The Association of Departments of Foreign Languages

presents
The ADFL Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession

to

Olga Kagan

Professor of Slavic languages and literatures, director of the Center for World Languages, director of the National Heritage Language Resource Center, and director of the Russian Flagship Program at the University of California, Los Angeles, Olga Kagan is a central figure in the fields of Russian language pedagogy and heritage language teaching. Her work at the National Heritage Language Resource Center brings together scholars and practitioners in commonly and less commonly taught languages to maintain and develop heritage languages in the United States. She is the founding coeditor of the Heritage Language Journal and has coauthored four textbooks for heritage learners of Russian and eight for students of Russian as a foreign language. She has coedited three volumes on the teaching of language. Awarded the PhD by the Pushkin Russian Language Institute in Moscow, Kagan has taught in the University of California system since 1976 and at UCLA since 1981. She is a member of the board of directors of the American Council of Teachers of Russian and serves on the steering committee of the University of California’s Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning. The coordinator and undergraduate adviser of her university’s Russian language program, she is an award-winning teacher—in the words of one student, “a superstar.” Her colleagues describe her as a role model for young scholars in the field of language teaching and as an innovator and visionary who has brought the field of second and heritage Russian language acquisition from tentative beginnings forty years ago to the maturity it enjoys today.

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