

*Foreign Students and other New-comers are...*

## Welcome to Lund

### SUMMARIES FROM LUM No.1, 2003

**NEW VICE CHANCELLOR.** Lund University now has a new Vice Chancellor, Göran Bexell. Dr. Bexell has a PhD in Theological Ethics and has been a professor at the Department of Theology since 1990. According to an article by Britta Collberg in the latest issue of LUM (Lund Universitet Meddelar), Mr. Bexell will support Lund University's "elite" profile as far as maintaining the quality of the education it provides. He also has some ideas on how to encourage more women professors, and plans to visit a number of faculties to meet faculty leaders. The full article (in Swedish) is in LUM No.1, 2003.

**NO LONGER THE BEST.** Swedish universities are no longer the best in Scandinavia, according to a recent report from the National Agency for Higher Education (Högskoleverket). Finland, Norway and Denmark have surpassed Sweden when it comes to adopting new higher education reforms, says the report. The result is that Sweden is behind the other countries when it comes to quantitative goals for expanding higher education, especially within the humanities and social sciences. See the report at [www.hsv.se](http://www.hsv.se)

**RICH AND POOR,** was the center of discussion at a two-day conference here in Lund in early January. The conference, attended by at least 250 participants, discussed the effects of Globalization on rich and poor countries. The conference was sponsored by SAREC and Lund University.

**SWEDEN NEEDS FOREIGN STUDENTS.** The Minister of Education, Thomas Östros, has announced that a new website marketing Swedish universities to the world will soon be published. Mr. Östros feels that Swedish universities need more foreign students and researchers. The Swedish Institute will develop the site, which is in English. [www.studyin.sweden.se](http://www.studyin.sweden.se)

**BILL OF RIGHTS.** After years of debate and discussion, doctoral candidates at Lund University will get a "bill of rights", according to an article in LUM written by Ulrika Oredsson. The article interviews Susan Persson, the current Ombudsman for PhD candidates. She feels that the list of rights is important because there are many "shadow" (some say "ghost") PhD candidates that have no official status in the university, hence no access to a computer or university email. Ms. Persson is quoted as saying that one advisor told a PhD candidate to "get yourself a Hotmail account". This, and the fact that no one knows how many ghost candidates there are makes a list of rights an important document. (Ulrika Oredsson.)

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### Here's the Picture...



Integration Minister Mona Sahlin making a point to an attentive listener at the Board of Integration's Conference in Stockholm last November. Lundian Photo.



Photos of some of Lund's foreign students and immigrants at a social gathering in Lund at the Student Priest's Conference Room last November. More Lundian photos inside.

**More Photos and Articles on our website:**  
[www.thelundian.com](http://www.thelundian.com)

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## Guest Editorial...

From Slavery to Rejection

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The plight of Africans all over the world can, in my opinion be narrowed down to one statement: From slavery to Rejection.

In the 1800s when Europeans were in dying need of man-power to meet the growing need of production, they of course degraded Africans by forcibly recruiting them into slavery. Millions of Africans found themselves in forced labor situations all over Europe and America. Africans were taken into slavery in Europe and America against their will. This action on the part of the so-called educated Europeans was defended by classifying Africans as non-humans. In those days Europeans did not see the need for Africans to carry valid passports, visas, identity cards or any kind of personal document to substantiate their identity before traveling to Europe. The concept of slavery was made legal and even defended by religious institutions. The educated, political and educated elite endorsed this absurd practice and saw nothing wrong with the cruel system that separated mother from child, husband from wife and destroyed the family which they claim is the main fabric of their own society.

Stage two of the unfortunate episode saw the European colonization of the African continent. Just when some Europeans were starting to wake up from the dark age of Slavery the evil minded power-drunk and greedy elite invented another phase of slavery which they carried out in the form of colonization. Since slavery was voted illegal or outlawed, the concept of colonization was born. Strangely, but understandably, a few power-drunk Europeans sat in a room in Berlin in the mid 1880s and divided the African continent among themselves. This was absurd since not a single African was represented. The Scramble for Africa thus took effect and the then world powers each satisfied themselves with large portions of the African continent. A brief analysis of this era saw the European world powers exploiting each their portion of Africa, which they forcibly obtained from the Africans. A few examples of the process of exploitation of Africa resources are: South African gold and diamond mines, Sierra Leone's rich diamond mines, Nigeria's oil reserves, Liberia's rich iron ore and rubber plantations, and Guinea's rich bauxite and valuable timber from the rain forest. There are many others.

Although colonization is officially ended, the situation in Africa is still not changed. The world powers still control Africa resources and thereby the governments. This why the very concept of the formation of any African Union is being fought on every front by the powers that be. It is O.K. for Europeans to have a "united states" of Europe but, but it is not good for Africa. (Even though an African preceded the EU. Remember the OAU?) The concept of the Africa Union is a treat to the well being of the world powers who sole intention is to control Africa's economies and governments by all means. This hidden agenda must be safe-guarded by any means. Any African leader who challenges this control of the world powers of Africa is eradicated from the scene. Remember Kwame Nkruma of Ghana? His strong support of Pan Africanism was quickly quenched by the

powers that be.

All over Europe and western nations, Africans are facing a negative reception. Let me point out that in the 1800s Africans were forced to come to Europe against their will. Today, in the 21st Century, Africans are being rejected and refused entry into Europe. Those who are already here are being encouraged to leave by the method of no jobs, prejudice and even physical harassment. I was listening to the BBC news and the main agenda for all EU countries political platform deals with the issue of immigration and crime. EU countries are only united on one issue and that is the immigration problem. We have seen in recent times that any political party that makes anti-immigration the main item on their platform gets high votes. In some cases these anti-immigration motivated political parties even get voted into office. I refer you to the case of Denmark where a new regime is in power through its anti-immigration position.

The sad situation is that immigrants don't know whom to trust because even those who preach integration are found to be lacking in their treatment of the very immigrants they claim to accept. Someone once said, charity begins at home. If you believe in immigration, integration, multiculturalism, democracy, human rights, equality for all, equal opportunity for all, and all those fine ideals, then show and practice this at home. Integration policies should be encouraged from the bottom up in society.

James Bartee, Lund

*Mr. James Bartee is a teacher from Liberia currently living in Lund, Sweden with his family. He earned a Masters Degree in Intercultural Communications from Lund University and is board certified to teach math, geography and English in Sweden.*

*If you have an Editorial opinion you would like to express mail it to: englintern@hotmail.com.*

*Write Editorial in the subject area. Maximum 500 words. All Editorials are published on a pro bono basis.*

### Who Lives in Lund?

The city's statistics department (Drätselkontoret) published a report showing that on December 31, 2001, there were 6 757 foreign citizens in Lunds Kommun, that's 6,8% of the total population. That was when Lund had only 99+hundred people, but that number will probably be 100 thousand people when this year's statistics are available, probably in April.

The stats' also showed that there were 129 different nationalities living in Lund. The percentages: Denmark (8%), Iraq (7,0%), the USA (6,5%) and Germany (6,0%). Fifty-seven percent of all foreigners were from Europe; 351 persons were from Africa (60 from Ethiopia) making it the largest African population in Lund; 569 persons were from North America where 442 persons are from the USA. From South America there were a total of 178 persons. Chile, with 78 persons, had the largest South American population. 1 677 persons were from Asia. Iraq, with 473 persons had the largest single population. For more recent statistics, call them yourself: Lunds Drätselkontor: 046- 35 50 00.

## General Guidelines for Relations between the Departments and Students at Lund University

On June 4th, 1998, the Board of Directors for Lund University adopted guidelines for relations between students and their departments at Lund University. The guidelines were amended on November 6th, 2000, and there is an extract available in English at [www.lu.se/studinfo/rights.pdf](http://www.lu.se/studinfo/rights.pdf).

## New Laws in Sweden

On January 1st, 26 new laws and 100 new ordinances take effect in Sweden. Here are the most important ones.

The constitution is changed so today the Parliament (Riksdag) can delegate the right to make decisions to the EU.

Public authorities are now obligated to publish public documents in electronic, for example their e-mail.

The tax limits are changed. Income-tax (20%) is not taken on monthly incomes under 25 100 SKR.

Each passenger and his/her entire luggage on domestic and foreign flights shall be examined.

Upper secondary students will get study grants for 10 months a year, one month more than before. Also the interest on study loans is changed from 3,0% to 3,2%.

There are two new laws that support homosexual couples. They now have rights to be tested as adoptive parents. Agitation against homosexual as a group is now criminally punishable.

Human egg donation is now legal. Human eggs and sperm (not both) can be donated for test-tube fertilization.

Swedish travellers can now bring twice as much alcohol from other EU-countries. Five litres of liquor, 52 litres wine and 64 litres strong beer.

It's now more expensive to watch TV. The license fee was raised by 72 SKR to 1812 SKR per year.

More information in Swedish at [www.rixlex.se](http://www.rixlex.se)

## A-A-A-C-H-O-O-O!

**Winters in Sweden** can be harsh and very cold for people from warmer climates. That is why the advice for the winter months is: 1) Dress Warmly. 2) Take vitamins such as E, and C help your resistance to colds. 3) Take Echinacea. At the first sign of a cold, take some Echinacea +. 4) Avoid cold Air. 5) Avoid people who are sneezing 6) Take cough medicines and syrups 7) Eat hot chicken soup. It may sound ridiculous, but getting a friend to make you some hot chicken soup which you can regularly take during your cold really works. It's a miracle, to say the least, so keep some hot chicken soup around. It will do you good. 8) See the doctor.

When all these precautions fail and they will if you run around in sandals, shorts and a tee shirt during the winter), go see a doctor if the cough is really bad, and don't wait too long to do so. Get plenty of rest.

None of this is medical advice, but heed it and you'll stay healthy.

English International held an Information Evening for foreign students and others at the Student Priests Conference Room last November. The Board of Integration gave a conference. Below are photos from both events.



**Photos at top:** Foreign students, researchers and immigrants at the information evening in Lund in November.

**Bottom:** Board of Integration Director Anders Carlgren and a Rep. from Lund at the Conference in Stockholm.

## Why We Publish in English

Lund receives more guest researchers and foreign students than official statistics accurately know of. Though Swedish is clearly the first language of Lund (after all, we are in Sweden), English is definitely the *lingua franca* of the non-Swedish community here, which is why we publish this newsletter with tips and information for you in English.

To learn more about Sweden, the English International Association of Lund and how to subscribe to The Lundian, visit our website: [www.thelundian.com](http://www.thelundian.com) or send us an e-mail: [englintern@hotmail.com](mailto:englintern@hotmail.com)

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B  
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in subject area.



### People at the Board of Integration Conference

All Photos in this  
edition by M. Diakitè



**LUM** UPDATING THE WEBSITE. Lund University will soon  
have an updated home page. Mr. Peter  
Svensson and Ms. Petra Svensson will be in charge of  
updating the current home page. Peter and Petra plan to  
launch the new pages around the 20th of August this  
year. (Petra Francke)

**MUSICAL "CHAIRS":** When Göran Bexell became the new  
Vice Chancellor of Lund University, his position at Arts  
and Theology was filled by Jan Svensson...who left a  
position that was filled by Sven Strömquist...who left a  
position that was filled by Eric Hedling. At the History-  
Philosophy section, former Dean Inger Lövkrona was  
replaced by Greger Andersson, who's position was filled  
by Deborah Olausson (congratulations!). In Theology,  
Dean Bengt Holmberg filled Sten Hidal's vacant position.  
The new Assistant Dean is Eva Hamberg who replaced  
Antoon Geels. (Ulrika Oredsson)

**HONORARY DOCTORATE:** Professor Ahamed H. Zewail, the  
Nobel Prize Winner in Chemistry in 1999, is one of three  
scientists who will receive Honorary Doctorates in

Till:

Science this year from Lund University. The other two are  
Professor Ernst Hairer, at Geneve, and Rüdiger Wehner,  
of Zürich. Professor Zewail is a professor in Pasadena,  
California. All of three of these distinguished scientists  
have had many years of co-operation with scientists here  
at Lund University.

*LUM magazine is located at: Information Section, Lund  
University, Box 117, 221 00 Lund. The Editor is Britta  
Collberg. These articles were summarized with her  
permission.*

#### Important Dates to Remember

*Some stores and services may be closed or slowed down  
on some of the following days:*

01 February	Chinese New Year (Year of the Goat)
11 Feb	Eid-al-Adha (Du al-Hijah 10)
14 Feb.	Valentines Day
21 Feb.	President's Day (USA)
04 March	Muharram (1) (New Year's Day, 1424)
13 March	Muharram (10)
17 March	St. Patrick's Day
17 March	Fast of Esther (Ta'anis)
18 March	Purim

Source: 2003 World Almanac and Book of Facts.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

If you feel that you have been unfairly  
discriminated against for *any reason*,

contact: **The Forum Against  
Discrimination in Lund**

Tel: 046 - 211 2825

Email: englintern@hotmail.com

More information on our website at:

**www.thelundian.com**