

# CHAIRMAN'S AND PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

This publication documents and reports upon the programs, activities and finances of the American-Scandinavian Foundation during the fiscal years 2004 and 2005 (July 1, 2003–June 30, 2005). These have been years of growth and dedicated effort for all of us at the ASF as we endeavored to strengthen the bonds between the United States and the five Nordic nations- Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden- through educational and cultural exchange. Now more than ever, the promotion of international dialogue and understanding is of fundamental importance.

During the past two years, the ASF awarded almost 150 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 457 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*, reached 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 five years ago and quickly made its mark on cultural life in New York City. It has welcomed more than 300,000 visitors since its opening. More than 300 programs, exhibitions, concerts, lectures, symposia, classes, film presentations and workshops have taken place at Scandinavia House over the past two fiscal years, providing Americans with a view of Nordic life unequalled in its diversity.

As we look back at the challenges and accomplishments of the past two years, we most heartily thank our Trustees, staff, contributors and friends for their leadership, support and hard work.

CHRISTIAN R. SONNE  
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

EDWARD P. GALLAGHER  
PRESIDENT