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News from the Swenson Center

The student volunteer workers

The Swenson Center relies heavily on Augustana College student employees to fulfill much of the repetitive tasks and clerical work. Students each work 5-10 hours per week. For their Swedish language skills, we try to hire students from Sweden or Scandinavian Studies majors. Below are profiles of the students currently working for us, who play an important role in the progress of our work.

Here are their stories:

Kate Buckingham

I was born and raised in Wheaton, Illinois. I fell in love with Augustana while visiting friends during my senior year of high school. I wanted to

be somewhat close to home at a small school that would not be overwhelming. Augie was, and still is, perfect. I am currently a Scandinavian major, and hope to add a history major or minor in the coming months. Currently a sophomore, I am in second year Swedish. I took Swedish as a freshman solely to complete my foreign language requirement and had no idea that I would enjoy it so much and want to continue. I plan to go to the Augustana Summer School in Sweden (ASSIS) in the summer. Christina Johansson was my first year Swedish teacher and recruited me to work at the Swenson Center. I started working here just before Christmas 2007; on a recom-

mendation from my friend Lisa Huntsha, who already worked at the Swenson Center. I look forward to continuing my studies in Swedish, as well as helping out in the Swenson Center. *Kate performs much-needed clerical work and whatever else we put in front of her.*

Sara Carlson

I am a sophomore at Augustana, majoring in Scandinavian Studies and Biology. I chose to come to Augustana because I wanted a small and close-knit environment. I took Swedish because I was interested in learning more about the language and culture that my great-grand-



From left: Andreas Henninger, Kate Buckingham, Sara Carlson, and Lisa Huntsha. Photo: Jill Seaholm.

parents grew up with. I expected to learn a lot, but I never expected to fall in love with the language. This summer, I will continue to improve my language skills in Grebbestad, Sweden, at ASSIS. I have worked at the Swenson Center since the beginning of this school year and I appreciate the knowledge and experience this opportunity has provided me. *Sara is assisting with cataloging the Swedish-American church records into a cataloging program called PastPerfect.*

Andreas Henninger

I am a junior political science and history major at Augustana. I was born in the university town of Lund, in the southwestern corner of Sweden. My parents were in graduate school at the time and upon graduation we moved to Eksjö where they both got jobs as adjunct teachers. However, prior to my parents meeting and eventually settling down in

Småland, my father spent a year at Gustav Adolphus College in St Peter, Minnesota. As I was growing up, my father often told me about his wonderful college experience, and through our hour-long discussions, a seed was planted. As I was wrapping up my senior year of high school in Halmstad, which is between Göteborg and Malmö, I contacted the Swedish-American Foundation in Stockholm and was privileged to receive a scholarship from Augustana through them. As an international student I arrived before school started, and it was during my initial weeks at Augie that I came in contact with Jill Seaholm, Christina Johansson, and the other wonderful people at Swenson Center. In high school, I had become interested in Swedish immigration to the U.S. so when Jill asked if I wanted to do genealogy work for her, it did not take me many seconds to say *JA!*, and I am now in my third year of working here.

Lisa Huntsha

I am a sophomore at Augustana. If I hadn't come to Augustana, I probably would have never discovered my interest in Swedish. I started taking Swedish because of the language requirement and my Swedish heritage, but then I fell in love with it. I am studying anthropology and Scandinavian Studies and hope to combine these two passions in the future. I'm hoping to travel to ASSIS in Grebbestad this summer to study Swedish intensively. I came to work at the Swenson Center because of my interest in everything Swedish. It is unique opportunities like these that make me happy to be at Augustana. *Lisa scans photographs and checks the church record microfilms to see which language was used in the minutes.*

Modern Times!

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Are you interested in finding your lost 2nd, 3rd, and 4th cousins before you leave on your sentimental journey to Sweden? We can help you on that point when you can't come further on the Internet.

Send us an e-mail or a letter and let us know what you want to know and we will tell you what we can do and to what cost.

P.S. We are very good at the "Good Old Times" too! It is a special thrill to do the research work yourself, but when you don't have the time, or don't know how to do it – we can do it for you! You are also very welcome to our Research room in beautiful Dalecarlia!



Släktforskarnas Hus i Leksand AB, Insjövägen 52, 793 33 Leksand, Sweden. Ph. +46 247-122 80.
E-mail: info@slaktforskarnashus.se Internet: <http://www.genhouse-sweden.com>