

HISTORY OF THE TURKISH FULBRIGHT COMMISSION

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

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

The Commission supports Turkish and American graduate students, artists, academicians, and mid-career government employees in managerial positions through grants which include education, travel and living expenses. It also offers educational advising for Turkish students wishing to

study in the U.S.A. The program fosters mutual understanding and respect through educational interchanges between the peoples of both countries.

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

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

Dear Fulbright Friends,

Welcome to the 2nd issue of the Turkish Fulbright Commission's Newsletter. Even though it has only been six months since the first one, a lot has happened here. I hope you will enjoy reading about it. I am happy to now introduce our Board Chairman, Mr. John T. McCarthy. I wish you all a good summer.

Dr. Ersel Aydınlı
Executive Director
The Turkish Fulbright Commission

A Couple Doing Research in the U.S.A.



Ulus Newspaper July 15, 1952

Halide Lalehan Dikengil – a young Turkish woman chemist and pharmacist- has been doing research at Wayne University in Detroit on herbs that are used as medicine. Her husband, Dr. Fahri Dikengil is doing research on tuberculosis also in the same city at Herman Kiefer Hospital. The couple went to the U.S.A. on Fulbright Scholarships.



First group of Turkish Fulbright Grantees leave for the U.S.A. on July 26, 1951

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION

I was honored by the then U.S. Ambassador Marc Grossman to join the Board of the Commission in Turkey in 1994. Usually the Commission tries to include a long-term, American resident of Turkey among the boardmembers, with one of the aims being continuity of service. It has been my pleasure to so serve since then and to act as chairman since 2008. This long experience has acquainted me first-hand with the high goals the Fulbright program aims to fulfill; most readers of this newsletter are also fully familiar with these, thus I will not repeat the well known here. However there are two areas on which I would focus.

First, the program could not function as well as it does without a Board made up of top-notch academic and government officials from both Turkey and the U.S.A. It has been edifying to work with leading Turkish and U.S. professionals whose sole aim is to ensure that the objectives of this bi-national

effort are realised. Board meetings are held approximately four times a year. The spirit of cooperation and shared interest has always been clear. The boardmembers volunteer their time and skills towards the common goal of mutual understanding through academic excellence.

Second, for me personally, the real joy in serving the program is the opportunity to meet the “best and the brightest” scholars from Turkey and the U.S.A. in a given year. One of the most positive aspects of the Fulbright program is the degree of diversity it enables. Diversity of the grantee population, diversity of topics researched and programs executed, the diversity of the experiences our scholars have during the course of carrying out the objectives of their grants. The program offers such a wonderful degree of academic freedom that grantees seem to be able to range broadly over all areas of scholarship, to enrich themselves,



John T. McCarthy
The Turkish Fulbright Commission Board Chairman
ING Bank Turkey

those around them and the reputation of the Fulbright program itself.

It has been a sincere honor to be associated with the Fulbright Commission for Turkey.

New Members of Our Commission Board

The Turkish Fulbright Commission has a Board of Directors, which oversees its operations and sets policy. The Board of Directors serves for one calendar year. This term of office is renewable. In 2012, the four new members of our Board are; Prof. Ahmet Ademoğlu, Rector, İstanbul Şehir University; Mr. Ergin Soner, Deputy Director General for Bilateral Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Assoc. Prof. Ömer Açıkgöz, Director General for Development and Dissemination of Apprenticeship, Vocational and Technical Education, Ministry of Education; Prof. Ekrem Tatoğlu, School of Social Sciences, Bahçeşehir University.

“International educational exchange is the most significant current project designed to continue the process of humanizing mankind to the point, we would hope, that men can learn to live in peace—eventually even to cooperate in constructive activities rather than compete in a mindless contest of mutual destruction....We must try to expand the boundaries of human wisdom, empathy and perception, and there is no way of doing that except through education.”

J. William Fulbright, from remarks on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Fulbright Program, 1976.

AMERICAN PROGRAMS

The English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Program

The English Teaching Assistantship Program participants gathered at their mid-year evaluation meeting in Ankara on February 24-25, 2012.

All of the 60 ETAs who have been teaching English at 20 different Turkish universities



2011-2012 ETA Mid-Year Evaluation Meeting, Ankara

attended the meeting and shared their experiences as well as evaluating the program and discussing their individual views and suggestions for future practices.

The meeting also proved to be valuable as it created a platform to witness the grantees' enrichment gained through their academic and cultural exchange in Turkey.



2011-2012 ETAs

End of Year Evaluation Meeting for U.S. Grantees



Grantees at the meeting

U.S. Grantees had their End of Year Evaluation Meeting at the Pirate's Beach Hotel in Tekirova, Antalya on May 17-20, 2012 with the attendance of the Commission Board Members and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs Ms. Bay Fang, who was also a former Fulbright grantee in Hong-Kong.



Senior Lecturers, Researchers and Student Researchers attended the End of Year Evaluation Meeting with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs and Board Members in Antalya on May 17-20, 2012.

The event provided the U.S. grantees, their families and the board members with a chance to share views, discuss individual experiences, and evaluate the program practices.

The grantees' presentations on their work during the grant period in Turkey reflected the importance and the value of the program both academically and culturally.

Stories from our U.S. Grantees

Catherine Jaffee

2008-2009 Student Researcher
Wellesley College / Boğaziçi University, İstanbul

When I first quit my job to move back to Kars, Turkey, almost every person I met would ask me: why would you ever move to a rural place like Kars? At first I could tell by their looks that they were suspicious. *Are you here to write a book? Are you here to study politics and the Armenian issue? Are you a spy, an agent, a fraud? With Turkey's beautiful seas, massive west coast tourism industry, and İstanbul, why why why would you ever go to Kars and, gasp, stay.*

"I am here to study honey," I would reply confidently.

Immediately, their faces would shift. Anyone who really knows Turkish honey understands that Northeastern Turkey has one of the most established beekeeping and honey traditions on earth. It is the birthplace of the original Caucasian bee, with an ancient trade culture around honey and local products spanning hundreds of years back to the Silk Road. Co-evolving with the endemic bee population are over 2,000 local flower species – resulting in a floral blend of so many different honey flavors, it is a wonder to think that wine tasting – in which 75% of wines are made from one grape type – instead of honey, has dominated most tasting adventures.

The market opportunity of honey tasting in a place like Northeastern Turkey is substantial (think, a unique culinary travel experience that is environmental, family friendly, and offered nowhere else). But actually, even more than a sweet business idea, its greatest potential lies in how it can shift circumstances for local women to become rural entrepreneurs.

My team and I are starting Balyolu: The



Cat Jaffee with her village anne

Honey Road to do just this. We are the first of its kind honey tasting walking tour, led and inspired by women in Turkey's Northeast. More than 10,000,000 women live in rural parts of Turkey, and although Turkey has one of the world's lowest employment rates for women (22%), women are working full-time (albeit unpaid) while they care for their large families and run small family farms. But in these remote villages, they are cut off from the city centers, so there are limited opportunities to translate this labor into income, education opportunities, or professional development.

Organic beekeeping, particularly in rural untouched areas such as Northeastern Turkey is an ideal livelihood for women, because women are stable (and therefore not moving their bees into areas with harmful crops or pesticides) and beekeeping can be done right from their backyards without taking away too much time from raising a family. However in a place like Turkey, where the word "organic" does not yet have clear quantifiable meaning, where these rural villages are isolated from local markets, where producing organic honey yields small amounts, where most of the women beekeepers we are targeting – those at the bottom of the pyramid – do

not have an education past 6th grade, these women have a hard time competing in a domestic market full of honey.

However, by subsidizing honey production with compelling nomadic travel experiences that are full of authentic cultural interactions, such as bread making workshops with a local villager, or birding with a local non-profit, we hope to use travel to create a mobile marketplace of ideas, and cultural exchanges that walk right to a woman's village. True to the Silk Road model, we are harnessing walking routes in rural areas to shift the dynamics of poverty, particularly for women. With Balyolu, over 70 percent of trip funds are reinvested directly back into local communities, through organic beekeeping, hospitality, and marketing trainings, as well as incubation of new green small businesses.

Now almost a year later, instead of people asking me *"why would you ever go to Kars?"* the much more frequent question is *"when can I book a trip?"*



Female beekeeper

Visit us at <http://www.balyolu.com> to learn more and join the movement. It's adventure at its sweetest!

Ali S. ERKAN

2011-2012 Senior Researcher
Ithaca College / Koç University, İstanbul

On February 16th and 17th (2012), I had a chance to visit Ankara to give two talks at Bilkent University. It was great to be back in the capital, having recently seen it during the Fulbright orientation. In addition, it was great to be hosted by a university with such a vibrant community. Bilkent is Bilkent for a reason.

A rather late addition to this program was a visit to Ankara Fen Lisesi (AFL). Since I do not get a chance to interact with high-school students very often, I knew the experience was going to be stimulating. But I also had a few reservations; would these students be interested in the types of things I talk about? If this is going to be my only high-school visit, will it be just a learning experience for me and a formality-hour to them? Having taught only at colleges, will my methods of engaging the audience work with this group? In addition, I was unclear about the expectations of the school officials... I knew that I was asked to talk about the Internet; but I also remembered a phrase like “the right way to use the Internet” being mentioned informally over the phone. I was not sure as to what that entailed.



*Prof. Ali S. Erkan presentation at
Bilkent University in Ankara*



Prof. Ali S. Erkan presentation at Ankara Science High School

Moments like this feel like searching for the light switch in a dark room. We try to see with our hands by feeling the walls, often unsure of whether we are getting closer to our target. As the AFL room began to fill with students (which apparently exceeded 250 by the end), there was definitely a clear visual that detached the metaphor, but I still did not have a clear presentation plan even as I was being introduced.

Having a chance to speak with intelligent individuals is a luxury, as long we are not required to do a monologue. So, starting with a “what’s up?” followed by a quick vote on what these students wanted to discuss seemed like the right approach. Of course we had to go through a 5-10 minute period of awkwardness as students assessed the situation, but thanks to the patience of the teachers, who simply observed the interaction without any attempt of navigation, a natural theme slowly emerged. Specifically, we converged on the topic of education; the distractions (mostly technological) that exist for students, the occasional (and unintentional) disconnects that appear between educators and students, etc. These students knew how to be critical, they knew their own weaknesses, and they certainly knew how to articulate. In fact, I actually

missed the point of a question because I was taken by the lucidity and fluidity of the student who brought it up. As we approached the end of the 50 minute time slot, it was evident that what had started as a pseudo-presentation had turned into an authentic conversation. There was no clear beginning, there was no clear end, and almost everyone had something relevant to share.

I used to think that no stage of education is more important than another. And, to some extent, I still do. But interacting with intelligent pre-college students is something different than what we college educators experience in higher education. I believe students experience the greatest expansion of their world during the high-school years; I think this is also when they start to find themselves and to address the question of where they want to go. And, based on my experiences at AFL, these questions cannot be sufficiently addressed with presentations or answers; they seem to require conversations.

I think AFL did a huge favor to me that day, by allowing me to have a conversation with their students. I think it is critical for educators to get a feel for the entire educational pipeline.

William W. Cobern

2011-2012 Senior Lecturer
Western Michigan University / Sakarya University, Sakarya



Prof. Bill Cobern

From January 12 to 24, 2012, I was on the road to İstanbul, Çanakkale, and İzmir. In İstanbul, I met again with colleagues from Boğaziçi University to discuss a cooperative research project involving the formative

assessment of K-8 teacher's pedagogical knowledge of science instruction. I also met with a doctoral student and her advisor from Marmara University to discuss her research, which draws on some of my work. From İstanbul, we headed to Çanakkale and Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University (ÇOMU). I had similar discussions there on research and presented my lecture on "Reconstructing the Inquiry Teaching of Science." At Çanakkale, I also had an opportunity to discuss possible collaborative educational programs between Western Michigan University and



Prof. Bill Cobern during research & lecture tour

ÇOMU. Next stop: Dokuz Eylül University at beautiful İzmir. For a change of pace, my lecture was on our formative assessment work. İzmir lived up to its reputation; we had a wonderful visit.

Valentine's Party in Konya



Pictured in the photo are (from left to right) EB Pertner, James Mayer and Adnan Suleyman

Three American Turkish Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) in Konya, EB Pertner, James Mayer and Adnan Suleyman joined Senior English Language Fellow

Martha Young from the Public Affairs Bureau of the U.S. Embassy, Ankara to throw a Valentine's Day party for thirty "Access" public high school students. "Access" is a program which provides extra hours of English for economically challenged yet apt and motivated students from government schools.

The ETAs and Senior Fellow first met at the ETAs' offices in Selçuk University to plan the party and to make sample valentines to take to the school. Arriving at the school with snacks, the ETAs and Senior Fellow with the help of the local teachers used Bingo, Frank Sinatra, the Beatles and plenty



Valentine's Day party for thirty "Access" public high school students

of paper, scissors, markers, glitter and stickers to explore the history of Valentine's Day and various cultural celebrations that take place on February 14th, and to teach new English vocabulary and phrases.

Abdulaziz K. Said

2010-2012 ETA
Syracuse University / Nevşehir University, Nevşehir



Abdulaziz Said at Youth and Sports Day on May 19, 2012

Gregory CAMPBELL

2011-2012 ETA Pittsburg State University, Balıkesir University, Balıkesir



Gregory Campbell giving a violin lesson to students

TURKISH PROGRAMS

The Fulbright Student Core Program



Turkish Fulbright Grantees (2012-2013) at the Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar in Ankara.

The Fulbright Student Core Program awards funds towards M.A. or Ph.D. degrees or Ph.D. dissertation research. Out of 64 nominees who were selected in 2011 by highly experienced committees, 38 have been placed in various compatible programs at U.S. universities to date. The placement process generally ends at the end of August and we are hopeful that all of the selected will have been placed by then.

On April 9, 2012, we received 720 new applications for the 2013-2014 academic year. The selection committees are still evaluating the dossiers to determine the most successful candidates who will be invited to the interviews in order to determine the Fulbright Core Program nominees for the 2013-2014 academic year.

International Science and Technology Award Program

This year, Mr. İlker Karakaşoğlu was selected as the principal grantee for the Science and Technology Program. He is from Bilkent University (Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering) and just like the former grantee, Beliz Uğurhan, he is going to start his doctoral program at Stanford University in August 2012.

The Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program

At the end of 2011, 20 nominees were selected by the committees to be placed at U.S. universities and teach Turkish Language and Culture in the academic year 2012-2013. Fifteen of the nominees were determined as principals by J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and they are leaving to begin their program at the end of August.

Scholar in Residence Program

The program is developed to assist U.S. colleges and universities including minority serving institutions and Community Colleges to foster greater student, faculty, and community understanding of foreign peoples and cultures. In 2012, the Commission has not been requested to coordinate the visit of a Turkish scholar.

Community College Summit Initiative Program

The Turkish Program staff manage the Community College Initiative (CCI) Program to select Turkish Vocational School students to attend an U.S. Community College for one academic year in a certificate program.

In 2011, 12 candidates were selected for the 2012-2013 academic program. The placement process has recently been finalized and ten of the candidates have been placed at various Community



Students in the Community College Initiative Program Pre-Departure Orientation held in Ankara

Colleges in the United States. Program grantees will start their program in June or August, according to their English level and Pre-Academic Orientation Program dates.

The Community College Initiative Program Pre-Departure Orientation was held on June 1, 2012 at the Fulbright Office in Ankara. All ten selected candidates participated in the session. Information about life and culture in the U.S. were provided and questions concerning details of the program were addressed. A CCIP Alumni, Gamze Çelik, was invited to guide the students and talk about her experience in the U.S.A.

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

The Humphrey fellows are mid-level leaders dedicated to public service. The fellows of this grant program undertake academic study in their fields and attain work related experience for one year.

For the 2012-2013 academic year, nine candidates were recommended to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board by the selection committee. Decisions were finalized in February 2012, with two of the candidates starting the Long-Term English Program at the end of March and two of the principal candidates preparing to start their program in Summer, 2012. Three of the alternate candidates' status have not been determined yet and two of the candidates were not recommended by the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program Committee.

The next application deadline for the Humphrey Fellowship Program will be on



Candidates for the Humphrey Program at the Fulbright Office in Ankara

August 31, 2012.

A Pre-Departure Orientation Session for the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program was held on March 16, 2012. Six applicants who were nominated for the program in 2012 participated. In the session, the candidates were informed



Hubert H. Humphrey Recruitment Poster

about the program as well as about cultural and economic aspects of life in the United States. Two Fulbright Alumni, Serpil Atalay and Özlem Durmuş, shared their own Humphrey experiences with candidates and provided them with important tips and pieces of information that will make their journey more enjoyable.

The Visiting Scholar Program

The Visiting Scholar Program awards researchers who have doctoral degrees with a grant to conduct full-time advanced research at the post doctoral level at a U.S. university for six months.

In the year 2011, the Commission received

a total of 30 research project proposals for the year 2012. Eleven researchers were selected by the Commission and all of them were awarded by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. The researchers are going to start their programs in 2012 Summer and Fall.

The Commission organized an Orientation Session for the grantees of the Senior Scholar Program on January 20, 2012. In the orientation session, details of the program were discussed and grantees' questions on various subjects were addressed.

The Visiting Scholar Program is now



Senior Scholar Grantees at Pre-Departure Orientation Session held in Ankara

accepting applications for the 2013-2014 academic year. The deadline for applications is October 12, 2012. Detailed information about the program can be found on our website.

<http://www.fulbright.org.tr/tr/turk/doktora-sonrasi-arastirma>



Visiting Scholar Program Recruitment Poster

News From Our Grantees



Didem Türkoğlu,

2011-2012 Fulbright Grantee to University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Sociology, Ph.D.

what I have learned is not necessarily confined to the walls of a classroom. Being a Fulbrighter added another dimension to being an international Ph.D. student in the U.S. I am not only a part of the community in my department but I am also part of a community of bright people who are dedicated to making a contribution to the world, to their community and to the academia. This experience of meeting those amazing people has made quite an impact on me. So much to see, so much to

learn, so much to share and so many bonds to form... Friends from UNC, Fulbright Enrichment Seminars and alumni events in North Carolina gave just a glimpse. I hope I am able to contribute to this experience as well by presenting different perspectives or simply by being part of the community. In which ways I have changed, it is hard to tell even if I feel the change. I still continue my journey. As J. R. R. Tolkien notes: "The road goes ever on and on/Down from the door where it began."

The Fulbright Scholarship selection process, Ph.D. applications and starting a Ph.D. in the U.S.A. were all part of a long journey. As is the case with most journeys, at least the best ones, you never know where the road will take you. When I learned that I was selected as a Fulbright candidate, I was in the middle of a national archery tournament. My teammates were there to share my joy. A year later when I learned that I got accepted into the Sociology Ph.D. program at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (UNC), I was trying to make a decision between two other departments. I was in my office at Boğaziçi University where I was working as an administrative assistant. I remember jumping out of my chair when I read the e-mail of acceptance. This time, I was able to share my joy with my friends and colleagues working in Boğaziçi. Sure, it was a long and tough road. Travelling on it required a lot of patience. I think the process itself taught all of us who took this road, how to deal with frustration and stress as well as how to share joy and support each other.

Coming to the U.S.A. was a whole new chapter in my life. I have met some very amazing people and learned so much. Moreover,



Fulbright Grantees from all over the world in North Carolina



Fulbright Enrichment Seminar in Denver

ALUMNI AFFAIRS

The Fulbright Alumni Association of Turkey was founded on April 20, 1992. It is a member of the State Alumni of Fulbright and European Network of American Alumni Associations. The website address of the Fulbright Alumni Association of Turkey is www.fulbrightalumni.org.tr and the Fulbright Alumni in Turkey can contact the association by sending an e-mail to Prof. Fetih Yildirim at fyildirim@cankaya.edu.tr



Fulbright Alumni at Middle East Technical University

Senator J. William Fulbright, and for this reason the Fulbright Alumni Association of Turkey organized a panel to discuss "The Importance of Fulbright Scholarship

Programs and their Positive Effects on the Professional Life of the Grantees". The panel was held on the Middle East Technical University Campus on April 27, 2012. The panelists were the Rector of the Middle East Technical University Prof. Ahmet Acar, Prof. Nuri Akkaş, Prof. Nesrin Hasırcı and Prof. Zafer Durusoy. Dr. Ersel Aydın, the Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission, also participated in the panel and gave information about the Fulbright Scholarship Programs.

April 9, 2012 was the 107th birthday of

The Alumni Mentorship Program is being designed in an attempt to bring together Fulbright alumni and recently selected Fulbright grantees. By sharing their experiences with grantees, the alumni are expected to provide guidance about academic and cultural life in the U.S.A. They are also expected to help grantees during their re-entry and adaptation period in Turkey.

An Alumni Mentorship Project meeting was held on February 3, 2012. Participants were Fulbright alumni from various fields and institutions. During the meeting, the purpose and targeted group of the project were agreed upon and a projected outline for the project was discussed. Participants demonstrated their dedication to Fulbright by putting forward creative ideas and



Fulbright Alumni at the Mentorship Project Meeting in Ankara

volunteering for tasks in different phases of the project.

Haldun Taşman, a former Fulbright Grantee at Columbia University in the 1966-67 academic year, is one of the founders of the Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF) in New York, U.S.A. TPF is a non-governmental organization whose aim is to promote effective giving to Turkey and to establish a

culture of philanthropy within the Turkish-American society. On May 17, 2011 The Turkish Embassy in Washington D.C. hosted the members and supporters of TPF, and Ambassador Namık Tan presented a plaque to Haldun Taşman for his philanthropic work on both sides of the Atlantic.



HAYATINI SEÇEN KADIN

"hocaların hocası"
Nermin Abadan Unat



Nermin Abadan Unat, Fulbright Grantee in 1952 at the University of Minnesota, the first female political scientist and one of the first women journalists of Turkey, is still teaching at Boğaziçi University. Prof. Unat was awarded with the Vehbi Koç Award in 2011 for her contributions in the field of education. A recent book, in the format of an interview, has been published. The interview in the book is conducted by Sedef Kabaş, who is also a former Fulbright Grantee at Boston University in the 1993-94 academic year.

Fulbright and EducationUSA Advisors organized lunches with the Fulbright Alumni in some of the cities they visited. In these lunches the Alumni and our advisors had the chance to learn more about each other and to make their ties stronger.

Advising Coordinator Ms. Mevlüde Bakır met with Alumni, ETA and ELF Grantees at İnönü University in Malatya.



ADVISING PROGRAM

The advising section of our Commission is responsible for introducing the Fulbright Scholarship Programs and for giving information about higher education in the U.S.A. In the 2011-2012 academic year, Fulbright and EducationUSA Advisors gave presentations at universities all around Turkey about Fulbright Scholarship Programs and other study options in the U.S.A. Apart from these presentations, “*Effective Fulbright Application Seminars*” were 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. Our advisors also gave presentations at some high schools for students who wish to study in the U.S.A. In these presentations detailed information about the application packet and admissions exams is given to the students. In addition to the presentations given for high school and university students, sessions on “*How to Write a Successful Statement of Purpose*” were held in Ankara and İstanbul. Many

students from different levels of education attended these sessions.

Advisors also attended education fairs held in Ankara and İstanbul to provide objective information about study in the U.S.A.

Since the Internet is one of the main tools of communication of today’s world, webchats are organized for students who do not have access to our offices and who wish to ask questions regarding study in the U.S.A.

During the 2011-2012 academic year, our advisors joined radio programs at some of the universities they visited, and they gave detailed information about Fulbright Scholarship Programs.

For all students who are going to study in the U.S.A. our *Pre-Departure Orientation Sessions* can be considered as the best gateway to life in the U.S.A. In these sessions, which will be held on June 18 and July 18 in Ankara, and June 25 and July 17 in İstanbul, students will be informed about different topics such as

culture shock and how to overcome it, health insurance and vaccinations, accommodation options, how to open a bank account and so on. At the end of these sessions there will be a Q&A part for students to ask their questions.

Ministry of National Education Grantees can also get advice from our advisors, 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.

Students who wish to study in the U.S.A. can also reach our advisors via e-mail and phone. For one-on-one advising we would like students to make an appointment with our advisors.

In order to attend and be informed about our seminars and sessions in different cities, please visit our calendar on www.fulbright.org.tr



EDUCATIONUSA

EducationUSA is a global network of more than 400 advising centers supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the U.S. Department of State. ECA aims to help to nourish the cultural, professional and institutional connections between America and institutions and students abroad.

EducationUSA Opportunity funds provide small grants for students who are highly qualified and likely to be awarded substantial institutional financial aid, but would have



difficulty paying the up-front costs of applying to U.S. universities, test prep classes, test fees, postage expenses, Visa/SEVIS fees and the cost of international airfare. Applicants from all academic levels who intend to pursue a degree can apply for assistance. For detailed information about the Opportunity funds please visit:

<http://www.fulbright.org.tr/tr/abdegitim/egitim-masraflarn-karsilama/opportunity-funds>

AMERICAN CORNERS

American Corners are joint partnerships between the Public Affairs sections of U.S. Embassies and host institutions. They provide access to current information about the U.S.A. via book collections, the Internet, and through local programming to the general public. Sponsored jointly by a U.S. Embassy and a host country organization, an American Corner serves as an information outpost similar to a public library reference service.

The multimedia, book and periodical collections are open and accessible to members of the host institution and usually to the general public. Associated reading or meeting rooms are made available to host program events and activities (i.e. author readings, films, speaker programs, workshops, meetings, and exhibits). American Corners also provide access to the Internet, audio and video products and CD-ROMs.

In Turkey, there are five American Corners in five different regions, two in the West



American Corner in Bursa

and three in Central and Eastern Anatolia; Bursa, Erzurum, Gaziantep, İzmir and Kayseri.

American Corners are much more than just

a collection of books, magazines, and multimedia equipment; they are a wonderful example of a shared space where American and Turkish culture can meet.

SUCCESS STORIES FROM ADVISEES

How did you hear about the Opportunity Grants program?

Since Fulbright and EducationUSA Advisors provide free advising services about the application process to U.S. universities and about education in the U.S.A., I used to visit the Fulbright İstanbul Office frequently for my college applications. Thus, I heard about the program from Fulbright and EducationUSA Advisors.

What do you think was the most important factor that helped you to be awarded with an Opportunity Grant?

I was a very active and a motivated student. In addition, given my academic strength



Arman Uygur is a graduate of Galatasaray High School in İstanbul. He is studying Mechanical Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) with a scholarship both from WPI and a private foundation in Turkey. He also received funding from EducationUSA's Opportunity Grants Program prior to his departure for the U.S.A.

and achievements, I believe I was a strong candidate. So, both my successful academic background and my participation in social activities helped me receive the Opportunity Grants funding.

What would you advise to Turkish students who wish to study in the U.S.A.?

They should do research about the universities

carefully. They should not give priority to the general rankings of the universities while determining the colleges they are applying for. Instead, they should only consider major related rankings and observe the regional dynamics of the university and the industry. Contacting the professors from different universities prior to the applications can be a good start.

How did you decide to study in the U.S.A.?

I graduated from Bilkent University Faculty of Law in February 2008, and also had an Erasmus Exchange Semester in 2006 at Groningen University in the Netherlands where the law education was based on civil law. After my graduation, I was in charge of several cross-border transactions and working with several international clients from different jurisdictions and I realized that being well-trained in only one legal system, namely national law, is not satisfactory in today's global world. The rapid globalization especially in commerce and industry is making physical boundaries obsolete. In order to become a lawyer of the future, I thought I must be capable of handling issues that involve more than one kind of legal system. Since Turkey and the Netherlands



Ezgi Tali, a graduate of the Faculty of Law at Bilkent University, will be pursuing her LL.M degree at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). She received advising services from Fulbright and EducationUSA Advisors.

have both adopted the civil law system, I believed that a further legal education in Anglo-American law would significantly contribute to achieving my future goal. This is why I chose to study in the U.S.A. Apart from this reason, I personally prefer and like the American way of education where class participation is highly encouraged.

What piece or pieces of advice would you give to Turkish students who wish to study in the U.S.A.?

If a Turkish student wants to study in the

U.S.A., he/she should manage his/her time very well and should commence the "thinking process" quite early. Students should first think about what kind of education they want and specify the area of study; and then start searching for universities. TOEFL and IELTS examinations could be very tough because they both have special techniques, so I highly recommend students to take these exams at least 3-4 months before the application process starts.

How and why did you decide to study in the U.S.A.?

When I decided to pursue an MBA I had no doubt that the U.S.A. was the right place. That's because U.S. universities have a very high reputation wherever you go in the world. I believe reputation is a natural result of high quality education. The second reason for my decision was the multicultural environment that is provided by U.S. universities. I think studying in the U.S.A. is a great opportunity to become a member of a global alumni network.

How did you hear about The Turkish Fulbright Commission's EducationUSA advising service and how did you contact us?

I attended the Deutsche Schule İstanbul for high school. Many of my friends used to get



Burak Gündoğdu, a graduate of the Department of Economics at Middle East Technical University, will be doing an MBA at the University of Notre Dame with a full MBA Fellowship. He received advising services from Fulbright and EducationUSA Advisors.

help from the Fulbright Commission. I heard about the Commission from my high school friends. I contacted the EducationUSA Advisors via e-mail a couple of times. I also had appointments at the center twice. They were very quick in replying to my e-mails and arranging my appointment requests. I had some questions about the essays that were required for the applications. In addition to that, I received official approval for the translation of some of my transcripts. Their help was extremely useful.

What would you recommend to Turkish students who wish to study in the U.S.A.?

I think it is very important to get to know the school that you are applying to. For example, the essays should be unique for each school and should give some insight about your knowledge of the school. I believe it is crucial to identify a number of schools that have the potential to meet your needs and at the same time look for students like you.

SCENES FROM THE COMMISSION'S ADVISING ACTIVITIES AND SCHOOL VISITS



How to Write A Successful Statement of Purpose Seminar in Ankara



Effective Fulbright Application Seminar in Ankara



Information Session on Study in the U.S.A. at the Fulbright Commission in Ankara



Osman Solmaz, who is an English Language Instructor at Dicle University in Diyarbakır, will start his Ph.D studies at the University of Arizona as of August 2012. Osman joined our advisors during their visit to Harran University in Şanlıurfa and shared his experiences with the students.



Istanbul Office Advisors at an Educational Fair in Istanbul



Fulbright Student Programs Presentation at Selçuk University in Konya



Presentation on Study in the U.S.A. for Ministry of National Education Grantees at Hacettepe University in Ankara



Fulbright Student Programs Presentation at Mustafa Kemal University in Hatay



Fulbright Student Programs Presentation at Süleyman Demirel University in Isparta



Radio program at Karadeniz Technical University in Trabzon



İstek Belde High School Career Fair in İstanbul



Study in the U.S.A. for Undergraduate Education Presentation at Bilkent High School in Ankara

AN INSPIRING STORY

Prof. Filiz Ali went to the U.S.A. on a Fulbright Scholarship in 1959. She came back to Turkey after completing her education in the field of music and started working in her country. She dedicated her life to music, and is also the founder of the Ayvalık Music Academy.

Can you briefly tell us about your background?

I was born in İstanbul and grew up in Ankara. I graduated from the Department of Piano at Ankara State Conservatory in 1958. Upon my graduation, I was awarded with a Fulbright Scholarship and went to the U.S.A. in 1959. First, I went to the New England Conservatory in Boston for a year, and then I continued my education in New York at Mannes College of Music for 2 years. When I came back to Turkey, I taught at the Ankara State Conservatory from 1962 to 1965. I got married in 1965 and came to İstanbul. Since there was no conservatory in İstanbul at that time, I started working as a répétiteur at the İstanbul City Opera. In 1972 a state conservatory was founded in İstanbul, so I started working there. I was both an assistant piano instructor and a répétiteur. In the meantime, I continued producing music programmes for the Ankara radio here in İstanbul. At those times there was only Turkish Radio Television (TRT) radio and I prepared radio programmes for TRT for 25 years. In addition to these, I had started writing articles about music after I returned from the U.S.A., and I continued writing these articles for some music magazines and then for Cumhuriyet newspaper. I even prepared a separate music page in the Cumhuriyet newspaper in the 1980s and 1990s. While I was doing these, concerts were also taking place. Some of these concerts were chamber music concerts, and some of them were “lied” concerts that I performed with a German soprano. We had lots of recordings for İstanbul and Ankara radio stations. In 1989 a concert hall was



Fulbright Students, 17 August 1959

built for the municipality and I became the first art director of that concert hall. Now this concert hall is known as Cemal Reşit Rey Concert Hall. After this, in 1998 I started working for founding an International Music Academy in Ayvalık.

Where does your interest for music stem from? How did you decide to take music education?

When my father was alive, I had a tutor for piano. At that time, I was the student of a Hungarian pianist who used to teach at Ankara State Conservatory. After my father passed away, I took the exams for the Ankara State Conservatory and I was accepted. As a result, I decided to be a pianist by playing the piano and by watching movies about Chopin when I was little. I spent my childhood on opera and theatre back stages because my



Fulbright Students, Albany, New York 1959

father was teaching at Opera and Theater departments. That’s why I could not think of another lifestyle, and I am very glad that I got acquainted with this world at an early age.

How did you learn about Fulbright Scholarship programs? Did you have any other international experience before being awarded with Fulbright Scholarship?

I had a great interest for English when I was studying at the State Conservatory. Apart from the English courses that I took at the conservatory, I also had a tutor for English. There used to be lots of American families in Ankara when I was a teenager, and at the age of 15, I started tutoring children of these American families. I taught them how to play the piano. Then when I was a senior student at the conservatory, a conductor from the U.S.A. came to conduct the Presidential Symphony Orchestra. He was looking for an assistant who would both be a musician and would have a good command of English to translate all the programs and rehearsals. He found me through my American contacts, and since I was still a student, I got permission from my school to help him. I went to the rehearsals every morning. He advised me to study in the U.S.A. and informed me about the Fulbright Scholarship programs.

How did you feel when you first went to the U.S.A.? How did you find it and what were the things that attracted your attention in the first place?

When I first got off the plane, I thought that I was in outer space. Especially the skyscrapers gave me the impression that I was in another world. I attended an orientation program at

Bennington College. That place looked like the places that we see in the movies. It was like a dream. I woke up from that dream when I went to Boston. The dorm in Boston was built in the 19th century and it was really old. However, I can easily say that the U.S.A. is the place that broadened my horizons and I was really happy during my 3-year stay in the U.S.A.

How has an education in the U.S.A. affected your personal and academic life?

I went to the U.S.A. in 1959, and in 1960 John F. Kennedy was running for the presidency.



Boston 1960

All my American friends were democrats. I remember the election campaigns at those times pretty well. However, there was still racism in the U.S.A. at those times. When I went to New York, I stayed with a wealthy family, and I did not pay them any rent. All I had to do in return was to look after their two little kids at the weekends. When I was staying at their house, I went to a concert with one of my African-American friends. When we came back at night, he did not get out of the car to say goodbye, which he normally would. I could not understand why he did not get out of the car for a while, but then learned that it was because of racism and that he did not want to be seen in a wealthy neighborhood. Of course the U.S.A. helped me broaden my horizons and enabled me to

become more open-minded and objective. I realized the importance of personal freedom and freedom of expression in the U.S.A., and I came back to Turkey with attainments like respecting others and the opinions of others and cooperation.

When you came back to Turkey, did you notice many changes?

When I returned to Turkey, the May 27 military coup had already taken place. I was really shocked at many things, but still we could see that Turkey was becoming a more open-minded country. At that time there were many open-minded and valuable people in Ankara. I had the chance to work with them and apply the things I learned from them by making radio programmes and translations and by writing articles. I became a better teacher. I can easily tell you that the education I received in the U.S.A. helped me overcome those obstacles.

As a Fulbrighter have you blazed a trail for your colleagues? Did they also go to the U.S.A.?

During the initial years I came back to Turkey, I realized that people looked down on the ones who completed their education in the U.S.A. In Music, a European education was considered more important, because people used to think that the U.S.A. was a country of no history, and thus people assumed that one would not learn many things about music in the U.S.A.

Many people went to the U.S.A. after me. The U.S.A. later became a renowned country in art and music, but I have had an admiration and interest for the U.S.A. since I was 15-16. When I was 15, I used to go to a U.S. camp in Çiftahavuzlar in the summer months. People would always speak in English at that camp.

What have you been doing recently?

I teach classes like "Major Works of Classical Music" and "20th Century Music" once a



Prof. Ali in İstanbul in February in 2012

week at Sabancı University. I have music articles that are being published in Milliyet Sanat. I am writing my memoirs. I have a recent book. The title of this book is 'Travels with Music'. Before this book there was the book titled Filiz Should Never Be Sad, which was about my father. It was a book with photographs taken by Sabahattin Ali and my memories. I am the Chairman of the Board of the association founded by Ayvalık International Music Academy (<http://www.ayvalik-music.com/>). Apart from all these, I am the Chairman of the Board of the Ayvalık Culture and Art Foundation.

What can you advise to today's Fulbright grantees and scholars, especially to the ones in the field of music?

First of all, they should complete their education in Turkey in the best way they can and learn English very well. It is very important to know a language and to use it. They should have self-confidence, and be open to everything. Being positive is also very important.

Would you like to go to the U.S.A. again with a Fulbright Scholarship?

It is a privilege to be a Fulbright grantee and it is a lifelong prestige. It is a very important and beneficial scholarship program. I am very glad to have received it. I regard the work done by Senator Fulbright as very important. How nice it is for his family to have such a heritage. I wish we had politicians like him and that there was a law in Turkey for students to benefit from.

NEWS FROM OUR COMMISSION



Ms. Bay Fang participated in the Fulbright End of Year Evaluation Meeting in Antalya on May 18, 2012.

Ms. Bay Fang, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs; Dr. Ersel Aydın, Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission.



Dr. Ersel Aydın, Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission, joined Turkish President Abdullah Gül's official visit to Tunisia on March 7-8, 2012.



A Farewell Party for Fulbright Board Members was given on February 22, 2012

(From left to right) Prof. İhsan Dağ, Department of International Relations Middle East Technical University; Assoc. Prof. Fatma Taşkın, Department of Economics Bilkent University; Mr. John T. McCarthy, Chairman of the Commission Board; Ms. Esra Demir, Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Mark A. Wentworth, Public Affairs Officer U.S. Embassy in Ankara; Dr. Ersel Aydın, Executive Director Turkish of the Fulbright Commission.

New Members of Our Commission Staff

In 2012 two new members have joined our staff in our Ankara Office.

Ms. Dr. Günsü İnan is our new Turkish Programs Officer.

Ms. Aslı P. Başaran is the new American Programs Assistant.



Ms. Seher Türkyılmaz Sinclair, Financial & Administrative Officer of the Commission, visited the Education and Culture Affairs of State Department on April 2-3, 2012 in Washington D.C.
Ms. Sinclair with Mr. Joe McCormick, Desk Officer for Europe.



Ms. Seher Türkyılmaz Sinclair, Financial & Administrative Officer of the Commission, visited the International Institute of Education (IIE) on April 4-6, 2012 in New York.
(From left to right) Ms. Seher Türkyılmaz Sinclair; Mr. Arthur Austin, Assistant Director for IIE Foreign Fulbright Programs Division of Europe and Eurasia; Ms. Kristina Hestvik, Program Officer for IIE Foreign Fulbright Programs Division of Europe and Eurasia.

FULBRIGHT



TURKEY

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

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