiful Battery Gardens in Battery Park, for 65 guests, and the ticket raffle raised $1,300 to the Scholarship Foundation.

In June, the UU U.S. Alumni Chapter arranged an all alumni mixer at Zibetto with Mikael Olsson together with the other Swedish alumni Chapters in New York. and in later the same month, the Chapter had a speaker event and book signing with Dr. Trita Parsi at The Swedish Residence, on the theme Obama, Iran and the Power of Diplomacy.

We had a special Uppsala gathering at the Midsummer in Battery Park where we handed out stickers and candy to promote the Chapter and to recruit new alumni. In November, the Chapter arranged an event for the UU Global Alumni Day, a new initiative that was held in over 62 cities in 45 countries.

The fall gasque and Annual General Meeting of this year are being held in Minneapolis in Minnesota with over 30 attendees. On December 4th, the Chapter is having a fall speaker event with Dr. Stefan Swartling Peterson, Chief of Health at Unicef.

The UU U.S. New York Alumni Chapter aims to continue its alumni outreach in 2018, and hopes to further strengthen the Chapter’s presence in the greater New York area. Futhermore, 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. The 2018 Valborg Gasque will take place on Sunday, April 29th.

All Alumni Mixer
Spring Speaker event with Dr. Trita Parsi

2016’s Uppsala University Alumnus of the Year, Dr. Trita Parsi, talked about Obama, Iran and the Power of Diplomacy at The Swedish Residence, together with General Consul Leif Pagrotsky. The event also included Q&A and a book signing.

Global Alumni Day

Erik Andersson, brand ambassador at Hendrick’s Gin, an Uppsala University alumnus and former bar master at Norrland’s Nation, shared his best bartending tips.

Valborg Gasque

On April 28, More than 60 guests consisting of Uppsala University Alumni and friends gathered for a three-course dinner at the beautiful Battery Gardens in Battery Park, in celebration of Swedish Valborg. There they took in the sunset over the Statue of Liberty while enjoying excellent company along with food, drinks, and the customary toasts in Swedish aquavit. An after party was held at nearby Pier A.
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 Maria Ingelsson.

In 2017 we 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 a meaningful meeting place for alumni and visiting students. We reached out to visiting Uppsala students and returning U.S. students and tried to keep up local Uppsala University traditions. We hosted three events with speakers, including a visit by Vice-Chancellor and management of Uppsala University, celebrated Christmas over cocktails, and met in smaller groups throughout the year. We continued to help local alumni network and assist with various practical and student related matters.

In late October 2016, we hosted an event with historian Henrik Williams on the topic “Rune stones and the Viking code” at the beautiful Swedish American Hall. Noelia Ollvid and Fredrik Åkerblom joined us from Uppsala. We had about 50 attendees and the presentation was very well received.

In February, Maria Ingelsson launched the first foreign alumni chapter of Juridicum.

In late March, we hosted the Vice-Chancellor, the university management and representatives from the Development Office, including Rector Magnifica Eva Åkesson, in San Francisco and then also in Palo Alto. In San Francisco, we had a separate alumni meeting with the Vice-Chancellor and several people from the Alumni organization in Uppsala, including Fredrik Åkerblom, Tomas Fredengren and Noelia Ollvid. In the evening, we co-hosted a panel discussion on the timely topic of social justice and inequality together with the Church of Sweden, San Francisco. The speakers included the always popular and well received historian and Professor of North American Studies, Dag Blanck, the charismatic priest Louise Linder as well as the director of Silicon Vikings, Charlotte Danielsson. We had 60 attendees and a wonderful reception sponsored by US Friends afterwards.

On May 24 a small group of us got together in Palo Alto to celebrate the Conferment Ceremony taking place in Uppsala on the same day, and honoring the new PhDs and honorary doctors at our Alma Mater.

In September, Maria Ingelsson took over as the Chair of the Uppsala Alumni Chapter, West Coast, after Lars E. Johansson.

On October 4, Ms. Ingelsson organized a panel discussion at Stanford on the topic, “What can Swedish universities do to increase Swedish companies’ success abroad?” The event was very well received and the discussion went well over time. The panelists included Maria Wilenius from Regeringskansliet, Professor Erik Ingelsson, Professor Henric Johnson, successful entrepreneur Mattis Fjallstrom, and former chair of UU alumni, West Coast Chapter, San Francisco, Lars E. Johansson.
The UU U.S. Minnesota Alumni Chapter is early in its fourth 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.

In the spring, John Hasselberg held a Swedish Valborgsmässoafton celebration at his farmstead in South Haven, MN, about an hour west of Minneapolis, where several friends of UU joined in with a lot of other Swedophiles for a hot time! On October 6th, John (in his dual role as UU U.S. Minnesota Chair and as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Swedish Council of America) and SCA Executive Director Gregg White had a delightful lunch meeting with Gustavus VP for Advancement Thomas Young and the six students from UU at Gustavus this year, for whom the SCA provides support.

We have added 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. The committee had meetings in April, August, and October at the Fika! restaurant at the ASI to discuss and plan our primary activity for the year, a very Uppsala-type Gasque dinner party to be celebrated in conjunction with the UU U.S. Alumni Chapter’s Annual General Meeting at the American Swedish Institute—the first one to be held outside of New York!

Uppsala University has for decades had fruitful exchange programs with the University of Minnesota Law School and with Gustavus Adolphus College.
Since its founding in 2012, the Uppsala University U.S. Alumni Chapter has had a Scholar from Uppsala University serving on the board of directors, working with event organizing as well as alumni outreach in the New York area. The scholarship has been granted a new person each year and allows its recipient to work for The Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce in New York as well as The Uppsala University U.S. Alumni Chapter simultaneously. This has provided synergies where the scholar has been able to use the Chamber’s network to promote the UU U.S. Alumni Chapter and recruit new alumni within the Swedish-American community in New York.

During 2018, the Scholarship program will be evaluated, and alternate forms of UU support be considered. Thus, starting 2018, there will no longer be an Uppsala University Scholar assisting the board. However, we are confident that, based on your, our members, continuous loyal engagement, we will together keep the Chapter growing. If you would like to be more involved in the Chapter, or serve on the board of directors, please contact Olivia Kraus at olivia_kraus@hotmail.com.

We thank this year’s scholar, Erika Rahmqvist, for all the work that she has done for the Chapter and wish her the best of luck in the future!
Support an American Student
to study at Uppsala University

Excellence and Innovation since 1477

Keep the heritage alive
– make the future happen

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

Your donation is tax deductible. American Friends of Uppsala University is tax-exempt as a charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to American Friends of Uppsala University are deductible by donors as provided by law.