



THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

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Program Year
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As we enter our 27th year, the Lois Roth Endowment (LRE) is pleased to report on almost twenty projects in as many countries, with two dozen partners. For richer information, please see our shiny new website at www.rothendowment.org.

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Excellence in Cultural Diplomacy

Gill Jacot-Guillarmod Award. LRE's new award for cultural diplomacy, designed to recognize Foreign Service Nationals (FSNs), was inaugurated at the annual awards ceremony for the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), held at the State Department in June. The award went to Namibian Cultural Specialist **George Beukes** at the embassy in Windhoek. For years, Beukes has deftly influenced the US approach to culture and education in Namibia—e.g., in de-stigmatizing AIDS, reducing discrimination against disabled youth, supporting gender equality, and disarming anti-Americanism.

The prize bears the name of the late Gill Jacot-Guillarmod, cultural advisor in Pretoria and a heroine among FSNs. Her career spanned an era of change from apartheid to the peaceful emergence of democracy. Under pressure from her government to accept segregation, she resisted calmly and with foresight, handling hundreds of Fulbrighters and other grantees during the transition to a more just system of government. The prize is open to FSN cultural staff worldwide. Former American diplomats in South Africa have already pledged, by our reckoning, more than a quarter of the amount needed to fund the prize in perpetuity.

Lois Roth Award. With eye-catching candidates, this year's award was divided between two Foreign Service Officers. **Julia Fendrick**, a

long-serving cultural officer in Pakistan (now in Rome), was honored for her courage and commitment in managing program and staff, laying the groundwork for deeper long-term cooperation and understanding between Pakistan and the U.S. **Courtney Beale** was recognized for her work in northeast Mexico, where she faced security threats and budget cuts, but used grace, energy and ingenuity in nurturing an imaginative program and strengthening ties to local communities.

Ilchman-Richardson Award. Named for two great leaders of ECA, this award for U.S.-based staff went to **Julia Walters**, Senior Program Officer in the Office of English Language Programs, for her skill in recruiting and supporting teaching fellows and assistants for the field, while re-invigorating programs and displaying the human qualities it takes to do this work.

Awards for Literary Translation

Dyankov Prize. Named for Krustan Dyankov, pioneer translator of US literature into Bulgarian, this award began in 2007. Managed by the Kostova Foundation in Sofia, it is also supported by the America for Bulgaria Foundation in New York. The 2013 award went to **Anna Oreshkova** for her translation of *Cheat and Charmer*, by Pulitzer-laureate Elizabeth Frank. The second prize went to **Lubomir Nikolov** for his translation of *The Sense of An Ending*, by Julian Barnes.

MLA-Roth Award. With the Modern Language Association, LRE awards a prize for literary translation into English in even-numbered years, attracting nominations from all languages—so far Chinese, Russian, Arabic, Japanese, Italian and German. The 2012 laureates were **John Woodworth** and **Arkadi Klioutchanski** for

My Life, the autobiography of Sofia Andreevna Tolstaya, wife of Leo Tolstoy.

Persian Translation Prize. Since 2001, LRE has helped the American Institute of Iranian Studies promote English translation of classical and contemporary Persian texts. In 2012, the gifted **Dick Davis**, Chair of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Ohio State, won for a translation of Gorgani's epic poem *Vis and Ramin*.

Prix Coindreau. Our oldest translation prize (1988) was first proposed by Lois herself in Paris in 1980. Named for the path-finding translator Maurice Coindreau (1892-1990), it honors the best translation from US literature into French, as selected by a jury of French scholars and translators, and is given at the prize ceremony of the Société des Gens de Lettres in the historic Hôtel de Massa in Paris. This year, **Nicolas Richard** was recognized for his translation of Russell Hoban's *Riddle Walker*. This award-winning science fiction novel (1980) presented a unique translation challenge, since its first-person narration is written in a language created by Hoban.

Country Project Support

Australia. We are awaiting the 2013 candidates from the Australian-American Fulbright Commission. Meanwhile, 2012 laureate **Margit Bowler** completed her research on the aboriginal Walpiri language, and 2009 laureate **Abigail Sebaly** moved to the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis to carry on her research into methods of curating contemporary dance.

Denmark. LRE supplements support from the American Scandinavian Foundation for research

in Denmark. The 2013 candidates were of such caliber that LRE opted to support two. Through her work on Danish artists involved with the journal *Helhesten*, **Kerry Greaves** is questioning the view that WWII walled off postwar European culture from the pre-war avant-garde; she sees instead a slow evolution of pre-WWII modernism into the art of the CoBrA group of the 1950s. **Christa Vogelius** is focusing on late-19th century Danish-American literary publications and transnational identity, at the moment when lower travel costs allowed Americans to begin "discovering" Scandinavia, for a book on Danish and American literary publishing.

Finland. Two *Roth-Thomson Awards* supplement Fulbright grants to Finland. **Lindsay Whorton** compared the role of compensation in labor disputes in K-12 education reform in the U.S. and Finland. **Sophie Knowles** examined elements of Finnish culture and education that lead to greater success in mathematics than in the U.S. Herself a math teacher, she begins with an understanding of the impact of low self-confidence, poor health, low literacy, and non-school duties.

New Zealand. The 2013 *Robin and Avril Winks Award* went to **Ani Alana Kainamu** to help her work on natural resource management of fisheries. Integrating scientific and cultural approaches to the anthropogenic and environmental factors affecting food resources, she is comparing the holistic "mountain to sea" traditions of New Zealand's Ngai Tahu tribe to Hawaii's Kanaka Maoli.

Norway. Fulbrighter **Janet Connor** is exploring the socialization of immigrant children into the complex language ideologies of Norway, where two standard written languages create internal variation and major regional dialects add a complicating factor. Building on her work

in Oslo, LRE enabled her to go to Steinkjer in central Norway, known for its distinctive dialect.

Sweden. Anne Mathieson, who works with prostitution issues in the U.S., researched Sweden's pioneering policies in this field, which have reduced both buyers and purveyors of sexual services. Daniel Chavez' holistic cross-cultural study of architectural lighting—which incorporates approaches from urban planning, public health, interior design and architecture—draws attention to this vital factor of everyday life through design projects and presentations.

Special Projects

Fulbright Legacy Lectures. LRE helps honor the life of Oxford alumnus J. William Fulbright as a founder-supporter of these annual lectures by prominent figures in international relations. In three lectures held in May 2013, National Cancer Institute director Harold Varmus explored the international dynamics of government, medical research and health care systems in three African case studies. Dr. Varmus, who shared a Nobel prize in 1989 and is former director of NIH and Sloane-Kettering in New York, went beyond his book *The Art and Politics of Science* to discuss "International Relations in Science and Medicine."

As with Thomas Pickering in 2012, the 2013 lectures took place at Oxford, Kings College London, and the University of Edinburgh. Anne-Marie Slaughter—then recently retired as the State Department's Director of Policy and Plans and now heading the New America Foundation—delivered a pilot lecture in 2011.

For this project, LRE partners with the US-UK Fulbright Commission, the three universities, Pembroke College (where Senator Fulbright studied 1924-28), Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations, and private donors. The 2013 lectures were helped by an additional LRE grant to Pembroke on behalf of the Fulbright Association. Pembroke, meanwhile, has completed its ambitious expansion—including a residential suite reserved for future Fulbright professors, like the one-semester visitor planned for 2014-15.

Henry and Judith Millon Award at the National Gallery of Art. This award helped support the two-month residence of J. Nicholas Napoli at the NGA's Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA), enabling him to explore the Millon Collection of Architectural Drawings and Photographs for his study of the Certosa di San Martino, a unique historic monument in Naples.

Sozopol Writers Seminar. In spring 2013, LRE helped the Kostova Foundation bring authors Richard Russo, Richard Beard and Vladislav Todorov to join Elizabeth Kostova in working with an international group of young authors. The seminar fosters collegial discussion and sharing of recent work among writers of Bulgarian and English. In the years since the Seminar began in 2008, admission has grown very selective, with thirty applicants now competing for each of ten openings.

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The Lois Roth Endowment must still rely entirely on individual gifts to support projects like these. Please help with contributions, either by check to our mailing address, or online at rothendowment.org.