



Photo: NASA

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Augustana College is one of six colleges founded by Swedish immigrants. The higher education with Swedish focus is monumental.



Cover photo: Ralph Samuelsson, with roots in Grums, Sweden, is recognized as the official "father of water skiing".

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**Sweden & America** is a joint, quarterly publication of The Swedish American Center and the Swedish Council of America. It is our ambition to reflect persons, places and events in the common history, and to preserve and strengthen the ties between Sweden and America.

Subscription rates: 120 SEK in Sweden and \$16 in the USA (\$8 for members of affiliates to the Swedish Council of America).

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Printed by AG Press, Manhattan, KS 2009.

■■■ This summer we have celebrated the 40th anniversary of the moon landing. Following tradition we have also honored John Ericsson and his ground-breaking invention – the Monitor. This is all about technological advancement from two eras: the Monitor, which was completely revolutionary in 1862, and the moon landing, which was a technological triumph in an increasingly industrialized society. They have in common that both have Swedish-American points of contact. John Ericsson, who settled early on in the United States, remained Swedish. Buzz Aldrin, the astronaut, has expressed pride in his Swedish background.

In this issue of Sweden & America you can also read about Ralph Samuelsson, the inventor of water skis, who has roots in Värmland. "Swedish stubbornness," according to Samuelsson, is the secret behind his successful invention. But what would have happened if Ralph's mother, Maria Larsson, had not immigrated to America and Ralph had grown up in Sweden?

Had he still become the "father of water skiing"?

Many large American companies have Swedish connections in their early histories. The creative force possessed by many immigrants found nourishment on the west side of the Atlantic. We will never know what they would have accomplished had they stayed in Sweden. What we do know with certainty is that all the people behind the innovations contributed to the prosperity we have today. A few of them have been honored as heroes; others have been forgotten.

Journalist Erik Lidén raises in the Guest Column the question of how, in Sweden and America, we regard the geniuses – the ones with the creative energy which we all benefit from and enjoy. Are they valued more highly in America?

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