

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION

Dear Fulbright Friends,

I am very pleased to be writing this message for the first issue of the Turkish Fulbright Commission's newsletter. Senator William Fulbright once referred to the Fulbright experience as a "modest program with an immodest aim--the achievement in international affairs of a regime more civilized, rational and humane than the empty system of power of the past." For over 60 years, the Turkish Fulbright Commission has been relentlessly pursuing this 'modest' goal. Over these years, more than 4,000 Turkish and American citizens have been part of this wonderful experience and opportunity.

Over the years our programs have grown in size and diversity. As just one example, we now have 60 young American college graduates serving as English Teaching Assistants in 20 public universities across the country. In some cases, these are the first Americans that the people in those towns and cities have had the opportunity to meet. As they build up friendships, they not only promote intercultural tolerance and understanding, but also enrich themselves personally. Our long-standing programs also continue to grow. Turkey is now the 10th largest source country of students going to study in the United States, with more than 12,000 in 2010-2011. The number of American students coming to Turkey has also been rising rapidly, up 20% in just the last two years, to a total of more than 1,500 in 2010-2011.

In both directions, we are continuing harder than ever to recruit the best and the brightest for our exchange programs. Fulbright advisors tour every corner of Turkey to promote both Fulbright and EducationUSA opportunities—including such new programs as our Opportunity funds, which provide greater accessibility to U.S. education by supporting application fees for eligible Turkish students.

The Turkish Fulbright Commission is a senior, mature and experienced organization, but for those of us working here, its spirit feels as young and exciting as if it were still year one. We are more committed than ever to supporting educational exchanges between these two great countries, believing that the endurance of Turkish-American friendship and cooperation rests on people-to-people contact, and that the Turkish-American partnership provides an exemplary model for the entire region.

Fulbrighters from the past, friends of Fulbright, and future Fulbrighters, we would like all of you to be actively engaged with the Commission and its programs, and to help spread the word about Fulbright and the opportunities it offers. Our doors and hearts are open to all dedicated and talented students and scholars from either country.

As the Commission staff we wish you all a healthy and rewarding 2012.



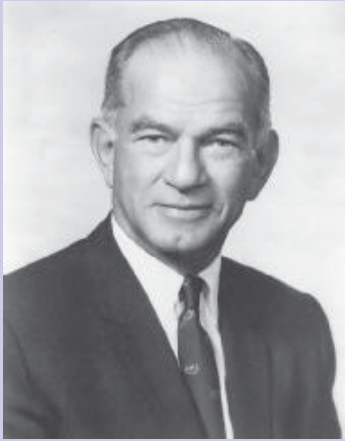
Dr. Ersel Aydın
Executive Director, Turkish Fulbright Commission

"...It is a modest program with an immodest aim -- the achievement in international affairs of a regime more civilized, rational and humane than the empty system of power of the past. I believed in that possibility when I began. I still do."

The Price of Empire, J. William Fulbright

History of the Turkish Fulbright Program

The Fulbright Program was created by legislation in the U.S. Senate, proposed by Senator J. William Fulbright in 1946.



The Commission for Educational Exchange Between the United States and Turkey, the Turkish Fulbright Commission, was established by a binational agreement signed between the United States and Turkey in 1949. Since the creation of the Commission in 1949, funding has been provided by the governments of Turkey and the United States.

The Commission supports Turkish and American graduate students, artists, academicians, and mid-career government employees in managerial positions through grants which include education, travel and living expenses. It also offers educational advising for Turkish students wishing to study in the U.S. The program fosters mutual understanding and respect through educational interchanges between the peoples of both countries.

The Board of the Fulbright Commission is appointed by the Turkish and U.S. governments, with representatives from both countries serving on the Board.

The Turkish Fulbright program has supported more than 4000 Turkish and American scholars in its sixty-two years of existence. Returning Fulbrighters from both countries hold important positions in their academic institutions, public service and the private sector. They maintain ties with their host country, thereby carrying out the goals of the Fulbright Program.

Historical Framework of the Commission

- 1949** Foundation of the Turkish Fulbright Commission
- 1951** First group of Turkish Fulbright Grantees leave for the USA on July 26, 1951



- 1949-1959** Mr. William M. Lauman - Executive Director
- 1959-1963** Mr. Arif H. Özbilen - Executive Director
- 1963-1966** Mr. Ömer H. Mart - Executive Director
- 1966-1986** Mr. Hüsnü Ersoy - Executive Director
- 1986** İstanbul Branch Office was opened
- 1986-2010** Prof. Ersin Onulduran - Executive Director
- 1999** 50th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Turkish Fulbright Commission
- 2009** 60th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Turkish Fulbright Commission
- 2010-Present** Dr. Ersel Aydınli - Executive Director

American Programs

Along with the English Teaching Assistantship and Senior Specialist Programs, Fulbright American Programs is welcoming 7 Senior Lecturers, 4 Senior Researchers, and 10 Student Researchers this year at 15 different Turkish universities in 6 different towns.

Their fields of study vary from American Studies, Anthropology, History, Linguistics and the Arts to Architecture, Business Administration, Communications, Education, Engineering and Music. The program also hosts 4 Institute of International Education Graduate Researchers this year who do research in Anthropology, History, Sociology and Communications & Culture.

Fulbright American Programs continue to receive Senior Specialists who visit Turkey on short term grants for projects carried out at Turkish universities. This academic year, there have already been 4 specialists who came on special projects to Atılım University in Ankara on "Teacher Development", Mimar Sinan University in İstanbul on "Dance", İstanbul Aydın University on "Public Administration" and Bahçeşehir University in İstanbul on "US Studies and Literature".



Prof. Danelle Stevens from Portland State University visiting Atılım University in Ankara on the Senior Specialist Program.

The English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Program

The English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Program has a 10-year history, starting in 2001 with two ETAs who were placed at universities in Ankara.

"The Goals and Expectations" of this program is to promote cultural exchange and mutual understanding by having Turkish students get to know Americans and American culture, and having American students get to know Turkey and Turkish culture. With this program, Turkish students are also exposed to native English, and the Turkish teaching staff at the universities are provided with native English speaking support.

The number of the grantees increased in 2009 with 10 ETAs being placed at 10 different universities around Turkey. For the 2010-2011 academic year, the Commission signed an agreement with the Turkish Higher Education Council (YÖK) to invite 60 ETAs to be placed at the newly established Turkish universities.

For the 2011-2012 academic year, 60 ETAs have been placed at 20 Turkish Universities as English Language Teaching Assistants.



ETA Mid-Year Evaluation Meeting 2011

The U.S. Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone, Dr. Marie D. Ricciardone, President of the Turkish Higher Education Council (former) Prof. Yusuf Ziya Özcan, Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission Dr. Ersel Aydınli together with the 53 ETAs who attended the meeting.

The ETA Program Mid-Year Evaluation Meeting is going to be held in Ankara on February 23-25, 2012. All 60 ETAs will be attending the meeting to share their experiences during the first semester and to evaluate the program in all aspects. There will also be members from the Turkish Higher Education Council attending the meeting as the joint owner of the ETA Program.

Senior Lecturers, Researchers and Student Researchers will have their End of Year Evaluation Meeting with the Commission Board Members in Antalya in mid-May.



Senior Lecturers, Researchers and Student Researchers attended last year's End of Year Evaluation Meeting with the US Ambassador and Commission Board Members in Antalya in May 2011.

Stories from our US Grantees

Neil P. KOROSTOFF
2011-2012 Senior Researcher
Pennsylvania State University / İstanbul Technical University

Journey in Time

Still green in parts and patched with brown stubble fields, the broad fertile valley of the the Euphrates River spread beneath my feet from the heights of Göbekli Tepe. As I looked out on the sere hills and river bottom lands a chill rose along my spine - I was gazing on the landscape of Upper Mesopotamia, the place that gave birth to Western Civilization.

Behind me amidst the archaeological excavations, grimy German students and Turkish day laborers - their outfits converging to filthy shalwars and kefiahs as if by some osmotic force of fashion - labored to unearth the remarkable mounds of Göbekli Tepe. As picks and shovels scraped at the ground and wheelbarrows of soil skirted a perilous journey across buckboards suspended above the pit, an entirely new history of the Neolithic period - 12,000 years ago - was being revealed. Conventional thought condemned our ancestors of the time, just at the close of the recent Ice Age, to a material life of crude stone tools and burial practices. But there, in the pit, as the walls, pillars and stone carvings of Göbekli Tepe emerge, our concept of Neolithic culture is being revolutionized. Some 12,000 years old, these are the oldest structures yet found built by human hands.

Göbekli Tepe consists of several even, human-made mounds resting on the peak of a natural ridge in Southeastern Turkey in the area between Adıyaman and Şanlıurfa. Inside the mounds a German archaeological team has excavated a series of circular walls embedded with T-shaped stone pillars, some three to five meters tall. The T-shaped pillars have strikingly beautiful and evocative images of birds, animals, and even a burial practice carved upon their surfaces. Whatever purpose the mounds, structures and carvings served for the ancient builders, it is evidence of a highly developed culture and remarkable technical proficiency.



Neil Korostoff at the orientation dinner with Danielle Van Dobben and Alix Knipe.

The life-like carvings on the T-shaped pillars are completely arresting even to our image-saturated twenty-first century eyes. It is the spark of human imagination and creativity leaping across the millenia to us.

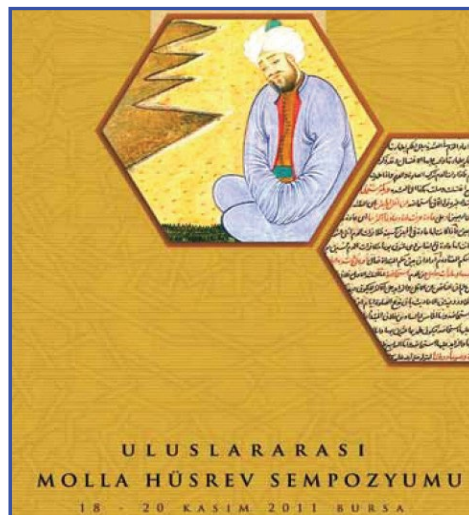
The visit to Göbekli Tepe was one of several fascinating archaeological tours I have taken with the American Research Institute of Turkey (ARIT). They have branches in both İstanbul and Ankara. Membership is not expensive and offers a program of lectures, tours, and library resources.

Engin D. AKARLI
2011-2012 US Senior Lecturer
Brown University / İstanbul Şehir University

On November 3 I talked in a meeting to honor Professor Kemal Karpat's contributions to the historiography of the Republic of Turkey. The meeting was the third in a series of conferences called "Tribute to Great Masters" organized by the Sakarya Municipality in cooperation with Sakarya University.

On November 18-20 I participated in the "International Symposium on Mulla Khusraw" that met in the Atatürk Cultural Center in Bursa and made one of the three closing addresses, commenting on the symposium's contributions to our understanding of Ottoman legal history. Uludağ University and the Bursa Municipality organized the symposium. As you know, Mulla Khusraw (d. 1481) is one of the most important jurists of the Ottoman era. He served as judge, chief judge, law professor and chief jurist during Murad II and Mehmed II (the Conqueror)'s reigns.

On November 28 I gave a talk entitled "Historiography of Turkey-Autobiographical Reflections" at the Center for Research on Turkey.



Kathryn M. MAGRUDER
2011-2012 Senior Researcher
Medical University of South Carolina / Hacettepe University

Kuaför: Bay ve Bayan

You really know you're living in a foreign country (as opposed to just visiting) when you have to get your hair done. Now Cef (or Jeff, as he is known in the English language) has already visited Mustafa the barber. According to Cef, Mustafa spent a great deal of time on the hair itself, with additional attention to the mustache. As a bonus, there was the ear waxing. Now I've had eyebrow waxing before, but ear waxing was a new concept for me (and a definite first for Cef). Before he could protest, one ear had been waxed, with the offending hair jerked out. What could he do but submit to the second ear? I must admit that he received one of the best haircuts in memory, not to mention that his hearing has improved considerably. Since Cef had done so well with Mustafa, I felt emboldened to find my own kuaför. Now it may be different for men, but for me, I have a very special relationship with my hairdresser. As background, I found Rosemary 12 years ago in Charleston, and since then, I've moved with her to 4 different locations, and we have gone through numerous life events together, including graduations, marriages, births, and deaths. In the last 12 years, only Rosemary (and her son) have ever touched my hair -- so you can imagine my trepidation when I walked into the shop of Ayhan (the Kuaför). I calmed my fears by remembering that if Ayhan really messed up badly, I could always go local and wear a headscarf for the next 9 months.

For starters, Ayhan doesn't speak English (nor did I expect it), but then again, it's not too hard to indicate that I wanted a hair cut and touching up of my roots. Ayhan understood completely and got the team started. Yes -- it's a team approach here in Turkey.

Ayhan first called upon Sultan (the lone female on the team) to get me çay. Then it was Ömer's turn to prepare and hand to Ayhan the little tin foils that are part of the process. After this (which did not seem out of line with what Rosemary does), I was advised to sit tight and let the "stuff" work. No worries -- Meena, an English speaking Indian woman arrived for a manicure and cut, and she and I had a good conversation.

Once Meena left, I was ushered to another area where Ayhan and Ömer got all of the tin foil and other extraneous stuff out of my hair for a good wash. Then there was more "stuff" applied. When I questioned them on this, they replied "Renk" (one of the few words I understand, meaning "color"). I had never had more color added (I was just getting it removed!), but I was at their mercy, so renk it was, followed by more washing. Then it was back to the chair, where Ayhan (a solo performance) did the cutting. I have never seen such fast fingers! Following the cut, Ömer was called back into action to assist in the drying process (it took 4 hands!). Although I may not ever have the same level of trust as I have with Rosemary, I do believe that I'll survive the next 9 months without having to wear a headscarf!





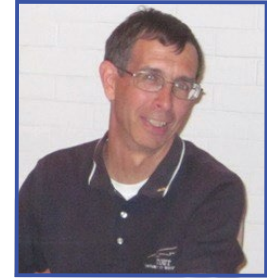
Daniel J. DRUCKER-ETA
Uçhisar, Cappadocia's highest point, near Nevşehir

Daniel J. DRUCKER
2011-2012 ETA
At-Large, Florida / Nevşehir University

Food: I must admit, I miss American food from time to time. But I will say this, (warm) künefe and baklava are two of the most delicious desserts I've ever had in my life. Also, the McDonald's dondurma pie, which consists of either apple or cherry pie along with two scoops of ice cream, is unbelievably underrated.

Places: I've gotten to visit Ankara, Samsun, Gaziantep, Antalya, Adana, Osmaniye, and various sections of Cappadocia. My favorite city is Antep, because of all of the history... and baklava. Also, the city just has some wonderful people in it. I mean, just the best, most outstanding individuals. Some of them wear sweater vests and teach on weekdays, and others wear golf hats and sell spices on the side of the street. All around, though, they're great people.

My favorite experience in Turkey was being able to attend a Beşiktaş basketball game in Ankara. As everyone knows and laments, the NBA is currently locked out, so it was nice to be able to see some professional bball. And more than that, it was great being able to see it in a foreign city with rabid fans. The Beşiktaş faithful are some of the most intensely involved spectators I've ever witnessed, and it was just fun being there.



Thomas A. LACKSONEN
2011-2012 Senior Lecturer
University of Wisconsin Stout / Middle East Technical University

Culture Shock

We borrowed a phone from Americans living in Turkey. We kept getting messages from Kim Aramis, who we assumed was a friend of the owners of the phone. So we just deleted the messages. After about 2 months we realized that "KİM ARAMIŞ" is Turkish roughly for who is calling you. So sorry for anyone that tried to leave a message on our phone - we just deleted you!



2011-2012 Fulbright Turkey ETAs- Jerilynn Jackson, Taylor Hawkins, Abby Comstock-Gay, Daniel Cornish and Khalid Khayr near Mt. Nemrut, Turkey.

Jerilynn "M" Emily JACKSON
2011-2012 ETA
University of Montana / Samsun Ondokuz Mayıs University

We waited, a many-headed Hydra of Fulbrighters sitting on rocks and dirt and one another. Nemrut Dağı was swimming in golden sunlight and we kept close eyes on the sun, tracking its progress closer and closer to the ridge. This moment was the end, the last in a series of adventures hosted by the two dynamic Malatya Fulbrighters Seth Packrone and Taylor Hawkins.

In every direction, the landscape rippled away. Turkey at her best. And when that moment came when the sun touched the land and the cold air stilled, we sat and watched. This sunset was the same sunset everyone on Earth watched that day, some from Alaska, from New York, from Texas. And us, perched atop King Antiochus's tomb in Turkey. Glorious.

Dates to Note!

February 23-25, 2012
ETA Program Mid-Year Evaluation Meeting

May 2012
End of Year Evaluation Meeting

Turkish Programs

The Turkish Programs section of the Commission administers various Fulbright grant programs awarded to Turkish nationals. These programs include: **The Student Core Program with Science and Technology Grants**, **Visiting Scholar Program**, **Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program**, **H. Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program** and **Scholar-in-Residence Program**.

In addition, the Commission administers the **Community College Initiative Program** on behalf of the U.S. Department of State. The program staff work closely with the Fulbright Advising team who also acts as EducationUSA advising team to recruit competent nominees for these aforementioned grants.



Turkish Student grantees (2011-2012) at a reception given by the Deputy Chief of Mission.

Alumni Relations & Plans for 2012

The Turkish Fulbright Commission held two Re-entry sessions for the returning Fulbright alumni, one in 2009, and one in 2010 with the help of the senior alumni.

The aim of these re-entry sessions is to expand the network of returning Fulbrighters. These sessions allow the Commission to:

- support the grantees as they become Fulbright alumni upon returning to their home country;
- collaborate with them regarding the Commission's recruitment efforts.

The third re-entry session will be held in 2012.

In addition, the Commission intends to make a documentary film about the first Fulbright Alumni. With the completion of the documentary a Turkish Fulbright Alumni Conference will be held in May 2012. The aim is to honor the first Fulbright grantees and bring alumni together for the first time, hoping that this event will mark a tradition for many years to come.

The Fulbright Student Core Program, which awards funds towards MA or PhD degrees or PhD dissertation research, was again the largest grant program in 2011. Out of the 76 nominees selected in 2010 for the Fulbright Student Core Program awards, *65 were successfully placed at U.S. universities* and the grantees began their programs in August 2011. The Commission held a pre-departure session on how to tackle with U.S. academic life and culture, closing it with a reception hosted by the Deputy Chief of Mission in June 2011. The grantees were sent off to start the beginning of their new lives in the U.S.

2011 also marked the recruitment and selection activities for the new Fulbright nominees for the academic year 2012-2013. The Commission received about *900 applications*. With the collaboration and expertise of selection committees made up of faculty, Fulbright alumni and staff of the U.S. Department of State, Public Affairs Office, a total of 64 nominees who met "sound academic criteria and satisfied rigorous standards of excellence" from 36 fields were recommended to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, which makes the final decision. Currently, the Turkish Program staff have been working closely with the *Institute of International Education (IIE)* in placing the nominees in compatible programs at U.S. universities to begin their studies/research in the academic year 2012-2013. For the first time this year, these nominees are allowed to make as many self-applications as they desire in addition to IIE's submission plans.

While the placement process for the academic year 2012-2013 continues, the Turkish Program staff have already begun their next recruitment cycle for the 2013-2014 academic year. **The application deadline for the Fulbright Student Core Program for the 2013-2014 academic year is April 9, 2012.**



Fulbright Student Core Program Recruitment Poster



International Science and Technology Fulbright Award Program

In 2010, the Commission recommended to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board two applicants for Science and Technology awards for the 2011-2012 academic year. As a result, Ms. Beliz Ugurhan from Middle East Technical University was selected and was placed in a doctoral program (Civil Engineering / Seismology) at Stanford University. She started her program in August 2011.

In 2011, of the three students the Commission recommended, one student from Bilkent University (Electrical Engineering) was nominated as an alternate for the award.

The Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program attracts *researchers with doctoral degrees to conduct full-time advanced research at the post doctoral level at a U.S. university.* The applicants submit research projects in their fields, which they start in Turkey and complete in the U.S. With the help of alumni and experts, the Commission recommends to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board the most qualified research projects from which both countries will benefit. *In 2010, 12 researchers were awarded the Visiting Scholar Grant and were placed at universities of their choice.*

The Commission received a total of 30 research projects for the year 2012, and *11 nominees were recommended to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.* The Commission hopes to hear the results very soon.

Effective Fulbright Application Workshops

Turkish Programs provide service not only for Fulbright grantees, but also for all potential nominees who are Turkish citizens and who want to apply for Fulbright scholarships. Information sessions are organized throughout the year to give students detailed information about the application process, the supplemental forms and the essays that are needed for an effective application. These sessions are known as "*Effective Fulbright Application Workshops*", and are held not only in Ankara and İstanbul but also in other cities.

Effective Fulbright Application Workshops for 2012

Ankara	February 16, 2012 March 19, 2012 April 2, 2012
İstanbul	February 27, 2012 March 5, 2012 March 30, 2012
İzmir	January 5, 2012

Other workshops in February and in March will be held in **Antalya, Bursa, Eskişehir, Erzurum, Isparta, Kayseri, Konya, Malatya, Samsun, Sivas, Trabzon**



The Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program is open to experienced English Language Teachers between the ages of 21-29. Grant awardees are sent for one year to the U.S. to teach Turkish at a U.S. university. While in the U.S., they may also have the opportunity to enroll in graduate classes.

In 2010, a total of 21 FLTA nominees were recommended to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. 20 of the nominees were placed at U.S. universities, and joined their programs in August 2011. 20 new nominees have been recommended for the 2012-2013 academic year. They will receive their university appointments in April 2012 and will have their orientation next August.

For those who are interested in applying for the 2013-2014 academic year, the deadline is October 2012.

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

The Humphrey fellows are mid-level leaders dedicated to public service. The fellows of this grant program undertake academic study in their fields and attain work related experience for one year. *In the year 2010, the selection committee recommended five nominees to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and as a result, two fellows were selected.*

For the *2012-2013 academic year*, the Humphrey Fellowship Program deadline was September 9, 2011. *Nine candidates were recommended* to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board selected by a committee made up of alumni with leadership expertise, Public Affairs Office staff, and a dedicated public servant. The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board decision will be most probably finalized in January or February 2012.

Scholar in Residence Program

The purpose of the program is to respond to program needs expressed by U.S. institutions of higher education, particularly minority-serving institutions and Community Colleges. The selected scholar assists to foster greater student, faculty, and community understanding of foreign peoples and cultures. This year, Brevard Community College in Florida will benefit from Dr. Hüseyin Doğan's expertise. Dr. Doğan is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Melikşah University located in Kayseri.



Community College Initiative Program Recruitment Poster

Community College Initiative Program

The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has partnered with Community Colleges for International Development for the administration of the Community College Initiative (CCI) Program

The CCI Program provides quality educational programs for international students. On behalf of the U.S. government, the program is administered in Turkey by the Fulbright Commission. Twenty candidates were selected in 2010 and 14 candidates were placed in their host Community Colleges. In 2011, twelve candidates were recommended to the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for approval. The CCI Program grantees will start their programs in June 2012.

Sessions for Grantees

The Commission will hold five **Pre-departure Orientation sessions** for each of the grant programs in Spring 2012. Detailed information about the U.S. culture and academic life and the departure process will be shared with the nominees in order to provide them with information and survival skills. Receptions to honor the grantees will follow.

The Commission will also continue to hold information sessions for all the nominees selected for the academic year 2013-2014.



Beginning of a Fulbright Journey



Osman Solmaz, Instructor at Dicle University, Diyarbakır

WINGS ARE READY FOR THE TAKE-OFF

"Born and raised up in the southeastern city of Diyarbakır in Turkey, a historical city with a rich cultural and linguistic background, I completed my undergraduate studies and earned my Master of Arts degree in ELT at Dicle University. I have been working as a lecturer in the English Language Teaching (ELT) department of the Ziya Gökalp Faculty of Education at Dicle University since February 2009.

I am now looking forward to enrolling at a department in my field of expertise in one of the prestigious American universities in order to get a PhD degree. My main interest is in teaching English using recent technologies as well as virtual learning environments, synchronous and asynchronous language learning and teaching, and personal and professional development by means of web technologies.

I was informed about the Fulbright Scholarship Programs at a presentation given at Dicle University. After listening to that presentation, I decided to apply for the scholarship, and thought I would give myself a chance- as Andre Gidé once stated- "One will never know what lengths one can soar unless they open their wings first". I am sure that, thanks to the Fulbright scholarship, I will have a chance to open my wings and broaden my horizons. I personally recommend the Fulbright program to those who believe in themselves and work hard to realize their dreams regardless of location, age, social status etc, because if you have belief in yourself and study hard for your dreams, I think that you are already half way along the ladder which will take you to the land of success and happiness."

"People who know me compare my life to that of a butterfly. When I look back at all the changes in my life, I think the same.

It is harder for girls in the eastern part of Turkey to be able to break out of their cocoon than for those in the west of Turkey. My father was working in İstanbul to be able to take care of our family and for this reason I hardly remember my father in the memories of my childhood. I helped my mother to raise my siblings. I was like a small mom to them. Nobody, including myself, had ever thought that a girl could study. My father didn't want me to continue my education, but then he agreed with my mother. I went to a vocational school for girls. That school was considered to be the best school for girls. I liked reading and discussing my ideas with my friends. I knew I wanted to study at a university, but because of lack of guidance both in my school and in my family I didn't know how to succeed. After taking the university entrance exam I managed to enter Boğaziçi University in İstanbul.

Going to a big city was very frightening for me. I had never gone out of Batman in my life. The process of adaptation to İstanbul was indeed bitter.

When I was in İstanbul it felt like being in a foreign country. I was a caterpillar then. I had no idea of what was waiting for me in life. I continued my education in Psychological Guidance and Counseling along with Pre-school Education.

I always look for things different in life, things that can take me one step further. Thus, when I heard about the opportunity to study in Amsterdam for five months, I did not hesitate for a moment. In Amsterdam I had the chance to broaden my horizons.

When I came back, I realized that I needed to improve my knowledge in my professional field, and I thought the best way to do this would be in the USA. Having thought of this, I applied for a Fulbright Scholarship. I find the mission of the Fulbright Programs, which is to develop yourself and then to serve your country, quite close to mine. I am highly proud to be considered for such an invaluable grant.

I am now waiting in my cocoon and the USA will provide me with the opportunities to break free from my cocoon and to become a butterfly."



Demet Arpacık, Education Policy and Management, MA, Boğaziçi University

Advising and Outreach Programs

Throughout the academic year Fulbright and EducationUSA advisors organize seminars and workshops on higher education in the U.S.A. at high schools, universities and institutions all around Turkey. Our advisors also attend education fairs to provide objective information about study in the U.S.A. The seminars given by our advisors include presentations on how to write a successful statement of purpose, how to get prepared for standardized tests, the application process of schools, webchats for students who do not have access to our offices, and Pre-Departure Orientation. We also organize seminars for Ministry of Education Grantees in order to help them understand the education system in the U.S.A. and prepare their application packages. Students can also reach our advisors via e-mail and phone. For one-on-one advising students should make an appointment with our advisors. In order to attend and be informed about our seminars and sessions in different cities, please visit our calendar on www.fulbright.org.tr



EducationUSA Opportunity funds

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through personal and professional ties between private citizens in the United States and abroad, as well as by presenting U.S. history, society, art and culture in all of its diversity to overseas audiences. U.S. and foreign students alike can prepare for leadership roles in today's world through an international education.

(<http://educationusa.state.gov>)

EducationUSA Opportunity funds provide small grants for students who are highly qualified and likely to be awarded substantial institutional financial aid, but would have difficulty paying the up-front costs of applying to U.S. universities, test prep classes, test fees, postage expenses, Visa / SEVIS fees and the cost of international airfare. Applicants from all academic levels who intend to pursue a degree can apply for assistance.

Turkish Opportunity funds grantees last year were offered over 2 million US Dollars of financial aid by U.S. universities both at undergraduate and graduate levels.

For detailed information about the Opportunity funds please visit: <http://www.fulbright.org.tr/tr/abdegitim/egitim-masraflarn-karsilama/opportunity-funds>

Fulbright Corners

We have established ten Fulbright Corners at different universities all around Turkey to help students to become fully aware of the educational opportunities in the U.S.A. and Fulbright Scholarships as early as possible. Fulbright Corners are located in Yüzüncü Yıl Üniversitesi, Akdeniz Üniversitesi, Anadolu Üniversitesi, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart Üniversitesi, Fırat Üniversitesi, Harran Üniversitesi, Karadeniz Teknik Üniversitesi, Muğla Üniversitesi, Pamukkale Üniversitesi, Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam Üniversitesi. The Fulbright Corners provide accurate, comprehensive and objective information in the form of reference books describing the American system of higher education, the research and application process it entails, and internship opportunities in the U.S.A. Students obtain information on U.S. graduate programs, admissions requirements, costs, scholarship and fellowship opportunities as well as general descriptions of the schools.



Scenes from the Commission's Advising Activities & School Visits



Fulbright Student Programs Presentations,
Mersin and Hitit Universities



Presentation on "Study in the U.S.A." for Ministry of
Education Grantees in Marmara University



Presentation on Undergraduate Education in the
U.S.A., Gaziantep Anatolian High School



Students working on a sample statement of purpose
at a "Statement of Purpose Session" in the İstanbul
Branch Office



Session on Standardized Tests in the İstanbul Branch Office



Hacettepe University, Ministry of Education
Grantees Statement of Purpose Seminar



Presentations at Sakarya University Akyazi Vocational School & Dumlupınar University Kütahya Vocational School



"Pre-departure Orientation Program" for students who went to the U.S.A. for different levels of study



An Inspiring Story

Prof. Kaymakçalan went to the U.S.A. on a Fulbright Scholarship in July, 1951. In 1955 she became an expert in internal diseases. She completed her PhD Dissertation in 1960, and was assigned as a Professor in 1966. She retired in 1991.

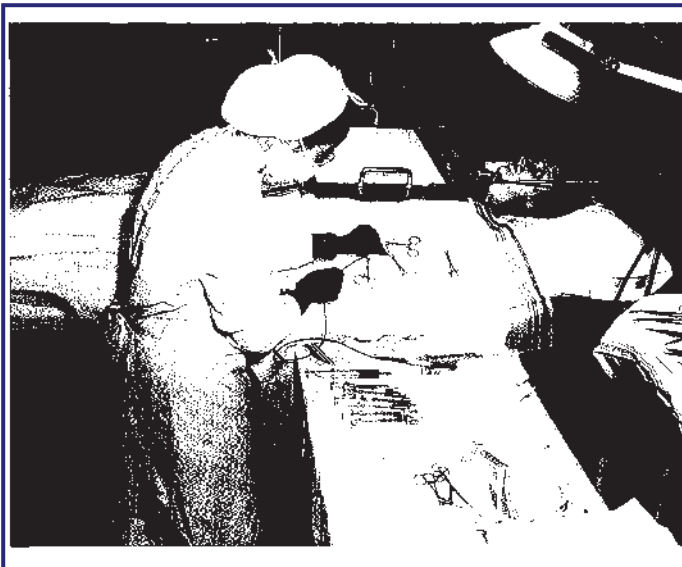
Can you briefly tell us about your background? Where and when were you born? How was your school life?

My parents were from the Balkans. They got engaged during the Turkish War of Independence and were married after it ended. I was born as their first child in 1925, in Konya. My dad was working at the Turkish State Railways; therefore I spent my childhood in different cities. In 1938, we moved to İzmit because of my father's assignment. At that time I was in the 8th grade, and I remember November 10, 1938 very well. When Atatürk died, they brought him to İzmit to take him to Ankara by train. I remember running after the train that carried him.

When I was about to start high school, World War II started. My dad wanted me to study in an American school, but at that time my mother and I had moved to Ankara to live with my grandparents. When I was about to register at the Girls Lycee in Ankara, we received a letter from my father. In the letter, he told us that he had registered me to the American College. I studied at Üsküdar American College in Bağlarbaşı. I was very successful at lessons like Math and Physics, and thus I wanted to become an engineer. However, they told me it was difficult for a girl to study engineering, and even if I got in, I would not be able to work actively as a young lady, and instead I would work mainly in the office. So I changed my mind.

How did you decide to become a doctor?

My mother wanted me to become a doctor so much and she encouraged me to study medicine a lot. After finishing high school, I took several exams and I got in to the School of Medicine of İstanbul University. When I finished my studies in six years, I wanted to specialize in internal diseases. I wanted to



Prof. Sabahat Kaymakçalan in Alabama in 1952.



Prof. Kaymakçalan in a laboratory in Alabama.

study in İstanbul, but unfortunately all clinics were full. I took the assistantship exam and was waiting for my turn to be accepted. There was no hope for a couple of years. I went to Ankara to visit my grandparents. They told me that there were successful professors at the Ankara University School of Medicine, which was opened in 1946. One of our relatives talked to Prof. Nusret Karasu, who was a specialist in chest diseases and he directed me to Gülhane Medicine Academy in Cebeci. I met Prof. İrfan Titiz there. After passing several exams, I became the first female assistant.

How did you hear about the Fulbright Scholarship Program?

My friends from the clinic told me about the Fulbright Scholarship Program as they knew I had a good command of English. Everybody wanted to go to the U.S.A. It was the end of the 1950s, around December. There used to be a building in Kızılay with some parts used as a theatre. One part of this building which faced Atatürk Boulevard was an American Library. I used to go and study there a lot. I saw the Fulbright announcement there and took the exam. At that time there was only the written exam.

If we are not mistaken, you went to Pennsylvania first. How did you feel when you were in the U.S.A. for the first time? What kind of a country was it?

Fulbright was my first experience abroad. When we landed in New York, I realized that the airport was huge. I changed flights to go to Bucknell University.



It was midnight when I arrived in Lewisburg. They had given us \$35 in Turkey, and I gave \$20 to the cab, which was a lot more expensive than Turkey.

How did the university host you?

I attended an orientation program at Bucknell University for 5 weeks. There were eighty people from twenty countries. We had activities like having picnics in the afternoons after the classes. For five weeks we socialized with each other from all countries. In the first week, they invited me to the Rotary Club there. The first question they asked was about Atatürk. I told them about him as much as I could. My visit to the Rotary Club was published in the newspapers. My English proficiency was much better than the others from other nationalities. I started school after five weeks, but I wasn't learning new things at school. Then I got in touch with a professor in Alabama, and went there as I thought it would be better for my career since I had already chosen my field of specialization.

What did you think was different when you compared the education in the U.S. with your university in Turkey?

I didn't experience a lot of differences. The articles and books were followed closely in Turkey, but founding the labs was not easy. My professor in the U.S. was well-known, and we never ran out of equipments in the lab. When we did, the equipment was available in a couple of hours or in the worst case they would come the next day. In Turkey the procedure was totally different and complicated. As I knew I would establish laboratories in Turkey upon my return, I learned both a technician's and a doctor's work in the U.S.

Let's focus on the years in the US, the academic environment and the atmosphere of those years. What were the main things that influenced your career and your personal life?

Philadelphia was a very big and intellectual city. However, I could not take part in many activities because I was alone. My experience in Alabama was different. There, I learned a lot of things which I later used in my professional life. Alabama was also different in terms of its social life. In those years there was a big discrimination against the African-Americans. Observing the segregated life has always been a unique experience for me.

How was Turkey when you came back? What were the goals of young Sabahat Kaymakçalan?

My first impression of Turkey was that it was expensive. Having resigned before leaving for America, I had to wait for an open position. Luckily, my husband whom I met in the U.S.A, was working. When I founded a lab, I was not being paid. When I started working in the lab, I started to be paid as I had become a part of the regular staff.

When you came back to Turkey, were you able to apply the things you learned successfully in America? What were the things you could accomplish? And what were the ones you couldn't?

Everything was sterile in America. I suggested my professor in Turkey to use the systems that I learned in the U.S.A. My professor told me that there was no need to sterilize everything and using just a pair of gloves would be enough. I could understand him because in Turkey some things were luxurious at that time. There were of course financial impossibilities as well. Thus, we would boil the injections or make dry sterilization only.

When you came back to Turkey, you had your name in very important works in Medicine especially in Cardiology. You pioneered in establishing very important hospitals and institutions like the Turkish Cardiology Foundation. How did you feel about these experiences?

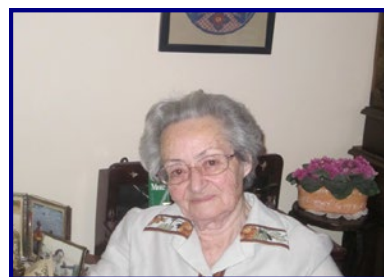
It is a great pleasure to have served to the advancement of the field of medicine in Turkey. For example, we trained eight associate professors, which still makes me feel proud.

As a person who became a Fulbrighter, what kind of advantages have you had compared to your colleagues?

The Fulbright experience enabled me to interact with foreigners more comfortably and helped me broaden my horizons. That's why. I encouraged my other colleagues to apply to this program as well.

What would you recommend to the Fulbright scholars today?

First of all, before they go to the USA, they should do a thorough research about the U.S.A. and the university they will be studying at. Also, they should be aware of the financial conditions in the U.S.A.



Prof. Kaymakçalan in Ankara in December 2011

Fulbright Alumni Association of Turkey

Prof. Fetih Yıldırım is the President of the "Fulbright Alumni Association of Turkey". He was awarded with the Senior Scholar Program Grant of the Fulbright Commission in 1985. He kindly accepted to give us information about the "Fulbright Alumni Association of Turkey".



Prof. Fetih Yıldırım - President of the Fulbright Alumni Association of Turkey

Can you please tell us the history of the establishment of the Fulbright Alumni Association in Turkey?

Our association was founded on April 20, 1992. The Founding members of the association are Prof. Nuri Akkaş, Associate Prof. Tekin Aybaş, Associate Prof. Rıdvan Berber, Prof. Güniz Gürüz, Prof. Günsel Renda, Prof. Gönül Uçele and Prof. Semih Yüçemen.

When first founded the association used to be called the Fulbright Association. Later on in the 2000s the board members of our association changed the charter of the association, and applied to the Board of Associations in Turkey. The cabinet approved the change in the charter, and thus, the name of the association was changed into "Fulbright Alumni Association of Turkey". Our association is a member of State Alumni of Fulbright and European Network of American Alumni Associations. Our website is www.fulbrightalumni.org.tr and our alumni can contact us by sending an e-mail to fyildirim@cankaya.edu.tr.

We have representative offices in İzmir, İstanbul and Antalya. The İstanbul representative position is held by Prof. Gönül Uçele; Our İzmir representative is Associate Prof. Deniz Ha-sırcı and our Antalya representative is Prof. Kani Işık.

How many registered members does the association have? Do you keep in touch with them on a regular basis?

There are about 300 members of our association, but we are trying to increase this number. We know that there are about 1500 Fulbright alumni in Turkey, and unfortunately only $\frac{1}{4}$ of them are our members. We reach out to the recent Fulbright alumni through the Turkish Fulbright Commission.

We have recently started this system, and we want to organize meetings at least once a year to talk about how to make the representative offices more active. We plan to make the first meeting in January 2012. We also plan to organize different activities such as cultural tours and academic conferences. This way, we strive to improve the network of the association.

What are the aims of the association?

Our main aim is to enable the Fulbright scholarship grantees to come together, and to encourage them to participate in social and scientific activities organized by the association. We also wish to create a better understanding between the U.S. and Turkish cultures. In addition, we try to connect the Fulbright grantees coming from the U.S. with our association, encourage them to give conferences and invite them to our traditional annual dinner. Another important aim is to introduce the Fulbright Scholarship program to successful Turkish students living in the smaller cities and inspire them to apply for the scholarship. Reaching out especially to such successful students is very important and should be done on a regular basis.

As an association what have you accomplished up to today?

We organized **The Best PhD Dissertation Award Competition** twice. The awards were announced in the fields of Science, Engineering and in Social Sciences. The nominations were collected from the PhD dissertations completed at Turkish universities. **The first award was given in 2009 and the second one was given in 2010. We would like to give The Best PhD Dissertation Award in 2012 as well.** The members of the Selection Committee are experts of related disciplines who have no personal relationship with either the person who wrote the dissertation or who supervised it. Besides this competition, we encourage people working in the U.S. and who are successful in their field to give a conference when they come to Turkey. For example, last year Prof. İsmail Fidan, a faculty member at the Tennessee Technical University, gave a seminar at Çankaya University. We also invite American lecturers for conferences, and after each conference we organize a small-scale dinner where people get to know each other better. What's more, we attend the workshops of Fulbright alumni associations abroad. Therefore, we get a chance to know the other associations better and talk about what kind of cooperation we can have for future workshops and alumni events.

What is your message to the Fulbright Scholars?

They should become a member of the association, and we can work in cooperation. With the help of this cooperation we can become a more active and a more well-known association. There is no doubt that we are going to be an exemplary Fulbright Alumni Association in the world.

News from Our Commission



Fulbright Board Members visited Mr. Ali Babacan, Deputy Prime Minister and a Fulbright Alumni (1990-1991), on April 20, 2011
(From left to right) Mr. John Thomas McCarthy, Chairman of the Board, ING Bank Turkey; Assoc. Prof. Fatma Taşkın, Vice-Chairman, Chair of Department of Economics, Bilkent University; Mr. Ali Babacan; Dr. Ersel Aydınli, Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission and Mr. Thomas Leary, Public Affairs Officer (former), U.S. Embassy Ankara.



Ms. Ann Stock visited our Commission on April 27, 2011 during her official visit to Turkey
Ann Stock, Asistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs and Dr. Ersel Aydınli, Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission.



Farewell to Mr. Thomas Leary on June 29, 2011
Mr. Thomas Leary, Public Affairs Officer (former) with the U.S. Embassy and the Commission staff.



The Fulbright-Hays Summer Abroad Program Grantees on a Bosphorus Tour in İstanbul.

The Turkish Fulbright Commission hosted 16 US Teachers on the Fulbright-Hays Summer Abroad Program that was arranged jointly with the Fulbright Commission in Greece in Summer 2011. The title of the Turkish program was "Exploring a Western Country with an Eastern Heritage". The group spent two weeks in Greece before their three-week program in Turkey, which included seminars for the first week in Ankara and sightseeing tours around Turkey for the following period. Their last week was spent in İstanbul visiting the historical and cultural sites.



On September 7, 2011 ETA group visited Anıtkabir as part of their orientation program



Executive Director Dr. Ersel Aydınli visited ETAs at Gaziantep University on October 28, 2011

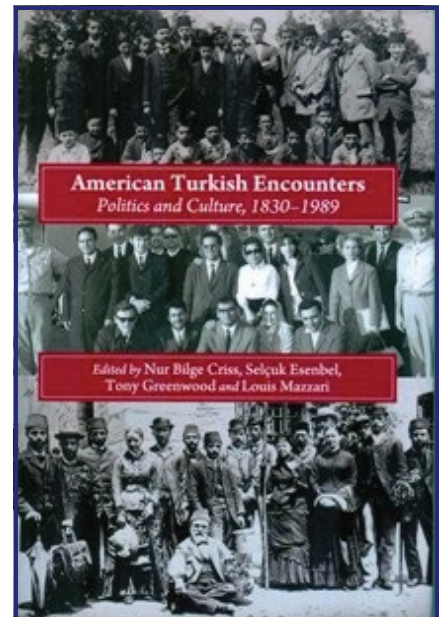


New Year Party at our Head Office in Ankara on December 28, 2011. Fulbright grantees and colleagues from various institutions joined us to welcome 2012.

The Turkish Fulbright Commission was one of the supporters of "The History of American-Turkish Relations, 1839-1989" conference held by the Department of History of Boğaziçi University in 2006. The outcome of the conference was marked by a book publishing event on December 21, 2011 at the Heritage Museum on campus. The Turkish Fulbright Commission was also invited to this event as one of the supporters. The Turkish Programs Officer Yaprak Dalat-Ward attended the event representing the Commission.

Selçuk Esenbel, former head of the Department of History who led the project from conference through publication hosted the event with the other members of the editorial board (Nur Bilge Criss, Antony Greenwood, and Louis Mazzari). The authors contributed to this comprehensive volume by submitting "new and original work" on American-Turkish relations.

The Turkish Fulbright Commission congratulates Boğaziçi University, Department of History and the editorial board: Nur Bilge Criss, Selçuk Esenbel, Antony Greenwood, and Louis Mazzari for this very successful endeavor.





EducationUSA Advisors' Workshop in İstanbul

More than twenty EducationUSA Advisors from all over Europe met in İstanbul on July 18-19, 2011 for the workshop titled "Mock Admissions Workshop on Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions". The aim of the workshop was to evaluate student application forms for undergraduate, graduate and MBA studies from all perspectives.



Re-entry Program

The Fulbright grantees attended the "Re-entry Program" upon their return to Turkey as Fulbright Alumni.



The Fulbright Alumni in İzmir gathered for an Alumni Dinner in January 2011.

New Members of Our Staff

In 2011 three new members joined our staff in our Ankara and İstanbul offices.

Seher Türkyılmaz-Sinclair is our new Financial and Administrative Officer.

Bahar Deniz Türkaslan and Merih Uğürel are our new Education Advisors. Bahar works at our Ankara Head Office and Merih works at our İstanbul Branch Office.



Selim Aytaç, who worked for the Commission as the Financial and Administrative Officer for 26 years, retired in October 2011. We are thankful for his contribution to the Fulbright Program.



The Turkish Fulbright NEWSLETTER is published by the Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States and Turkey.

Please send contributions and comments to:

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