

THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

Fostering international dialogue



2019

ANNUAL REVIEW

Program Year
July 2018 – June 2019

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

Awards for Cultural Diplomacy

Five exemplary cultural diplomats were recognized for their achievements at the annual awards ceremony of the US State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) on October 15, 2019. Our second annual lifetime-achievement Emeritus Award was bestowed at a private ceremony a week earlier.

Lois Roth Award. As the Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Antananarivo, **Nicole Bayer** excelled as a leader in public diplomacy by pairing groundbreaking programming with mentoring and service to the wider profession. By increasing programming in the local language and using live-streaming to engage alumni and new audiences, she reached previously untapped groups and made the U.S. the leading voice in cultural diplomacy across Madagascar.

An Honorable Mention was presented to Cultural Affairs Officer **Jeffrey Ladenson** at the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam. He opened a successful new American Corner in Tanzania, revitalized relations with the Muslim community and used creative programming to increase youth empowerment and educational opportunities, particularly for girls.

Gill Jacot-Guillarmod Award. Dedicated to recognizing the invaluable contributions of locally-employed Cultural Affairs Specialists working on behalf of the U.S. abroad, this year's award went to **Helen Reidy** for her leadership of the Education USA program at Mission Australia. Over 27 years, she has created a nationwide network of professional relationships that will continue to strengthen the U.S.-Australian partnership for years to come. Through targeted

outreach programs and increased media coverage, she has inspired hundreds of Australian students to study in the U.S., making it the first-choice study abroad destination for young Australians.

An Honorable Mention went to **Marta Garcia de Bello** from the Venezuelan Affairs Unit. In the midst of the political, economic and social crisis that has affected the country for years, she has sustained Venezuela's American Spaces Network and award-winning Education USA programs, while sharing her sought-after expertise throughout the hemisphere.

Ichman-Richardson Award. As Acting Deputy Director of the Executive Office and Director of Budget and Finance, **Yolanda Robinson** has ensured that the U.S. accomplishes its cultural diplomacy mission in the most cost-effective manner, while also mentoring colleagues. Her superb judgement and problem-solving abilities have gained the respect and admiration of interlocutors in the Department, on Capitol Hill and at the White House, making her an indispensable leader at ECA.

Roth Emeritus Award. During her twelve-year tenure as Executive Director of the US-UK Fulbright Commission, **Penny Egan** represented the best of the indispensable public/private partners who make cultural and educational exchanges possible. Her innovative approach to programming and fundraising have provided a range of opportunities for hundreds of US and British students to enrich their educational experience and strengthen ties between our two countries.

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

Awards for Literary Translation

Dyankov Prize. Named for Krustan Dyankov, pioneer translator of English-language literature into Bulgarian, this year's prize went to Petya Petkova for her translation of the novel *Here I Am*, by Jonathan Safran Foer. Second Place went to Angel Igov for his translation of the award-winning novel by Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad*.

MLA-Roth Award. Bestowed in concert with the Modern Language Association, this year's award went to Susan Bernofsky for her translation of Jenny Erpenbeck's *Go, Went, Gone*, set during the recent refugee crisis in Germany. An Honorable Mention went to Alistair Ian Blyth for his translation of *The Book of Whispers*, by Varujan Vosganian, a classic about memory and the Armenian genocide.

Persian Translation Prize. The jury is currently considering works for the next prize.

Awards for 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. Administered with the Australian-American Fulbright Commission, this award went to **Daniel Sherrell** to fund travel to the endangered island of Tuvalu, where he will participate in a research project exploring children's perceptions of the existential threat they are facing. This research will contribute to a book he is writing to teach children the emotional

resilience needed to confront climate change.

Denmark. Administered with the American Scandinavian Foundation, this year's award went to **Cameron Turley** (CUNY Graduate Center) to help him access archival materials and local scholars for his research on Inuit settlements and their relationship to ethnogenesis in Greenland. Upon completion of his dissertation, Cameron plans to continue his archeological work in Greenland.

Finland. Roth-Thomson Awards were bestowed, in cooperation with the Fulbright Center in Helsinki, to **Sarah Holdren** (Elon Univ.) and **Carolyn Kehn** (West Point). While comparing US and Finnish neonatal care, Holdren focused on a successful new approach—Close Collaboration with Parents—being pioneered in Finland; upon her return, she plans to introduce the program to NICUs in the U.S. Concerned by her experiences at West Point, Kehn studied Finland's annual action plan to promote gender equality and reform related laws, in particular with respect to the military; upon her return, she plans to advocate for cultural and policy changes to achieve gender equality in the US army.

New Zealand. The Winks Award is granted yearly to a New Zealander pursuing graduate study in the U.S. Administered with Fulbright New Zealand, the 2019 award went to **Carrie Clifford** to support her comparative research into mental health and child development in Native American and Māori communities. In the future, she plans to earn a PhD in Clinical Psychology and work in Māori communities in Aotearoa.

Norway. **Kristen Gleason.** (Univ. of Georgia) conducted research into environmental theory and

aesthetics; her award allowed her to expand her project by travelling to arts and literature festivals throughout Norway. Focusing on language rights and revitalization, **Kaja Gjælde-Bennett** (Pacific Lutheran Univ.) travelled to South Sámi institutions to visit their archives and interview Sámi language educators, politicians and community leaders.

Sweden. This year's Roth-Thomson Awards, administered with Fulbright Sweden, both went to music projects. **Elise Kolle** (New England Conservatory) researched the historical harps in Stockholm's Nydhal Collection; her award allowed her to give harp recitals and lectures on 19th-century Swedish instrument makers. Focusing on interactions between landscape and sound, **Caitlin Vitale-Sullivan** (Idaho State Univ.) researched *kulning*, a type of traditional singing used in calling cattle and communicating over long distances.

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. Other sponsors include the US-UK Fulbright Commission, Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations and the US Fulbright Association.

The ninth annual lectures were delivered by **David Miliband**, formerly the British Secretary of State and an MP and now President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee, which works to support refugees around the world. Miliband spoke to sold-out crowds on “The New

‘Arrogance of Power:’ Global Politics in an Age of Impunity.” Synthesizing the major shift we are seeing in international relations today, he outlined how the rules-based international order that was forged after WWII is currently being undermined and suggested how the multilateralist promise championed by Senator Fulbright can be redeemed.

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 2019.

Sozopol Writers Seminar. Our support helped to bring authors Christopher Castellani, Andrew Cowan, Kapka Kassabova and Virginia Zaharieva together, to join Elizabeth Kostova in working with a group of young Bulgarian and American writers at the seminar, June 13-17. The seminar, followed by EKF's annual CapitaLiterature program in Sophia, fosters the sharing of recent work among fiction writers in Bulgarian and English and has galvanized the Bulgarian literary scene.

* * *

For more on programs and awardees, please see our website: 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 or 202-810-3806.

P.O. Box 33968 | Washington, DC 20033
www.rothendowment.org

THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT *Fostering international dialogue*

DIRECTORS

Skyler J. Arndt-Briggs,
Chair & Acting Treasurer

Anne V. Barbaro, Secretary

Kimberly Bender

Brett Berliner

Deborah E. Dubois

Marti Estell

William A. Rivera

Katheryne E. Walker

Laurie Weizenkorn

FRIENDS, FOUNDERS* & DIRECTORS EMERITI

Richard T. Arndt*

Robert C. Bemis

Bert Brandenburg

Martin C. and Faye Carroll

Grisselle Cohen

Harriet Mayor Fulbright

Michael A. Gellman

Robert R. Gosende

Evelyn Swarhout Hayes* (1912 - 2000)

David A. Johnson

Neil O. Klopfenstein

Elizabeth J. Kostova

Jill E. McGovern

Henry A. Millon*

Steven Muller* (1927–2013)

Shawn O'Reilly

Patti McGill Peterson

Anne O. Thomson

Michael A. Weiser

Robin W. Winks* (1930-2003)

Jeffery Yablon