

## A LIFE FULL OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

**Prof. Nermin Abadan Unat is the first female Political Scientist, one of the first female journalists and one of the first female senators of Turkey. She is also one of the first Fulbright grantees who went to the U.S.A. in 1952. After she came back to Turkey, she started teaching at Turkish universities, and has been the professor of many renowned professionals and professors in Turkey. Journalist Ms. Sedef Kabaş, who is also a Fulbright grantee and one of Prof. Unat's students, wrote a book titled "Hayatını Seçen Kadın "Hocaların Hocası" Nermin Abadan Unat". The book is in the format of an interview, and even the title of the book summarizes the life of Prof. Unat, which has been a life full of challenges, but at the same time many remarkable achievements. She has been referred to as "Hocaların Hocası" because she has been the professor of many professors of contemporary Turkey.**



*Ms. Nermin Abadan Unat in İstanbul in December, 2012*

Dear Fulbright Friends,

Welcome to the 3rd issue of the Turkish Fulbright Commission's Newsletter. As you will see in the following pages, we have had another busy six months, culminating in the up-coming move from our current office space to our new home in Tepe Prime. I hope you will visit us there, and I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2013.

Dr. Ersel Aydınlı  
Executive Director  
The Turkish Fulbright Commission

### A Pioneer in Tourism: Ms. İnci Piriñciođlu



*Ms. İnci Piriñciođlu with  
Ms. Jacqueline Kennedy in 1963 in İstanbul*

İnci Piriñciođlu was one of the first Fulbright grantees to apply for the grant in 1951, she started doing research on her dissertation topic at Columbia University in New York. When she got the Fulbright grant, she was the assistant of the renowned novelist Halide Edip Adivar at İstanbul University in the Department of English Language and Literature. Ms. Piriñciođlu was a pioneer in many ways. She turned translation into a business sector, and became the first female tour guide of Turkey. In 1963, she was the tour guide of the first lady of the U.S.A., Jacqueline Kennedy, when Ms. Kennedy visited Turkey. In 1968, Ms. Piriñciođlu and her husband Fethi Piriñciođlu established a tourism company called VIP Tourism.

# LIVING WITNESS OF OUR COMMISSION

**Mr. Hüseyin Cançeker worked for the Turkish Fulbright Commission as a messenger for 47 years. Thus, he can be considered as the living witness of the history of our Commission. He has lots of memories, which he was kind enough to share with us.**

## *Can you briefly introduce yourself?*

I was born in Ankara in Kızılcahamam in 1934. My father was a soldier for the Turkish Army. I came to downtown Ankara in 1945. I am a middle school graduate, and I started working at the age of 16. One of my relatives used to work as a gardener for the Turkish-American Association, which was then on Mithatpaşa Street in Kızılay, and I was working with him as his helper. Then, in 1955 I joined the Turkish Army to complete my military service. I completed my military service and came back to Ankara in November 1957.

## *How did you start working for the Turkish Fulbright Commission?*

After I completed my military service, I applied to the Turkish Fulbright Commission. The Commission was then located on the second floor of the Turkish-American Association in Kızılay. At that time, we were three people working for the Commission; the Executive Director, who was Arif Özbilen, a secretary and me. For about two months, I was not an official member of the staff. I was on a trial period. I officially started working for the Commission on January 15, 1958, and retired in 2005. We stayed there for about five years, and then moved to a separate and more spacious office in Kızılay. And in 1985, when

Hüsnü Ersoy was the Executive Director we moved to the Commission's current office.

## *How was the Commission operating in the early times?*

The grant programs were advertised through brochures and newspaper notices. The Executive Director would sign the brochures, and then those brochures would be displayed on the bulletin boards of the Turkish universities. Many students would be informed about the grant programs through those brochures, and then they would apply for the programs. There were not any presentations or meetings at the universities. The students used to take a written exam, and would be selected according to their performance at the exam. Since there were no computers at those times, everything, including the expenditures, was recorded in thick files and notebooks. We used to contact the offices in the U.S.A. through mail.

## *What things did you learn from working at our Commission for such a long time?*

First of all, I learned that dedication to your job is the most important thing in order to be happy and successful at your workplace. During my 47-year service, I came to the office at least 20 minutes early each morning, and left the office about half an hour late



*Hüseyin Cançeker in Ankara on November 2012*

each evening. I never looked at the clock to go home. In addition to that, although I am not a well-educated person, I started to understand English and would communicate with the Americans when I had to. Also, I learned that being honest is a key factor to work in an office for a long time.

## *Are there any unforgettable memories that you would like to share with us from the years you worked for the Commission?*

I have many memories of course, but the one I still remember vividly is the day that they organized a farewell party for me and gave me a plaque for my service to the Commission. I was really honored.

“Perhaps the greatest power of such intellectual exchange is to convert nations into peoples and to translate ideologies into human aspirations. To continue to build more weapons, especially more exotic and unpredictable machines of war, will not build trust and confidence. The most sensible way to do that is to engage the parties in joint ventures for mutually constructive and beneficial purposes, such as trade, medical research, and development of cheaper energy sources. To formulate and negotiate agreements of this kind requires well-educated people leading or advising our government. To this purpose the Fulbright Program is dedicated.”

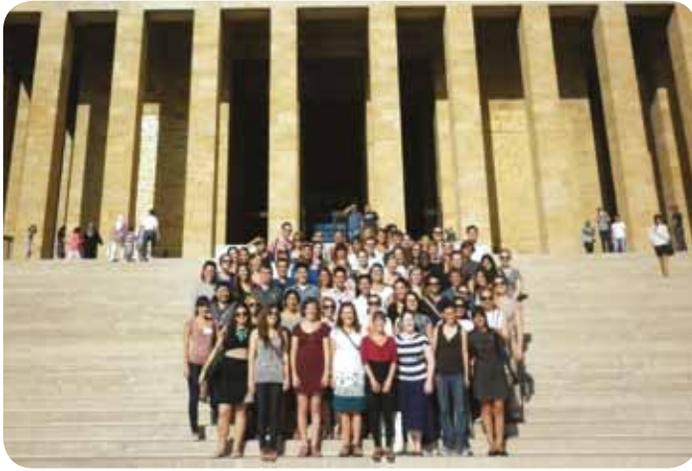
J. William Fulbright, from remarks on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fulbright Program, 1986.

## AMERICAN PROGRAMS

**2012-2013 Fulbright US Grantees have arrived Turkey and started their experience. Two separate Orientation Programs were arranged according to the particular nature of the two main programs.**

### The English Teaching Assistantship Orientation Program

The 2012-2013 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Orientation Program was held on September 3-13 in Ankara. This year, 67 ETA grantees, who are placed at 30 different Turkish universities, attended the program before starting work in their host cities. Seven of the 67 grantees are renewals spending a second year in the program. The ETA Orientation Program consisted of lectures about Turkey, Turkish Language and English Language Teaching, along with cultural excursions in Ankara.



*ETA Grantees at Anıtkabir*



*ETA Grantees at a workshop session*

### Fulbright Senior Scholars' and Student Researchers' Orientation Program

The Orientation Program for the 2012-2013 Fulbright Senior Scholars and Student Researchers was held on October 11-12 in Ankara. Eleven Senior Scholars, nine students and four IIE Graduate Fellows attended the program. The grantees are pursuing their work in Ankara and in Istanbul. The program was composed of lectures introducing different topics about Turkey and cultural visits to the significant sites in Ankara.



*Grantees at the Anatolian Civilization Museum*



*Grantees at a session with Dr. Ersel Aydın,  
Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission*

# Stories from our U.S. Grantees

## “I Felt More Comfortable in Nevşehir than America”

### Abdulaziz Said

2010-2012 ETA Grantee  
Syracuse University / Nevşehir University, Nevşehir

Abdulaziz Said worked at Nevşehir University’s Vocational School and several other Faculties for one year. Abdulaziz Said really loved Nevşehir and shared his positive sentiments about the university and the related program as followed:

“The Fulbright Program has opened my eyes to the world. I lived together with Turks. Life in Turkey was very comfortable, especially when compared to the hectic pace of American urban cities. The city and the people were reliable and safe. In fact, I felt myself more comfortable and at ease in Turkey than in America. I want my sisters to study abroad in Turkey for at least a year.

For example, one of my friend’s mother, my Turkish aunt, was absolutely wonderful. Being around her and talking Turkish has been incredibly helpful. Thanks to them, I have learned more about Turkish culture and traditions. I was especially fortunate to try many Turkish delicacies which was a courtesy of my Turkish aunt. In fact, the Fulbright Program at Nevşehir University has not only influenced the students’ lives, but it has also changed my life. I hope that these relationships will forever endure. I have learned a lot from my students, and I hope they have also learned from me. Turkish people are unbelievably warm and hospitable. Although we may be from



*Abdulaziz Said in Nevşehir*

different countries and having different cultures, we share the same feelings and same hopes. Despite coming all the way from America, I have had a very special experience in Turkey.”

## Bridging Nebraska and Muğla Universities

### Cori Curtis

2011-2012 ETA Grantee  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln / Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Muğla

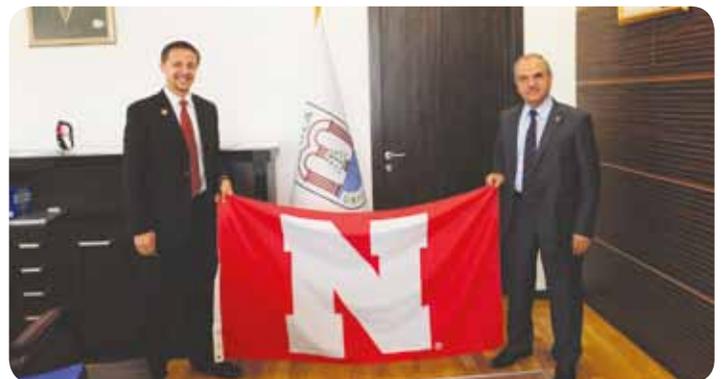
During my time as a Fulbright Scholar at Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, I took the initiative to spearhead an academic exchange program and global classroom project between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University. The

university administrators and I collaborated to bridge the geographical gap. We utilized modern telecommunications for real time, live-synchronous interactions with classes and signed an academic exchange agreement. These new educational channels now provide students and professors the

opportunity to communicate, interact, and travel globally. I hope my previous work as a Fulbright Scholar in Turkey will continue to have a meaningful impact on the academic and cultural relationship between the United States and Turkey.



*Cori Curtis with Chancellor Perlman at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln*



*Cori Curtis with Prof. Mansur Harmandar, the Rector of Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University*

## Fulbright Senior Specialist at Kadir Has University

### James Thurman

2011-2012 Senior Specialist  
University of North Texas / Kadir Has University, İstanbul

Kadir Has University's Faculty of Art and Design hosted Asst. Prof. James Thurman of the University of North Texas through the Fulbright Specialists Program. The collaboration was first established during Professor Thurman's visit in December 2011, which later turned into a project.

The primary objective was the continual improvement and enrichment of the foundation level design education curricula of the faculty. During his residency in May-June 2012, Professor Thurman and the faculty members met regularly and covered a significant amount of material, particularly on the redefinition of the foundation year

program's learning outcomes, and the types of projects that will help to attain them. In between meetings, he was able to follow up and provide additional materials and



*Asst. Prof. Thurman at the workshop at Kadir Has University's Faculty of Art and Design*

proposals that prompted further discussions and brainstorming.

In addition to his involvement in Kadir Has University's Faculty of Art and Design, James Thurman taught an intensive studio-based four-day workshop related to his research and practice at The Glass Furnace, an educational institution focused on providing hands-on technical instruction and workshops.

An interview with James Thurman appeared in a Turkish jewelry journal, *Gold News*, focusing on his innovative use of paper and resin, which he calls 'Thurmanite'.

## ETAs Crossing the Bosphorus

### Margaret Kurkoski

2012-2013 ETA Grantee  
Smith College / Akdeniz University, Antalya

On Sunday, November 11th over twenty Fulbright ETAs gathered in İstanbul for the 34th Annual Intercontinental Marathon. For some, it was a chance to return to a great city, while many of us were visiting for the first time. Fulbrighters ran at all levels of the race, from the serious 15K to an 8K Fun Run. Ruby O'Connor and I walked the 8K Fun Run, and crossed the Bosphorus Bridge alongside hundreds of *İstanbullular* and visitors from all around the world. We got a great view of the city from a distance, and took plenty of pictures for posterity. While our experience was relaxed, everyone ended the race with the same brag: we crossed from Asia to Europe on foot! Not too bad for one weekend in İstanbul.



*A group of 2012-2013 ETAs at the Eurasia Marathon in İstanbul*

## Election Night at Haydarpaşa

### August Siena Cohn Thomas

2012-2013 Student Researcher

University of Massachusetts, Amherst / Boğaziçi University, İstanbul

One early morning during our Fulbright orientation, Elizabeth Angell, Catherine Evtuhov and I trekked to the U.S. Embassy, and I triumphantly cast my very first vote in a presidential election. Three weeks later, I was on a windy ferry across the moonlit Bosphorus, heading to beautiful old Haydarpaşa Station, for the beginning of an exhausting, exhilarating 12-hour adventure. Early volunteers had already started the vast main hall's transformation into the HQ of the U.S. Consulate General's "Follow Hub 2012 U.S. Elections @ Haydarpaşa," – I could see rolls of red, white and blue bunting, Turkish and American flags, even an enormous poster of President Obama and Mr. Romney in full boxing gear! The fantastic volunteer director, Steve Roberge, put us to work, and soon Leticia Hinojosa, her husband and I were kneeling on the floor, assembling tables with Turkish volunteers. (Let's just say it's a good thing my Fulbright research does not often require me to wield an electric screwdriver!) We hung massive signs, dragged screens, taped down more of that patriotic bunting –but Benjamin Lin and I found time to strike poses at the CNN Turk set. The fun really got started after the arrival of our dauntlessly cheerful mastermind from the Consulate General, Sam Smith. We started divvying out thousands of what were supposed to be red, white and blue Jelly Bellys...only to discover that the red ones had mysteriously vanished. A quick phone call had to be made, to make sure our candy would not appear partisan!

I was on reception duty, handing out



*Reporting from CNN Desk at Haydarpaşa*

donkey and elephant pins as hundreds of new arrivals came in out of the rain. (Once I had reassured doubtful Turkish guests that the donkey really did stand for the Democrats, it was by far the favorite choice; some "undecided voters" walked off with one of each!) Ambassador Ricciardone spoke on the platform in the center of the hall, and interviews went on into the wee hours of the morning. As the bloggers and tweeters tapped away, we wandered around, chatting, greeting familiar Fulbright faces, speculating on results and feasting on the free super-American snacks, including Krispy Kreme doughnuts and (the preferred 3 a.m. option) limitless Starbucks coffee. Long after midnight, one Turkish student was dying to ask Consul General Scott Kilner a question, but felt too nervous. With

a little encouragement, she approached him, and was soon beaming as they talked. By 5 a.m. the peripatetic cameramen were capturing our drained, but determined expressions: we'd stay until news came. Just after dawn, the election was called for President Obama, and everyone cheered. Still in my evening clothes and encrusted with donkey pins and "I Voted!" stickers, I jostled onto the 7 a.m. ferry with bleary-eyed commuters, too numb to believe it. But as I looked back at Haydarpaşa in the grey morning light, the news sank in and I could not stop smiling. I have still got an "I Voted!" sticker on my purse, and wonderful memories of a long night in a Turkish train station, with new friends and nonpartisan jelly beans.

# TURKISH PROGRAMS

**The Student Core Program** is the largest program of the Turkish Fulbright Commission and provides grants for graduate study in the United States for Master's degree, Ph.D degree and Ph.D Dissertation Research. 54 nominees have been awarded and placed at various compatible programs at U.S. universities for the Fall 2012 Semester. The Turkish Fulbright Commission works in close cooperation with the Institute of International Education (IIE). IIE contacts the universities, follows up the progress of the admission process and finalizes the placements.

Applications for the 2013-2014 Fulbright Student Core Program Cycle were received until April 9, 2012. Dossier evaluation and interview committees selected 64 candidates who applied from various universities and fields in Turkey. IIE Placement Officers have begun crafting the candidates' submission plans honoring most of their top choices. In Fall 2012, intense work has been carried out by IIE Placement Officers and the Turkish Programs Staff in order to complete the candidates' applications. This process will continue until the end of December, 2012.



2013-2014 Turkish Fulbright Grantees at the Orientation Session held in Ankara



Student Core Program Recruitment Poster

Since a limited number of universities can be included in the submission plans prepared by IIE, students have been making self-applications as well. Turkish Programs staff and Educational Advisers help students to complete their self-applications. Students and the staff will start hearing the results in Spring 2013 and we wish our candidates the best of luck in all their placement results!

**The deadline for applications for the 2014-2015 Fulbright Student Core Program (Master's degree, Ph.D degree and Ph.D Dissertation Research) is March 22, 2013.**

**The Visiting Scholar Program** provides funds for Turkish academicians to do research in the U.S.A. for six months.

In 2011, ten researchers were awarded the Visiting Scholar grant and were placed at the universities of their choice and began their program in the second half of 2012. The selection process of the scholars who applied for the research grant for the 2013-2014 academic year will be done by January, 2013 by the Commission and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.



Visiting Scholar Program Grantees at the Pre-Departure Orientation Session held in Ankara

### The Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTA) Program

is a nine-month non-degree program that provides young teachers of English an opportunity to increase their English language proficiency and extend their knowledge of society and culture of the United States while teaching their native language to U.S. students and strengthening foreign language instruction skills at U.S. colleges and universities.

In October 2012, 10 nominees for the FLTA Program were selected by the committees to be placed at U.S. universities and teach Turkish Language and Culture during the 2013-2014 academic year. The first meeting was held with the nominees at the beginning of November, 2012 at the Commission's Ankara Office and the nominees were informed about the details of the Program and the procedures to be followed after receiving the placements results. The placements will not be finalized until Spring 2013. There is no doubt that the nominees will wait for the results anxiously and we will try to support them during the whole process!



*FLTA Grantees at the Pre-Departure Orientation Session held in Ankara*

### The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

brings young and mid-career professionals from designated countries to the United States for a year of non-degree graduate-level study, leadership development, and professional collaboration with U.S. counterparts. Humphrey Fellows are selected based on their potential for leadership and their commitment to public service in either the public or the private sector. Applicants are required to have a Bachelor's Degree, a minimum of five years of substantial, full-time professional experience, limited or no prior experience in the United States, evidence of leadership qualities, a record of public service in the community, and strong English skills.

Two long-term English Humphrey Fellowship nominees started their program at the end of March 2012 and their non-degree studies in August 2012 together with two principal candidates. Humphrey Program grantees were placed at universities in Washington D.C., Minnesota, and Massachusetts. The deadline for the Humphrey Fellowship Program for the 2013-2014 academic year was on August 31, 2012. Nine nominees were selected as candidates for the program. The first orientation meeting will be held in March, 2013 and by that time, we expect to hear the results of the evaluation process that will be completed in the U.S.A. by the Humphrey Program Officers.

### The Community College Initiative Program

provides opportunities for young adults from vocational schools in Turkey to develop leadership, professional skills and English language proficiency, while studying for one academic year in the U.S.A. This year, the applicants will be chosen from the following eligible fields: Agriculture, Applied Engineering, Business Management and Administration, Pre-School Education, Information Technology, Media, and Tourism and Hospitality Management. Students spend one academic year in the U.S.A. and earn certificates in their fields of study and after completing the program, they return home with new skills and expertise to help them contribute to the development of Turkey.

In 2011, the Commission selected 12 candidates for the 2012-2013 academic program. Eleven of them were placed at various community colleges in the U.S.A. and started their program in Fall 2012. The deadline for the 2013-2014 Community College Initiative Program was November 30, 2012.



*Community College Initiative Program Recruitment Poster*

### The Scholar-in-Residence Program

brings visiting scholars and professionals to lecture at U.S. colleges and universities for one semester or one academic year. Scholars give teaching courses, campus-wide and community lectures, help initiate international programs and contribute to curriculum development. By supporting non-U.S. scholars through grants for teaching at institutions that might not have a strong international component, both the U.S. institution and the scholar grantee benefit.

## News From Our Grantees

### Burak Turan Benli

2012-2013 Humphrey Fellow, Administrative Judge  
American University-Washington College of Law, Washington D.C.

When I was awarded the Humphrey Fellowship, I felt that this would be a major turning point in my life, as it was my first journey abroad. I was getting used to the idea of traveling to the United States and meet new people from all over the world. From that point on, I knew I could change many things in my life in terms of my professional career, understanding the world and seeking my goals. Since I arrived in the U.S.A. everything has been very impressive. Especially, being a Humphrey Fellow is a complete privilege. The opportunity to see different states and cities, to visit different communities with the program staff, to join various receptions, to attend numerous conferences and seminars have given me an incomparable experience. Since then, I have been feeling much more universal, that my understanding of the world is much better and I have the chance to compare two different judicial systems. In addition, I have met many people from the



*U.S. Department of State, Washington D.C.*

American Government. We even had the opportunity to observe the 2012 presidential election in polling stations. Being in the United States, one of most prosperous and strongest countries in the world, I feel that I am able to explore and analyze any country in the world thanks to the information I can access. I even feel that today I know my country better than yesterday.

Besides these points, in terms of my academic experience, I am enrolled at Washington College of Law, which is one of the best law schools in the U.S.A. and I have been taking courses from the most well-known law professors and scholars. In addition, as a judge, sharing my experiences and visiting courthouses with American colleagues have provided me with significant knowledge. With all the opportunities that I get in the U.S.A. as a Humphrey Fellow, I am able to improve my future goals through interacting with different people from all over the world. I have been considering many things that I could not have believed to accomplish before with the help of universal ambience in the United States. In a phrase, being a Humphrey Fellow in the U.S.A. is a dream you wish would never end. With such a unique perspective, you can understand the world, people, international issues, differences, diversity and leadership ability in a much better way.

### Gülin Vardar

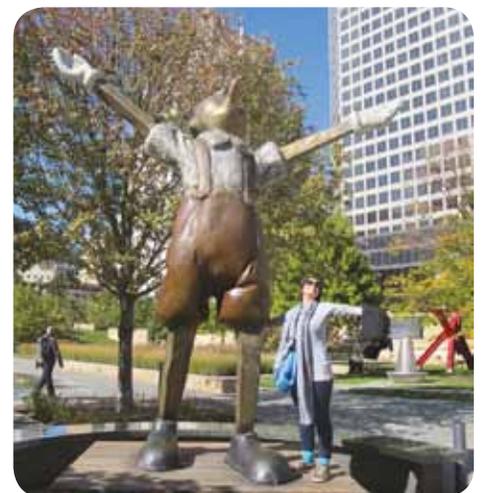
2010-2011 Ph.D. Student in Material Science  
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Michigan

I was granted a two-year Fulbright Scholarship in 2010. I still remember how nervous I was when my father and I were driving from İstanbul to Ankara for the interview. A few weeks later, I was delighted with the news that I would be awarded this prestigious scholarship. I think being the recipient of a Fulbright scholarship greatly enhanced my chances of getting into graduate schools.

When I arrived in Ann Arbor to attend the University of Michigan, other Fulbright scholars became my closest friends. We still

see each other regularly and we have been on many weekend trips together. I have also met many interesting Fulbright scholars through social events (such as holiday parties, square dancing and picnics) organized by the Fulbright alumni in Michigan.

Overall, I think my participation in the Fulbright program has been a huge positive force in my life. I was introduced to many interesting and smart people through the program and I continue to be amazed by their passion and creativity.



*St. Louis, Missouri*

## ALUMNI AFFAIRS

### Visit from the Global Alumni Coordinator of the U.S. Department of State

Mr. Jason Haserodt, who is the Global Alumni Coordinator in the Alumni Affairs Division at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, visited the Head Office of the Turkish Fulbright Commission on September 19, 2012. Mr. Haserodt himself was a Fulbright English Language Assistant in Germany for a year.

In his visit to Turkey, he was hosted by the Turkish Fulbright Commission and the U.S. Embassy. During his visit, he met the presidents of the Fulbright Alumni Association of Turkey and the Turkish Humphrey Alumni Association as well as Turkish Fulbright Alumni from different



Jason Haserodt, Global Alumni Coordinator with Dr. Ersel Aydın, Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission, Presidents of Turkish Alumni Associations and Alumni.

fields. He was given a presentation about the alumni activities and the future plans

for the alumni of the Turkish Fulbright Commission.

### Turkish Humphrey Alumni Association

A group of Humphrey alumni from Turkey got together in 1995, and decided to establish an alumni association to serve to the interdisciplinary society of professionals who are identified by their commitment to their country's welfare, and to the development of environmental protection, human resources, peaceful and friendly society and social justice.

The Association's interest is not only on a national level, but also on an international level including world peace, female literacy, cultural heritage and environmental protection. The Association aims to maintain a sound communication with the alumni to form a synergy in order to take action on some of the above topics and to share opinions. The Association has 69 members out of the 79 Humphrey fellows in total.

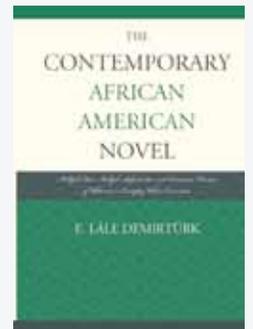


Turkish Humphrey Alumni Association Memorial Forest

In the past, the Association participated at regional alumni conferences in Malta, Egypt, Hungary and Athens, and acted as panelists or gave speeches and shared experience. They also held a regional conference in İstanbul in 1997 on Ecotourism. As a social responsibility project they donated books and a PC to a dormitory library in Ankara. Apart from all these, to contribute to the environment they also built a forest in the northern part of Ankara, which has three thousand pine trees.

### New Publication from an Alumna

Lale Demirtürk, who was a Fulbright grantee in 1980 at the University of Iowa, and who is now an Associate Professor in the Department of American Culture



and Literature at Bilkent University, has written a book titled *The Contemporary African American Novel: Multiple Cities, Multiple Subjectivities, Discursive Practices of Whiteness in Everyday Urban Encounters*. The book, which examines post-1990s African American novels, received positive feedback from critics, and is considered to be making a significant contribution to the discussion of African American literature.

## Istanbul Fulbright Alumni Association

The İstanbul Fulbright Alumni Association was established on August 26, 2009 in İstanbul by the Fulbright Alumni. The founding members of the association are Prof. Haydar Özpınar, Prof. Haluk Kabaalioglu, Prof. Nizamettin Şenköylü, Prof. Tahsin Erkan Türe, Prof. Aslı Yeşim Akiş, Associate Prof. Fatma Sibel Salman Şalk and Bahar Paykoç. In October 2011, the Association had an annual general meeting and determined the executive board of the association for two years. The center of the association is İstanbul Aydın University Florya Campus, where the president of the association, Prof. Özpınar works.

The goals for founding the association are to enable the Fulbright alumni living in İstanbul and the Marmara region to get in touch with each other, to develop bonds with the U.S.A. and other countries in accordance with the Fulbright principles, to help more Turkish students to apply for and benefit from the Fulbright grants, to organize national



(From left to right) Prof. Şirin Tekinay, Prof. Zubal Ulusoy, Prof. Vildan Serin, Prof. Haydar Özpınar, Prof. Namık Kemal Aras, Prof. Semahat Demir, Rector of İstanbul Kültür University, Dr. Ersel Aydınli, Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission, Assistant Prof. Necmiye Karataş, Prof. Sermin Örnektekin

scientific meetings, and to help the members of the association to socialize with each other. Since its foundation, the İstanbul Fulbright Alumni Association has been very active in organizing meetings at different universities in İstanbul.

The most recent event of the association

was held on November 30, 2012 at İstanbul Kültür University Ataköy Campus. The new Rector of İstanbul Kültür University, Prof. Semahat Demir, hosted the event, and the keynote speaker was Prof. Dursun Koçer. The Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission, Dr. Ersel Aydınli, also attended this event.

## Winner of the 2012 Collegiate Inventors Competition

İnanç Ortaç, who was a 2006 Fulbright Master's Program grantee, won the grand prize in the graduate student category at the 2012 Collegiate Inventors Competition in the U.S.A. After getting his Master's Degree, İnanç is now pursuing a Doctoral Degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of California, San Diego. İnanç entitled his project "Nano-Wiffle-Balls for Cancer Therapy". The project is named after a sport similar to baseball called "Wiffleball". "With our nano-wiffle-ball technology, we expect that the lethal side effects to chemotherapy can be greatly reduced, the efficacy of the therapy can be increased, and the quality of life of patients can be improved," said İnan.



İnanç Ortaç at his laboratory at the University of California, San Diego

## Speech at the TEDx Fulbright



Özgür Bolat during his presentation at TEDx Fulbright in Frankfurt, Germany

On November 11, 2012 Özgür Bolat, who was a 2004 Fulbright Master's Program grantee at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, gave a talk at TEDx Fulbright in Frankfurt, Germany. The main theme of the event was "Significance and Singularity". In his talk Özgür focused on the myth of happiness and how unhappy kids are being raised at schools.

TEDx Fulbright is an event for Fulbright scholars, grantees and alumni. These events help Fulbrighters get together, form a network, learn from each other and develop professionally. The presenters can be current grantees as well as alumni from the U.S.A. and from countries all around the world.

## ADVISING PROGRAM

The advising section of our Commission is responsible for introducing the Fulbright grant programs for Turkish citizens and for giving information about the higher education in the U.S.A.

If a student who wishes to study in the U.S.A. wants to contact our educational advisers, he/she can reach them via e-mail or phone. For one-on-one advising, an appointment has to be made.

In order to attend and be informed about our seminars and sessions in different cities, please visit our calendar on [www.fulbright.org.tr](http://www.fulbright.org.tr)

In the summer of 2012, our educational advisers organized “Pre-Departure Orientation Sessions” for students of all levels who were getting ready to study in the U.S.A. These pre-departure sessions are invaluable for many reasons. First of all, attendees get information about daily life in the U.S.A. including the health system, how to open a bank account, how to do grocery shopping and how to find appropriate accommodation. The students are also informed about the concept of “culture shock” and the ways to overcome it. What’s more, our educational advisers provide information about the medical forms and the other documents attendees need to take with them.

This academic year, Fulbright and EducationUSA Educational Advisers

have started giving presentations at Turkish universities in many cities. These presentations are on Fulbright Grant Programs for Turkish Citizens and on other study options in the U.S.A. In addition to these presentations, “Effective Fulbright Application Seminars” will be given in different cities at various universities. The main goal of the “Effective Fulbright Application Seminars” is to inform students about how to fill in the Fulbright Student Program Application Form, and to give useful tips. Our educational advisers will also be giving presentations at some Turkish high schools for students who wish to study in the U.S.A. In these presentations, detailed information about the university application packet and admissions exams will be provided.

Apart from the presentations given for high school and university students, our educational advisers hold sessions in Ankara and İstanbul on “How to Write a Successful Statement of Purpose”. Since an effective statement of purpose is one of the most important documents in an application packet, many students from different levels of education attend these sessions.

Our educational advisers also attend international education fairs that are held in Ankara and İstanbul to provide objective information about study in the U.S.A.

This academic year, the advising section of

our Commission introduced new seminars and activities for students. The new seminars are given on exams necessary for admission to U.S. universities. These seminars are grouped as TOEFL/SAT/ACT seminars for undergraduate study and TOEFL/GRE/GMAT seminars for graduate study. There have also been sessions on IELTS (International English Language Testing System), and PTE (Pearson Test of English). The brand new activity is the “*Conversation Club*”, which is organized once a month by the U.S. Fulbright grantees living in Ankara and İstanbul. This club gives a chance to students and adults to practice speaking in English with native speakers of English.

Since the Internet is one of the main tools of communication of today’s world, our academic advisers use Social Media and web chats to reach out to more students. The students ask their questions on Facebook and get immediate answers to their questions. The web chats are being organized for students who do not have access to our offices and who wish to ask questions regarding the study options in the U.S.A. and the Fulbright grant programs.

Ministry of National Education Grantees can also get advice from our educational advisers, and presentations are given for these students in order to help them understand the education system in the U.S.A. and prepare their application packages.



## EDUCATIONUSA

EducationUSA is a global network of advising centers in 170 countries supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the U.S. Department of State, which strives to foster mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other



Students at “Question and Answer Session” at EducationUSA Ankara Center

countries. EducationUSA advising centers aim to provide accurate, comprehensive, and current information about how to apply to accredited U.S. colleges and universities. EducationUSA advisers and staff work with U.S. higher education professionals to promote international student enrollment.

## Workshop for International Relations Office Staff of Universities in Ankara

The advising section of our Commission organized a one-day long workshop for the directors and representatives of the International Relations Offices of the universities in Ankara on November 15, 2012. The total number of participants was 13, from 11 of the 16 universities in Ankara. The participants who attended the workshop were from Ankara University, Başkent University, İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University, Çankaya University, Gazi University, Hacettepe University, Middle East Technical University, TOBB Ekonomi ve Teknoloji University, Turgut Özal University, Türk Hava Kurumu University, and Yıldırım Beyazıt University.

The workshop started with a warm welcome speech given by Dr. Ersel Aydın, the Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission. Then, the participants provided brief information about their

university profiles, including the number of international students they have and their cooperation with the U.S. universities. After these, Advising Coordinator Ms. Mevlüde Bakır and Educational Adviser Ms. Bahar Deniz Türkaslan made presentations about the history of the Turkish Fulbright Commission and the grant programs of our Commission.

One of the key activities of the workshop was doing a case study on Turkish Student Program application forms. In this study, the names of the applicants were kept confidential, and the participants evaluated the quality of the essays and the application form in general. Since the students wishing to study abroad contact the International Relations Offices of their universities in the first place, our workshop was fruitful in terms of informing the participants about the grant programs of the Turkish Fulbright



*Workshop participants with the Advising Department Staff of the Commission*

Commission and about the education system in the U.S.A.

At the end of the workshop, the participants filled in a questionnaire, in which all participants stated that they benefited from the workshop a lot, and that they would like to continue such cooperation with the Commission.

This workshop will continue in the near future for universities in İstanbul, İzmir and Turkey in general.

## Success Story from an Opportunity funds Grantee

**Tülay Örucü, a graduate of the English Language Teaching Program at Middle East Technical University, is pursuing her Master's Degree in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Utah with a full scholarship. Tülay received funding from EducationUSA's Opportunity funds Program prior to her departure for the U.S.A.**

### *How did you hear about the Opportunity funds Program?*

I came across the Turkish Fulbright Commission's website as I was looking for scholarships to study in the U.S.A. That is how I heard about the Opportunity funds Program.

### *Did you attend any seminars given by the EducationUSA Advisers at the Turkish Fulbright Commission?*

Unfortunately, I met the Fulbright family after I had completed my applications. That's why I was able to attend only one of the seminars. In the seminar I attended, we were told what to do before we arrive in the U.S.A. It really made my preparations easier. I wish



*Uinta Mountains in Mirror Lake Region in Utah*

I had known about the Turkish Fulbright Commission earlier. Then, I could have attended all those seminars, which focus on different parts of the application process, such as how to write a statement of purpose, which exams to take, how to choose which school to attend and so on. The Turkish

Fulbright Commission is a great place for everyone planning to study in the U.S.A.

### *What do you think was the most important factor that enabled you to be awarded with Opportunity funds?*

As I have mentioned before, it was unfortunate that I met the Fulbright family after I completed my applications. When I applied for the Opportunity funds Program, I had already applied to three universities and got accepted from two of them. I guess this helped me a lot to be awarded because it was the most obvious indication that I had the serious intention to study in the U.S.A., and the only thing I needed at that moment was some financial support to achieve my goals.

## SCENES FROM THE COMMISSION'S ADVISING ACTIVITIES AND SCHOOL VISITS



Istanbul Office Advisers at an Educational Fair in Istanbul



Presentation on the Community College Initiative Program at Ankara University Beypazarı Vocational School in Ankara



Fulbright Student Programs Presentation at Çankaya University in Ankara



"Pre-Departure Orientation Session" at the Istanbul Branch Office for students who went to the U.S.A. for different level of studies



Fulbright Student Programs Presentation at İstanbul Şehir University in İstanbul



Fulbright Student Programs Presentation at Gazi University, Gölbaşı Campus in Ankara



**Radio Program at Mustafa Kemal University in Hatay**



**Presentation on the Community College Initiative Program at Plato Vocational School in İstanbul**



**Presentation on Undergraduate Education in the U.S.A at St. Joseph High School in İstanbul**



**Fulbright Student Programs Presentation at Düzce University in Düzce**



**“How to write a Successful Statement of Purpose” session at the İstanbul Branch Office**



**Fulbright Student Programs Presentation at Mersin University in Mersin**

## AN INSPIRING STORY

*(Continued from cover page)*

*Can you briefly tell us about your background?*

My interest in Sociology stems from my high school years. I had a male Sociology teacher at İzmir Girls' High School, and I guess I was the most successful student in the class. Thus, my interest in social issues started at that age. I used to get a very little amount of pocket money, only one lira... Those days, there was Tan daily newspaper which cost 35 kuruş. I would spend 35 kuruş of that one lira on newspapers. This also shows how interested I was in both Politics and Sociology as a high school student. Later on, when I was studying at Ankara University Law School, we had a course called Philosophy of Law. I followed that class with a great interest. My interest in Sociology started long before my education in the U.S.A., but in the U.S.A. it developed more.

*How did you hear about the Fulbright Program?*

During World War II, I graduated from Law School at İstanbul University, and went to Ankara and started working as a journalist for the Ulus newspaper. I followed the last year of the war very closely which made me more interested in international relations and the ongoing war. At that time, I got to know Mr. Robert Moore who was formerly a teacher at Robert College and then the Press Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara. He would visit us at the newspaper almost everyday, and would bring me important news and pictures related with the U.S.A. He even introduced me to Senator William Fulbright when he came to Turkey. I made an interview with him which was published in Ulus newspaper. When the Fulbright Program started in Turkey, Mr. Moore



*Nermin Abadan Unat at the University of Minnesota*

thought of me and encouraged me to apply. I applied but did not receive the grant in my first application because I was married. One year later, the program officers realized that single students would not come back to Turkey once they got the Fulbright grant. Therefore, they decided to give a chance to the married candidates as well. I had already completed my application, so I did not need to make a new application.

*What were your first impressions and feelings about the U.S.A.?*

I went there in 1952. We, as a group from Turkey, first went to Greece, then to Napoli and then to Marseille. From there we went to Paris by train, and stayed there overnight. Later, we went from Calais in France to Southampton in New York on a cruise ship. It was very pleasant. After we arrived in New York, we were taken to University of Michigan, Ann Arbor for an orientation program, which was very informative. It was six weeks long. There were well-known



*Giving a presentation about Turkey*

speakers who gave speeches about the U.S.A. When I went to the U.S.A., my husband became the Dean of Ankara University Faculty of Political Science, and in the same year a retired Professor called Prof. Blakey came to teach at the Accounting Department. When I went to Minnesota, I stayed at the house of an acquaintance of Prof. Blakey. There I saw a black and white TV for the first time in my life. Later on I moved out to an apartment of a social worker family with four kids. Those days, the U.S. elections would take place, and the family I was staying with was supporting Stevenson who was the candidate of the Democratic Party. As the election day approached the family members started to be more active, and one day the little kid of the family started running around the house with a poster on which it written 'I like Ike'. I told him that the other members of his family were supporting Stevenson, and his response was 'There has to be an opposition'. He was representing the opponent party in the house, and it was a great example of political culture. If a ten-year old can voice his own opinion while the other family members are on the opponent side, there we can talk about democracy.

*When you compared the education system and life in the U.S.A. with Turkey, what kind of differences did you notice? How did your university host you?*

The education system in the U.S.A. was different. There was no lecturing, and I loved the book lists given by the professors. I would find the books in the Reserve section of the library, and make summaries of those books. At that time, there was no Internet, or other tools that make life easier. There was a professor whose name was Herbert Maklowski. He had many books

on conservative political culture. 25-30 years later, I heard he was in New York Russell Foundation, and I met him. I told him that he inspired me a lot and that I taught many students and became the chair person of the department. He looked neither interested nor pleased. However, in the States lecturers in general were very close to the students. That's why I was courageous to talk to him. I believe that if this had happened in Turkey, it would have been very different. I had two other favorite lecturers. One of them was teaching political theory classes. I also met him many years later. Another one was very famous in Social Psychology, Alfred Rose. I took Prejudice and Anti-Semitism class from him. At the university everyone including my supervisor was very welcoming and hospitable. I did not have any adaptation problems. I had many friends including Americans.

The grant money I received was very limited. They asked me if I would give speeches in Evergreen Club in Minneapolis which was a place for adults over 70. I accepted giving speeches to earn some pocket money. I had almost 35 conferences like that. Thanks to Prof. Blakely I was invited to different homes every weekend. I was always welcomed respectfully.

At the end of the year a group of lecturers from İstanbul and Ankara universities came to Minneapolis. I was invited to many places as a guest during my Fulbright year. Now this was my turn to invite others, but of course, I did not have such a big house. I became good friends with a family who I met at the concerts, and they offered their house for a party like that. This was a culture shock for me because they knew me only for a couple of months and they were opening their house without any hesitation. It was the best example of American hospitality. All my friends along with the Turkish faculty



*Visit to Detroit (Nermin Abadan Unat, on far right)*

members were present at that party. I cooked Turkish meals for them. It was a group of 100 people. Both men and women washed dishes. I could observe the equality between women and men. This was another cultural difference that I was not aware of in Turkey.

I travelled a lot at vacations. I went to the southern states of the U.S.A. At that time, there was still racism. Actually, this problem was at different levels at each state. For example, at my university in Minnesota there was an African American student who was not discriminated at all.

*As a person who became a Fulbrighter, what did you gain from your experience in America?*

I had a chance to follow new methods and new research in my field. I was able to see the whole world from the U.S.A. I decided to pursue an academic career. I was already completing my doctorate degree. It had a very positive effect on me.



*A visit to the U.S. voting booths during the U.S. Presidential Elections*

After coming back to Turkey, I used the modern teaching techniques in my courses. Many of my students became very successful people. Taner Timur, Emre Kongar, İlber Ortaylı are to name a few of my famous students from my department. They have always mentioned how effective my courses and my teaching techniques were.

*What did you do to introduce Turkey to the people of the U.S.A.?*

Even before I left for America, I founded the Turkish American Women Cultural Foundation in Turkey in 1948. I got an award of honor from that foundation in 2000. We founded that foundation to introduce Turkey as nobody knew much about our country. After I came back from the U.S.A., I became an assistant at the university and I was in contact with many American professors. I helped them a lot. In 1960, I was invited to Harvard University Summer School by Henry Kissinger. I stayed there for six weeks. In the 1970s, I was invited to Milwaukee to talk about women issues and I participated at many programs about feminism. In 1973-1974, I worked at CUNY Brooklyn College and later on at other universities.

*When you come back to Turkey, were there any differences in Turkey?*

I came back by plane. Ankara was a modern city unlike now. It was very tidy. It had many social events that focused on music and art. It was not different when I came back.

*Would you like to be a Fulbright Grantee again? What would you recommend to the Fulbright grantees of today?*

Well, it is a bit late for me to become a grantee again but I advise young people to go and socialize with the young people of America. I have been encouraging my students to apply for Fulbright scholarships.

## NEWS FROM THE COMMISSION

**Our Executive Director visited Fulbright Commissions in three different European countries in Summer 2012 to exchange ideas and share experience with the Executive Directors of those Commissions.**



Dr. Ersel Aydınli, Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission with Mr. Arnaud Roujou de Boubée, Executive Director of the Franco-American Commission; Mr. Alberto López San Miguel, Executive Director of the Commission on Cultural, Educational and Scientific Exchange between Spain and the United States of America and Ms. Penny Egan, Executive Director of the U.S.-U.K. Fulbright Commission.

### **Celebrating the Holiday Season with the Commission Board Members, Fulbright Grantees and Alumni**



New Year Party at the Ankara Head Office on December 20, 2012.



New Year Party at the İstanbul Branch Office on December 18, 2012.



### **Welcome party for the Fulbright Grantees in İstanbul**

Fulbright American grantees joined the welcome party on September 28, 2012 hosted by the Fulbright İstanbul Branch Office.



### **Mustafa Kemal University Rector visited our Commission**

Dr. Ersel Aydınli, Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission; Prof. Hüsnü Salih Güder, Rector of Mustafa Kemal University in Hatay.



### **Participation at the EducationUSA Forum 2012**

Ms. Mevlüde Bakır, Advising Coordinator of the Turkish Fulbright Commission, participated at the EducationUSA Forum in Washington D.C. on June 27-29, 2012.

**Ms. Dr. Günsu İnan, the Turkish Program Officer of the Commission, visited the U.S.A. for official meetings on October 31, 2012 – November 1-2, 2012. Ms. İnan met with officers at the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars.**

# THE TURKISH FULBRIGHT COMMISSION GRANTS IN NUMBERS

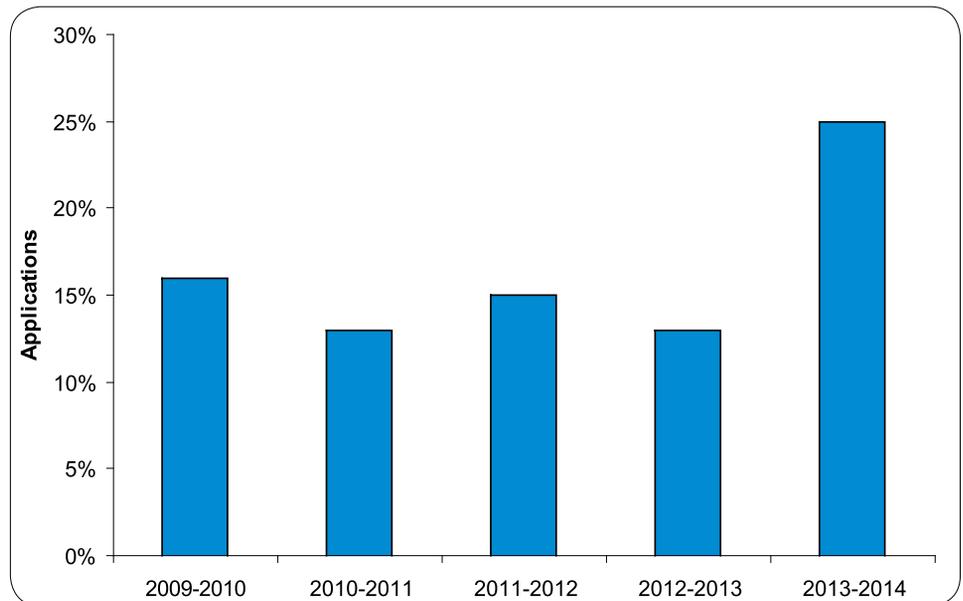
## SENIOR SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Each year faculty and professionals from Turkey receive Fulbright Scholar grants for advanced research in the United States. Individuals who meet the eligibility requirements apply for grants through the Fulbright Commissions in their home countries.

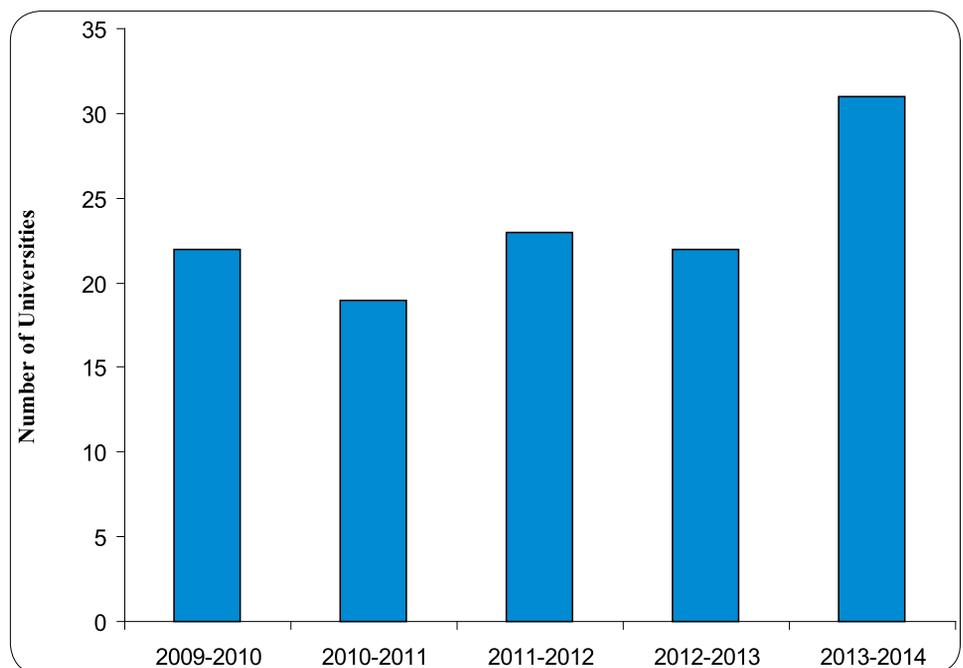
Applications for Fulbright awards are received by the commissions, and preliminary selections are made by the commission board, with final approval by the presidentially appointed J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board in the United States.

Scholars are expected to submit evidence that they have identified a host affiliation in the United States as part of the application process, well before an actual grant is awarded. Scholars usually include a letter of invitation from the host institution in their application materials. This information is used to determine placement at U.S. host institutions. For these grantees, the Council for International Exchange of Scholars is active in confirming affiliations or arranging placements based upon the scholar's interests and needs.

The number of applications for the program has demonstrated ups and downs over the years. However, the number of applications for the 2013-2014 academic year has risen substantially and the Turkish Fulbright Commission is planning to increase the number of awards for this academic year.



The amount of applications for Senior Scholar Program for the 2013-2014 academic year increased significantly compared to last five years. The chart shows the percentage of total applications received over the past five years.



We have received applications from 31 different universities for the 2013-2014 academic year for the Senior Scholar Program. Applications for the 2013-2014 academic year show the highest diversity within the last five years.

# FULBRIGHT



## TURKEY

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