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# Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training

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# Newsletter

Fall 2002

## Sinoimeri, Green, Win Top Cox Teaching Awards

On November 14, the Una Chapman Cox Foundation bestowed its sixteenth annual language teaching awards on teachers in the Foreign Service Institute School of Language Studies. Funds for the awards come from both the Cox Foundation and the Department of State. Ambassador KATHERINE PETERSON, director of FSI, and Cox President HARVIE BRANSCOMB presented the awards. A panel of ADST associates selects the winners after careful review of all nominations.

This year's top awards of \$5000 each went to ARDIANA SINOIMERI, instructor in Albanian, and ZOE GREEN, instructor in Portuguese. For honorable mention Hebrew instructor SARAH

KUHNREICH and Thai instructor SARINPORN WISKIN received \$1000 each.

### **The Cox Award Winners**

Ardiana Sinoimeri "takes genuine joy from teaching the difficult Albanian language to the wide range of students who pass through her classroom" and constantly adjusts her teaching approach "to enable each student to do the best possible," wrote one of those who nominated her. Another noted that she has "all the qualities of an effective teacher: patience, creativity, diplomacy and an abundance of enthusiasm. . . . She has given not only myself, but countless



*Honorees and presenters at awards ceremony (from left): Sarinporn Wiskin, ADST President Kenneth Brown, Sarah Kuhnreich, FSI Director Katherine Peterson, Ardiana Sinoimeri, Cox Foundation President Harvie Branscomb Jr., and Zoe Green*

others, the motivation, and the necessary skill not only to learn a very difficult language, but to actually love it."

Zoe Green, it was noted, is "truly the heart and soul of the [Portuguese] department." Beside the excellence in her day-to-day teaching, "she selflessly

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# Cox Awards Presented

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... gave her own time to provide additional help to any student that needed it." She works "tirelessly to keep morale up and to keep her students motivated." Another nomination mentioned Ms. Green's preparation of "excellent supplementary student guides," noting that she is "an outstanding professional who teaches because she loves it."

## **Honorable Mentions**

Hebrew instructor Sarah Kuhnreich "knows a lot of different ways to attract and hold students' attention." This nomination mentions her intense dedication and commitment to "helping her students to be able to learn." She creatively arranges encounters for her

students with fluent Hebrew speakers from diverse backgrounds. Every year she also takes her classes to the Jefferson Memorial to give speeches "in Hebrew on what the United States means to them."

Five students of Thai signed the nomination for Sarinporn Wisin. They noted her ability to motivate students "to develop their skills, take risks, and improve their language use." She organized a "Friday afternoon club in which many Thai language students met at a local pub, socialized, and practiced speaking Thai." She uses bold and fresh material in the classroom and was instrumental in developing the innovative Thai interactive computer learning system for Thai language studies.