



THE LOIS ROTH ENDOWMENT

November 10, 2017

Dear Friend,

I write to you as we come to the end of our thirtieth year, which leaves us ever more convinced of the importance of the work we do. Monthly portraits of alumni of (and one partner in) our programs have illustrated the intricate depth of cross-cultural relations on a personal level. The breadth of what people are doing to make the world a better and more vibrant place is simply staggering. Their work helps give us hope in what feels like increasingly dark times. If you have not received these emailed portraits, you can read all of them on our website under “Awardee Portraits.”

We were thus immensely gratified to have an anonymous donor come forward with a matching challenge to help younger alumni and new donors become part of the work we are doing.

Now I am happy to announce a second matching challenge of up to \$3,000. From Thanksgiving to the end of the year, all gifts of \$300 and more will be matched 1-to-1!

We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity and consider raising your contribution this year!

Meanwhile, our work continues. Once again, we have had the privilege of honoring and supporting the work of a wide range of creative people—including scholars, artists, translators and cultural diplomats. Please read more about these gifted individuals and their work in our Annual Review and on our website

Board member and Secretary Anne Barbaro is to be congratulated for organizing another successful year of Cultural Diplomacy Awards, given to six worthy candidates in different sectors of the State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. We were very grateful that most winners were able to attend the award ceremony in Washington, thanks largely to the efforts of the US Embassies in: Caracas, Venezuela; Amman, Jordan; Brasilia, Brazil; and Hanoi, Vietnam. The keystone Lois Roth Award went to Cultural Affairs Officer Priscilla Hernandez.

In cooperation with five Fulbright Commissions and the American Scandinavian Foundation, new Board member Laurie Weitzenkorn ably shepherded Project Support Awards for nine fascinating proposals in six countries. Our dedicated Selection Committee—which now benefits from the varied expertise of four Board and three outside members—has been particularly keen to read this year’s Monthly Portraits and hear what our alumni have been up to since receiving their Roth Endowment awards.

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This year the Dyankov Award was given for the translation of works by Jeremy Page and Michael Ondaatje from English into Bulgarian. The Persian Translation Prize, administered in cooperation with the American Institute of Iranian Studies, focused on modern and contemporary literature. A new jury, under the leadership of Professor Paul Losensky of Indiana University Bloomington, reported a surprising and gratifying number of excellent translations from the Farsi. In addition to awarding the prize to Jason Bahbak Mohaghegh, the jury gave two Honorable Mentions.

Our Millon Award helped support the research of Professor Basile Baudez, who explored the role of tracing paper as an artistic tool and commodity, at the National Gallery's Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts. I was once again privileged to attend the Fulbright Legacy Lectures in the UK, accompanied by Roth Endowment Founding Chair Richard Arndt, and Manfred Philipp and Mary Ellen Schmitter from the Fulbright Association. In three inspiring lectures, political scientist Louise Richardson—Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford and author of the influential book *What Terrorists Want: Understanding the Enemy*—spoke on "Universities in an Age of Populism."

Finally, I am pleased to report that our endowment continues its steady rise. For the fiscal year (July 2106 - June 2107), it was up a rewarding 10.98%! Our conservative allocation of 54% equities has worked well in the current bull market, with our holdings ending the fiscal year at an all-time high of over \$777,500. Thanks to the skill and support of our long-term advisors—Shawn O'Reilly, founder of The Columbia Group at RBC, and his deputy, Emily Ferry—we trust we will be well positioned for any future downturn in the markets. Of course, however, ongoing and especially new donations remain vitally important to maintaining our fiscal health and increasing the impact of our work.

As you know, we rely on friends like you to help us carry on our many projects. We are grateful for your sustained interest, friendship and commitment. It is your donations that help us support international cultural dialogue on a human scale. To see these goals flourish, please contact me about making an annual gift or living bequest to the Endowment, and take advantage of our end-of-the-year matching challenge:

**Gifts of \$300 or more will be matched 1-to-1 up to \$3,000,
from Thanksgiving to the end of the year!**

With warm greetings in this holiday season,



Skyler J. Arndt-Briggs
Chair

*Please let us know if you prefer receiving our Annual Review via email
at contact@rothendowment.org*