

## THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

*Fostering international dialogue*



2018

### ANNUAL REVIEW

Program Year  
July 2017 – June 2018

*For more on programs and awardees,  
please see our website: [www.rothendowment.org](http://www.rothendowment.org)*

### Awards for Cultural Diplomacy

*Eight exemplary cultural diplomats were recognized at the annual awards ceremony of the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) on August 6, 2018, where we also inaugurated our new lifetime-achievement Emeritus Award!*

**Lois Roth Award.** With her exceptional Japanese language skills, as a Public Affairs Officer (PAO) at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo **Margot Carrington** achieved major results in promoting equality for women and trafficked women's rights. Her 25-year career exemplifies groundbreaking programming, paired with mentoring and service to the wider profession.

Honorable Mentions also went to two Cultural Affairs Officers (CAOs). **Monica Davis**, at the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, engaged Cambodia's majority-youth population on educational and cultural themes and implemented projects that were notable successes in a time of political crisis. At the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem, **Robin Solomon** used art and culture projects to help Palestinian youth and women's groups support themselves, and built interacting layers of human resources that will be beneficial for years to come.

**Gill Jacot-Guillarmod Award.** We continue to receive an exceptional number of nominations to recognize locally-engaged Cultural Affairs Specialists working on behalf of the U.S. abroad. This year's award was divided between two worthy winners. Over 29 years at the U.S. Embassy in N'Djamena, Chad, **Felix Mbatalbaye** has been a trusted leader, providing resources and expertise to Chadians, keeping programs going during the 2008 evacuation of US staff and drafting the post's first Public Diplomacy Implementation Plan during a gap between PAOs. Over 25 years at our Embassy

in Algiers, **Louiza (Nadia) Ouhenia** has been a trusted advisor for new initiatives and mastered the gamut of cultural and educational engagement with Algeria. Thanks to her creativity and personal commitment, she has opened doors, built highly productive bridges and benefited Embassy programs as a whole.

Two Honorable Mentions were also awarded. **Marketa Kolarova** was an invaluable advisor to PAOs and Ambassadors over 28 years at the U.S. Embassy in Prague, where she revitalized US-Czech cultural relations after the Velvet Revolution of 1989, fostered the Fulbright Commission, led nationwide teacher tech-training, engagement with literature and English language programming. Over 43 years of service at the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, **Carmen Urcuyo** trained 14 CAOs, some of whom turned to her for advice even after they had left the post. Her legendary networks ensured the right local partners to make every program a success.

**Ilchman-Richardson Award.** With her cultural insight, inspiring leadership and compassion, IVLP Division Chief **Sana Abed-Kotob** has guided and mentored ECA staff, leaders and partners, benefiting every US diplomatic post in the world. Her work has made operations more efficient, improved inter-agency cooperation and expanded public-private contributions to cultural and educational exchanges.

**Roth Emeritus Award.** Retired Foreign Service Officer **Mark Taplin** received this new award for a career of service to US cultural and educational diplomacy marked by his work ethic, willingness to listen, elegant writing and editing, sense of humor and fundamental belief in the power and importance of exchange. A principled and courageous leader, as Acting Assistant Secretary of ECA Mark enabled the Bureau to weather existential budget threats and continue to thrive.

### Awards for Literary Translation

**Dyankov Award.** Named for Krustan Dyankov, pioneer translator of English-language literature into Bulgarian, this year's prize went to scholar and translator **Radosveta Getova** for her translation of Ian McEwan's novel *The Children Act*. Second place went to **Milena Popova** for her translation of Siri Hustvedt's *The Blazing World* (both Colibri 2017).

For the first time, the Roth Endowment also supported a related program in the U.S. In spring 2018, Bulgarian translator **Dessislava Nikolova** spent three weeks working on her new project as a fellow at Open Letter Books in Rochester, NY.

**MLA-Roth Award.** With the Modern Language Association, LRE annually awards a prize for the best literary translation into English from any language. This year's award went to **Liam Mac Com Iomaire** and **Tim Robinson** for their translation of Máirtín Ó Cadhain's Irish classic, *Graveyard Clay/Cre na Cille: A Narrative in Ten Interludes*. Honorable Mentions went to **Esther Allen**, for her translation of *Zama*, by Antonio Di Benedetto, and to **Amy B. Reid**, for *Mount Pleasant*, by Patrice Nganang.

**Persian Translation Prize.** The jury is currently considering works for the next prize, to be awarded in spring 2019.

### Project Support

*Project Support awards are designed to supplement existing grant funding to help selected individuals enrich and expand their work in countries to which Lois Roth was particularly attached*

**Australia. Victor Lopez-Carmen** (Ithaca College) received our award, administered with the Australian-American Fulbright Commission, to extend his public health research in Australian Indigenous communities to the Lokono-Arawak Tribe in Barbados. Upon his return to the U.S., he will share the knowledge he has acquired with his Arizona tribe and work towards becoming a doctor, a public health official and an Indigenous rights advocate and leader of his tribe

**Denmark.** Administered with the American Scandinavian Foundation, this year's award went to **Earl Hodil** (Yale) to help support dissertation research on the complex 17th-century political and economic relationship between Russia and Denmark. His research into a period when these nations sought a Baltic alliance will fill an important gap in the academic literature on the region.

**Finland.** Roth-Thomson Awards, run in cooperation with the Fulbright Center in Helsinki, were awarded to **Emily Olsen** (of the CDC) and **Tiffany Viggiano** (UC Riverside). In Finland, Olsen is conducting timely research into anti-bullying programs with renown experts in the doctoral program at the Univ. of Tampere. For her award, Viggiano will focus on sharing her dissertation research on internationalization policies and global responsibility in higher education with colleagues, practitioners and policy-makers in Finland.

**New Zealand.** The Robin and Avril Winks Award is granted yearly to a New Zealander pursuing graduate study in the U.S. The 2018 award, administered with Fulbright New Zealand, went to **Tess McClure** to help her earn her Master's degree at Columbia's School of Journalism. An investigative journalist herself, she will focus on human and labor rights in supply chains.

**Norway. Sophia Angelis** (Harvard) is undertaking comparative research on the role played by Norway's prison architecture in creating humane environments that encourage rehabilitation. With her award, she created an exhibition that illustrates alternatives to US prisons and supports discussion and research on the administration of justice in the United States.

**Sweden.** Roth-Thomson Awards went to **Svea Larsen** (Pacific Univ.) and **Elizabeth Doe Stone** (UVA). Larsen's research explores how the return of Swedish immigrants in the late-19th and early-20th centuries influenced Swedish rural society; her award funded an exhibition on the movement of immigrants between Sweden and the U.S. Stone is exploring the fin-de-siècle artistic and social connections between US artist John Singer Sargent and Swedish painter Anders Zorn. Her award allowed her to expand her archival research in Sweden and Denmark.

### *Co-Sponsored Programs*

**Fulbright Legacy Lectures.** To honor the life of J. William Fulbright, prominent figures in international relations give a set of three lectures: at Pembroke College, Oxford (where Senator Fulbright studied, 1924-28), Kings College London and the University of Edinburgh. Co-sponsors include the US-UK Fulbright Commission, Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations and the US Fulbright Association.

The 2018 lectures were given by Lord Nicholas Stern, IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government at the London School of Economics and Co-Chair of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate. Lord Stern argued that the international economic order, which William Fulbright helped to build after WWII, served

fairly well for much of the second half of the 20th century—but must be re-cast for our increasingly interdependent world, if we are to avoid the grave risks we face, including climate change, pandemics and conflict. Our success in doing this will decide whether the 21st becomes the best or worst of centuries.

**Henry and Judith Millon Award.** Our Millon Award with the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art was on hiatus in 2018. We look forward to starting up with this award again in 2019!

**Sozopol Writers Seminar.** The seminar fosters the sharing of recent work among fiction writers in Bulgarian and English and has galvanized the Bulgarian literary scene. Our support helped to bring authors Theodora Dimova, Georgi Tenev and Phillip Graham together to join Elizabeth Kostova in working with a group of young Bulgarian and American writers at the seminar, June 7-11. The seminar was preceded by the tenth annual Capital Literature program in Sophia.

\* \* \*

*For more on programs and awardees, please see our website: [www.rothendowment.org](http://www.rothendowment.org)*

The Lois Roth Endowment relies entirely on individual gifts to support its work. Your generous contribution is greatly appreciated. For annual giving or bequests, please contact us at [give@rothendowment.org](mailto:give@rothendowment.org) or 202-810-3806.

## THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

*Fostering international dialogue*

### *DIRECTORS*

Skyler J. Arndt-Briggs, Chair

Anne V. Barbaro, Secretary

Kimberly Bender, Treasurer

Bert Brandenburg

A. Michael Gellman

Neil O. Klopfenstein

Steven A. Mansbach

William A. Rivera

Laurie Weizenkorn

### *FRIENDS, FOUNDERS\* & DIRECTORS EMERITI*

Richard T. Arndt\*

Robert C. Bemis

Martin C. and Faye Carroll

Grisselle Cohen

Harriet Mayor Fulbright

Robert R. Gosende

Evelyn Swarthout Hayes\* (1912 - 2000)

David A. Johnson

Elizabeth J. Kostova

Jill E. McGovern

Henry A. Millon\*

Steven Muller\* (1927–2013)

Shawn O'Reilly

Patti McGill Peterson

Anne O. Thompson

Michael A. Weiser

Robin W. Winks\* (1930-2003)

Jeffery Yablon

P.O. Box 33968 | Washington, DC 20033  
[www.rothendowment.org](http://www.rothendowment.org)