

FY
20
22



Annual Report

JULY 1, 2021–JUNE 30, 2022



Augustana students at a hemslöjd workshop

52

hemslöjd artists
in 4 workshops

Welcome

to our first-ever annual report for the Swenson Center! We are happy to have a chance to highlight the accomplishments & activities of the previous fiscal year. As an archivist, I'm especially glad for the opportunity to document and preserve our achievements for the historical record.

Like many organizations, we came out of the pandemic a little bruised, but overall in good shape. We discovered our members' appetite for virtual programming and are happy to continue providing online events for our fans across the world (46 states, 2 territories, and 6 countries!).

In the next few pages, you will meet many faces impacted by the work of the Center. Above, you see two Augustana College students attending one of our new hemslöjd (handicraft) workshops, which bring together students and community members to

discover and create pieces inspired by Scandinavian folk arts. Read on to see further highlights from our three main areas of activities: library/archives, genealogy assistance, and academic research support.

It's important to note that we are a staff of just 2.3 FTE (full time equivalent) employees. Just imagine what we could do with expanded staff and financial support! We invite you to join us in making a [contribution](#) to support the activities of the Center today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Huntsha".

Lisa Huntsha
Assistant Director & Head of Collections

Thank you!

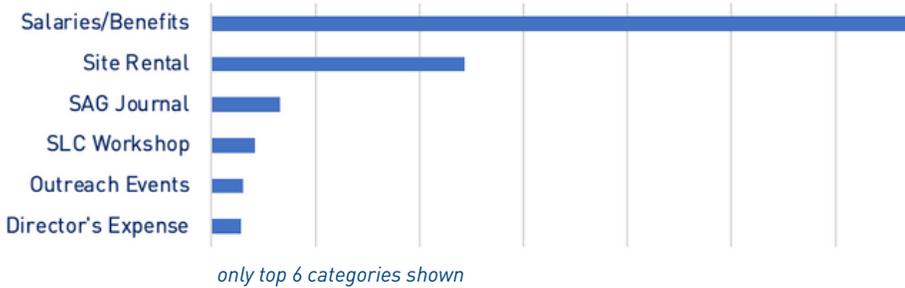
Financial Overview

EXPENSES

Expenses for FY22 were lower than average due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Our director's expense and travel budget lines were lower for this reason.

Site rental for our space in Denkmann Hall continues to be our second highest expense after staff salaries and benefits.

TOTAL EXPENSES \$231,683

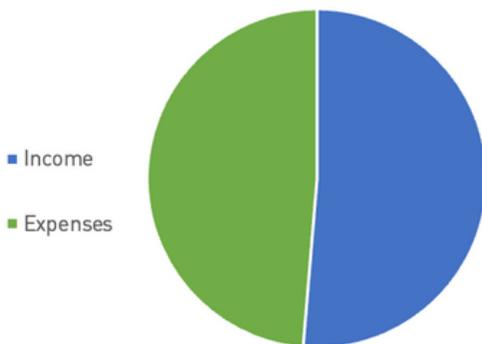
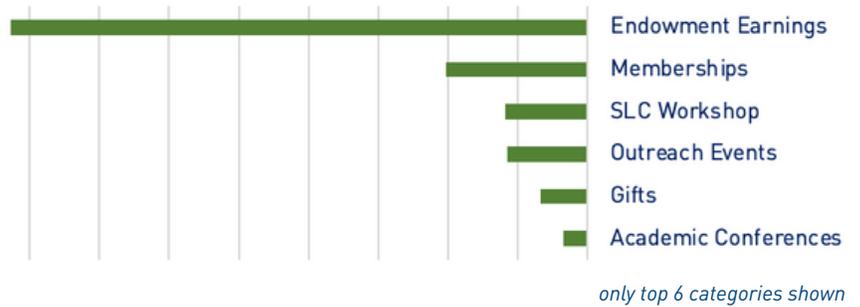


INCOME

Our operating budget is largely reliant on our endowment earnings, supported by program fees from outreach events like the Salt Lake City Workshop.

Memberships and gifts are important areas that contribute to operating expenses. These are areas that could be developed further.

TOTAL INCOME \$244,172



SURPLUS? NOT QUITE...

While it looks like we have a healthy surplus this year, this is due to a higher than average endowment draw (temporarily raised during the COVID-19 pandemic), one-time carryover funds, and lower than average travel-related costs. With the return to average spending and endowment draw, we are projecting potential budget deficits in our near future.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

One major contribution not represented in the budget is the contribution of time from our dedicated volunteers, including our volunteer director. The estimated contribution of time has a value of over \$14,000. Thank you, volunteers!

\$14K
equivalent in
volunteer hours

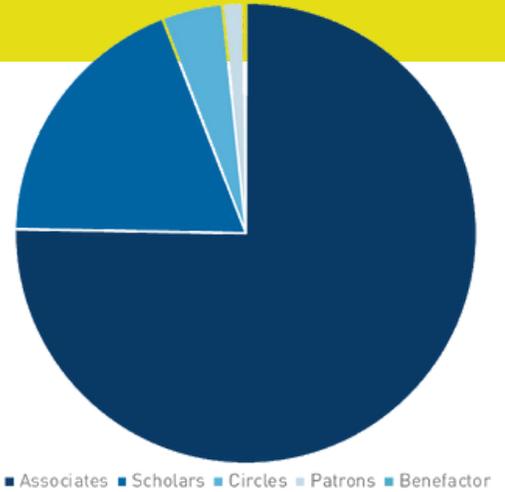
Membership

MEMBERS

Support for the Center comes in many shapes and sizes. Members show their support for the Center through an annual contribution and receive exciting benefits.

MEMBERS BY ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION LEVEL

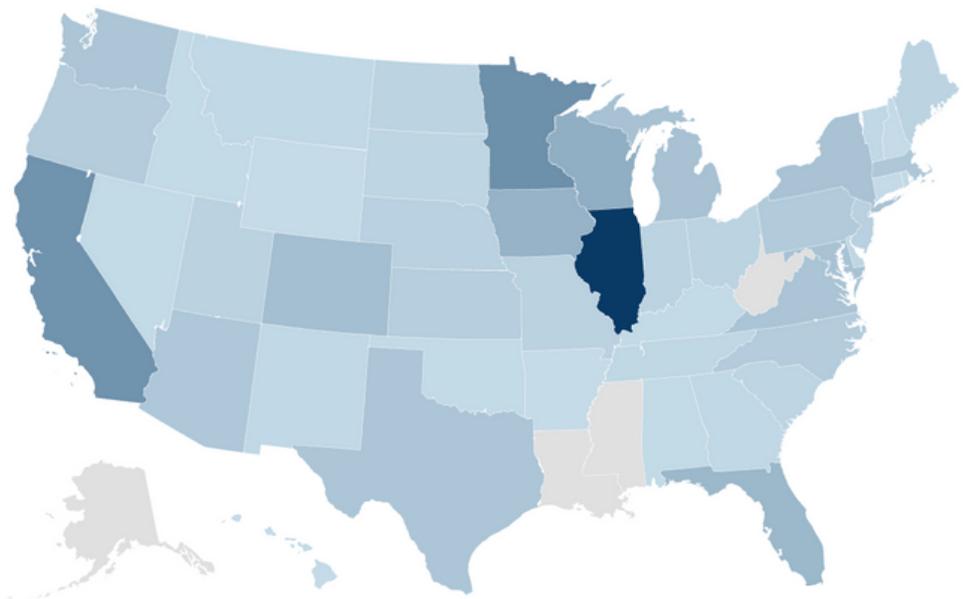
1	<i>Benefactor \$2,000+</i>
9	<i>Patrons \$500-1,999</i>
26	<i>Circles \$250-499</i>
115	<i>Scholars \$100-249</i>
460	<i>Associates \$30-99</i>



611
members

MEMBERS BY LOCATION

46 states
2 territories (DC & Puerto Rico)
5 countries



New Advisory Committee Class

We welcomed 5 new members to create the Advisory Committee class of 2024.



Brianne Berogan

Director of Advancement Services,
Augustana College



Adam Hjorthén

Senior Lecturer, Swedish Institute for
North American Studies, Uppsala
University



Kelly Lao

Director, German American
Heritage Center, Davenport, IA



Mariano Magalhães

Professor of Political Science,
Augustana College



Mike Swanson

Archivist, Chester Fritz Library,
University of North Dakota



From left, Dr. Dag Blanck, Dr. Wendy Hilton-Morrow (Provost), and Steve Bahls (President)

DAG BLANCK NAMED HONORARY PROFESSOR

Dr. Dag Blanck, Director of the Swenson Center, was named Augustana Honorary Professor of Swedish-American Studies to acknowledge his lasting contributions to the field and to Augustana College.

MOU SIGNED WITH UPPSALA UNIVERSITY

Augustana College and Uppsala University signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize long-standing cooperations. The MOU seeks to expand faculty and student exchanges, international internships, joint courses, and collaboration between the Swenson Center and SINAS (Uppsala's Swedish Institute for North American Studies).

This past year, Augustana faculty and Uppsala faculty visited each other's campuses to strengthen these relationships.



From left, Dr. Adam Kaut, Dr. Dag Blanck, Dr. Lena Hann, Dr. Doug Nelson and Dr. David Thornblad from Augustana visit Uppsala University during spring break

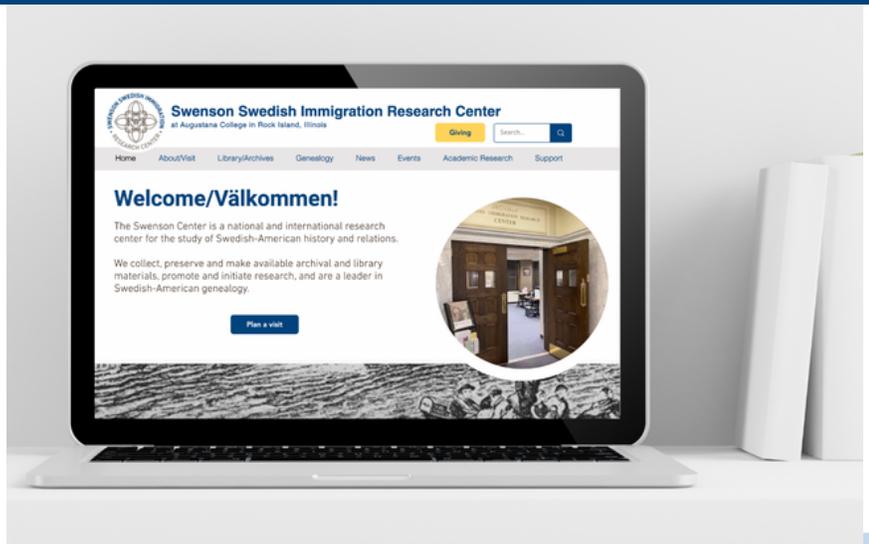
“Dag is of two families—one at Uppsala University and one at Augustana College. Due in large part to his years of patient persistence, those families are now blending, learning from each other and strengthening one another.”

—Dr. Wendy Hilton-Morrow '94, Augustana provost

NEW WEBSITE

We migrated 294 web pages to launch www.swensoncenter.org!

Having outgrown our old space on the Augustana website, we served users and heard your desire for clearer navigation menus.



58

students in 7
classes



LISA HUNTSHA PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lisa was promoted to Assistant Director and Head of Collections from Archivist/Librarian in recognition of her expanded role.

She not only oversees all aspects of collections work, but also supervises interns and part-time staff, conducts outreach and communication efforts, and contributes to advancing the organization's strategic mission.

SWEDISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

Instructor Alex Hart '21 (and former Scandinavian Studies major!) offers 4 levels of Swedish language. Classes reached 58 students from 12 states and 3 countries.

"Alex has put discipline, rigor and system into my attempts to learn Swedish. [They] take account of our individual needs in a very friendly but professional way. I can thoroughly recommend the course."

– P. K., Swedish 1



Academic ACCOMPLISHMENTS

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In May, we celebrated 40 years with a symposium, open house, and celebratory dinner.

We opened our doors in September 1981, and have since developed into the leading archives, library, and research institute for the study of Swedish-American history and relations.

The symposium "The Migration & Beyond: New Perspectives on Swedish-American Relations" featured four speakers (2 Americans and 2 Swedes) highlighting their research that demonstrates new developments in the field. Ingrid Ask, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Sweden, Washington, D.C. also gave remarks.

1,300

symposium lecture views on YouTube

102

in-person attendees



Symposium speakers, from left: Dr. Saniya Ghanoui, Dr. Kim Fahlstedt, Dr. Erika Jackson, and Dr. Adam Hjorthén

87

virtual Lunchtime Lecture attendees

LUNCHTIME LECTURES SERIES

Leading up to the 40th event we hosted 4 virtual lunchtime lectures to 87 attendees—on topics ranging from Sámi pop culture to Swedish-American legends—by scholars Dr. Kelsey Fuller-Shafer, Dr. Jennifer Attebery, Dr. Anne-Charlotte Harvey, and Dr. Dag Blanck.

Some lectures from both events are available on our [YouTube channel!](#)

Academic ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FACULTY RESEARCH STIPEND

Dr. Lena Hann, Augustana's first faculty member in Public Health, completed her study "Whole Person Health in the Swedish-American Experience" as the 2021 [Faculty Research Stipend](#) recipient.



Dr. Lena Hann in the Swenson Center's reading room

"My week in the Swenson archives was fascinating and enlightening. I enjoyed getting to learn more about the Swedish-American experience, as well as the history of health-related programs at Augustana College and in the Quad Cities. I plan to use these materials to build my course proposal for PUBH 247: Whole Person Health Study Abroad in Scandinavia, which will be taught in Spring/Summer 2023."

–Dr. Lena Hann



Waqnahwew Benjamin R. Grignon, researching at the Center

VISITING SCHOLAR AWARDS

The 2020 and 2021 recipients of the NWO [Visiting Scholar Award](#) completed their research this year. Waqnahwew Benjamin R. Grignon, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, conducted his study "John Olof Viking and Johan Baner: Documenting early Indigenous Oral Traditions in Upper Michigan."

Delayed due to COVID-19, Isabelle Gapp, the 2020 Awardee, was able to complete her study "From Woodstock to the Great Plains: The American Landscape in the Painting of Birger Sandzén and John F. Carlson."



Dr. Kelsey Fuller-Shafer selecting records for the Center's 40th Open House

20%

increase in
archival
descriptions

262

books cataloged

8,265

library books
inventoried

174

Nordic Book Club
participants

NORDIC BOOK CLUB

Our monthly, virtual [book club](#) saw 174 attendees Zoom in from 13 states and 2 countries. We were also joined by 2 authors and 1 guest speaker to help guide our discussions.



"Tack så mycket for conducting the Book Club for the past year. The Book Club has improved my life in two ways: Enabled me to learn about Swedish-American culture and the other Nordic nations that I would not otherwise be exposed to [and] increased my sense of belonging to the Swenson community. As someone who lives 1,500 miles away from Augustana, this is significant!"

—Kyle Jansson
Monmouth, Oregon

Library & Archives

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AUGIE CLASSES

Even during COVID, we hosted [class research sessions](#)—virtually and in-person.

Pictured is Dr. Kwame Adovor Tsikudo's GEOG-120 Human Geography class. These students were studying global issues and migration. Students analyzed historical documents and discussed how a geographer might benefit from archival research.



18 students from GEOG-120 learn about archival research

\$2K

raised to purchase books

LENDING LIBRARY

New! Local Quad Cities residents can visit the Center and borrow some of the 222 newly added books and DVDs on Nordic topics in our [Lending Library](#).



67

student & faculty researchers



Jack Beemsterboer '23, summer intern

INTERNS

This year we employed 3 [interns](#) and student workers. They learned important work skills and we received library/archives assistance. Win-win!

"Thinking about the next couple of years used to agonize me, but I leave this internship feeling energized and excited for my life after graduation."

—Jack Beemsterboer '23, history major

Genealogy ACCOMPLISHMENTS



395

participants in 8 club meetings

GENEALOGY CLUB

Jill Seaholm started a new, monthly, virtual [Swedish-American Genealogy Club](#). 395 participants at 8 meetings discussed research tips and useful databases.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

We expanded our volunteers by 150%!

Dedicated volunteers have donated an estimated 150 hours to the Center; 2 even participate remotely.

150

hours donated by 5 volunteers



Dr. Tom Bengtson, retired Augustana math professor and new Swenson Center volunteer

65

genealogy research requests answered

"Just a note to say how much we appreciate the work you did to help us learn more about Carol's ancestors. Your explanations of the details cited in the documents discovered together with interpretations and insights of Swedish customs are greatly appreciated."

-J.&C. K.

Genealogy ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SAG WORKSHOP

The sold-out Swedish American Genealogist Workshop saw 50 participants from 16 states and 3 countries. The virtual workshop helped participants with their family history research through expert assistance from SAG staff.

NEW SAG EDITOR

Karen E. Livsey took over as Editor of the Swedish American Genealogist journal with the March 2021 issue.

Karen was Archivist at the Fenton History Center in Jamestown, NY and is a long-time participant at the SAG Workshop.

50

SAG workshop attendees



Jill Seaholm at Geneva (Illinois) Swedish Days. She spoke with nearly 100 individuals about the Center

Swedish American
Genealogist

700

readers of SAG
journal

"Thank you so much for all you do to print Swedish American Genealogist. From cover to cover, the pages "spell" profound interest, teaching areas and professionalism."

-Carol M. Perkins



85 attendees enjoy the annual Julbord dinner before the Sankta Lucia performance

We served 2,230+ individuals from 46 states, 2 territories, and 6 countries

imagine how much more we could do with your support!

swensoncenter.org/support

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11,916

views of 41 videos

youtube.com/swensoncenter



1,594

subscribers

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