



THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

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P.O. Box 33968
Washington DC 20033
Tel: 202-372-7409
email: rothendowment@gmail.com
web: www.rothendowment.org



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Now in our 26th year, the Lois Roth Endowment is pleased to report continued success honoring the legacy of Lois Wersba Roth, a career U.S. cultural diplomat, who devoted her life, before and during her government service, to international cultural exchange and to the search for mutual understanding.

With the strong support of our alumni, loyal donors and our network of partner organizations around the world, we remain well-positioned both to sustain our current projects and to explore new opportunities, always faithful to the mission we first embraced in 1986: to foster and deepen international understanding through educational and cultural exchange.

The Board and staff of the Endowment are deeply grateful to our many generous donors, whose unwavering support over the years has provided the resources needed for this lasting memorial to Lois and her life's work. Donations to the Endowment, large and small, help to keep it growing in both reach and impact.

Country Programs

In close cooperation with Fulbright Commissions abroad and with our other partners, programs in specific countries are at the heart of the Endowment's work, enriching the experience of American and non-Americans alike – students, scholars and artists – helping them find professional opportunities that deepen their Fulbright experiences.

Australia. Fulbrighter Margit Bowler (Reed College, Oregon) conducted research on Warlpiri, an aboriginal language spoken by 3,000 people in Australia's Northern Territories. Our award helped to defray the costs of Ms. Bowler's field work collecting data on linguistic quantifiers in Warlpiri.

Bulgaria. Our partnership with the Elizabeth Kostova Foundation helps support the Dyankov Prize for translation into Bulgarian and the Sozopol Fiction-Writing Seminar. (See *Translation, Writing and Language Studies* below).

Denmark. Administered in cooperation with the American-Scandinavian Foundation and awarded before departure from the U.S., last year's award went to William Banks (U Wisconsin). Mr. Banks is selecting, editing and translating early 20th-century works by Georg Brandes, an influential Danish scholar and critic who wrote on national minorities, stateless peoples and the colonized.

Finland. Two Fulbrighters working in Finland received grants this past year: Philip Robinson (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) is doing architectural research at Aalto University, where his grant is helping to fund experiments measuring the acoustics in historic churches in order to improve concert hall design. Amanda Tasse (U Southern California) used her grant to fund travel to the University of Lapland and the Midnight Sun Film Festival for research in neurocinematics, the study of perceptual processes in response to cinema. Additionally, in the summer of 2012, sculptor Christian Benefiel, recipient of a 2011 Roth Endowment award, returned to Finland to create a large-scale piece for the city of Pirkkala's permanent outdoor exhibition.

France. The Endowment supported our 24th Prix Coindreau. (See *Translation, Writing and Language Studies* below).

Iran. We helped the American Institute of Iranian Studies give its 10th award. (See *Translation, Writing and Language Studies* below).

New Zealand. Our program with New Zealand supports students coming to study in the U.S. Last year's recipient of the Robin and Avril Winks award was Alex Latu, now completing a Master of Law degree in Administrative and Constitutional Law at New York University. Mr. Latu is interested in developing new legal structures to use in awarding and evaluating government contracts with private entities.

Norway. After a year interning with the White House Task Force on Climate Change and Energy, Fulbrighter Katherine Edelen went to Norway's Peace Research Institute in Oslo to research the relationship between environmental factors and social conflict. Her award

enabled her to extend her data collection in Bangladesh on water shortages and political conflict. This year, she is at Oxford (UK) as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in a Master's program in Water Science, Policy and Management.

Sweden. US Fulbrighters Elisa Maria Lopez (Anthropology, Columbia) and Michelle Urberg (Musicology, U Chicago) are at Uppsala University, Lois' alma mater. Ms. Lopez is doing research on the socio-cultural impacts of renewable energy development among the Saami people. Ms. Urberg's project is on "Hystorie in Medieval Sweden: Musical Devotion, Nationalism and Brigittine Monasticism."

Turkey/Middle East. In discussion with USIA veteran and donor "Mim" Johnston Hallock, we are seeking to expand beyond Turkey the focus of our programs supported by gifts made in memory of Mim's late husband Colonel Richard Hallock.

United Kingdom. Ambassador Thomas Pickering spoke at Pembroke College, Oxford, where Senator J. William Fulbright studied, as well as at King's College and at the University of Edinburgh. (See Fulbright Legacy Lectures under *Institutional Programs* below).

Lois Roth and Ilchman-Richardson Awards, U.S. Department of State

Through annual awards, administered in partnership with the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Endowment recognizes especially meritorious contributions to the cause of international cultural diplomacy. In June 2012 our Board Chair, Dr. Jill McGovern, and our Founder, Dr. Richard T. Arndt, joined Assistant Secretary Ann Stock at the Bureau's annual awards ceremony to present these awards.

The **Lois Roth Award** for a Foreign Service Officer went to Tobias Bradford, Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Mozambique, for particularly innovative programming targeting youth, including a "student achievers program" that created local student networks

to engage on topics such as entrepreneurship, civic participation and political party development.

The **Ilchman-Richardson Award** for a Civil Service Employee went to Chris Miner, *Managing Director of the Bureau's Office of Professional and Cultural Exchanges*, for career achievement in the field of cultural diplomacy, including her recent efforts in support of the high-profile U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission.

In 2013, we will begin offering a third cultural diplomacy award, to recognize the contribution of local State Department employees overseas. The **Gill Jacot Guillarmod Award** will honor the memory of a courageous cultural programmer at the U.S. Mission in South Africa, who made important contributions there to the struggle against apartheid.

Translation, Writing and Language Studies

The Endowment recognizes that language is the key to understanding and seeks ways to bridge the gaps between language-cultures. To this end, we support literary translation with four different partners, help a major university refine its language pedagogy, and contribute to the Sozopol seminar.

The American Institute of Iranian Studies (AAIS). This year's prize for literary translation from Persian into English went to Dick Davis, Chair of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Ohio State University, for his translation of *Vis and Ramin*, an ancient Persian epic composed by the poet Asad Gorgani. Dr. Davis' award was announced by AIIS President Franklin Lewis in August 2012 at a conference of the International Society of Iranian Studies held in Istanbul.

Prix Coindreau. Our 24th prize for an outstanding translation into French of an American literary work went to Pierre Demarty for his translation of Paul Harding's Pulitzer Prize-winning debut novel, *Tinkers (Les Foudroyés)*. The prize ceremony, usually held in December, took place this year in June 2012 in Paris.

Dyankov Prize. This year's prizes for the translation from English into Bulgarian, administered by the **Kostova Foundation**, went to Iglıka Vassileva and Aglıka Markova at an awards ceremony in Sofia, Bulgaria in November 2011. Vassileva won the first prize, funded by the America for Bulgaria Foundation, for her translations of *Diary of A Bad Year*, by the Nobel Prize-winning author J. M. Coetzee, and *Homer & Langley* by E.L. Doctorow. Markova won the second award, funded by the Lois Roth Endowment, for her translation of Laurie Graham's *Life According to Lubka*.

MLA-Roth Award. The seventh biennial Lois Roth Award for translation of a literary work into English was presented to John Woodsworth and Arkadi Klioutchanski (both U Ottawa, Canada) for their translation of *My Life* by Sofia Andreevna Tolstaya, Russian author Leo Tolstoy's wife of over fifty years. The MLA-Roth award is the only translation prize given by the MLA that does not specify country and language of origin.

Pleasants Award. This award for excellence in the teaching of French at Columbia University went jointly to Laure Astorian and Jacqueline Lerescu for their work during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Sozopol Fiction-Writing Seminar. The Sozopol Seminar, a key program of the Kostova Foundation, gives writers from Bulgaria and Anglophone countries a chance to work together, guided by established mentors - writers, publishers and translators - in a context of collegial and free exchange. This year's fellows were: Philip Anastassiou, Garrard Conley, Nikolay Fenerski, Kathy Flann, Garth Greenwell, Delaney Nolan, Nikolay Petkov, Palmi Ranchev, Cab Tran, and Bistra Velichkova. (www.ekf.bg/sozopol)

Institutional Programs

These Roth Endowment programs support cross-cultural communication and exchanges linked to specific educational and cultural institutions.

Henry and Judith Millon Award. The annual Millon Award is dedicated to supporting the residency of a foreign architectural historian at the **National Gallery** of Art's Center for Advanced Study in the **Visual Arts (CASVA)**, whose architectural drawings collection was created by CASVA Founder-Director and Lois Roth Endowment board member, Henry Millon. No award was made in 2012.

Fulbright Legacy Lectures. This year, the first three-lecture series at Pembroke College Oxford, King's College London and the University of Edinburgh was delivered by a distinguished American senior statesman to academic audiences, honoring the life and work of Senator Fulbright. The Endowment's grant supports collaboration among the three universities, the US-UK Fulbright Commission and other supporters in the UK. Ambassador Thomas Pickering spoke in May 2012 on the future of U.S. Middle East diplomacy in a talk entitled "From the Pillars of Hercules to the Hindu Kush."

The Lois Roth Endowment supports ideals and values that run deep in U.S. education at its best, working to enhance their impact through cross-cultural exchange and cultural diplomacy. Over a quarter century of patient effort since Lois Roth's death in 1986 has demonstrated the value of what the Endowment is doing; yet much remains to be done.

There are several ways to support our work. In addition to financial contributions, the Endowment depends on its friends to suggest new ideas and people to serve on various committees, and to help us to stay in touch with others concerned with the future of U.S. cultural diplomacy and with U.S. relations around the world. Contact information for the Endowment may be found below.