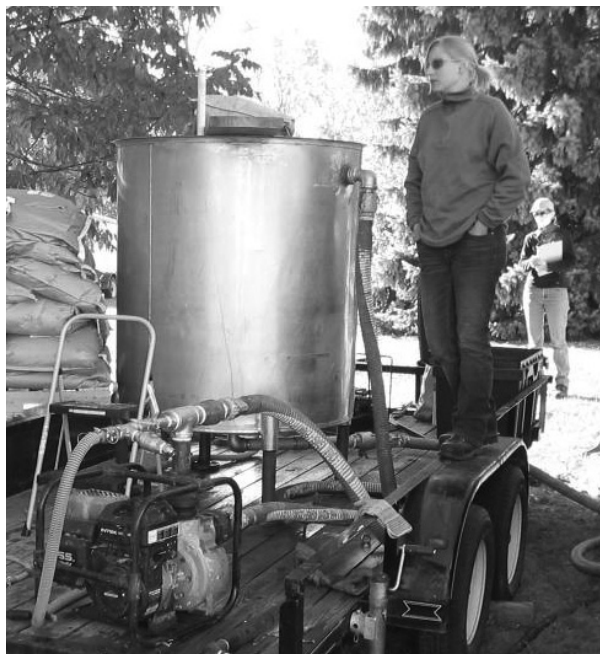


TRAINING PROGRAM

The American Scandinavian Foundation's trainee exchange program enabled 442 young Scandinavians to undertake training in 40 states during the two year period covered by this report. The ASF provides visa sponsorship for these trainees through its U.S. Government designated Exchange Visitor (J visa) Program. There have been more than 15,000 participants, since the ASF began this formal exchange program in 1949.

The Scandinavian trainees gain an understanding of American theory, methodology, standards and practices in their occupational fields through directed, on-the-job learning, and they acquire new American skills to be applied in future professional endeavors upon returning to Scandinavia. The fields of training are diverse and include most of the professions common to the U.S. and Nordic countries, such as marketing and retailing, engineering and information technology, social services and education. Each trainee receives a unique, first-hand introduction to an American organization. The interaction of the trainee with others is a vital element of the program, reinforcing his/her theoretical knowledge.

In its reciprocal exchange, the ASF sent 22 Americans to Scandinavia during the same two year period for similar training in fields such as engineering, culinary arts, business, and the teaching of English as a foreign language. The ASF is very grateful to its cooperating offices in Finland and Sweden for their assistance in developing these opportunities for young Americans and in facilitating the issuance of the necessary permits to make this exchange possible.



Josephine Molin of Sweden, trainee in environmental engineering at Adventus Americas Inc., Bloomingdale, IL

Learning through observation and then applying what one has observed is the most basic and effective way to gain new skills and knowledge. The ASF is grateful to the many American and Scandinavian businesses and organizations that have made this possible by welcoming trainees and providing them with valuable international experiences. The collaboration of the ASF's Nordic cooperating offices is also an indispensable part of the program and is very much appreciated.

“Experience like this is something that students in Finland seldom get. This program is unique and the U.S. experience has been very valuable for me.”

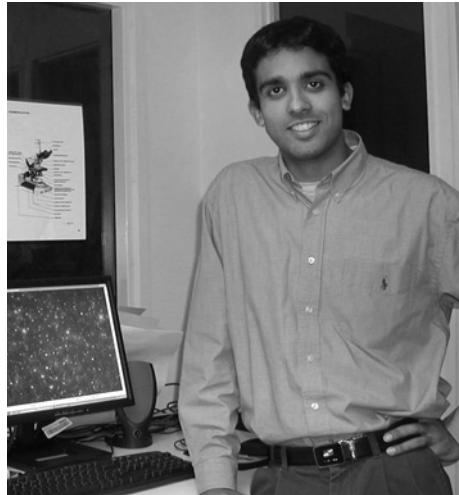
Trainee Ted Kyander from Finland, training at Cinema Arts Production Design, Altadena, CA



Sari Salonen of Finland, trainee in dressmaking at Couture by Merja, Vero Beach, FL

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“It is an excellent program. . . and the fact that it gives young Scandinavians an opportunity to interact with the American public is vital.”

Ms. Marianne Forssblad, Director, Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, WA



Milan Alex from Pennsylvania, trainee in chemical engineering at EKA, Rollsbo, Sweden



Eeva Vaananen of Finland, trainee in political science at the Congressional office of U. S. Representative Alcee L. Hastings, 23rd District of Florida, in Washington D.C.

.....
“Camilla’s . . . exposure and participation in ‘real life’ projects gave her valuable training and experience in how to create a successful web project.”

Mr. Marcos Chavez, TODA LLC, New York, NY

.....
“I think it is the most well put together program I’ve had the benefit to work with.”

Ms. Heidi Marsh, CEO, Aurora Information Systems, Inc., Sanford, FL



Jonas Berg of Denmark, trainee in organ building at C. B. Fisk, Inc., Gloucester, MA