

THE LOIS ROTH
ENDOWMENT
Fostering international dialogue



2016

ANNUAL REVIEW

Program Year
July 2015 – June 2016

Awards for Cultural Diplomacy

Four exemplary cultural diplomats were recognized for their achievements at the annual awards ceremony of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) on June 16, 2016. Please see our website for more about these distinguished awardees.

Lois Roth Award. Foreign Service Officer David Edginton won this year's award for his work in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. There he inspired countless colleagues and transformed staff roles in a way that energized the U.S. Embassy's engagement with youth and women. He also brought innovations to its arts and education programs. Demonstrating Lois Roth's knack for finding audiences where they live, David also created a series of YouTube videos in cartoon style to promote studying in the U.S. The series became the most-watched State Department videos in history.

Gill Jacot-Guillarmod Award. This award for Locally Engaged Staff went to Tilly De Groot, of the U.S. Embassy The Hague, in recognition of a long career of achievements, including: the creation of American Studies degree programs at five top universities; the establishment, staffing and programming of the John Adams Institute; and her work with Dutch Muslim and immigrant communities. Two of her programs have been showcased by the U.S. State Department as "global best practices."

Exceptionally, an Honorable Mention was awarded to Gladys Tutisani, of the U.S. Embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe, for her unusually effective programming; her persuasive exchange nominations; her ability

to strategically innovate and expand cultural programming; and her willingness to jump into staffing gaps and mentor new officers. In response to her nomination, we will start also offering a cash award to Honorable Mentions for this prize.

Ilchman-Richardson Award. We were particularly pleased that this year's award for an ECA employee, supporting educational and cultural programs from Washington DC, went to our friend Rick Ruth, a staunch ally of the Endowment's efforts for many years. His expertise and deep commitment to excellence in the conduct of cultural and public diplomacy have inspired countless ECA and State Department colleagues. Through a career spanning four decades, he has focused on relationships with people—predicated on the respectful exchange of ideas and experiences and reflecting the founding premise and highest aspirations of cultural diplomacy.

Awards for Literary Translation

Dyankov Prize. Named for Krustan Dyankov, pioneer translator of English-language literature into Bulgarian, this award is managed by the Elizabeth Kostova Foundation in Sofia. This year the award went to Iglia Vassileva for her translation of John Banville's novel *The Untouchable*. Second Place went to Bistra Andreeva for her translation of *Pigeon English*, by Stephen Kelman. For more information and to read interviews with these translators, see our website.

MLA-Roth Award. With the Modern Language Association, LRE awards a prize for literary translation into English from all languages. This

year Maureen Freely and Alexander Dawes won for their spectacular translation of the Turkish classic *The Time Regulation Institute*, by Ahmet Hamdi Tanpinar. Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk has called Tanpinar the greatest Turkish novelist of the 20th century. We are thrilled to announce that as of this year the MLA-Roth Award, which has been awarded biennially since 1999, will be awarded on an annual basis!

Persian Translation Prize. Since 2001, LRE has promoted the translation into English of classical and contemporary Persian texts, in cooperation with the American Institute of Iranian Studies. We are thrilled to hear that a newly-constituted jury will soon have a winning translation of modern Iranian literature! Please check our website for the results.

Prix Coindreau. Our oldest translation prize, established in 1993, honors excellent translations of US literature into French. This year's award went to Jean-Yves Pellegrin for his magnificent translation of Richard Powers' *Orfeo*, the story of an aging avant-garde composer who becomes fascinated with microbiological patterns. Powers has been the recipient of a National Book Award and MacArthur "genius grant." An honorable Mention went to Mathilde Bach for her translation of William Giraldi's *Hold the Dark*.

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. After much deliberation, our selection committee decided to award two prizes this year to two very different Fulbright projects. Vince Redhouse (U of AZ) is focusing on indigenous rights in Australia; comparison to the US example allows an exploration of the relative merits of approaches emphasizing sovereignty, public deliberation and reconciliation. Incorporating both design and psychology, Matthew Lee (U Penn) is researching ways to combat anti-social toxicity, such as cyberbullying and “griefing,” in online games.

Denmark. This year’s award, administered with the American Scandinavian Foundation, went to fine art photographer Steve Giovinco for the final phase of his long-term photo series *Inertia*. Photographed in southern Greenland, the series documents changes to land, ice and communities in haunting images taken at dawn, twilight or nighttime. Go to our website or Facebook page to see images from the series.

Finland. Two Roth-Thomson Awards are granted each year to US Fulbrighters working in Finland. One went to Heidi Katz (Principia, Univ of Turku) for a research project on school support of autonomy in students that compares schools in Finland, Spain and Cameroon. The second award went to architect Stephanie Jazmines (Yale), permitting her to visit historic wooden structures around Finland after completing her studies at the Wood Program at Aalto University.

New Zealand. The Robin and Avril Winks Award is granted each year to a New Zealander planning to pursue graduate study in the U.S. This year’s award went to Ana Montgomery-Neutze, who is earning a Master’s degree in Social Documentary Film at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. She wrote how thrilled she is to have this opportunity... and

that, surprisingly, 17 of the 18 people in her class are women!

Norway. This year’s award went to Anna Offit (Princeton) for a fascinating ethnographic study of ambivalence about the role of lay decision-makers in the judicial system. Despite being a pioneer in safeguarding representative jury selection, Norway is now considering doing away with the jury system. Our award allowed her to undertake comparative research on jury demographics in the city of Tromsø

Sweden. Two Roth-Thomson Awards are granted each year to US Fulbrighters working in Sweden. This year, the awards went to Kirsten Santos Rutschman (Duke), to help with her research into the concept of “folk” in 19th-century Swedish art music, and to Tess Kutasz (Penn State), who is working to situate the collections of Christina, Queen of Sweden, within the broader antiquarian markets of 17th-century Europe.

Co-Sponsored Programs

Fulbright Legacy Lectures. To honor the life of Oxford alumnus 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 co-sponsors include the US-UK Fulbright Commission, Oxford’s Department of Politics and International Relations and the US Fulbright Association.

The 2016 lectures, were given by Michael Ignatieff, author of books on a wide range of topics, university professor and former Canadian MP. Focusing

on the current European refugee crisis, Ignatieff provocatively explored a disconnect between our concepts of national sovereignty, on one hand, and the right to asylum established after WWII, on the other. Ignatieff has now become the fifth President and Rector of Central European University in Budapest, Hungary.

Henry and Judith Millon Award. The new recipient of the Millon Architectural History Grant will be announced soon. Please check our website!

Sozopol Writers Seminar. LRE helped the Kostova Foundation bring authors Elena Alexieva, Josh Weil, Travis Holland and Kapka Kassabova together to join Elizabeth Kostova in working with a group of young Bulgarian and American writers. The seminar, held this year June 9-13, continues to foster the sharing of recent work among fiction writers in Bulgarian and English and to galvanize the Bulgarian literary scene. It is linked to the CapitaLiterature program in Sophia, which follows the seminar. For more information, see our website.

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