

The Boynton Society

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2016



Greetings from the Boynton Society

Things are booming at Björklunden! As you'll see in this issue, it has been a busy academic year, with 1,800 students, faculty and staff using the facility in varied and interesting ways. Whether the lodge is filled with members of the Vikings volleyball team, a musical group from the Conservatory or biology majors, every student relishes the opportunity to embrace their interests and explore personal growth.

We've just celebrated 20 years since the lodge's rebirth—how time flies! We will soon kick off the first of this year's summer seminars. As always, seminar topics are wide-ranging, so we hope we will all learn meaningfully from each other and our amazing presenters. Summer calls for fun and relaxation, and Björklunden offers both. Also, it won't be long before members of the Boynton Society gather for our annual gala on Saturday, Aug. 13.



When a program thrives, those who support it are often inspired to deepen their commitments. We hope you can join us in doing so this year. Support for Björklunden ensures people of all ages will continue to have unique learning experiences and create cherished memories at the lodge. Our goal is to reach \$265,600 in gifts by June 30 to support operations at the northern campus, an ambitious target but one that is important to hit. This will likely require contributions from as many as 400 donors, and an increase in the percentage of those who give at the Boynton Society level of \$250. We need a strong finish in May and June to help carry on the Boyntons' mission.

So please consider this a nudge to make your gift now and a request to increase it from the amount of your past support. Your gifts make all the difference.

Thanks for all you do to help Björklunden thrive. We look forward to seeing you at Björklunden in the weeks to come!

Jeff '70 and Jone Riester '72
Co-Chairs, The Boynton Society





I knew this day would eventually come. When our assistant director, Samantha Szynskie '09, told me she was moving on, it was sad news—but not unexpected. After all, she had been with us for more than six years. But it got me thinking about what the staffing situation was like when I first arrived in spring of 1997.

The lodge had been open for less than a year and the staff at that time consisted of me, the brand-new, wet-behind-the-ears director, a part-time chef and a part-time housekeeper.

No one really knew how the program would grow and how many people would actually be needed to run the place. Steve Martin was our chef, and he was also responsible for many other duties. Claire Peterson was the housekeeper; she did a magnificent job of keeping the new lodge looking immaculate. Chuck Lauter, who was dean of off-campus programs, handled all the logistics associated with the student weekend program. He did a masterful job of orchestrating all the details necessary to ensure the success of this fledgling program.

It didn't take long, however, to realize the program was outgrowing the staff. Both Claire and Steve moved to full time, but we still needed more help. The summer seminar program had expanded into the fall and the student weekend program continued to grow. Ben Meyer '00 joined and assumed responsibility for the student weekend program. When all of these details plus the responsibility for taking care of the lodge became too onerous, Kim Eckstein came on board as a part-time office assistant to work with the student program, among other things.

We charged along in this fashion for a while until the lodge more than doubled in size in 2007. Kim went full time, we hired an additional two or three students every summer and Ben began focusing all of his time being the on-site host for the weekend program. The weekend numbers continued to grow, so we started the Student Weekend Assistant (SWA) program. Every weekend, one or two students would come up and help Steve and Ben in the kitchen.

In 2009, another big change occurred when I started working more on campus. That is when we made the brilliant decision to hire Sam as the assistant director. She had been one of our fall workers the previous few months and it was readily apparent we would be foolish not to hire her. Sam's strategic and organizational skills were evident from the start. She took over the seminar program and ran it much more efficiently than I could have ever conceived. No task was too big or too small for Sam to tackle. I relied on Sam and Kim to take over most of my previous duties, including most maintenance projects. (All involved were overjoyed when we welcomed Mark Franke two years ago to take care of the buildings and grounds.)

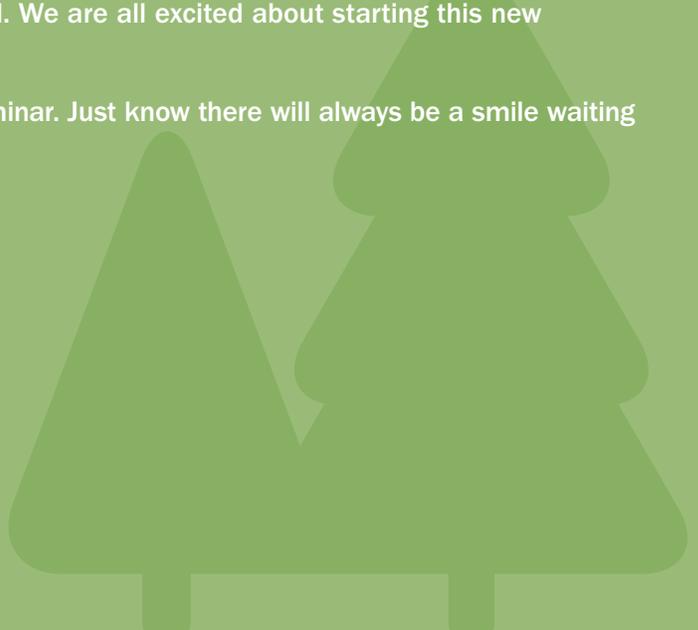
In the meantime, we kept getting busier and busier with more and more groups coming. Sam and Kim and our ever-present chef, Steve, continually answered the bell. Regardless of what brought visitors to Björklunden, they left with a smile, a sated appetite and a yearning to return as soon as possible. We were sad to see Ben leave last year, but we were excited he was able to follow his dream and become a fourth-grade teacher in Sturgeon Bay. Andy Plank '14 is doing a great job; we hope he's with us as long as Ben.



As I write this, I realize how lucky we have been to have such dedicated staff members over the years. It has been a privilege to work with all of them. We will miss Sam, but I'm sure she will go on to discover a wonderful opportunity in Portland in the next chapter in her life. I'm also confident we have hired an equally capable replacement in Bailey Koepsel. We are all excited about starting this new chapter with Bailey.

I look forward to seeing everybody this summer at a seminar. Just know there will always be a smile waiting to greet you.

Mark Breseman '78, Director of Björklunden
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Meet Assistant Director Bailey Koepsel

As part of a local family, I have always had a deep love and admiration for Door County. Some of my fondest childhood memories involve time spent exploring the peninsula. I look forward to new adventures at Björklunden, while also cultivating relationships with people who treasure this area as much as I do. Already, I have met Lawrentians that love the atmosphere Björklunden provides. It is easy to see how important Lawrence's northern campus is to its student body.

For my bachelor's degree, I attended the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay as a public administration major with a focus in nonprofit management, public management and public policy. While at UWGB, I worked on development and evaluation research for local organizations while constructing sustainable media plans. UWGB's interdisciplinary approach allowed me to cultivate knowledge and pursue different subject



areas. This allowed my passion for music and politics to intersect, ultimately culminating in an independent study project that involved researching the political context found in Bruce Springsteen lyrics. I look forward to meeting people with their own opinions on the intersection of pop culture and government—something I am sure will happen at Björklunden!

This year will be rather busy as I adjust to this position and continue to familiarize myself with the beautiful Björklunden campus. While dedicating myself to ensuring the seminar program continues to flourish, my fiancé and I are in the midst of planning our September wedding! It is wonderful to be back in the small town that has always been home. Thank you for

the chance to introduce myself, and please let me express my sincere excitement to be joining the team at Björklunden!

Gettysburg: Where Modern America Began

Oct. 17–21, 2016

Join us for this trip, led by Jerry Podair, Robert S. French Professor of American Studies and professor of history at Lawrence, and Christopher Oakley '85. The trip will include an in-depth tour of the Gettysburg battlefield, a discussion of the Gettysburg Address on the spot where Lincoln delivered it and a classroom session on the tantalizing historical "might-have-beens" that forever haunt this battle. Join us as we explore the ground upon which modern America was born.

For more information, please contact Mark Breseman at mark.d.breseman@lawrence.edu or 920-419-6675.

go.lawrence.edu/bjork-sponsoredtrips



2016 SEMINARS STILL AVAILABLE

JUNE 12-17

The Grand Synthesis

Eric Simonson '82

JUNE 19-24

Spring's Beauty

Don Quintenz

JUNE 26-JULY 1

What Will We Fight For? Considering Alternative Grand Strategies for America

Michael Desch

How We Know What We Know

Tomas Baer '62

JULY 17-22

Worlds Gone Bad: Modern Dystopias and Their Ancient Roots

Geoff Bakewell

Winston Churchill: The War Years 1939-1945

Tim Crain

East and West: Renaissance and Islamic Art in Dialogue

Ben Tilghman '99 and Ryan Gregg

JULY 24-30

Villains of the Opera: Why Are the Bad Guys (And Gals) So Good?

Dale Duesing '67

JULY 31-AUGUST 5

Discovering Deep France

Eilene Hoft-March

Is it Warm in Here? The Intractable Policy Challenge of Climate Change

David Gerard

AUGUST 7-12

Harry S. Truman: An American Life

Tim Crain

Putin's Russia: Culture and Politics

Peter Thomas

AUGUST 14-20

The Apostle Thomas in Scripture and Tradition

Bill Urbrock

What Next for Israel in the New Middle East?

Jon Greenwald

AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 2

What Makes Right Acts Right?

Terry Goode

A Closer Look: How and Why the Best Films of the Classic Era Still Matter Today

Jack Rhodes

Piano Teaching in the 21st Century

Cathy Kautsky, Anthony Padilla and Michael Mizrahi

for pianists and piano teachers

“Björklunden is a place where Lawrentians can go to connect to history, the environment and to each other. My last visit to the lodge with LU Speaks was productive and fun, despite the freezing temperatures! Being able to go to Björklunden is one of the many things that I love about attending Lawrence, and I appreciate the people that make the trips to our northern campus possible!”

—Megan Davidson '17



Save the date!

This year the **Boynton Society Gala** will be held at the lodge **Aug. 13**. Please mark your calendars—we are looking forward to welcoming you and to expressing our gratitude for your loyal support! You will receive more information and details as we approach the summer months. We hope to see you all there!

Björklunden welcomed some longtime friends and many new faces to the lodge for the third annual “This is Björklunden: An Insider’s Look.” It was a great success as over 100 guests arrived that Sunday to experience all that Björklunden has to offer! They toured the grounds, enjoyed lunch and attended a Cuban inspired percussion concert led by guest artist Michael Spiro, Professor of Music Dane Richeson and Lawrence students. Everyone also got a taste of the summer seminar program as we learned about prehistoric Björklunden visitors with one of our favorite instructors, Professor of Anthropology Peter Peregrine. Thank you to those of you who were able to join us and to everyone who continues to support this amazing place and its programs.



**Björklunden is a special part of
Door County and you are a
special part of Björklunden.**

Please consider a legacy gift to the college and join the Lawrence-Downer Legacy Circle, our recognition society for those who remember Lawrence in their estate plans.

For more information, call 920-832-6557
or visit legacygiving.lawrence.edu.



Goodbye, Sam

It is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to our co-worker, confidant and friend Samantha Szynskie '09. Sam came to Björklunden after graduating from Lawrence. She stepped into a newly created position and quickly made it her own. Kim and Sam were two peas in a pod, right from the get-go. Each relishes the excitement of pillow protectors and organized closets as much as the other!

We wear a lot of hats here at Björklunden. And whatever the task, Sam always attacked it with vim and vigor and a clear mind. She added so much value to our team; she was constantly looking for ways to do things better or more efficiently. We appreciate everything she has done to maintain and grow the programs at Björklunden. She is truly passionate about ensuring the Boyntons' legacy lives on. We always say we have the best guests here—remarkable people. They were all guaranteed to have a wonderful stay because Sam was part of the Björklunden team taking care of them.

It has been our honor to work alongside such an amazing young woman. We have had the privilege of watching her grow in her position at the lodge and into who she is today. Sam, we wish you all the best in your future endeavors. We know whatever your future holds, you will conquer it with ease. We shall miss you, though you will remain in our hearts always.

All the best wishes to you, Sam!

—The Björklunden staff



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