



THE TURKISH FULBRIGHT COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

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Issue 2

Inspiring Story

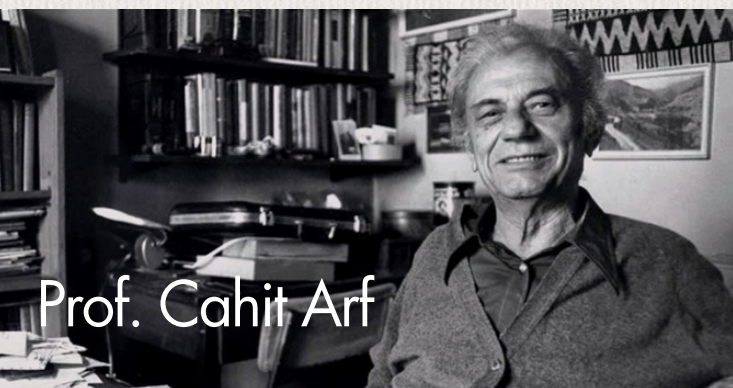
Dr. Cindy Smith

Director - United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

Fulbright Alumna 2005



“I would advise scholars to come planning to spend at least 50 percent of the time assimilating. The research is important, but the relationships change lives and last a life time.”



Prof. Cahit Arf

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From the Executive Director

Welcome to the 10th issue of our biannual newsletter. As it is the end of the school year, we've just recently had the end-of-year meeting with our American scholars and students. This year we were very happy to have in attendance our Honorary Board Chairman, Ambassador John Bass, and his wife Holly Holzer Bass. Together we all enjoyed—and learned a lot from—the grantees' fascinating and extremely diverse presentations on their teaching, researching and learning experiences over the year. We were also able to view the product of one grantee's work, a documentary on food and identity, entitled "Tables of Istanbul".

This past year saw the continuing development and growth of our various programs, including the English Teaching Assistant (ETA) program, which has been renewed by the Council of Higher Education to bring in 105 new ETAs this fall. This keeps the Turkish ETA program as the 2nd largest such program worldwide, and the largest at the university level. We're proud of its distinctive characteristics of promoting diversity, supporting development, and serving as a true example of binational relations and cooperation.

We have of course been saddened throughout the year by several terrorist incidents in Turkey and the US. Such tragedies serve as a harsh reminder of the importance of our efforts in the broader Fulbright community, as we strive to build further people-to-people contacts and to increase tolerance and mutual understanding among different nations and cultures.

Finally, for those of you in the Washington, D.C. area, we're hoping to hold an informal Turkish Fulbright Commission alumni/grantee get-together during the first week of September. If you will be in Washington, D.C. at that time and would be interested in attending such an event, please let us know.

Wishing all of you a relaxing summer holiday season.



Prof. Ersel Aydınli

An Inspiring Story

Dr. Cindy Smith is the Director of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). Prior to her appointment at the UNICRI, she was the Senior Coordinator for International Programs in the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the United States Department of State (2012-2015).

Dr. Smith came to Turkey as a Fulbright Senior Researcher in 2005-2006 academic year, and started her research on human trafficking and later on terrorism. While she was in Turkey, she also conducted training at the National Police Academy on special populations.

(You can read our interview with Dr. Smith on pages 9, 10, & 11)



Change of Our Commission Board Members

Our Commission has a Board of Directors which oversees the daily operations and sets policies for the activities of the Commission. **Mr. Charles F. Hunter**, *U.S. Consul General in İstanbul*; **Prof. Ahmet Ademoğlu**, *faculty member at Boğaziçi University*; **Dr. Jonathan Henick**, *Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara*; and **Prof. Naci Gündoğan**, *Rector of Anadolu University* have completed their invaluable service as our Board members. We are very grateful for all the support they have given for the activities of our Commission, and wish them all the best.

Ms. Funda Kocabıyık, *General Director of European Union and Foreign Affairs Department at the Ministry of National Education*, **Associate Professor Mehmet Akif Kireççi**, *faculty member at İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University*, **Assistant Professor Bekir S. Gür**, *faculty member at Yıldırım Beyazıt University*, **Mr. Joe Wierichs**, *Acting Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara* and **Mr. Jeffrey J. Anderson**, *Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Consulate in İstanbul* are the new members of our Commission Board. We look forward to working with them.

News from Our Alumni

Re-entry and Networking Meeting

We organized a “Re-entry and Networking” meeting for our Turkish alumni who completed their Fulbright programs in the USA and returned to Turkey in the past five years. The meeting was held on February 26, 2016 in İstanbul with the participation of 45 alumni of Fulbright Master’s, Ph.D., Ph.D. Dissertation Research, Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship (FLTA) and Community College Initiative (CCI) Programs.

The opening speech was made by our Executive Director Prof. Ersel Aydınli. In his speech, Prof. Aydınli emphasized the importance of being a member of the Fulbright family not only in Turkey but in the world, and the effective roles Fulbrighters have in the society.



Alumna Demet Dinçer's illustration about the re-enty process

In the first part of the meeting, Dr. Ümit Yazman, Hubert H. Humphrey Program alumnus '96, gave a speech on “Re-entry process, reverse culture shock and how best to overcome the problems associated with these concepts”. In the second part of the meeting, Prof. Yeşim Toduk, Fulbright Master’s Program alumna '89 gave a speech on “How the Fulbright alumni can contribute to the society”. After both speeches, the participants worked in groups to discuss and generate ideas. Then the groups shared their ideas with the other groups. It was an interactive meeting with lots of ideas having been shared and discussed. At the end of the meeting, Fulbright certificates were given to those alumni who hadn’t previously received them.



Following the certificate ceremony, a reception was held for both the participants of the meeting program and other Turkish and American alumni, as well as current U.S. grantees, who particularly live in İstanbul. U.S. Consul General in İstanbul Mr. Charles F. Hunter also joined us at the reception, and made a speech. The reception enabled the current U.S. grantees and alumni to meet each other, exchange personal information and form networks.

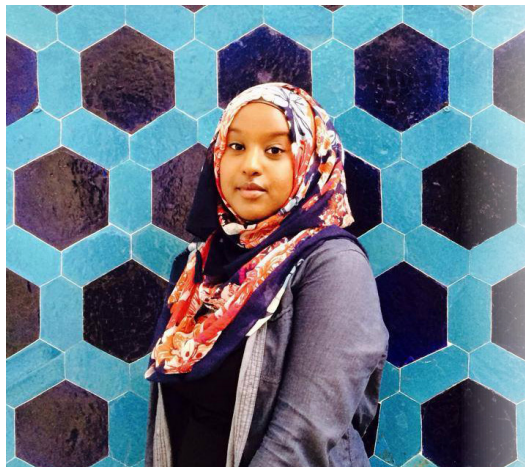


Successful Projects of Our Alumni on the Education of Refugees

Assistant Professor Elif Karsli received her Ph.D. degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Georgia in 2014. She is currently working at TED University in Ankara. Upon her return to Turkey, she started and completed a 4-month long project with the support of the Alumni Small Grants Program of the U.S. Embassy in Ankara. This project was entitled as **“Building Bridges in Education: Syrian Children and Families in Turkey’s School System”** and the main objective of the project was to develop an understanding of the school-related experiences of Syrian children, their families and their teachers, and eventually to develop an effective home-school partnership program, which can be used as a guide by educators working with Syrian refugees all over Turkey. The results of this project assisted in understanding the difficulties emerging in Syrian children’s educational context. Another result of the project was to support teachers to have increased understanding of and stronger relationships with the Syrian children and their families; and to raise awareness about how diverse children can contribute to the existing classroom cultures in Turkey’s classrooms.



After the successful completion of this project, the U.S. Embassy in Ankara nominated Dr. Karsli to attend the Alumni Thematic International Exchange Seminar (Alumni TIES): Refugee and Migration Issues in Europe organized by the U.S. Department of State in Zagreb. At this conference, Dr. Karsli met a faculty member who works at Dublin University and together with another Fulbright alumna Assistant Prof. Aysel Saricaoglu, who received her Ph.D. degree in Applied Linguistics and Technology from Iowa State University in 2015, the three scholars created a new project entitled **“Next Generation Teachers Co-Working for Refugee and Immigrant Communities in Turkey and Ireland”**. This project will be supported by the U.S. Department of State and will be done between August-December 2016.



Rhodes Scholarship Recipient

Our ETA Program Grantee for 2015-2016 academic year, Ms. Ilhan Abukar Dahir will be studying at the University of Oxford under the Rhodes Scholarship. Ilhan will start two Master’s programs in Fall 2016 and will be furthering her studies of transnational movement with an MS.c. in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and an MS.c. in Global Governance and Diplomacy. She applied for the Rhodes Scholarship while in Turkey. She states that the Fulbright program gave her some insight into what she hopes to do in the future. For Ilhan, seeing the impact that the refugee crisis has had on both the refugee population in this region as well as the host country has been insightful and illuminating. We congratulate Ilhan on receiving the Rhodes Scholarship and wish her continued success.

Sculpture on METU Campus

Fulbright Hayes Program Alumnus Rolf Westphal came to the Faculty of Architecture at Middle East Technical University in Ankara in 1981-1982 academic year.

He was known as a “poet” whose medium was steel. During his grant in Turkey, he made a metal sculpture which he named “Yok” (Triptych). This sculpture, whose picture can be seen below, is still on the METU campus. According to an urban legend, the shadow of this sculpture writes “ATA” on every November 10 at 9.05 a.m., which is the date and time of the passing of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of the Turkish Republic.

Mr. Westphal passed away on February 17, 2016 at his home in Spring Hill, Florida. May he rest in peace.



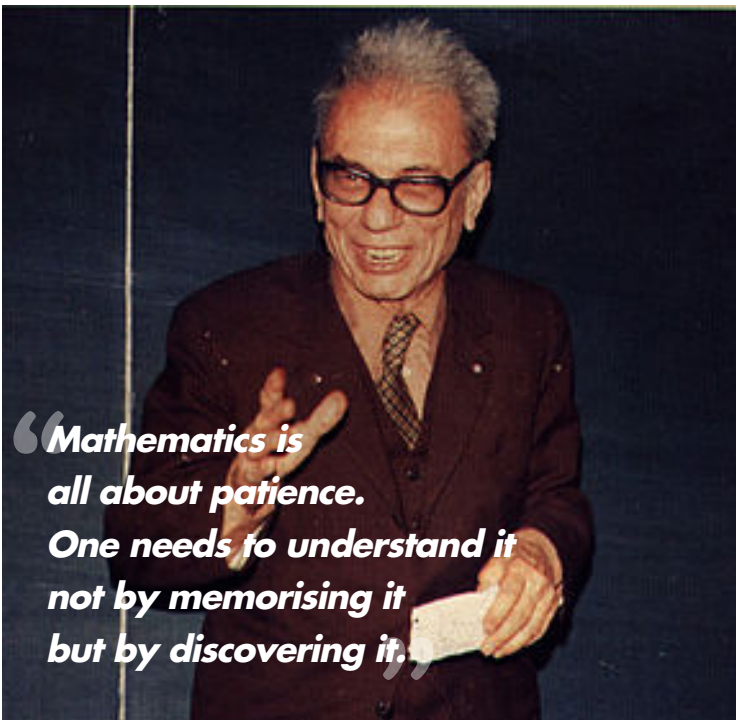
Prominent Alumni of Our Commission: Prof. Cahit Arf

Prof. Cahit Arf, who was born in 1910 in Thessaloniki and passed away in 1997 in İstanbul, was a renowned Turkish Mathematician. He defined the term “Arf Invariant” of a nonsingular quadratic form in characteristic 2, which appears on the reverse side of the 2009 Turkish 10 Lira banknote. This banknote is still in circulation in Turkey.



Prof. Arf studied at Ecole Normale Supérieure in France with a scholarship from the Turkish Ministry of Education. After completing his education, he came back to Turkey and taught Mathematics at Galatasaray High School until he started his Ph.D. in Germany. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Göttingen.

Upon his return to Turkey, he became a Professor at İstanbul University, Faculty of Science. He worked at İstanbul University until 1962 where he also received the title of “distinguished professor” (Professor Ordinarius). After that, he worked at Robert College.



Prof. Arf also worked for the foundation of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) and served as the founding director of the council in 1963.

Prof. Arf received the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Grant in 1964 and did research at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University between 1964-1966.

Although he was invited to teach at many well-known universities in the U.S.A. and Canada, he chose to live in Turkey and accepted the offer of Middle East Technical University, from where he retired in 1980.

Prof. Arf was the founding President of the Turkish Mathematics Society, and worked for the Society between 1983-1989. (<http://tmd.org.tr/557-2/>)

He received the TÜBİTAK Science Award in 1974, and in the speech he made when he was receiving this award, he said that **science is meant to understand the goal of human beings, and with capital letters.**

Each year, Middle East Technical University Department of Mathematics organizes a special lecture session called “the Cahit Arf lecture” in memory of Prof. Arf.

News from the Commission

65th Anniversary Reception



To mark the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the Fulbright Program in Turkey, a reception was hosted by Prof. Ersel Aydınli, the Executive Director of the Commission and Mr. John Bass, US Ambassador to Turkey at the residence of the Ambassador. During their opening speeches, both Prof. Aydınli and Mr. Bass emphasized the importance of educational and cultural exchanges to create mutual understanding between countries, and they mentioned the contributions of the Fulbright Program to the relationships between the people of Turkey and the United States.



The reception was attended by the members of our Commission Board, our Turkish and U.S. alumni, current grantees, and friends of Fulbright.

The premier of the documentary entitled **Hearts and Minds Across the Atlantic "The Journey Continues"** took place at this reception. The pilot of this documentary was prepared by our Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director. It is composed of the memories of our Turkish and American alumni during their Fulbright grants. We are very grateful to our alumni for their invaluable contributions to this documentary.

This documentary will be available on DVD and on our social media accounts soon, and those who are interested can watch it.



Our Executive Director's Visits to the ETAs

This academic year Prof. Ersel Aydınlı visited the ETA program grantees who were placed at state universities in Nevşehir, Kayseri, Samsun, Trabzon and Muğla. During the visits, he also met with the Rectors, Vice Rectors and ETA Program university representatives at the host universities.



A Heartfelt Thanks to Our Friends at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara

Dr. Jonathan Henick, who worked as the Public Affairs Officer, and Ms. Katherine Van de Vate, who worked as the Cultural Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, completed their service in Turkey. Dr. Henick was also one of our Board members and Ms. Van de Vate was our treasurer. We greatly appreciate the support Dr. Henick and Ms. Van de Vate gave to our Commission's activities, and wish them all the best.





Prof. Abdullah Çavuşoğlu Visited Our Ankara Office

Prof. Abdullah Çavuşoğlu, Executive Board Member of the Council of Higher Education visited our Ankara Office on March 14, 2016 to talk about the details of the ETA Program, which is administered jointly by our Commission and the Council of Higher Education. We were pleased to host Prof. Çavuşoğlu in our office.

Passing of the Executive Director of Fulbright Germany

Dr. Rolf Hoffmann, Executive Director of the Fulbright Commission in Germany, passed away on April 21, 2016 in Berlin. We extend our deepest sympathies to Dr. Hoffmann's family, friends and to our colleagues in Germany. May he rest in peace.

Fulbright Intercountry Travelling Seminar

Dr. Nicholas Greenwood Onuf is a U.S. Senior Scholar in Greece. He came to Ankara to deliver a presentation entitled **"Center-Periphery Relations: What Kind of Rule, and Does it Matter?"** at İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University on April 16, 2016. Faculty and graduate students listened to his presentation and asked questions.



Address Change of Our Istanbul Office



Our İstanbul Office has moved to a new location in May. The new address is:

*Vişnezade Mahallesi,
Süleyman Seba Caddesi, BJK Plaza
A Blok Kat 10 No:107 Beşiktaş.*



A Warm Goodbye to Our Colleague

Ms. Kari E. Coffman Şahan, our part-time ETA Program Adviser, has been admitted to the Ph.D. program in Applied Linguistics at the University of Oxford, and will start her studies in Fall 2016. We would like to thank Kari for all the work she has done for the ETA Program, and wish her all the best in this new chapter of her life.

Visit from the U.S. Department of State to Our Istanbul Office

Mr. Jefferson Brown, who works as an Inspector for Public Diplomacy at the U.S. Department of State, visited our İstanbul Office at the end of February. He was accompanied by Mr. Jeff Anderson, Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Consulate in İstanbul. Our colleagues in our İstanbul office informed them about our activities.



An Inspiring Story: Dr. Cindy Smith



(continued from page 2)

Can you briefly tell us about yourself?

I was born and raised in Ohio in a small farming community. I hold a Doctorate of Philosophy in Social Ecology from the University of California Irvine, a Master of Science in Education Administration from the National University, Irvine and a Master of Science in Justice from the American University in Washington, D.C., and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Baldwin Wallace College.

I am the mother of 7 children, grandma of 16 grandchildren, and grammy to great-grandchildren. Playing is my favorite pastime. I am the greatest grandma because I have a jet ski and a home on the water. I love to take the kids out on the jet ski. I am not a sports advocate if it involves a ball. In fact, my son asked me one time, "Mom, do you even know which ball goes to which game?" He is not far from accurate.

My real passion is making a difference. I would like my difference to be good and without unintended consequences, but sometimes life just doesn't work out that way. These times bother me a lot, but I learn from them and do better the next time.

Currently, you work as the Director of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. However, prior to this you were teaching at the university level for 15 years. Why did you decide to leave the academia? And do you miss teaching?

I want to make a difference. I left academia because it became increasingly apparent to me that making a difference requires more than formal, academic education. It is about the whole individual, the whole environment. I do not miss teaching. I teach every day. It isn't about exchanging teaching for managing or exchanging college campus for the office. It is about

the methods of teaching and the location of the classroom. Now I serve as a mentor to many staff that are conducting research and implementing programs based on the best available research. Our work makes a difference every day.

Working with the Turkish National Police was partially responsible for my new understanding of making a difference. I saw that practitioners had the opportunity to make a difference in a way that academia could not. However, it required highly educated and insightful leaders and policies to allow them to make the difference. I wanted to be part of that change in the world.

How did you decide on your field of specialization? Is there a particular person or event that motivated you to choose your field?

I was working for the United States Department of Defense in criminal investigations in a clerical position. I had been there only about one year when a coworker, Heide Kaser, said to me- you are smart. I know how you can get a fellowship to do a Ph.D. in justice. Go see Jenny McGough at American University. I went home and looked up justice in the dictionary and went to see Jenny. I suppose there are many other circumstances that played into that decision, including the situation and location I was in at the time, but that started my graduate education process. I had only finished my Master's program when my husband was transferred to California. I enrolled in the University of California, Irvine, redid the Master's portion and completed my Ph.D. I had several great mentors, Joan Petersilia, Susan Turner and Gil Geis, who were instrumental in creating a thirst for policy knowledge and change.



“While teaching at the University of Baltimore, I had a group of Turkish National Police (TNP) managers as students. They challenged my perceptions of Turkish culture. They were great ambassadors for their country.”

How did you make the decision to apply for the Fulbright Program? What, in particular made you choose Turkey to conduct your research?

While teaching at the University of Baltimore, I had a group of Turkish National Police (TNP) managers as students. They challenged my perceptions of Turkish culture. They were great ambassadors for their country. One day Cosar Unal said- you should go live in my country and see what it is really like. I trusted his judgment and thoughts and decided to try it. I applied for a Fulbright to examine human trafficking from the investigative standpoint, working at the TNP and was accepted. My students welcomed me in Turkey. Having these types of ambassadors really enriched my experience. I was invited into the culture and into families. I became Turkish – except for my language ability. After giving a speech – only two paragraphs – one of my colleagues from the TNP said, “Now I know how awful we must sound to you!”

Some of my extended family were afraid for my safety. They had not traveled and did not know other cultures. They were sure I would not live through the experience of living in a distant country. By the time I returned home at the end of the year, several family members had visited me in Turkey and had a new appreciation for the culture and the beauty of the country. This experience affected a very broad circle of people.

I selected the country because of the great ambassadors. I selected the topic (insan ticareti) because of its importance and Turkey’s strategic position in the flow of goods and humans.

Could you please tell us about the training program you conducted on special populations at the Turkish National Police Academy?

I taught two classes at the Polis Akademisi in Gölbaşı, as the first English only foreign faculty. I taught about the structure of the American policing system in the first course, which allowed the students to sharpen their English skills. In the second course, I taught about the special needs for people who live with disabilities. For example, relating to a person who is deaf requires different behavior from the officer than with a person that can hear and understand verbal commands.

Have you visited Turkey prior to your Fulbright grant?

No, I had not visited Turkey. I had traveled only to three European countries.

How did you feel when you first arrived in Turkey as a Fulbright Senior Researcher?

I was overwhelmed, scared, excited and exhausted. I had studied the language for about 5 months and I was no closer to a conversation than I was my first day of class. I was sure that I was never going to master the language sufficiently to have a conversation. I stayed with the family of one of my students the first night. No one spoke English. It was wonderful to be immersed in the language and culture. The next day they put me on the bus from Istanbul to Ankara. As the bus pulled away, I cried. The young woman sitting next to me assured me everything would be ok. She spoke very good English and I was quite relieved!

When I arrived in Ankara, I went to my apartment. I had sent money ahead and one of my students had furnished it. I was ready to embark on my experience. For the first month, I took a language class at TÖMER. I failed it. It was a humbling experience, as I had never failed at anything. I started tutoring lessons and began working on my research.

“Some of my extended family were afraid for my safety. They had not traveled and did not know other cultures. They were sure I would not live through the experience of living in a distant country. By the time I returned home at the end of the year, several family members had visited me in Turkey and had a new appreciation for the culture and the beauty of the country.”



“The thing that impressed me the most about Turkey was the people. Everyone was kind.”



Have you traveled to different parts of Turkey during your grant period? If so, what impressed you the most about Turkey?

The thing that impressed me the most about Turkey was the people. Everyone was kind. I attended weddings, family gatherings, women’s gatherings and developed lifetime relationships with the people I met.

I traveled to Istanbul, Efes, Pamukkale, and Cappadocia and several cities inbetween. All of them were beautiful with rich history and culture. I truly enjoyed all of my time in Turkey.

In what ways did your Fulbright experience in Turkey help your research?

I learned a great deal about trafficking in persons (insan ticareti). When I arrived in Turkey, I had book knowledge of the phenomenon. The colleagues who worked in the unit were very patient with me while I learned about the day to day aspects of identifying, investigating, and ultimately prosecuting the traffickers. Although trafficking in persons was one of the top two subjects published in academia over the prior 15 years, almost nothing with data existed about the traffickers. My research was cutting edge.

This was career altering reminder for me because it demonstrated the richness that comes to research when it is well informed by practitioners. I had learned that lesson when I wrote my dissertation. I was working in a juvenile detention and commitment facility in a therapeutic community drug treatment unit while I was writing my dissertation on an evaluation of an adult in prison therapeutic community drug treatment unit. My professional practitioner experience gave me an edge, an understanding of the issues involved that a researcher with book knowledge would not have known. As a result of my experience in Turkey and the relearning of this lesson, I applied for and was hired by the US Department of Justice as the Chief of the International Center. I had embarked on the practitioner/researcher path again.

What kind of projects are you working on these days?

I am currently the Director of one of the United Nations’ research institutes. We currently have approximately 40 projects working in topics across the spectrum of criminal justice. UNICRI’s mandate is to work with governments in their efforts to formulate and implement improved policies in the field

of crime prevention and intervention. We are fortunate to have a mandate that spans the entire criminal justice continuum, from prevention of crime (e.g., awareness, employment skill building, victim assistance, education) to crime control and intervention, (e.g., assistance in development of laws, working with police, judges and lawyers, supporting corrections needs, treatment needs).

What would you advise to the scholars who are planning to come to Turkey with a Fulbright grant?

One of the things I did was to write daily e-mails home to my family. In these e-mails, I reported the funny, odd, and similar things that happened. These e-mails became a journal that everyone looked forward to their daily news. For me, they were my memory of how I progressed from foreigner to Turk.

I would advise scholars to come planning to spend at least 50 percent of the time assimilating. The research is important, but the relationships change lives and last a life time. Intermittently, I still work with the colleagues I met during that time. ■



American Programs

The American Programs Unit of the Turkish Fulbright Commission administers various Fulbright grant programs awarded to U.S. citizens. These programs are: U.S. Scholar Program, U.S. Student Program, English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Program and the Fulbright Specialist Program.

Turkish universities are welcome to host U.S. scholars and students on their campuses. The application deadline for each program differs and universities interested in hosting a scholar or a student on their campuses, can write to the American Programs of the Commission at amprog@fulbright.org.tr for detailed information.

The American Programs Unit will welcome seventeen U.S. grantees -both in the U.S. Scholar and in the Student Researcher categories- in the upcoming 2016-2017 academic year. Grantees will be placed at different universities all around Turkey either to teach or conduct research.

Our Commission is proud to announce the first recipient of the Fulbright Global Scholar Award for Turkey, Dr. Richard C. Taylor.

DR. RICHARD C. TAYLOR

2016-2017 Fulbright Global Scholar Award for Turkey recipient
Marquette University, Wisconsin / Marmara University, Istanbul



Could you briefly tell us about your background?

I am a professor of philosophy at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and annual visiting professor at the Philosophy Institute, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium where I have co-taught a graduate course on Thomas Aquinas (with emphasis on his use of the Arabic philosophical tradition) each Fall since 2011 with Prof. Andrea Robiglio.

I have been at Marquette University for over 34 years teaching various undergraduate and graduate courses in ethics, human nature, metaphysics, philosophy of religion, Aristotle, Aquinas, Ibn Rushd (Averroes), ancient philosophy, medieval philosophy, Arabic/Islamic philosophy and more.

In 2008 with Prof. David Twetten I founded the *Aquinas and 'the Arabs' Project* (AquinasAndTheArabs.org) which now has over 25 member scholars and numerous graduate student members from Europe, North America, North Africa and elsewhere.

My Fulbright Global Flex proposal is 80% teaching, 20% research. The teaching involves a focus on Islamic philosophy and its importance for the thinking of Thomas Aquinas, one of the most well-known of the medieval European theologians and philosophers.

You're the first recipient of the Fulbright Global Scholar Award for Turkey. How did you hear about the program? How did you decide to continue your research in Turkey?

I am very thankful for this new program that permits me to share my work with and to learn from colleagues and graduate students in Istanbul, Ankara and Pisa.

When I learned of the new program thanks to Mindy Williams of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at Marquette University, I was delighted to see that this particular program might prove very supportive to precisely the work I have been doing and wish to continue to do for many more years.

I chose Turkey (Istanbul May-June 2016 and Ankara, precise dates to be

determined) because of the coincidence of several distinct factors. First, I had been in Turkey long ago as a graduate student to study certain manuscripts for my dissertation work. Now that I am finally returning to revise and rewrite that work (an edition with translation and study of the *Kalam fi mahd al-khair / Discourse on the Pure Good* composed in 9th century CE Baghdad and highly influential in Europe in Latin translation in the 12th century and beyond) in a new book, I was moved by the need to reexamine key manuscripts in Istanbul and Ankara. Second, I have insightful and friendly younger colleagues in Istanbul (Rahim Acar, Marmara University School of Divinity) and Ankara (Fehrullah Terkan, Ankara University School of Divinity) whom I have known since their years of graduate study in the US who were kind enough to invite me and arrange for me to teach a course. Third, in recent years I have had four visiting scholars and doctoral students for 3-12 months each from Turkey at Marquette University in Milwaukee. These connections with Turkey — in part due to the Turkish translation of *The Cambridge Companion to Arabic Philosophy* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) as *Islam Felsefesine Giriş*, M. Cüneyt Kaya, tr. (Istanbul 2007) — added even more to already strong reasons for coming to Turkey. And fourth, I wanted to come to Turkey because of the skills and knowledge of a strong and growing community of scholars in Istanbul, Ankara and elsewhere with whom I could share my work and consult and from whom I could learn.

You'll be conducting your research project both in Turkey and Italy. How did you choose your host countries?

As indicated above, important manuscripts and insightful scholars are available in Istanbul and Ankara, hence those choices. I chose Pisa, Italy, because of the project of Prof. Cristina D'Ancona on the Arabic text of the Plotinian translations in the so-called *The Theology of Aristotle* and related Arabic materials, a project relevant to my project on the *Kalam fi mahd al-khair* which uses those materials and ideas.



I am convinced that at all three places, Istanbul, Ankara and Pisa, my teaching on the importance of the Arabic philosophical tradition on medieval European theologians and philosophers will be welcomed and will be found valuable and intriguing. I think it also will play an important role in inter religious and inter cultural understanding.

What would you advise to those who are planning to apply for a Fulbright Program- either to teach or to conduct research in Turkey?

First of all and generally, I would highlight that this Global Flex program

works well for those who may wish to do short term research and/or teaching outside the regular US academic year, as was the case for me with my present teaching and research in Istanbul. I completed my teaching and grading at Marquette University in the morning of May 15 and immediately traveled to Istanbul where my Marmara University Divinity School lecture/seminars began on May 17. This three-year three locations program also works well for those with an upcoming sabbatical and the need to consult research materials or the desire to teach in different places in that sabbatical year.

Mid-Year Evaluation Meetings in Ankara and İstanbul Offices



We held two Mid-Year Evaluation Meetings for the grantees who started their grant periods in September 2015. The first meeting was held in İstanbul on February 22, 2016; and the second meeting was held in Ankara on February 24, 2016. The aim of the meetings was to learn of the progress of the grantees in their teaching assignments and research. The meetings were a great opportunity for the Commission to see the developments the grantees have made in their Fulbright grant projects.

Final Evaluation Meeting for the U.S. Scholars and U.S. Students



The Final Evaluation Meeting for the 2015-2016 academic year U.S. Grantees (U.S. Scholars and U.S. Students Study/ Research Award Programs) was held at the Pirate’s Beach Club in Antalya on May 27-28, 2016. U.S. Grantees and their family members were at the meeting as well as the Commission Board Members and staff. The Honorary Chairman of our Commission’s Board, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Mr. John Bass, was also present at the meeting.

The Final Evaluation Meeting provided the grantees with the opportunity to share their academic and cultural experiences during their grant periods, to discuss their individual experiences and evaluate their overall Fulbright experiences. All grantees gave presentations about their experiences and academic work, which showed how fruitfully they spent their year at their host universities and institutions both academically and culturally. In addition, grantees, their families, and Commission Board Members were able to enjoy cultural activities in the unique atmosphere of the region known as the Turkish Riviera.



Stories from U.S. Grantees

Dr. Zeynep Kılıç

2015-2016 U.S. Senior Researcher

University of Alaska-Anchorage / Kadir Has University-İstanbul & Ege University-İzmir

“Tables of Istanbul / Sofra Sofra Istanbul”



My project is not the typical academic undertaking. It was the result of a difficult transitional time when I moved from the deserts of Arizona to the glaciers of Alaska. After some serious soul searching I decided to switch my area of focus, try my hand at a creative project and work with a team to diminish isolation.

Just as it was a risky move to settle in Alaska, the project required some risk taking as well, delving into things I have never done before- script-writing, directing, executive producing, editing, etc. while on the tenure track, and having the audacity to think that it would all work itself out. Ultimately, it did, thanks to a starting grant from the Turkish Cultural Foundation, followed by an UAA Innovate grant and a sabbatical grant from the Institute of Turkish Studies. However, the Fulbright grant was crucial as it gave me the opportunity to move to Turkey for nine months and work exclusively on the project.

As I am finishing up my time here, I feel as though I am just starting, which is a feeling I hear many Fulbrighters share. I am very tired and sleep deprived, though I still feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to work exclusively on the movie. Many exciting possibilities emerged as a result of my time here: I am finishing up the webpage by adding a blog about each interview, submitting to film festivals around the world, and presenting findings and screenings the movie at academic venues. A U.S. based company will be representing my movie in the PBS, educational and global markets next year. I will be working on completing my book, starting where the movie left off, in the next year while on a sabbatical in Alaska. I will be working with Prof. Dr. Ferhat Özgür on a video art project by using leftover footage from the movie. There is also the possibility of a cookbook/storybook with recipes



from the movie, as well as another possible food movie. I will also work on editing short thematic clips for YouTube to utilize the leftover footage. Another busy year awaits me it seems. Thanks Fulbright for making it possible to have come this far!!!

Tables of Istanbul webpage: <http://tablesofistanbul.com/>

Tables of Istanbul Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TablesOfIstanbul/>

The Guide Istanbul interview:

<http://www.theguideistanbul.com/article/tables-of-istanbul-turkish-cuisine>

Anadolu University e-paper about our screening:

<http://egazete.anadolu.edu.tr/kampus/34444/sofra-sofra-istanbul-belgeselinin-gosterimi-ve-soylesisi-gerceklestirildi>



Dr. Kimberly Louise Hart

2015-2016 U.S. Senior Researcher

State University of New York Buffalo State-New York / Sabancı University-Istanbul

Dr. Kimberly Louise Hart, U.S. Senior Research grantee for the 2015-2016 academic year placed at Sabancı University in İstanbul served as curator of an exhibition called "Josephine's Fragments" in Ankara. The exhibition, held at Erimtan Archaeology and Arts Museum in Ankara, explored the photographs of Josephine Powell, an American photographer who spent decades living and working in İstanbul, and photographing nomadic communities across Anatolia. The exhibition was made possible thanks to the generous archives of Koç University and Vehbi Koç Ankara Studies Research Center (VEKAM). The exhibition, which was warmly received by the arts community in Ankara, was held from March 30, 2016- June 10, 2016.



Professor of Art, JoAnn Schnabel

2015-2016 U.S. Senior Lecturer

University of Northern Iowa-Iowa/Anadolu University-Eskişehir

"Working with Clay, a Dialog for Cultural Understanding"



Since arriving in Turkey at the beginning of February I've been greeted with new sites, foods and experiences almost everyday. Teaching in the Ceramics Department at Anadolu University in the Faculty of Fine Arts (Güzel Sanatlar Fakültesi) has been a true learning environment for my students and myself. As we explore each other's cultures, we learn together through the dialog of art making. The ideas for their artworks are discussed and developed before the production of an actual object is begun. Working in clay students find it is a direct and responsive material, which has its own inherent qualities. When building an artwork, timing is of critical importance. Learning when the clay is too wet, too dry or ready to be worked with leads to a true understanding and appreciation of this demanding medium for artist expression.



The English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Program

The American Programs Unit of the Turkish Fulbright Commission will welcome 105 ETA Grantees for the 2016-2017 academic year to teach at 36 universities in 35 cities throughout Turkey.



ETA Program Cooperation Protocol with Council of Higher Education

Prof. Yavuz Atar, Acting President of the Council of Higher Education and Prof. Ersel Aydınli, our Executive Director, signed the English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Program Cooperation Protocol on February 3, 2016. The ETA Program in Turkey is administered jointly by our Commission and the Council of Higher Education and is executed by the participating universities. The Program has grown over the past years in terms of the numbers of grantees and the number of participating host universities.

ETAs Gather in Ankara for Mid-Year Meeting Program

The ETA Program Mid-Year Evaluation Meeting was held on February 18-20, 2016 in Ankara. ETA Grantees placed at state universities across the country gathered to reflect on their experiences thus far and discuss strategies for success in the remainder of their grant period, both in and outside of the classroom.

Grantees were welcomed to the meeting with remarks by Prof. Ersel Aydınli, our Executive Director, Prof. Abdullah Çavuşoğlu, Executive Board Member of the Council of Higher Education, and Mr. Joe Wierichs, Acting Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara. The ETA Grantees participated in a number of workshops



addressing strategies for English Language Teaching, cultural adjustment, and more. Break-out sessions focusing on topics such as Classroom Management, Student Motivation, and Multi-Level Instruction provided the grantees with pedagogical training in a collaborative atmosphere. In addition, many grantees showcased their music abilities and other unique talents in a two-part talent show, which included performances of Turkish folk music and original artistic performances by the grantees. Overall, the ETA Program Mid-Year Evaluation Meeting successfully met its objectives in providing the opportunity for both assessment of the program and self-reflection by the grantees on their experiences in Turkey as a whole.

Stories from ETA Grantees

Mr. Jordan Nicholas Troisi

2015-2016 ETA Program Grantee

The University of Mississippi - Mississippi
Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam University - Kahramanmaraş

“I named this photo “Fulbright Family” because as our time in this wonderful country that has taught us so much dwindles, I realize that we’ve consistently been there to support each other and adventure together.”



With just under a month remaining in Turkey, a large ensemble of grantees took to the road and headed to Malatya, Adiyaman, and Nemrut Dağı. For many of us it would be our last outing as a substantial Fulbright group. I took this photo 7,001 ft above sea level as Claire, Ricky, Andrea, and Anand looked over the vast country we’ve collectively called “home” for the last nine months. I named this photo “Fulbright Family” because as our time in this wonderful country that has taught us so much dwindles, I realize that we’ve consistently been there to support each other and adventure together. We started out as a diverse group of American college graduates but here in Turkey we’ve formed an unbreakable bond-- a family composed of a collective sum of experiences shared, sights seen, and lives touched.

Ms. Rebecca Lee Hutchinson

2015-2016 ETA Program Grantee

La Salle University - Pennsylvania
Sakarya University - Sakarya

When discussing perception one day, I asked my students, “What do you think Americans think of you?” The heart-wrenching answer came immediately, “That we are all terrorists.” After further discussion, they expressed interest in conversing with American students. With help, I arranged a Skype conversation with a group from La Salle University in Philadelphia. The goal was to bridge cultural gaps, dispel possible misconceptions, and build mutual religious and cultural respect and understanding. This meeting recently came to fruition during La Salle’s Islamic Awareness Week. My students articulated their questions to our guests and though the meeting was short, it was productive, and both sides are interested in continuing this conversation. I could not be more proud of my students’ motivation and application of English skills during this endeavor.

“The goal was to bridge cultural gaps, dispel possible misconceptions, and build mutual religious and cultural respect and understanding.”



The Visiting Student Researcher Community Days

Fulbright Visiting Student Researchers from all over the world have attended Enrichment Seminars, held by the Institute of International Education (IIE), to expand their Fulbright network and pursue professional development. These seminars took place in various cities across the United States with a group of 25-30 Visiting Student Researchers from different nationalities.

In these Community Days, which took place in New York City, Washington, D.C., Boston, and San Francisco, grantees not only built connections with each other, but also engaged in volunteering at local nonprofit organizations.

2015-2016 academic year Turkish Visiting Student Researchers Ceren Gamze Yaşar, Çiğdem Pekar, Sanem Aslihan Dilmen and Duygu Tüntaş participated in these events. You can read their reflections on these one-day long events below.

Ceren Gamze Yaşar, VSR

*University of Pennsylvania City and Regional Planning
Middle East Technical University - Ankara*

The main aim of the event was twofold; first, defining the fundamentals and framework of the Visiting researchers program of Fulbright and second, fostering the volunteering spirit within Fulbright fellow students.

The first part was covered via presentations on the subject and the second part was covered via actual voluntary work in an organization on leveraging the living conditions of the poor in the D.C. area. The name of the organization was A Wider Circle, and we worked for them for nearly half of the day; we helped with organizing incoming donations.



Duygu Tüntaş, VSR

*Columbia University, Architecture Planning and Preservation
Middle East Technical University - Ankara*

On January 22, I have attended the ‘Fulbright Visiting Researcher Community Day’ which was held at Kaufmann Conference Room in IIE.

My assessment about the event is quite positive, particularly in the sense that it aimed to gather a specific group of researchers who share similar problems and experiences. The discussions were very relevant and fruitful throughout the panels and poster sessions.

I have two suggestions that might provide feedback to this event. The first one is timewise. Considering the fact that the majority of grantees are starting their programs in the first semester, this kind of an icebreaker event may help further and be more meaningful at the beginning of the academic year. The second feedback is about the community center visit. Although the intentions were good, I felt that we couldn't serve enough i.e. our abilities could have been used in a better way. This might be an issue with the organization in the community center, then my feedback could be irrelevant for Fulbright or the IIE.

I think the event should be repeated every year, as it has the potential to create an organic network by bringing a specific group of academically mature scholars together who share similar problems and interests.

Sanem Aslihan Dilmen, VSR

*Massachusetts General Hospital
Neurology and Neuroscience
Hacettepe University - Ankara*

*Sanem Aslihan Dilmen at the
VSR Community Days*



Çiğdem Pekar, VSR

*Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey - Center for Non-Proliferation Studies
Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University - Çanakkale*

A group of 14 Fulbright Visiting Student Researchers (VSRs) studying in the San Francisco area gathered for a Fulbright VSR Community day on February 19, 2016 in IIE's San Francisco office. In this one-day long meeting, we had the opportunity to expand our Fulbright network by meeting other Fulbright VSRs in our area and sharing our experiences.

Following the IIE presentations, Q&A and VSR alumni panel sessions, our group volunteered to engage in a community service project organized by San Francisco-Marín Food Bank. The Food Bank is committed to providing nourishing food to help people in need thrive. We helped other volunteers in packing frozen corn for these people. By spending some hours in this food bank, not only did we learn a lot about how people's lives have been transformed with the food they receive from the food bank, but also we experienced the feeling of helping other people and had a lot of fun. We also learned that in San Francisco one out of four people is receiving food from Food Banks not only because they are homeless or unemployed but they simply cannot earn enough to have nutritious food.



Stories from Our Turkish Fulbright Grantees

Nisan Görgülü

*2014-2015 SCP Grantee at Duke University, Master's in Economics
İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University - Ankara*

I used to watch on the television broadcasts of special celebrations in which many celebrities were participants. I had the privilege of attending such an event at the University of Virginia under the sponsorship of the Institute of International Education. As a Fulbright student, it was a spectacular experience for me to participate in such an event and to attend the awards dinner.

In March 2016, I responded to an e-mail sent by the IIE regarding the Global Leadership Forum at the University of Virginia stating that I would like to participate in the forum. I was selected as a participant on the Climate Change and Sustainable Resource Management Panel. I talked about my involvement in the Unpark Yourself competition at Duke University in March 2015. In this competition, I led a team of graduate students and professors. We named our team Eco(no) parking. As the team leader, I organized all team activities and made sure that all members had completed their duties.



The mission of our team was to encourage our friends to use sustainable commuting options to reduce our carbon footprints in order to help save the environment. The competition took a month. To increase the awareness

of using alternative transportation methods rather than driving individually to campus, I organized many events with my colleagues on the team. Throughout the competition we stayed active on social media and shared our experiences while using more eco-friendly transportation methods. It was a challenge to change people's customary behaviors and to motivate them to engage in sustainable behaviors such as walking to campus, riding bikes, taking the bus or carpooling. Among 1,990 participants and 122 teams, we finished the competition in second place.

I am devoted to social and environmental issues. In my panel presentation, I emphasized that though what we did at Duke University was a local competition, it would be easy to organize such competitions and events in other places and in different settings.

At the Global Leadership Forum, I had the opportunity to meet many interesting and accomplished leaders from more than 45 countries. The US Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Chairman of Amar Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, the President of the University of Virginia, and Founder of the Presidential Precinct were some of the plenary speakers. As a panelist, I also was invited to the awards dinner in which former Secretary of

“As Fulbright Scholarship recipients not only do we get the opportunity to further our studies, but we also have the chance to participate in great events such as the Global Leadership Forum.”

State Madeleine Albright received the inaugural Edward R. Stettinius, Jr. Prize for Global Leadership. Also, Toyosi Ogunseye, 2014 Mandela Washington Fellow and editor of Punch Newspaper in Nigeria, was awarded the inaugural Young Leader Award presented by the Presidential Precinct.

As Fulbright Scholarship recipients not only do we get the opportunity to further our studies, but we also have the chance to participate in great events such as the Global Leadership Forum.

Yağmur Uyanık & Can Büyükberber

2015-2016 SCP grantees at San Francisco Art Institute, Art & Technology MFA
Istanbul Bilgi Universitesi - İstanbul

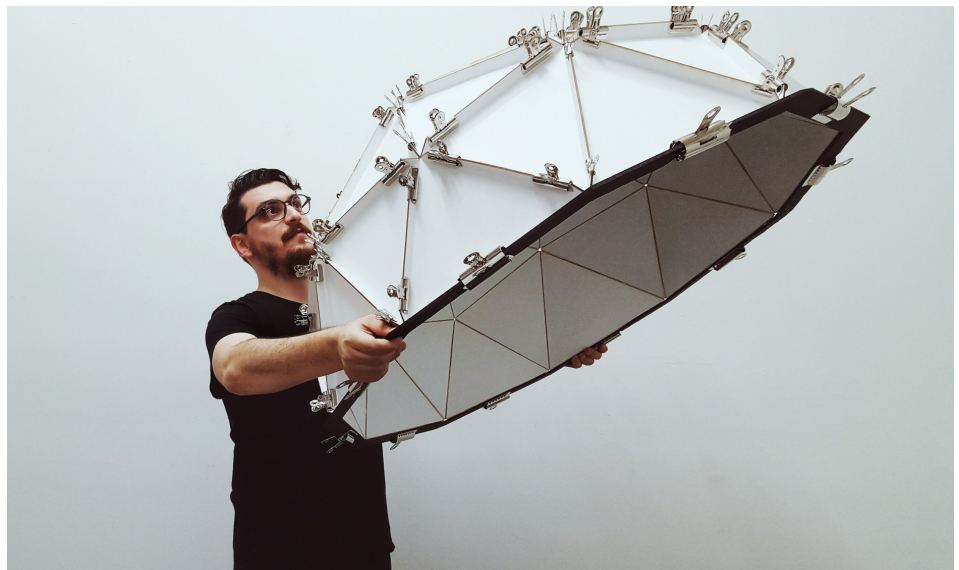
2015-2016 grantees Can Büyükberber and Yağmur Uyanık have developed visual/audial work which will be presented at the Current New Media Festival 2016 in New Mexico and will be exhibited at important upcoming symposiums as well.

Turkish grantees Can Büyükberber and Yağmur Uyanık shared their experiences on how this project came to life and the work process.

360°Audiovisual Experience:

Morphogenesis

Full-dome refers to immersive dome-based video projection environments. The dome, horizontal or tilted, is filled with real-time (interactive) or pre-rendered (linear) computer animations, live capture images, or composited environments. Although the current technology emerged in the early-to-mid 1990s, full-dome environments have evolved from numerous influences, including immersive art and storytelling, with technological roots in domed architecture, planetariums, multi-projector film environments, flight simulation, and virtual reality.



How did the project begin?

Can: Last May I participated at the IX symposium at the Society for Art Technology in Montreal. Meeting researchers and artists in the field of immersion and experience using domes and virtual reality techniques and listening to Buckminster Fuller's daughter Allegra Fuller (who is a former scholar of UCLA and a friend of the artist John Cage) under the dome called Biosphere which was designed by her father, was definitely one the most influential moments in my life. I decided to work on a new project that better implemented the immersion that a dome is able to present.



Yağmur: Having backgrounds in architecture and visual communication design, we started working together with Can in our Master's program. Our collaboration combines forms and visual unities using sound and light. Our work extends the digital media to a point that it becomes a physical experience for the viewer, which based on spatial thinking and architectural organization. During the first semester of our studies, with the inspirations that Can brought from Montreal, we worked on the concept 'Morphogenesis' and proposed an audiovisual piece for various festivals around the world. After our first confirmation, we started working on the visuals and the sound.

Can you explain what Morphogenesis is?

Yağmur: Morphogenesis (from the Greek morphê shape and genesis creation, literally, "beginning of the shape") is the biological process that causes an organism to develop its shape. In relation to the concept, the science of pattern formation deals with the visible, orderly outcomes of self-organization and the common principles behind similar patterns in nature examined in fields such as physics, biology, chemistry, architecture and computer graphics.

Can: As a fulldome and virtual reality piece, which is inspired by the phenomenon of emergence in self-organized systems, Morphogenesis consists of continuous transformation of fundamental geometrical patterns and uses them as building blocks of an immersive space and as a visual notation for the sound while it addresses renowned American architect Buckminster Fuller's evolutionary transformation theory. As the common characteristics of emergence that can be perceived universally, the audiovisual composition intends to emphasize the systemic interconnectedness over space and time of all natural dynamics and how these dynamics result in creating novelty. It consists of an audiovisual

journey through different aspects of the physical and biological universe.

Can you tell us more about the work process?

Yağmur: We've been researching and brainstorming about the idea for a long time. Especially in the first semester of school, we discussed the theme and its representations with our professors and received much feedback from critique classes. After coming to a certain point, Can started to work on the visuals and I started to work on the sound. It was a back-and-forth process where both visual and sound were affected and inspired by each other.

Can: We've also had a chance to give a small preview on a portable geodesic dome that we've built in our studio at school. It has naturally become a digital-physical hybrid process, which really made sense with regard to our backgrounds. The result was very exciting for the audience and us.

Where will the project be exhibited?

Yağmur: In June, it will be exhibited during the Currents New Media Art Festival in Santa Fe, New Mexico, which provides the community with opportunities to experience New Media Arts in traditional venues, public and outdoor spaces. Another site is at the Immersion experience Symposium in Montreal, Canada, which welcomes artists, designers, researchers, developers, producers and all those who are curious and passionate about immersive experiences as a medium. Then there is the Mira Festival Berlin and Barcelona, which encourages AV collaborations, and supports relationships between collectives, associations and individuals linked with visual creation and technology.

Can: We are also in touch with festivals in Los Angeles, Prague and Mexico City for upcoming dates.



Any last thoughts?

Can: I believe creating a new universal visual vocabulary, using innovative media and interactive tools can enhance the communication and empathy between individuals and institutions. With the technological possibilities of our era, creative people are able to express multi-sensory information not just with words but moving images, light, sound, interaction, even spatial structures and virtual reality tools which has never been possible in history. I think it is the creative individual with a strong imagination, will to act and interdisciplinary mindset that can question/explore around his/her world with scientific inquiry and express those

observations with an artistic sensibility, is most important to the world's future.

Yağmur: A conceptual approach combined with innovative tools, developing forms that do not follow logical criteria but are based on subjective associations and formal parallels that incite the viewer to make new personal associations could extend our imagination. I believe creating unique areas for the audience to experience comprehensive limits of perception and using fundamentals of nature and universe, space and landscape to do so will broaden the definition of 21st century art making and foster a more expansive use of technology.

Gül Yalçın Çakmaklı

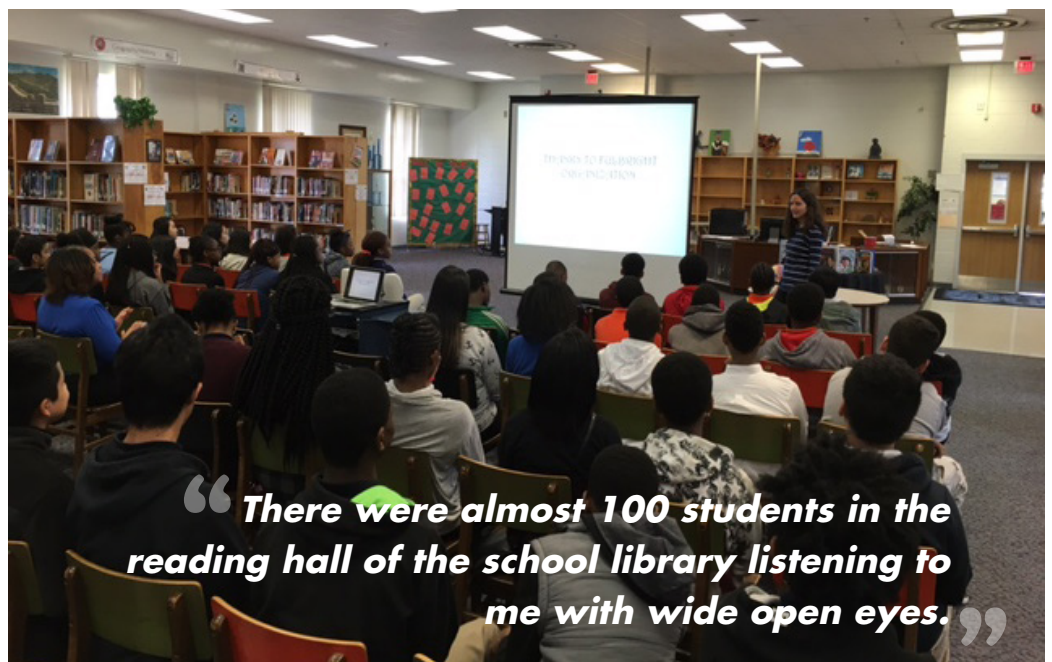
2015-2016 Visiting Scholar grantee at Emory University, Yerkes Primate Center
Hacettepe University - Ankara

Meeting with young brains at Brain Awareness Week

The Brain Awareness Campaign, initiated and coordinated by the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, is a week-long celebration of the brain. It brings together all the people working in brain research, health professionals, students of different ages interested in learning more about the nervous system and also patients suffering from different neurological diseases and support for their families. A wide variety of activities take place globally during this week, like open houses at neuroscience labs, exhibitions about the brain, lectures and seminars on brain-related topics, press meetings, and radio and TV shows. The main goal is to advance public awareness and education about nervous system diseases and brain research and to promote neuroscience.

This year it took place on March 14-20. Having been working in this field for more than ten years both as a clinician and a researcher, I happily volunteered for a school visit and I was matched to North Clayton Middle School in Atlanta. It was very exciting for me to meet with middle school students to talk about my favorite subject. My aim was to trigger a curiosity about the brain by introducing them to some interesting facts about the nervous system and recent progress that has been achieved by the large number of scientists working in the field of neuroscience.

There were almost 100 students in the reading hall of the school library listening to me with wide open eyes. We were asking questions to each other, and I noticed that they already knew a lot about the brain and most of their questions were about concussion, what happens after a brain injury, how the recovery takes place following an injury. They were surprised by the historical case story of the famous railroad worker, Phineas Gage, who experienced a drastic personality change following an injury to the most frontal part of his brain, which was believed to be nonfunctional in the 1850s. We also discussed the ways of taking good care of our brains both by eating healthy food, doing exercise, listening to music, reading books, being curious about



“There were almost 100 students in the reading hall of the school library listening to me with wide open eyes.”

everything and by also taking necessary measures to protect it in case of accidents.

How we are deceived by the visual illusions, if intelligence has anything to do with the size of the brain and the differences between the functions of right and left hemispheres of the brain were some other topics that we discussed. I also showed them how we, as neurologists, examine patients to reveal which part of the brain/nervous system is specifically nonfunctioning. Their favorite was cerebellar examination, by which we check for balance via different tasks. The students were

very surprised when they had the chance to see and touch real macaque brains. I showed them different regions of the brain from the specimens, which have been cut in pieces before.

I concluded by mentioning that the field is in need of new hardworking, ambitious scientists who believe strongly that they could reveal the mysteries of the brain. According to what I observed after my talk, I can say that at least 4-5 of them will seriously consider being neuroscientists in the future. I will be very glad to meet them again as my colleagues soon.

Merve Zalgi

2015-2016 FLTA grantee at New York University
Boğaziçi University - İstanbul

Being an FLTA in New York is certainly one of the best chances of my life. I experience new things almost every day. However, I will always fondly remember my volunteer experience in different secondary schools of New York.

I am a member of One-to-World, a non-profit organization that aims at contributing to cultural exchange between foreign and American students. They have many special events and programs for Fulbright and other international students. As it was related to both culture and education, I volunteered as a Global Guide in the Global Classroom Program. It offers New York City K-12 students with curriculum-based learning opportunities focused on an array of cross-cultural themes and global issues. As Global Guides from many diverse countries, we had a one-day training session from their educators and we got ready for the classes.

As a Global Guide from Turkey, I prepared presentations to introduce my culture and to share my cultural experiences on some global topics such as sustainability and water. I talked about our seas, sea animals, especially caretta caretta and how we try to save them from different threats in Turkey. In another class, I showed photographs of street cats and dogs from Istanbul and it was amazing for the students to see how different Turkish and American cultures are in animal care and values. I shared a great example of a sustainable recycling bin project from Turkey which provides food and water for street animals in exchange for recycling plastic bottles. The students loved the idea and got so inspired that they started to share their own ideas for recycling to help homeless people or street cats in New York. While trying to inspire them, I also learned a lot



“Being an FLTA in New York is certainly one of the best chances of my life. I experience new things almost every day.”



from those children. I learned about the American secondary school systems, classroom types, students' interactions and perspectives. Those students love sharing their own experiences as well as learning a new culture. It was a genuine culture exchange for us. I took some simit (Turkish bagels) with me for them to try at the end of the class and they enjoyed this new taste very much.

I am very grateful to One-To-World as they offer us such great ways to get involved in the community. It was a very fun teaching and learning experience. I really hope that those children always remember my culture and me.



Advising Program

EducationUSA & NACAC Webinar

EducationUSA and National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) put together an Executive Virtual Forum webinar on March 11, 2016 which highlighted Turkey. Our Advising Coordinator was a panelist in this webinar to provide an overview of the education system in Turkey and give tips on recruiting Turkish students.

Admissions office directors, coordinators and counselors working at U.S. colleges participated in the webinar and asked their questions.



Pre-departure Orientations for MEB YLSY Program Grantees



Our Educational Advisers interact with the grantees of the YLSY Program of the Ministry of National Education, especially to verify their documents and to inform them about the higher education system in the United States. In January 2016, our Advising Coordinator organized two pre-departure orientations for a group of YLSY grantees who would start their ESL courses in the U.S.A. in Spring 2016. During

the pre-departure orientations, the grantees were informed about the visa application process, academic and daily life in the U.S.A. as well as culture shock and how best to overcome it.

Seminars & Webinars for Study in the U.S.A.

We organize monthly seminars and webinars on different topics such as how to write effective statements of purpose, how to apply for U.S. universities, standardized tests and interview techniques. Those who cannot physically come to our offices in



Ankara and İstanbul can always participate in the webinars as long as they have an Internet connection. It is free to participate in our seminars and webinars and the dates and times are shared on the "upcoming events" section of our web site on a regular basis.

Online Advising Sessions



The online advising system on our web site is a helpful tool for those who are interested in Fulbright grant programs and studying in the U.S.A. Our Educational Advisers answer questions live via this system three times a week. The days and times of live online advising sessions are shared on the "upcoming events" section of our web site and also on our social media accounts. The system also allows the participants to leave offline messages if our Educational Advisers are not online.

Remember, we are on social media:

-  FulbrightTurkiye
-  FulbrightTurkey
-  FulbrightTurkey
-  fulbrightturkey
-  The Turkish Fulbright Commission

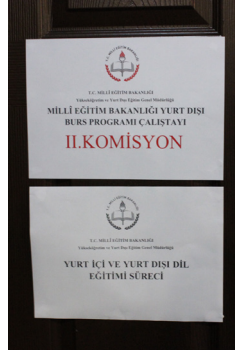


www.fulbright.org.tr

Remember, we are on social media:



MEB YLSY Program Workshop



The Turkish Ministry of National Education provides grants to students from Turkey to pursue their graduate degrees abroad. The grantees can select many countries around the world, and the U.S.A. is one of the most preferred countries.

In May, the MEB's General Directorate for Higher Education and Study Abroad organized a workshop entitled "Qualified Labor Force of Turkey." One of the main objectives of the workshop was to discuss the current practice of the graduate level grant programs and to find ways to make improvements. Our Advising Coordinator, Ms. Bahar Deniz Türkaslan, participated in the workshop and worked with the group on "Foreign Language Education of grantees in Turkey and abroad."

EducationUSA Sub-Regional Workshop

Our Educational Adviser Ms. Aybüke Uzunca participated in the EducationUSA Sub-Regional Workshop, which was held May 25-26, 2016 in Vilnius, Lithuania. The venue for the workshop was Vilnius University. There were 28 Educational Advisers participating from 17 different countries at the workshop. Regional Educational Advising Coordinators (REACs) Ms. Cheryl Francisoni, Ms. Katia Scodova and Program Coordinator Ms. Nora Nemeth joined the advisers and shared their expertise as well.



Throughout the workshop, Adviser Trainers Biljana Kuzmanovska Tasetovikj from Macedonia, Kevin Reiling from Belarus and Zaneta Savickiene from Lithuania held sessions related to advising for Specialty Programs, Undergraduate/Graduate Studies, School Selection and Financial Aid. During the last session, REAC Katia Scodova and Program Coordinator Nora Nemeth gave information

about how to work with the U.S. Higher Educational Institutions and participate in other worldwide EducationUSA activities. Our Educational Adviser Aybüke Uzunca took part in group discussions and activities throughout the entire workshop program. She met EducationUSA Advisers from other countries in the region and exchanged information about the student profiles and educational systems.

Summer Pre-Departure Orientations

Five pre-departure orientations (PDOs) will have been organized this summer. Three of these PDOs will be webinars, and there will be one in Ankara on July 20, and one in Istanbul on July 27.

The pre-departure orientations can be attended by students who will start studying in the U.S.A. in Fall 2016. We believe that these orientations are helpful in terms of providing the participants with information about the visa application process, medical forms schools require, finding housing, what to pack, making money transfers, and, most importantly, culture shock, how to overcome it and easily adapting to the new environment. Those who would like to attend these orientations can send an e-mail to advising@fulbright.org.tr or fulb-ist@fulbright.org.tr to confirm their attendance.

AMERİKADA OKUMAYA HAZIR MISINIZ?

Amerika'da eğitimlerine başlayacak tüm öğrencileri Türkiye Fulbright Eğitim Komisyonu tarafından düzenlenen **Amerika'ya Gidiş Öncesi Oryantasyon Seminerlerine (Pre-Departure Orientation)** davet ediyoruz.

Amerika'ya Gidiş Öncesi Oryantasyon Seminerlerimizde bilgi vereceğiz konular:

- Gittirmeden önce yapılacak resmi işlemler (Öğrenci Vizesi başvurusu)
- Sağlık sigortası ve aşılar
- Yatakhane bulma, gözetim/emy'cecekler
- Amerika'da banka hesabı açma, para transferleri
- Kalacak yer ararken dikkat edilecekler noktaları
- yurt, ev, diğer imkânlar
- Günlük hayat ile ilgili pratik bilgiler
- Akademik ortam ve sorumluluklar - neler Türkiye'den farklı?
- Kültür çoku ve yeni kültüre uyum süreci

Bu seminerler tüm öğrenci ve velilere açık olup katılım ücretsizdir.

Webinar:
13 Haziran 2016, 20:00
23 Haziran 2016, 20:00
13 Temmuz 2016, 15:00

İstanbul Semineri:
27 Temmuz 2016, 15:00
Seminer: ygs Komisyonun web sitesinde ilan edilecektir.
Kayıt yaptırmak için fulb-ist@fulbright.org.tr

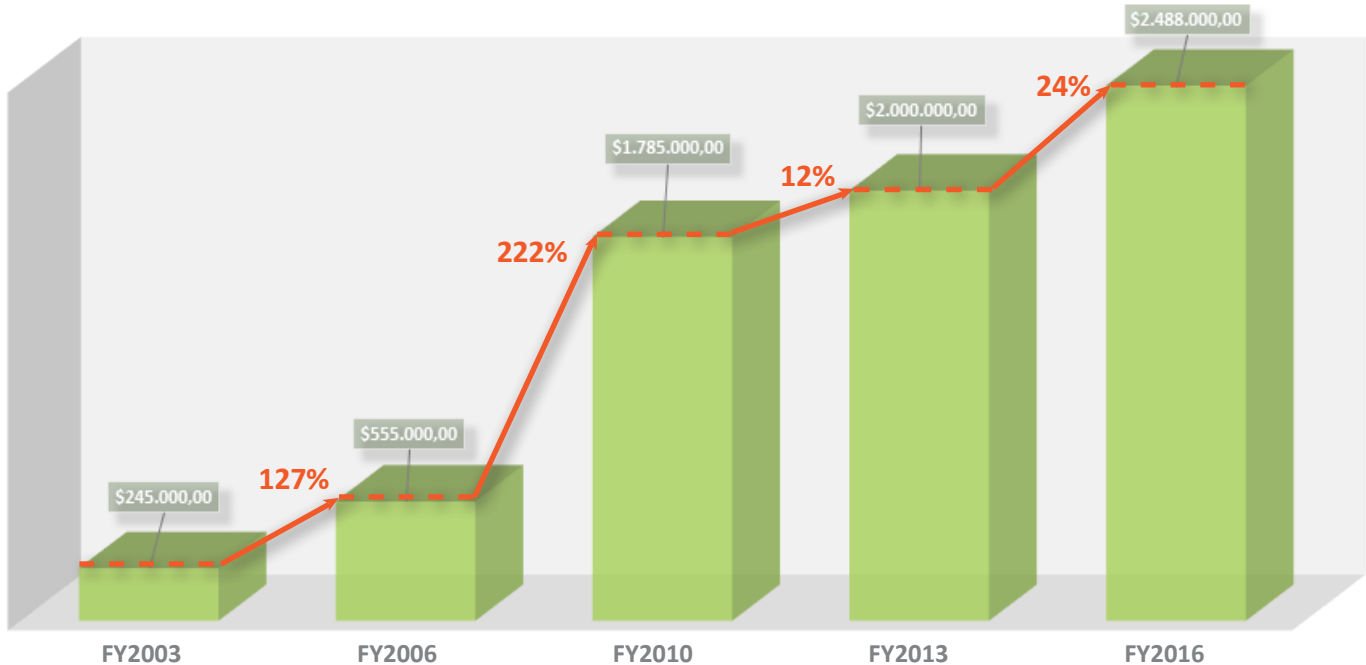
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