

THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

Fostering International Dialogue



2021 ANNUAL REVIEW

Program Year
2020 – 2021

*For more on programs and awardees,
please see www.rothendowment.org*

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 attached.

Australia. Administered with the Australian American Fulbright Commission, this award was suspended for 2021.

Denmark. In collaboration with the American Scandinavian Foundation, this year's award was presented to **Cheyenne Jansdatter**, the Archival Collections Manager of the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa. In Denmark she worked on the Danish American Archival Net-working Experience (DAANE), an online digital archive that will connect three Danish American archives in the U.S and several institutions in Denmark to encourage increased trans-Atlantic collaborations, such as online exhibitions.

Finland. In cooperation with the Fulbright Center in Helsinki, a Roth-Thomson Award was bestowed to **Lexi Lobdell** to support sociological research into how globalization of the pharmaceutical industry might optimize innovation and lower the cost of new drugs.

New Zealand. The 2021 Winks Award, granted to a New Zealander pursuing graduate study in the U.S., was postponed until 2022.

Norway. In collaboration with Fulbright Norway, this year's award went to **Michelle Chang** for her research on Norwegian mindsets about death at the University of Bergen's Center for Crisis Psychology. Her award enabled community focus groups with Norwegian adults who have experienced the recent death of a loved one. Upon her return,

Michelle plans to pursue a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and focus on creating more comprehensive language and frameworks for understanding bereavement.

Sweden. A Roth-Thomson Award went to **Hannah Ritchey** for her research on Muslim immigration and integration in Sweden. The award helped pay for travel, translation and interpretation services she needed to conduct interviews.

Co-Sponsored Programs

Fulbright Legacy Lecture. Since 2010, prominent figures in international relations have given a set of three lectures in honor of Senator J. William Fulbright: at Pembroke College, Oxford (where Senator Fulbright studied, 1924-28), Kings College London and the University of Edinburgh. The lecture is also co-sponsored by the US-UK Fulbright Commission, Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations and the US Fulbright Association.

The tenth annual program, held virtually in summer 2020, took on a new format in response to Covid travel restrictions. Speaker **Janet Napolitano**, President of the University of California, was joined by a panel of UK university leaders to discuss "Higher Education and the Public Good." The panelists included Ed Byrne, President and Principal of King's College London; Peter Mathieson, Principal and Vice Chancellor of University of Edinburgh; and Irene Tracey, Warden of Merton College, Oxford. The wide-ranging discussion covered topics from inequality and student debt, to international collaboration and alternative models of university education. Link to a recording of the discussion on our website!

Henry and Judith Millon Award. Our Millon Award with the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) at the National Gallery of Art was on hiatus in 2020-21.

Sozopol Writers Seminar. The Sozopol Writers Workshop did not take place in 2020 or 2021.

Awards for Literary Translation

Arabic Literature Tour. The US tour of an Arabic-language author and their translator offers students and faculty a chance to experience contemporary Arabic literature in person. The 2021 tour was suspended due to Covid-related travel restrictions.

Dyankov Prize. This award for translation of a literary work from English into Bulgarian was suspended this year.

MLA-Roth Award. Bestowed in concert with the Modern Language Association, this year's award went to **Robert and Elizabeth Chandler** for their translation from the Russian of **Vasily Grossman's Stalingrad**. This translation makes Grossman's masterpiece, set in WWII Russia as the German invasion nears, available to English language readers for the first time.

Two Honorable Mentions were also awarded. The first went to **Virlana Tkacz** and **Wanda Phipps** for their translation from the Ukrainian of *What We Live For, What We Die For: Selected Poems by Serhiy Zhadan*, a collection by an internationally renowned poet detailing the realities of life in war-torn Ukraine. The second went to celebrated British journalist and translator **Jonathan Wright** for his translation from the Arabic of **Sinan Antoon's** fourth novel, *The Book of Collateral Damage*, based on the author's

experience of returning to Baghdad after the US invasion.

Persian Translation Prize. This year's prize is being awarded to **Pouneh Shabani-Jadidi** and **Patricia J. Higgins** for their translation into English of the 2004 historical novel *Hafez in Love*, by Iraj Pezeshkzad. One of Iran's most popular novelists, Pezeshkzad is well known for his social satire *My Uncle Napoleon*, which won our first Persian Translation Prize in 2001. Set in the mid-14th century, *Hafez in Love* strikes a light-hearted, almost comic tone as it follows the lives and encounters of its famous historical characters.

Awards for Cultural Diplomacy

Nine exemplary cultural diplomats are being recognized for their achievements by the US State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) in fall 2021

Lois Roth Award. Over two years as the Public Affairs Officer at the US Embassy in Helsinki, Finland, **William Couch** skillfully reversed Finnish opposition to repatriating the remains of twenty Indigenous People and their funerary objects for reburial in Colorado's Mesa Verde National Park. His work has resulted in global guidance from Washington to all Missions to seek out and assist in the repatriation of Indigenous remains and artifacts.

An Honorable Mention was awarded to Cultural Affairs Officer **Raisa Dukas** at the US Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, for a range of achievements that richly exemplify the legacy of Lois Roth: mentoring and creating a new, now permanent regional Community of Practice for PD practitioners; incredible support of peers, subordinates and interlocutors; a broad strategic outreach plan;

and creative programming that will have a lasting influence on regional cultural diplomacy efforts.

Ilchman-Richardson Award. As the Director of Information Technology at ECA, **Antoinette (Toni) Bowser** made the bureau's mission possible during the pandemic shift to telework and virtual programming, supporting posts, partners and participants with vision and tenacity. Toni's success exemplifies the legacy of this award for a domestic employee of ECA who has made significant contributions in the management of American cultural diplomacy, while leading and mentoring others.

An Honorable Mention went to **Charlotte Titus**, the Europe/Eurasia Branch Chief in the Office of International Visitors. Over 30 years, her compassionate leadership has improved program efficiency and the work environment for her colleagues. Among many other initiatives, Charlotte led a steering committee of international security professionals and their US counterparts, as well as advocating for telework to strengthen operations and employees' work-life balance.

Gill Jacot-Guillarmod Award. *Established in 2013, this award recognizes the invaluable contributions of locally employed cultural affairs specialists working on behalf of the U.S. abroad. Since 2020, the main award has been earmarked for a mid-career specialist, while up to four additional winners are honored for their career achievements.*

This year's award goes to **Elina Akhtiyarova** of the US Embassy in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, for shaping over a dozen exchange programs and ongoing relationships that have benefited Kazakhstan and the U.S. When Covid cancelled in-person events, Elina conceptualized, implemented and moderated a Facebook Live program with over 120 guests, which has garnered close to 3,000 views and has significantly increased the embassy's influence and reach.

Four Honorary Mentions are being announced as well. **Elena Broszkowski**, of the US Embassy in Caracas, is honored for managing the embassy's performing and visual arts portfolio, as well as social Transformation Through the Arts programs that incorporate alumni from exchanges, binational centers, public and private universities, municipalities led by opposition party members and many other post allies.

Gozde Dogan of the US Embassy in Ankara, Turkey, is being honored for her contributions to the bilateral Cultural Property Agreement signed this year. Her creative, sustained cultural diplomacy positioned the U.S. to protect its values and national security interests by creating partnerships linking the Turkish government, NGOs and arts institutions. The resulting CPA curbs smuggling, denies revenue to terrorist organizations and protects cultural heritage.

Throughout her 22-year career, **Fatma Souidi** of the US Embassy in Algiers has brought Algerians and Americans together—despite a civil war, a revolution, economic crisis and a pandemic. She engineered the region's first MOU on Cultural Property, which led to both updated cultural preservation legislation, and training on how to prevent the looting of cultural property.

Over nearly two decades, **Vanessa Wagner** has led the entire range of cultural programming at the US Embassy in Lima, Peru. Most notably, she secured \$2.5 million to conserve dozens of heritage sites and led the repatriation of some 2,000 artifacts from the U.S., raising the profile of the Mission throughout Peru. Vanessa's humanity and care for contacts and workmates well represent the legacy of both Gill Jacot-Guillarmod and Lois Roth.

*Please visit our website for more details:
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