



Connect

March/Mars 2021

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INLUS Membership

Join or Renew here:

<https://inlus.org/about-us/membership/>

Connect newsletter welcomes your submissions!

Send your news, ideas, photos, and articles to:

info@inlus.org

Connect newsletter is published quarterly.

Webinars Kick Off 2021 Events

Managing Director of the Icelandic Travel Industry Association Jóhannes Þór Skúlason brought hope for travel to Iceland in 2021. Skúlason returned to INLUS to give an update on travel restrictions just days after the government of Iceland made a January announcement about new testing and quarantine protocols. Current testing and quarantine restrictions will remain in place until May 1. As of May 1 passengers who arrive in Iceland will be color coded according to the country from which they traveled. The color coding will determine what specific testing or quarantine protocols are required for a traveler. Skúlason provided descriptions of how Icelandic tourism-centered companies are currently in survival mode. With May 1



Jóhannes Þór Skúlason, Managing Director
Icelandic Travel Industry Association

as the date that the travel restrictions will change, he anticipates that tourism companies will start to rehire employees in April and begin to ramp up operations for a busy summer. Skúlason provided useful insights and the links to the Icelandic government's official websites for any updates.

What kind of border do fish observe? And how do humans reconcile the differences between a border that a fish observes and a geopolitical border?

Lauren Fields, Ph.D. presented a webinar about Iceland and Arctic fishing. She spent five months at Háskólinn á Akureyri in Iceland teaching and studying future fisheries management of the Arctic high seas. Dr. Fields was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, funded by the Icelandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Icelandic Fulbright Commission. Her interest in fish began at a young age, and led her to completing her Ph.D. in Antarctic fish physiology. During her webinar, Dr. Fields explained the evolution of fishing technology, starting with early Icelandic fishing vessels. With the improvement in fishing technology, the debates over the territory for fishing also evolved. Dr. Fields explained that most of the world's oceans are governed by either nations or international agreements, with a notable exception being the Arctic high seas. In 2018, ten nations signed an agreement to halt commercial fishing in the Arctic high seas to allow time for researching the area. Dr. Fields shared the conclusions of her research and the types of management strategies that may be implemented in the future.



Lauren Fields, Ph.D.

Missed the opportunity to join these webinars? INLUS webinar recordings are available on the INLUS website at <https://inlus.org/community/webinars/>

Kaffi Tími

Kaffi Tími is a casual coffee hour hosted on ZOOM to provide an opportunity to connect with others who enjoy all things Icelandic!

It's open to all and every other Friday afternoon.

To see when the next Kaffi Tími is scheduled, check out the INLUS Events Calendar at

[https://inlus.org/
community/events-
calendar/](https://inlus.org/community/events-calendar/)

President's Message: New Year, New Excitement, Welcoming New Volunteers

2020 was a tough year for many and our hearts go out to those who have experienced loss. As a quick recap, the INLUS was still able to provide webinars, Authors Corner events, and Icelandic language classes. Kaffi Tími and the Icelandic Movie and Television discussion group offered a respite from pandemic news. We also moved to a new website platform and made additional behind-the-scenes updates.

Our membership grew as well. We have a wonderful, dedicated group of volunteers! The 2020 Annual Report gives a more comprehensive view.

The INLUS received a generous donation from a member family. In discussions with them, we have determined that the funding will be used to preserve and archive Icelandic Club histories. Icelandic Clubs have rich stories to tell future generations with documents such as minutes, member lists, photographs, and event summaries. If you would enjoy assisting with this interesting project, please let me know!

With 2020 in our rearview mirror, we are moving forward with the vigor of a new season. We have ideas for new programs and for expanding others, but we need your help. We are an all-volunteer organization, and we need more volunteers to lend a hand. You can volunteer on an as-needed basis, such as you will read in Leah's interview, or volunteer on a more regular schedule as your time allows. Please contact me at Dianne@inlus.org if you would like to exercise your skills in a new way!

I look forward to hearing from you! Stay safe.
Dianne



INLUS President Dianne O'Konski

INLUS Annual Report

The INLUS Annual Report is a summary of calendar year 2020 accomplishments.

The full report can be accessed here:

<https://inlus.org/about-us/reports/>

Icelandic Language Classes: Expanded Start to 2021

The 2021 INLUS Icelandic language classes have expanded to feature two levels of learning: a beginner class, and a class for intermediate language learners. Students from all over are joining INLUS's third session of classes, motivated to join for a variety of reasons. We asked a few students to share about their experiences.

Kathy Thorlakson grew up hearing Icelandic spoken every day, and while she was able to understand much of the conversations she wasn't included in the speaking part of the conversations. Later on she conversed in Icelandic with her mother. After Kathy's mother and other Icelandic speakers in the community passed away, Kathy lost the ability to practice and expand her knowledge. When classes became available, she found it a joy to listen to the instructors and learn. Kathy says, "The classes keep me motivated knowing that each week I need to study what we are working on."

Jim Erdmann was introduced to the Icelandic language when he spent two years in Iceland in the late 1970's. Jim says, "I learned the language somewhat at that time, but mostly fell in love with the country and the people, and the food, especially hot dogs and ice cream!" Jim mostly forgot about Icelandic until a few years ago when he started relearning the language. He never misses an opportunity to take an Icelandic class and finds meeting other people who are somehow connected to Iceland very interesting.

The classes have provided for some interesting or surprising learning opportunities. Kathy mentioned that she was surprised to learn how the words she heard as a child are actually spelled. She also says, "I am also surprised at how much I actually do know even if I'm not sure how to use it sometimes." Jim says, "I think the most interesting thing is to see what a resilient and independent group of people the Icelanders are. A small country, but so filled with national pride. There doesn't seem to be anything they can't conquer if they want to."

Kathy and Jim have some helpful advice for students who are learning Icelandic. Kathy says to practice and keep trying. For better pronunciation she suggests, "Practice saying the words and rolling the r sounds and accenting the first syllable and suddenly you start sounding more Icelandic." She also suggests practicing singing along to a tune. Jim offers this advice, "Immerse yourself in whatever you can to get exposed to the language and culture. Doesn't matter if you don't understand it all, you will sooner or later if you stick with it!"

The current INLUS Icelandic language classes are offered in 6-week long sessions. The intermediate level course will run from February 20 to March 30, and the beginner course will run from March 4 to April 8. In addition to the scheduled class sessions, language learners have been meeting online for additional study and practice sessions to enhance learning. For more details about upcoming INLUS Icelandic class offerings, see <https://inlus.org/travel-culture/icelandic-language/language-classes/>



Jim Erdmann

Meaningful Icelandic word or phrase:

betta reddast.

Everything will always work out.

Don't get stressed!



Kathy Thorlakson

Meaningful Icelandic word or phrase:

Heima er best.

Home is best.

Mom and Dad used to say it and I think it has gotten to be more of a truth in my life over the years.

Amma

Now that I have grandchildren they use it to call me.

Jaeja

is very useful.

INLUS Volunteer Spotlight:

Leah Hummel

Leah Hummel volunteers her graphic design skills to make sure INLUS communications are visually appealing. She created a brochure, the formatting for this newsletter, and two annual reports.

How are you connected to Iceland?

I am of Icelandic descent on my mother's side and Norwegian and Swedish descent on my father's side. I have become really interested in genealogy and history. Iceland has always particularly fascinated me, it's exciting to think that my ancestors came from such a unique place. I haven't traveled there yet, but I am hoping to someday. I have my two-week trip itinerary all planned out, including stops at the birthplaces of several of my ancestors.

How did you get involved with INLUS?

While I was at the Norsk Hostfest modeling an Icelandic Bunad, Sunna Furstenau asked if I would be willing to get involved and volunteer my talents.

What is a fun fact about you?

One of the most interesting tidbits I learned while researching my genealogy: My dad's 30th great-grandfather killed my mom's 37th great-grandfather in 894 AD by trapping him in a building and burning him and 60 of his men alive! (From the Saga of Harald Fair-hair)

Anything else you'd like to add?

My husband and I are parents to twin 15-year old boys. I am a licensed architect and specialize in healthcare facilities. We live in Bismarck, North Dakota where I work from home for The Joint Commission, which does accreditation of health care organizations.

Do you have a creative idea? Or do you have a skill you'd like to share in the community?

If you're interested in sharing your talents with INLUS for a one time project or something on a recurring basis, we'd love to hear from you at info@inlus.org. Our many dedicated volunteers generously share their unique skills in a variety of ways. You can meet more of the INLUS volunteer team here: <https://inlus.org/about-us/volunteers/>



INLUS Volunteer Leah Hummel

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