

## The Joseph Conrad Society of America

**The Executive Council of the Joseph Conrad Society of America** announce the award of **The Ian P. Watt Award for Lifetime Achievement in Conrad Studies** to two exceptional and distinguished Conrad scholars: **Professor Allan H. Simmons** and **Professor John G. Peters**. Though Allan and John need no introduction in our community of scholars – to be a Conradian is to know them and know the importance of their work – a few words signaling their massive contributions to Conrad studies is warranted.

**Professor Allan H. Simmons**, professor emeritus of English Literature in the School of Arts and Humanities at St. Mary's University, Twickenham, London, is a longtime central officer of the Executive Committee of the Joseph Conrad Society (UK), editor of *The Conradian*, and head of the Centre for Joseph Conrad Studies at St. Mary's University. He has published an astonishing twenty monographs, editions, and edited volumes concerning Conrad—texts foundational to the existence of the field, and to the work of other scholars in it—alongside a wide range of influential essays, while also serving as the General Editor of the prize-winning Cambridge Edition of the Works of Joseph Conrad. In addition to these momentous research accomplishments, Allan is also a defining figure of the Conradian community: someone who has for decades, with his singular smile, wit, gracious generosity, and capacious command of all things Conradian and Bob Dylan, deeply dedicated himself to the development and solidarity of Conrad scholars of all ages and from all over the world.

**Professor John G. Peters**, University Distinguished Research Professor of English Literature at the University of North Texas, has been a central and galvanizing figure in the Joseph Conrad Society of America and Conrad Studies for years, serving in many executive roles in JCSA including as President from 2007-2008, and also as the current General Editor of *Conradiana* and the current Co-General Editor of Brill's Conrad Studies Series. Described in the *New Yorker* in 2018 as “the leading American Conradian,” John has published three monographs (two of which were runners up for the Adam Gillon Award for best books on Conrad), at least eight editions and edited volumes concerning Conrad, and over thirty articles and notes concerning the author. The list of John's awards and prizes – from both inside his university and outside – is long, including the Council of Editors of Learned Journals Phoenix Award for his work on *Conradiana* in 2017, and several awards bearing on his distinguished research and teaching of Conrad, including the Toulouse Graduate School's Toulouse Scholar Award (2020) and the highest honor his university bestows, the University of North Texas Foundation's Eminent Faculty Award. But it is not only as an influential and prodigious Conrad scholar but as a consummately dedicated, scrupulous, generous, and thoughtful member of the Conrad community that he is appreciated by Conrad scholars all over the world.