

FRIDAY NIGHT LECTURE SERIES

Portland State University

Cramer Hall – Room 171 – 7:30 pm

Presentations sponsored by the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation
& PSU, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

March 6, 2009
Aase Beaulieu & Mike O'Bryant

GROWTH OF A DREAM: HOW ONE ORGANIZATION HOPES TO UNITE ALL SCANDINAVIANS IN A CULTURAL CENTER PROJECT

There is no doubt Scandinavians are proud of their heritage, but how they develop and pass on their love of that heritage is changing. Mike O'Bryant and Aase Beaulieu from the **Scandinavian Heritage Foundation**, the largest pan-Scandinavian organization in Oregon and Southwest Washington, share SHF's vision of the future.

The Scandinavian population was at one time made up of a rich tapestry of clubs and halls founded by immigrants of the individual Nordic countries. As Scandinavians became more and more acculturated, their need to maintain relationships with "their own kind" declined. Yet, the interest in their heritage lives on and is in fact re-emerging.

With more than 500,000 Nordic immigrants and their descendants living in Oregon and Southwest Washington and countless others interested in Nordic business, travel and culture, the Foundation's purpose is to preserve authentic traditions, languages and culture while celebrating modern Scandinavian life of the five Nordic nations. It manages an ambitious schedule of lectures, classes, and cultural and business events independently and in collaboration with Portland State University, the Scandinavian Genealogical Society and over 30 diverse Scandinavian organizations.

Presenters: Aase Beaulieu, Development Director and Mike O'Bryant, Executive Director, **Scandinavian Heritage Foundation**, Portland, OR. Mike O'Bryant, Executive Director, is a native Oregonian, born into a large Swedish/Irish family. He has a graduate degree from PSU. After 20 years of corporate business experience and seven years running his own business, Mike became Executive Director of SHF in 2005. Aase is from Copenhagen, Denmark, arriving in the U.S. through a scholarship from American Field Service at the age of 17. She returned to the U.S. to study at the University of California – Berkeley. She has since obtained a graduate degree in international finance. Aase spent years in international business, consulting with large banks around the world and large universities in the U.S. before joining SHF in February 2007.



Lectures are Free ☞ **The Public is Welcome** ☞ **Refreshments are served**

For further information regarding the lecture or how you can learn about Scandinavian heritage and culture

SHF contact:
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