

CHAIRMAN'S AND PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

We are proud to present you with the Annual Report of The American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) for the fiscal years 2002 and 2003 (July 1, 2001–June 30, 2003). The tragic events of September 11, 2001 affected deeply all aspects of life in the United States, and emphasized dramatically the need to increase international understanding, the very mission of the ASF. The ASF has risen to the challenge and continued its work to strengthen the bonds between the United States and the five Nordic countries—Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden—through educational and cultural exchange.

During the past two years, the ASF awarded over 130 fellowships and grants to students, scholars and artists, enabling them to advance their education, research, and creative talents abroad. In addition, grants in support of public programs and projects were made to more than 120 cultural and educational institutions in the United States and the Nordic countries. The ASF training program made it possible for 430 young professionals and students to receive on-the-job experience and firsthand knowledge of living and working in another country. Our main publication, *Scandinavian Review*, reaches a readership of more than 10,000 associate members of ASF, subscribers, donors and other interested persons throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, providing a fuller sense of life and thought in the Nordic countries. Continuously published since 1913, *Scandinavian Review* is the oldest publication of its kind in the United States.

Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America opened only three years ago and quickly made its mark on cultural life in New York City. It has welcomed more than 150,000 visitors since its opening, making it a hub for direct personal exchange between the people of the our two parts of the world. More than 200 programs, exhibitions, concerts, lectures, symposia, classes, film presentations, and workshops have taken place at Scandinavia House over the two years, providing Americans with a view of Nordic life unequalled in its diversity.

At this crucial juncture, we would like to thank our Trustees, staff, contributors, and friends, whose leadership, support and hard work have made it possible for the Foundation to thrive in these hard times.

KRISTJÁN T. RAGNARSSON, M.D.
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

EDWARD P. GALLAGHER
PRESIDENT