

# A PRESENTATION OF THE THOR HEYERDAHL INSTITUTE

- **Founded in 2000**
- **Has received government funding since 2006**
- **Location of the Institute: Larvik Municipality, the birthplace of Thor Heyerdahl**



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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- **Maja Bauge**, Director of the Kon-Tiki Museum, 2002-2010



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- Interdisciplinary research
- International dialogue
- Partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland / regional initiatives
- Local initiatives in Larvik
- Prioritised areas of activity 2011-2014



## The Institute aims to continue and develop the ideas and principles of Thor Heyerdahl within the areas of:

- Interdisciplinary research
- International dialogue
- Protection of the global environment



## INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH:

- **A four-year Thor Heyerdahl Professorship in co-operation with the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB).**
- **Professor Arild Vatn was appointed to the professorship in 2008. His research focuses on four areas within development and the environment: climate politics, health and development, institutions and behaviour, and environmental governance.**
- **The Thor Heyerdahl International Summer School in Environmental Governance from 2011.**
- **This is a summer school for PhD scholarship holders and young researchers from around the world. It aims to help participants develop their skills in the analysis of environmental political issues.**



# INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE:

## The Thor Heyerdahl International Day

The Institute organises an annual conference dedicated to a relevant global issue.

- 2006 **Global Identity.** International guest lecturer was the author Amin Maalouf (Lebanon/France).
- 2007 **The Polar Regions and the Environment.** International guest lecturer was Dr. Robert Corell (USA).
- 2008 **Indigenous Peoples of the World.** International guest lecturer was Dr. Mary May Simon (Canada).
- 2009 **The Fight for the Environment.** International guest lecturer was Dr. Robert Corell (USA).
- 2010 **Protection of the Global Environment.** International guest lecturer was Tom Steinberg (UK). The day was organised in co-operation with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).
- 2011 **Climate Politics - Do we have to wait for the UN?** International guest lecturer was the Nobel Prize winner for Economic Sciences in 2009, Ellinor Ostrom, Indiana University (USA).
- 2012 **International Symposium, Our Thirsty Planet, Pacific Lutheran University, USA.** Addressing the theme of water - a resource we are over-exploiting and over-using, and yet the very resource upon which we must depend to survive.





## Partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland, since 2002

- One of Scotland's largest universities with 15000 students from 70 countries
- Erasmus programmes in place since 2003, with exchanges of personnel and students between Telemark University College and Glasgow Caledonian University
- Masters Degree: MSc Cultural Heritage Studies (2003-2008)
- Scholarship scheme offered by Telemark County Council
- International seminars in co-operation with the Vestfold branch of the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO-Vestfold) and Vestfold County Council
- Buskerud, Telemark and Vestfold regional project (2004-2009) with several objectives:
  - to promote the building of international alliances in the Buskerud, Telemark and Vestfold region
  - to develop international educational co-operation across county borders
  - to direct attention towards bridging the gap between business and research
- Masters Degree: MSc International Tourism Enterprise from 2011
- Scholarship scheme offered by Vestfold County Council





## Partnership with Pacific Lutheran University, (USA), since 2011

- Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) is located in Parkland, a suburb of Tacoma, Washington.
- In September 2009, PLU had a student population of 3,582 and approximately 280 full-time faculty members. It currently consists of the College of Arts and Sciences (consisting of the Division of Humanities, the Division of Natural Sciences, and the Division of Social Sciences), the School of Arts and Communication, the School of Business, the School of Education and Movement Studies, and the School of Nursing.
- The Thor Heyerdahl International Day 2012.





# LOCAL INITIATIVES IN LARVIK MUNICIPALITY



- **The Institute is an active contributor**
- **Local action plan for Larvik, approved in 2005**
- **The Heyerdahl Town, a Larvik Municipality project from 2008-2010**
- **The Institute will continue the Heyerdahl Town initiatives from 2011**



# PRIORITISED AREAS OF ACTIVITY 2011-2014:

- **Finances**
- **Own premises**
- **Continuation of the Thor Heyerdahl Professorship**
- **Continuation of The Thor Heyerdahl International Summer School**
- **Continuation of The Thor Heyerdahl International Day**
- **Local initiatives**
- **Regional initiatives**
- **National initiatives**
- **International initiatives**

