

Inspiring Story

Göksel Kortay

Fulbright Alumna '62



“Fulbright is the most important milestone and a major turning point in my life.”

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From the Executive Director

Dear Fulbright Friends,

Welcome to the 8th issue of our biannual newsletter. We've had a great year here at the Turkish Fulbright Commission.

For our Turkish student program we dramatically increased the annual grant amount from \$35,000 to \$50,000, making it now one of the most generous grants in Turkey for students seeking to conduct graduate studies abroad. We've also seen continued growing interest from American students and scholars wanting to research and teach here in Turkey. Over the last 5 years the number of American Fulbrighters in Turkey has nearly quadrupled. As part of this rise, this year we will have 100 Fulbright-English Teaching Assistants all around the country, making ours the largest ETA program at the university level in the world. We've also just had a great end-of-year meeting with our American scholars and students, and through their excellent presentations witnessed the varied and fascinating teaching, researching and learning outcomes from their experiences. Once again we were reminded what great things a Fulbright year can produce—both professionally and individually.

We continue to celebrate the Commission's **65th anniversary**, which will wrap up this fall with the release of our documentary, featuring interviews with several pioneering Fulbrighters who have come through our Commission. In the documentary you will see the life-long transformative impact of these individuals' Fulbright experiences, and also enjoy some musical surprises.

This year we also awarded a special **65th anniversary scholarship** for an American citizen to attend a Turkish university for a full graduate degree. This is the first scholarship of its type not only in the Commission's history but, we believe, in Turkey, and we hope this will trigger the awarding of such scholarships in the future.

The Commission, our partners and cooperating agencies have worked hard this year, and I'd like to wish all of them—and all of you—a well-deserved summer holiday season.

Dr. Ersel Aydınlı

An Inspiring Story

Göksel Kortay, renowned Turkish actress, voice actor, translator and academician, received the Fulbright grant to pursue a master's degree for the 1960-1961 academic year. She studied acting and directing at Boston University.

Ms. Kortay fell in love with drama and acting at a very early age and since then she has been dedicated to both. She believes that the key to success is to be passionate about what you are doing and not to give up under any circumstance.

Ms. Kortay has acted in more than 150 plays and over 20 Turkish films and television series. Kortay served as a director at the Theater Actors Association for 12 years and as a jury member in the Afife Jale Theater Awards for five years. Kortay continues to direct and act in plays while also teaching at the university level.

(You can read our interview with Ms. Kortay on pages 7, 8, 9 & 10)



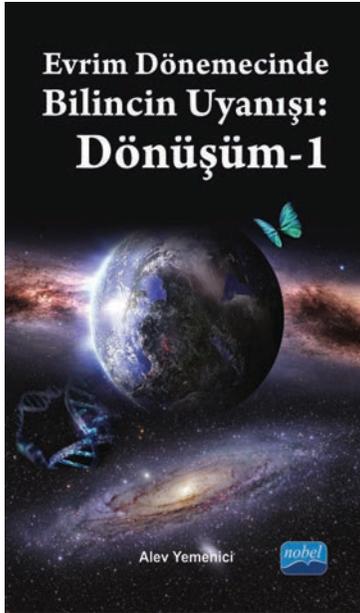
New Member of Our Commission Board

Prof. Naci Gündoğan, Rector of Anadolu University in Eskişehir is a new member on our Commission Board. We are pleased to have Prof. Gündoğan on our

Commission Board and look forward to working with him.

News from Our Alumni

An Interesting Book to Read



Evrim Dönemecinde Bilincin Uyanışı: Dönüşüm 1 (*Awakening of Consciousness at the Turn of Evolution: Metamorphosis 1*), written by Alev Yemenici and published in March 2015, aims to reveal the potential of the awakened human mind in creating global peace and to emphasize the undeniable power of education in this process. The book studies the limits to the expansion of human awareness, emphasizing the urgent need to transform and transmute the violence directed towards self and others by initiating a volitional evolutionary mutation at the cellular level. By

providing information on how the brain works and how the brain is shaped by the inner climate and outer circumstances that translate themselves as inner urges, the writer directs our attention towards debilitating factors such as pre-natal, natal and post-natal traumatic experiences, violence and stress throughout the developmental stages of the brain. Within this framework, the role of brain-based education, multiple intelligences and emotional intelligence as constructs of a peace education model is emphasized. As a way of moving beyond our basic survival urges, the awakened human can create nourishing environments for the brain to enrich itself to design unique and creative solutions to social, scientific and intercultural problems, and enact unique innovative ideas for the whole society to reconstruct itself *with* peace and *in* peace. The writer argues that the major contributor to this transformation is education, which can bridge the gap between the unaware self and the transformed self for a promising future in a more compassionate and peaceful world. The book's main purpose is to play a part in the awakening of the human desire and creating a sense of longing for Universal Peace, providing ideas for reconstructing the self:

"If we really want to create heaven on earth, we must encourage our children to expand beyond their limitations so that they can choose universal love and peace in their endeavors, so that they evolve the consciousness of being of selfless service to the world with their unique innovative contributions" (p. 408).

New President of the Fulbright Alumni Association of Turkey

Ms. Jülide Yalçın, who completed her master's degree at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston in 1994 with the Fulbright Grant, became the President of the Fulbright Alumni Association of Turkey in January 2015. Ms. Yalçın is the Concertmaster of the Presidential Symphony Orchestra, the Head of the Turkish Philharmonic Association and the Founder of the Suzuki Music Education Association of Turkey. We wish her all the best as the new president of the association, and we look forward to the activities the association will be organizing to connect the Fulbright alumni in Turkey.



The 35th Year of the Humphrey Program in Turkey and the 20th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Humphrey Alumni Association of Turkey

The 35th year of the Humphrey Program in Turkey and the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Humphrey Alumni Association of Turkey were celebrated in an Alumni Dinner organized by the Humphrey Alumni Association on March 6, 2015. The alumni of the Humphrey Program (including the first and the latest alumni members) as well as the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer and the Deputy Executive Director of our Commission were present in this special evening.

The Association's new President Ms. Ayşegül Çerçi highlighted the program features and the impacts of the Humphrey experiences on alumni and talked about the past achievements and future plans of the Association in her opening remarks.



Alumna with Many Awards in Movie Directing



Nisan Dağ, who graduated in 2013 from the MFA Film Directing Program at Columbia University with scholarships from Fulbright, the Mithat Alam Education Foundation (MAEV) and Columbia University, wrote feature scripts and directed short movies that were screened at festivals in the USA during her studies in New York. The movie “**Deniz Seviyesi**” (*Across the Sea*), which she co-directed with Ms. Esra Saydam, is a Turkish-American co-production filmed in New York and Ayvalık. The movie premiered in Turkey at the Istanbul Film Festival in April 2014. This movie won the Best Director Award at the 2014 Adana Altın Koza Film Festival and the Audience Award for Narrative Feature at the 21st Slamdance Film Festival in Utah in 2015.

FLTA Alumnus Success in Photography

Ferhat Bayık, who completed the FLTA Program in May 2015, has a passion for photography, and he says that his passion for photography and visual arts started when he was in high school. Since then, he has been taking photos. During his FLTA Program in Miami, Florida he had a chance to visit Peru and partake in its culture. When he was in Peru, he went to Cusco and Machu Picchu where he took photos of a Peruvian lady and llama smiling at the camera. That photo took first place in the 2015 Florida International University International Photo Contest. In addition, his first book, which was published by Kozmos Publishing House, focuses on culture from a philosophical perspective. In this book he highlights the clash between rural and urban life by portraying culture as the responsible element. The book is titled *Culture Concept through Historical and Philosophical Aspects*, which is currently available in Turkish and soon will be released online.



News from the Commission

Annual Meeting of European Fulbright Executive Directors



On April 15-17 2015, Turkey's Fulbright Executive Director Dr. Ersel Aydınli attended the European Fulbright Executive Directors Annual Meeting, held this year in Lisbon. The Executive Directors from 21 European countries and Canada attended the session. They were joined by Richard Mei, US State Department Branch Chief of the European

and Eurasian Programs Office, and by Joseph McCormick, Academic Exchange Specialist. Among the many issues discussed at the three day meeting were the state of transatlantic exchange and Fulbright's role in it, practical strategies for managing and growing local programs, and new initiatives serving Fulbright's future.

Board Meeting in Our İstanbul Office



The Commission's board meeting took place in our İstanbul Office on February 23, 2015. Meeting participants were (from left to right) Dr. Ersel Aydınli, Executive Director of the Commission; Dr. Ahmet Ademoğlu, Rector of İstanbul Şehir University; Mr. Kaya Arıkoğlu, Architect and Urban Designer at Arıkoğlu Arkitekt Company; Dr. Ömer Açıkgöz, Deputy Undersecretary at the Ministry of National Education; Mr. John Thomas McCarthy, Chairman of our

Commission Board and Chairman of the Board of Directors at ING Bank Turkey; Dr. Jonathan Henick, Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara; Mr. Charles F. Hunter, U.S. Consul General in İstanbul; Ms. Şebnem İncesu, Deputy Director General for Cultural Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Dr. Semih Aktekin, Director General for Higher Education and International Education Directorate at the Ministry of National Education.



NAFSA Conference in Boston

Our Executive Director Dr. Ersel Aydınli and Advising Coordinator Ms. Bahar Deniz Türkaslan participated in the NAFSA Conference, which was held in Boston between May 24-29, 2015. While in Boston, Dr. Aydınli and Ms. Türkaslan paid a visit to the Turkish Consulate General in Boston and had a meeting with the Consul General Mr. Ömür Budak.

A Get Together with Our Alumni in Boston



We organized a happy hour to get together with our alumni located particularly in the New England area in the U.S.A. It was great to catch up with our alumni and enable them to meet each other as well. This was the first time we organized a happy hour in the U.S.A. and we are planning to organize others when we are in the States.

Prof. Randal B. Woods Speech on Senator Fulbright



Prof. Woods, who is the author of "Fulbright: A Biography" (Cambridge University Press, 1995) gave a speech on Senator J. William Fulbright's career and philosophy on May 26, 2015 in İstanbul at the Sabancı University İstanbul Policy Center in Karaköy. U.S. Consul General Mr. Charles F. Hunter, the Deputy Executive Director of Our Commission Ms. Seher Türkyılmaz Sinclair and the Fulbright grantees and alumni participated in this event.



Visit to Our Grantee's Exhibition

Our İstanbul office Acting Director and Educational Adviser Ms. Merih Uğurel Kamsılı visited our U.S. Scholar Program grantee Dr. Nihad Dukhan's calligraphy collection exhibition, "Spiritual Geometry", at İstanbul Technical University's Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Üzeyir Garih Hall.

Happy Hour in Our İstanbul Office



We organized a "Happy Hour" on March 27, 2015 in our İstanbul Office to get together

with our American Program grantees, who are based in İstanbul, and Turkish Student Core Program candidates, who are nominated for the 2015-2016 academic year to study in the U.S.A. Our Executive Director Dr. Ersel Aydınli, Dr. Craig Dicker, Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Consulate in İstanbul, and Mr. Christopher Medalis, EducationUSA Regional Educational Advising Coordinator (REAC), also participated in the event.

A New Member of Our Staff

Ms. Nazlı Bulgurluoğlu joined us as the Program Assistant in June. We wish Nazlı all the best in her new work environment.

Heartfelt Goodbye to Our Colleagues

We bid farewell to our colleagues Ms. Pinar Kılıçhan Şener, who was working as the Commission's Turkish Programs Assistant, and Ms. Pelin Aytekin, who was working as the Commission's Program Assistant. We are thankful for their contributions to our Commission and wish them all the best.

An Inspiring Story



(continued from page 2)

Can you briefly tell us about yourself?

I was born in İstanbul. My family had been living there for generations. I started primary school when I was about four and a half years old because I had a friend who was about three years older than me who would go to school every day and leave me on my own. This made me very sad and I cried a lot. So my parents took me to the school and the school accepted me as a guest student. We were in Ankara in those years because of my father's job, so I completed the first grade in Ankara. Then we returned to İstanbul, and I completed primary school and middle school in İstanbul. Afterwards, I was accepted to Robert College in İstanbul. With strong English language skills and a successful academic performance in general, I skipped one year of the two-year preparatory class at Robert College. I always was a successful, disciplined and hardworking student, and I always listened to my teachers carefully during

class time and took notes.

When I graduated from Robert College, some of my friends went to the U.S.A. for education. Studying drama and acting in the U.S.A. also was one of my biggest dreams. However, both studying in the U.S.A. and studying drama were two plans that my father was totally against. He told me not to mention those ideas at all. I was really shocked by my father's reaction because my father was very interested in drama and would take the family to plays three times a week.

How did you decide to study drama?

I have acted in plays, recited poems or made speeches on every important holiday such as April 23, May 19 and October 29 since my primary school years. The plays I watched with my family since I was five-years-old made me love drama. And, of course, there was a very exciting and inspiring atmosphere at Robert College for acting because every year there would be about six productions in

Turkish and five productions in English. I would act in a majority of these plays. In those times, you had to have high grades to take part in such activities. This was most probably the main reason why I was so hardworking. I always had dreamed of being an actress since I was very young. My other ambition was to be a diplomat and my father supported that ambition. However, my heart and soul were in acting.

How did you hear about the Fulbright program and what in particular motivated you to apply to the program?

Around the time my father forbid me to go to the U.S.A. to study, I heard of the Fulbright scholarship. People around me told me that I would never receive the Fulbright scholarship in drama because they thought that the Fulbright program always chose science students. They told me not to waste my time and energy, but I did not listen to them and I submitted my application. My parents did not know anything about this application. In the meantime, I passed the written test and the English test and was called to an interview. There were about 12 people on the interview committee and the head of the committee was the renowned drama professor **İrfan Şahinbaş**. The thing I had to do was to persuade the committee that studying drama in the U.S.A. would be really beneficial for me and I would be successful in Turkey upon my return. The committee members asked me why I did not want to study in Turkey; I told them that it would be impossible to compare the quality of drama education in Turkey, where there was only one institution in İstanbul to give this education in those days, with the quality of drama education in the U.S.A. I also added that I would use what I would learn in the U.S.A. when I returned to Turkey. In short, I persuaded



A Scene from the play "Silver Cord"

them that day and I was selected. Then I realized that to be successful it is important to have self-confidence and

"I am the first grantee to receive the Fulbright scholarship in Turkey in drama."

make others believe in you. I am the first grantee to receive the Fulbright scholarship in Turkey in literature/drama.

How did your parents initially react when they learned that you had been awarded the Fulbright grant?

First, I told my mother that I received the Fulbright scholarship to study in the U.S.A. I added that I would go even if my father would forbid it. My mother and I were good friends and confidants, and she was thrilled by the news of the award. We decided not to tell my father until two days before I would depart for the U.S.A. However, when my father came home that day, he already had learned I had won a Fulbright grant. Surprisingly, my father also was very excited by this news, and opened a map of the U.S.A. in front of himself trying to figure out where the Fulbright program would send me. After eight months, we learned that I would study in Boston. From the very first

day that my father learned I would study in the U.S.A. until I boarded the plane, I could not believe how easily my father had accepted the situation. Yet, before I boarded the plane, my father wanted me to make a promise to return to Turkey after one year of studying and never talk about acting again. However, after my first year, I persuaded him that I needed to stay one more year to earn my master's degree, and he agreed to that as well. Thus, I completed a three-year master's program in just two years.

Were you happy when you learned that you would study at Boston University?

At first, I did not want to go to Boston. I wanted to be either in New York City or Los Angeles because I knew there was more opportunity related to drama and acting in those cities. I went to the Fulbright office where I was urged to go to Boston first, and then if I did not like it I could change my school. But they also added that Boston was a very nice city with lots of exhibitions, concerts and plays. The Fulbright office was right because when I first arrived in Boston,

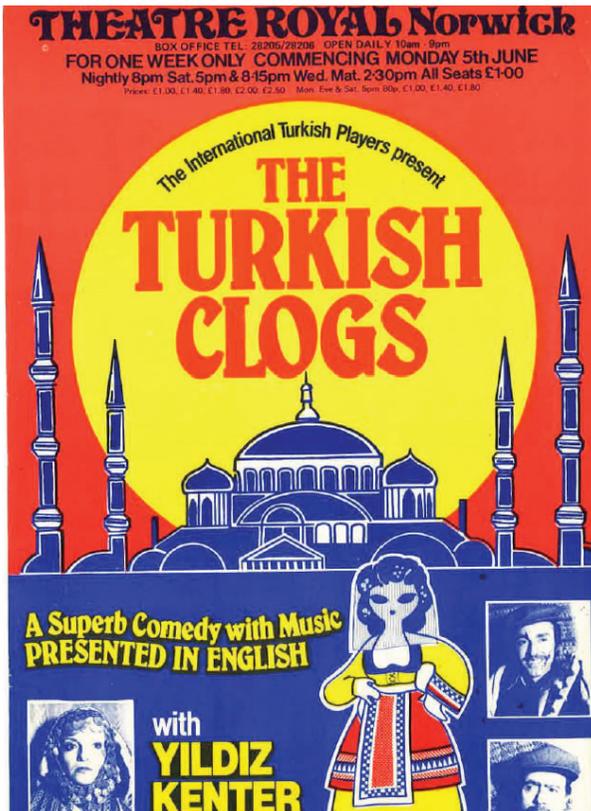
there was a Van Gogh exhibition, and since I am a big fan of Van Gogh, I went to see the exhibition. I started crying with delight when I saw all of his paintings in front of me. Plus, Boston was a very exciting city, especially in terms of drama and arts. The plays that were to be staged in New York City would first come to Boston, and we would watch or work for these plays as students. We had the chance to see many world-famous stars and spectacular productions. Thus, I fell in love with Boston in a very short time.

I also was very fortunate because renowned directors such as **Elia Kazan** and **Arthur Miller** would come to our school to lecture, give seminars, or direct plays. Also, I took Modern Drama from **Elliot Norton**, who was one of the most important theater critics in the U.S.A. If he liked a play, that play would be very successful in New York; if he did not like a play, that play would be buried in New York. **Raymond Sovey** was my make-up and costume design teacher. He was the number one costume designer in New York. In short, I met magnificent people in my field in Boston.



How did you feel when you first arrived in the U.S.A.?

Before I went to study in the U.S.A., I felt ready to live there because I had graduated from an American school in Turkey, had American teachers, took American literature courses, was fluent in



English, was watching American movies and was reading novels in English. However, when I first arrived there, I realized that everything was so different. It was challenging to adapt to the life there in the first two to three months, and I was about to leave the program. Loneliness was the most difficult thing, and life in the U.S.A. was not as I had seen in the movies or imagined. It was difficult, but it wasn't difficult because I was an international student. I was never discriminated against because I was Turkish.

Where did you stay as a student?

I could not stay in a dorm room because they were all full when I arrived. Thus, I had to rent an apartment, but I needed a roommate. I was told to put an "I am looking for a roommate" sign on the school bulletin board. After I did that, a very nice young lady wanted to be my roommate, and we started sharing the rent and other expenses of an apartment in a nice neighborhood of Boston. That

nice young lady who became my roommate was the famous actress **Faye Dunaway**. We shared an apartment later on in New York as well.

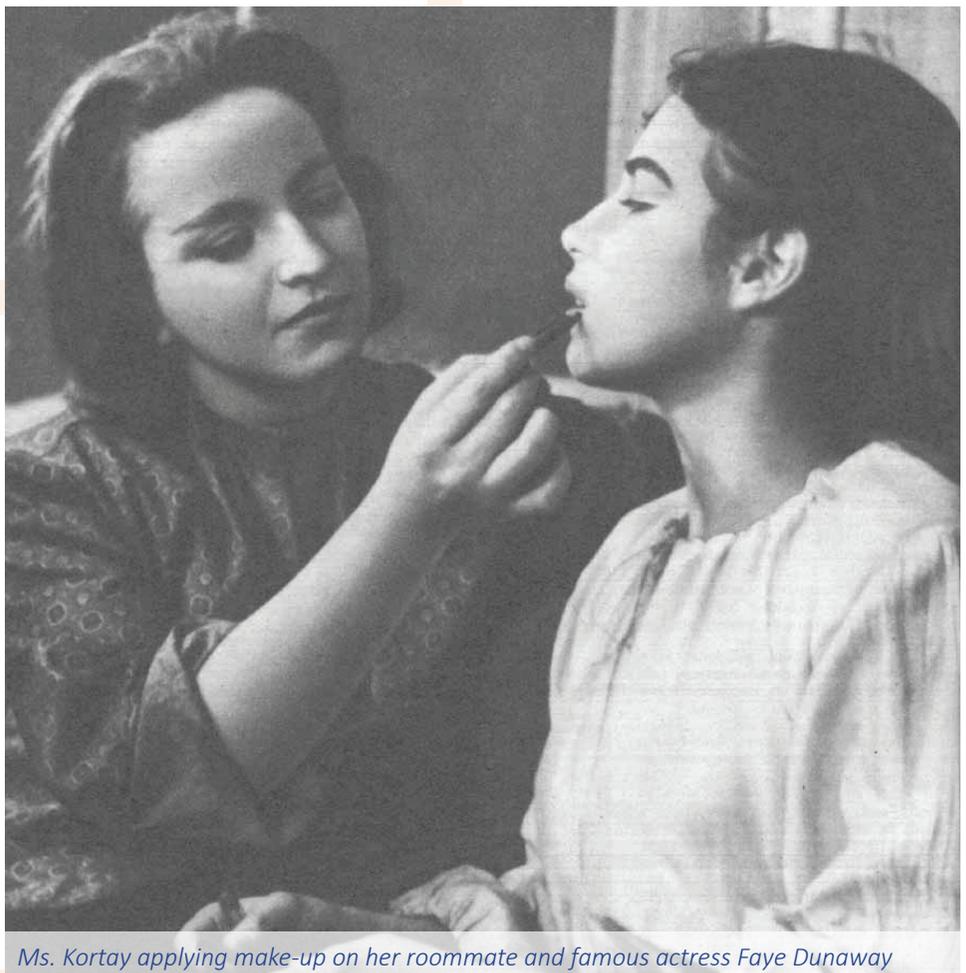
How was your friendship with the well-known actress Faye Dunaway?

I always was the more mature one, telling her what to do and what not to do. She would be bored with these warnings and would call me "grandma." After I returned to Turkey, we sent letters to each other and stayed in touch. Then she visited Turkey. I was told that the first thing she said as she got off the plane was, "Find Göksel for me!" I also

know that whenever she sees a Turkish journalist anywhere in the world, she always asks how I am doing. We had continued communicating until recently when I lost her contact information.

How has your experience in the U.S.A. shaped your personal and professional life?

My education in the U.S.A. and other experiences I gained there helped me immensely in Turkey. First of all, I always have felt self-confident when entering a new environment due to my education in the U.S.A. Unfortunately, back then acting was not considered a decent profession, but I always was respected. That's why I am eternally grateful to the Fulbright program and have expressed this in all my interviews and speeches. Fulbright is the most important



Ms. Kortay applying make-up on her roommate and famous actress Faye Dunaway



“My Fulbright experience has enriched my life.”

milestone and a major turning point in my life, which enabled me to have all these opportunities I have today.

Have you had any work experience in the U.S.A.?

I worked in San Francisco for about seven months and I worked for NBC in Rockefeller Center in New York City for one year before I returned to Turkey.

In those years, the most famous stars such as Rock Hudson would come to the NBC studios. Thus, I had the chance to be in a very interesting and exciting atmosphere.

What would you advise to those who are planning to apply to the Fulbright program?

Fulbright is a great opportunity for

young people. I advise young people to believe in themselves. With that belief they should prepare their applications for the Fulbright program as soon as they can. If they have prepared themselves well enough and seriously want to be accepted, they will receive the scholarship. **Being passionate about what you want is the key to success.**



Ms. Kortay and her family right before she boarded the plane to go to the U.S.A.



On her graduation day at Boston University

American Programs

The American Programs of our Commission will welcome 24 U.S. grantees in the forthcoming 2015-2016 academic year at different universities all around Turkey. In addition to the Senior Lecturers, Senior Researchers and Student Researchers, the Commission will welcome the **65th Anniversary Graduate Study Grant** and **Fulbright-National Geographic Digital Story Telling Fellowship** recipients during the 2015-2016 academic year.

The Turkish Fulbright Commission is proud to announce the new initiative with the Fulbright Foundation in Greece: **The Fulbright Greece-Turkey Joint Research Award**. The grant will be offered at the U.S. Student grant category for a nine-month period to conduct research in Environmental Studies, Marine Biology, Disaster Management and Emergency Preparedness, Classical Studies, Byzantine Studies, Ottoman Studies, Political Science, Social Sciences, Archaeology, Cultural Policy, Music, Arts and Tourism (including eco and agro-tourism). The recipient of the grant will conduct the proposed research project both in Greece and Turkey.



Mid-Year Evaluation Meetings in Ankara and İstanbul

The Program held two meetings for the U.S. Scholar and U.S. Student Study/Research Grant Program grantees to learn of the progress in their works and research. The first meeting took place in Ankara on February 6, 2015 and the second meeting took place in İstanbul on February 11, 2015.

End of Year Evaluation Meeting



The Program organized the End of Year Evaluation Meeting for the 2014-2015 U.S. Scholar and Student Study/Research grantees. The meeting was held in Tekirova, Antalya on May 21-24, 2015.

The grantees made presentations on their teaching and research activities in Turkey, and shared their professional and personal experiences. Our Board Members, staff, grantees and their families attended the meeting. It was a very rich and dynamic atmosphere in terms of the exchange of ideas and opinions on a wide range of scholarly fields. The attendees had a chance to hear about the



different stages and the latest results of the studies of the grantees. The meeting was also organized as a farewell to this year's U.S. Grantees and to get their feedback for the future of the Program.

Stories from Our U.S. Scholars



Dr. Nihad Dukhan

2014-2015 U.S. Senior Lecturer

University of Detroit-Mercy, Michigan/İstanbul Technical University, İstanbul

Art of “Hat” Exhibit

My Fulbright experience has been rewarding in many ways. I learned a new academic culture at İstanbul Technical University (İTÜ). I was always among scholars who were very rigorous and had an in-depth knowledge of thermal science.

I realized that İTÜ and its Rector are interested in promoting the arts among their university community. I had background and training in the art of hat (calligraphy based on the Arabic alphabet). I worked hard in order to gather enough original pieces for a solo exhibit at İTÜ. The 34 pieces included classical and modern hat.

İTÜ Rector Prof. Mehmet Karaca opened the exhibit “Ruhani Geometri” (Spiritual Geometry) on February 2, 2015 at Süleyman Demirel Kültür Merkezi in the VIP Salon. Mr. Charles Hunter, İstanbul U.S. Consul General, also was present.



Dr. Samantha Friedman

2014-2015 U.S. Senior Lecturer

University at Albany SUNY, New York/Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies, Ankara

Population Studies in Turkey

Coming to Turkey as a Fulbright Fellow has broadened my horizons as a researcher and teacher in the field of urban demography. I have had the unique opportunity to work at the Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies- HIPS, the only academic unit in Turkey offering graduate degrees in demography. In my collaboration with Prof. İsmet Koç, we are studying the impact of income inequality on household housing outcomes and residential location in Turkey and the U.S. Our research finds that there are many similarities between our countries on these dimensions. Through this experience, I have learned about the availability of many data sources in Turkey. I also have given seminars for graduate students on professionalization topics (e.g., conference presentations, publishing) and have found the students to be motivated, smart, and extremely well trained. This time has been invaluable, and I look forward to future collaborations with Dr. Koç and others at HIPS.

The English Teaching Assistantship Program



The 2014-2015 academic year English Teaching Assistantship grantees gathered in Ankara on February 19-21, 2015 for the Mid-Year Evaluation Meeting. 72 ETA grantees shared their experiences living and working in 36 state universities in 32 cities throughout Turkey. The grantees also participated in English Language Teaching workshops.



The Mid-Year Evaluation Meeting provided an excellent opportunity for the grantees to reflect on the friendships and insights they have gained through their academic and cultural exchanges in Turkey. They discussed their personal experiences and offered ideas for further involvement in their local communities. The highlight of the meeting was the annual Talent Show, in which the grantees showcased their Turkish language skills and cultural knowledge through musical performances and short skits. The grantees enjoyed their time together and spent the weekend exchanging stories from their host cities.

The opening speakers for the Mid-Year Meeting included our Executive Director **Dr. Ersel Aydın**, **Prof. Abdullah Çavuşoğlu**, Executive Board Member of the Council of Higher Education, and **Ms. Katherine Van de Vate**, Cultural Affairs Officer from the U.S. Embassy in Ankara.



Stories from ETA Grantees

Sarah Elizabeth Houston

2014-2015 ETA Grantee

Pepperdine University, California/Balikesir University, Balikesir

“Huzurevi” Happiness



I was determined to have my students break their regular weekend routines. Instead of sitting in cafes and playing video games all day, I wanted them to get out and realize that there is more to our city

than they think. Community service was an integral part of my time at university, so I decided to try it with my students.

On a Saturday morning, we found our way to the local retirement home (*huzurevi*) and mental health facilities high above Balikesir nestled in the hills.

At first they complained about having to wake up so early, but the minute they walked into the *huzurevi* I was amazed. The transformation was unbelievable. The respect and love they showed for the residents made it seem as if these people were their own grandmothers and grandfathers.

My students immediately sat down next to groups of older women, hugging them and settling in as if it was their daily routine. You could see the pure bliss spread across the women’s faces as we listened to their amazing stories of survival and of raising families in a drastically different time and place. The men decided to put on a show for us, one singing while the other artfully performed a Karadeniz dance from his hometown. Soon everyone in the retirement home was clapping and whistling.

I never had so clearly seen the respect and reverence that younger Turks show towards their elders. This patience and genuine interest is something I rarely see in America. I think this unique love for heritage and stories is something that Turkey should be proud of, and is something I will take back to America with me.

Lisa Mari Hartwig

2013-2015 ETA Grantee

University of Texas-Austin, Texas/Balikesir University, Balikesir

“Kahvaltı” in Spring

What better way to spend the first day of spring than a Turkish breakfast in a blooming garden? A group of students prepared a beautiful spread of a traditional Turkish breakfast for me, complete with tomatoes, cucumbers, cheeses, olives, jams, honey, sigara börek, poğaca, bread, and, of course, enough tea to fill our bellies. The students and I discussed our summer plans and how they desire to work and travel in America sometime next year. The tradition of kahvaltı with loved ones is my favorite aspect of Turkish culture that I will definitely take home with me when I return stateside!



Sonia Szczesna

2013-2015 ETA Grantee

Rutgers University, New Jersey/Bülent Ecevit University, Zonguldak

Navigating Turkish Bureaucracy from the Other Side...



Nearing the end of my second Fulbright term, I find myself more embedded in my community than I ever could have imagined—assimilating enough to propose my first city project. My placement location of Çaycuma is a small town in the Zonguldak province (our population is 26,400). The new mayor, who was elected last March, has prompted the rapid change of this small town. In the past two years, I have watched this city change in remarkable ways—a switch from coal to natural gas heating, creation of bike lanes, free Wi-Fi in the streets, etc.

Seeing these changes inspired me to propose a mural contest in which elementary and middle school students drew their 'Dream Çaycuma.' We chose the top ten and then left it up to the public to choose the winning ones online. The winners were announced during the National Sovereignty and Children’s Day festivities. In May, members of the community painted the winning mural on a public wall and received prizes provided by the municipality.

Navigating formal letters and departments—from Kaymakamlık to Belediye was a challenge that taught me the importance of tea and interpersonal relationships in Turkish bureaucracy.

Turkish Programs

The Student Core Program

The Student Core Program offers grants to students for master and doctoral level study as well as PhD dissertation research.

The Commission received applications for the 2016-2017 Fulbright Student Core Program cycle until March 20, 2015;

the application period now is closed. Applications from 39 fields of study were received. The selection committees already have started to evaluate the dossiers to determine candidates to be interviewed. Starting this year, the selected grantees will

receive a grant package of up to \$50,000 each per academic year.

Regarding last year's nominees, the program is still in the process of placing the nominees.

Student Core Program Pre-Departure Orientation and Embassy Reception for the 2015-2016 Grantees



2015-2016 Student Core Program Grantees at the end of their Pre-Departure Orientation in Ankara



U.S. Ambassador John R. Bass addressing the grantees and guests at the reception

The Pre-Departure Orientation Program for the 2015-2016 academic year Student Core Program grantees was held at Niza Park Hotel in Ankara on June 24, 2015. The Grantees participated at the day-long event which provided them the opportunity to learn about important pre-departure topics such as visa application, travel, Fulbright enrichment activities, what to do upon arrival in the U.S.A. and adapting to a new culture to maximize their experience in the United States. This Pre-Departure Orientation was also a time for our grantees to get together with each other and the Commission staff, and ask their questions.

Following the Pre-Departure Orientation Program, the Ambassador of the United States of America John R. Bass and his wife Ms. Holly Holzer Bass hosted a reception at their residence to honor the new Fulbright grantees.

We wish our grantees all the best in this new and very exciting chapter of their lives.



U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer Dr. Jonathan Henick addressing the grantees at the PDO



Grant Administration

The Commission has completed the administration process of the renewal grants for the 2014-2015 Student Core Program renewal grantees. Coming up is the grant administrations for the first academic year of the 2015-2016 grantees who are currently in the process of placement. The Commission advises grantees on budgetary concerns and helps them make the optimum placement

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program is offered to young and mid-career professionals who have a proven track record of leadership, public service commitment and the capacity to take full advantage of a self-defined program of independent non-degree study at a leading U.S. university.

For the 2015-2016 academic cycle, one candidate from Koç University in Public Health Policy and Management has been placed at the Virginia Commonwealth University.



The deadline for the 2016-2017 academic year Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program is August 21, 2015.

For more information:
<http://goo.gl/xaEGL6>

The Visiting Scholar Program



The Visiting Scholar Program Nominees and the Commission Staff at the Initial Orientation Meeting held in Ankara

The Visiting Scholar Program supports faculty and researchers who have doctoral degrees to conduct full-time advanced research for three to twelve months in the U.S.A. Grantees lecture and conduct research in a wide variety of fields and institutions.

The Visiting Scholar Program Initial Orientation Meeting was held on February 26, 2015 in Ankara with the attendance of selected nominees. The 2015-2016 grantees are going to depart for the U.S.A. starting in July 2015.

The Community College Initiative (CCI) Program



Community College Initiative Program Candidates and the Commission Staff at the Initial Orientation Meeting held in Ankara

The Community College Initiative (CCI) Program provides opportunities to students 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. The Commission selected the CCI Program candidates for the 2015-2016 academic year.

The Initial Orientation Meeting was held on March 27, 2015 in Ankara where all nominees were present. The candidates are currently waiting to be placed in U.S. community colleges for one academic year. The grantees will begin departing for the U.S. in Summer 2015.

The Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program



FLTA Nominees and Commission Staff at the Initial Orientation Meeting held in Ankara

The Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program is a non-degree program for early career English teachers or professionals in related fields. The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs sponsors the FLTA Program. The program offers an opportunity for young professionals to increase their English language proficiency, refine their teaching skills, 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 at U.S. colleges and universities. The Initial Orientation Meeting for the 2015-2016 academic year FLTA nominees was held on December 4, 2014 at the Ramada Ankara Hotel. The nominees of the 2015-2016 academic year are being placed in U.S. colleges and universities to teach Turkish language and culture courses for a nine-month period.

The deadline for the 2016-2017 academic year Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program is September 28, 2015.

For more information:
<http://goo.gl/PKRpDz>

Stories from Our Turkish Grantees

Emine Baysoy

Ankara University / University of Georgia,
Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA)
Program (2014-2015)

I currently teach Turkish as a Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant at the University of Georgia. Since I started this program, I have had the chance to observe the education system and social life in the U.S. from a much closer perspective and see the similarities and differences between Turkish and American cultures. Because the Americans I met were very interested in learning about Turkish history and culture, I decided to organize a Turkish cultural night. With 200 participants, it was a great turnout. The audience was taken through a presentation that highlighted the significant historical, cultural and physical landmarks of Turkey, from the mountains of Cappadocia to the beaches of Antalya. They enjoyed the henna ceremony reenactment and dances from different parts of Turkey.

I definitely can say this program gave me



"I definitely can say this program gave me many opportunities to broaden my horizon as well as helping others to learn more about the world."

many opportunities to broaden my horizon as well as helping others to learn more about the world. By meeting people from different countries, I have had the opportunity to exchange ideas and cultural customs. Moreover, I took two linguistic classes to

improve my proficiency in English while teaching world languages to better improve my teaching skills. After completing the program, I am looking forward to sharing my experiences with my students, colleagues, and friends around the world.

Hatice Altun Evcı

İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University / SUNY Buffalo, English
Language Teaching Ph.D. Program (2012-2016)

I attended two very important conferences in the field of applied linguistics in Toronto: the American Association for Applied Linguistics Conference (AAAL) and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) 2015 Convention. The key topic for the AAAL Conference was identity, which happens to be my dissertation topic. I am writing on the social and cultural identity (re)construction of Turkish international students in a global contact zone in the age of globalization. Thus, the conference was very relevant for me. I had the chance to listen to some prominent contemporary applied linguists, who I am very proud to quote in my dissertation: Larsen-Freeman, Block, de Bot, Canagarajah, Norton, Byram, Lantolf, Duff, Bardovi-Harlig, Hyland, Ellis, Matsuda, Ortega, Pavlenko, Atkinson and many others. Upon seeing them in person in Toronto, I felt very lucky to have been born in this era – that of 'superdiversity,' mobility and digital revolution. Otherwise, I would be imprisoned in my locality. One might be naturally pitied for viewing one's era as special, yet it is my adamant contention at present we



"My heartfelt thanks go to particularly the Fulbright Program. This cross-cultural exchange program has changed my life immensely."

have a more comprehensive grasp upon history and humankind.

So I very much enjoy being part of this age, an immense mosaic, which can be clearly observable on occasions such as these conferences. For example, due to the international nature of the conference, I was able to shoot a happy birthday video for a friend of

(continued on the next page)

mine in 15 languages. It was great fun for me, and I hope it was for my singers, many of whom were very well known scholars like Paul Kei Matsuda (AAAL conference chair and president), Tej K. Bhatia (plenary speaker) and Katherine D. Kinzler (plenary speaker).

The TESOL conference was so big that you feel almost threatened by the immense crowd. Although AAAL was held at a relatively cozy, antique hotel, Fairmont Royal, TESOL was held at the enormous Metro convention center in Toronto. In the first keynote speech, I felt lost in the anonymous multilingual, multicultural group of scholars and teachers from all over the world. Once again, I felt really fortunate to be attending such an event. It was a great

opportunity to make friends with colleagues from all over the world and to educate one's self accordingly. I was able to complete my master's thesis years ago due to another such occasion, wherein some of the TESOL conference attendees agreed to be participants for my study.

I know that I am luckier because I have access to these conventions since I am in the U.S. Therefore, I would like to thank everyone who helped me make it to the Ph.D. program in the U.S. My heartfelt thanks go to particularly the Fulbright Program. This cross-cultural exchange program has changed my life immensely. I am blessed because I am a Fulbright scholar.

Aslihan Aykaç Yanardağ

Ege University / Rutgers University, Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program (2014-2015)

As a person of academic profession and as a bookworm, I have an obsessive interest in libraries. Despite the continuous progress in information technology, the accumulation and dissemination of information through the Internet, or the widespread use of e-book readers, I believe books remain the traditional and most relevant source of information and libraries remain the most significant repositories of information. Especially in disciplines where historical research is a major component, libraries are central for conducting research.

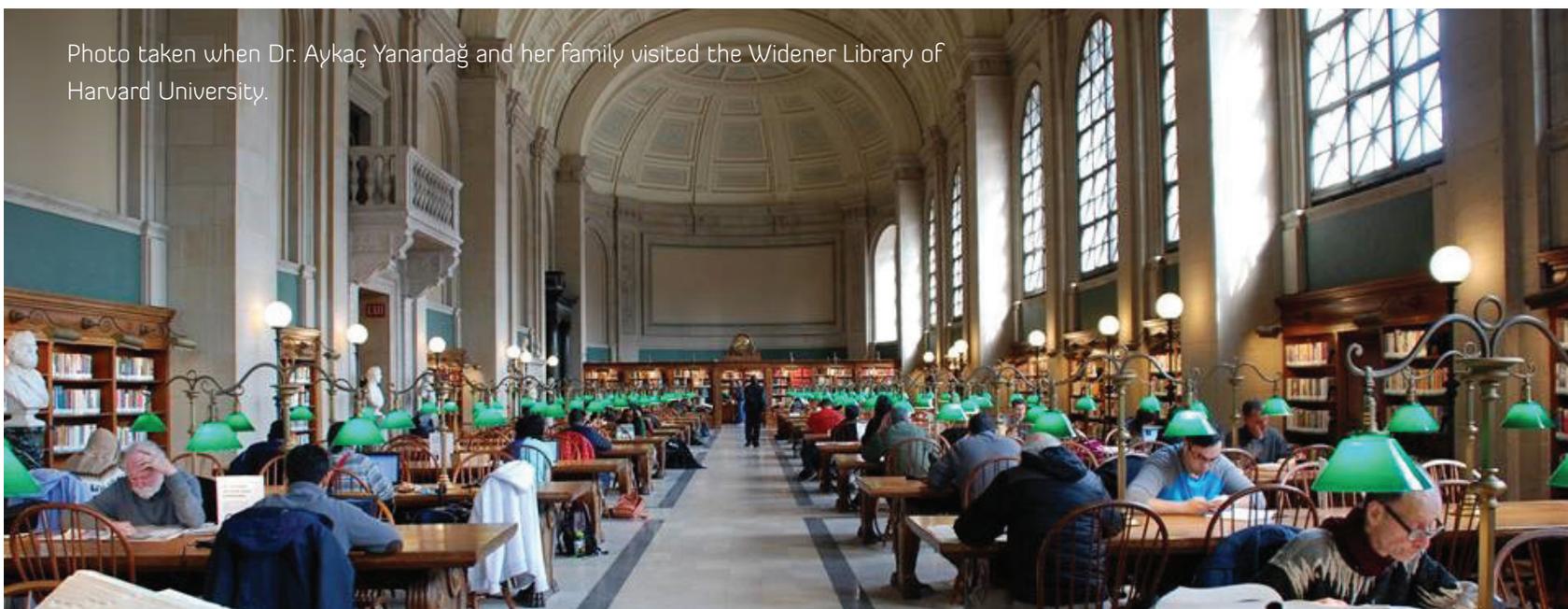
My stay in the U.S. as a Fulbright scholar gave me ample amount of opportunity to visit and compare libraries of various sizes and with different collections. Rutgers University has a very efficient library system where a number of libraries on different campuses are interconnected; any book in the collection can be

sent to these libraries upon request. As a visiting scholar, I was able to check out 240 books at once for three months.

"One does not necessarily have to go to a university library to access books; the entire public library network has a wide range of facilities that serve residents in multiple ways."

One does not necessarily have to go to a university library to access books; the entire public library network has a wide range of facilities that serve residents in multiple ways. During our stay, we greatly benefited from Highland Park Public Library, which was near where we lived. My son acquired his first library card here. He was able to choose his own books and DVDs according to his own preferences and he attended several programs for children. My husband participated in the library's ESL program where he improved his speaking skills and made many international friends. There is more to a library than books. U.S. public libraries are a major part of community organizing and education.

Photo taken when Dr. Aykaç Yanardağ and her family visited the Widener Library of Harvard University.



Advising Program

Study in the U.S.A.



Ege Ata Türkgele is a graduate of TED Ankara College. He is going to start studying Electrical Engineering at University of California Davis in Fall 2015. He selected UC Davis among other universities which he was accepted to for the courses that he will be able to take, the variety of extracurricular activities the school offers and the location of the campus. Ege was one of our advisees and he answered our questions about the application process to U.S. universities and gave tips to students who are planning to study in the U.S.A.

How did you hear about our advising service?

I was searching about applying to universities in the U.S. and saw the advising service on the EducationUSA website.

What kind of advising service have you received from us?

I have received help for my university application and admission process.

What advice from our adviser did you find the most useful?

Since I didn't have the chance to visit the universities to which I might apply, I needed help on deciding which ones I'd be most satisfied with. I also did not know a lot about the whole admission experience, as no one I

knew had studied abroad before and having all my questions answered helped me be more confident.

What advice would you give to Turkish students who wish to apply to universities in the U.S.A.?

I would advise them to start preparing for SAT and TOEFL exams as early as they can and also start their search for which universities to apply to since there are many different choices.

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

It always was a dream of mine to live in the U.S. and studying there seemed like the best way to realize this dream.

Pre-Departure Orientations

We will have organized four pre-departure orientations in Ankara, in Istanbul and online by the end of Summer 2015. The pre-departure orientations are designed for students who will start studying in the U.S.A. We believe that these orientations are helpful in terms of providing the participants with information about the visa application process, medical forms schools require, finding housing, what to pack, making money transfers, and, most importantly, culture shock and how to overcome it and easily adapting to the new environment. Those who would like to attend these orientations in July 2015 can send an e-mail to advising@fulbright.org.tr or fulb-ist@fulbright.org.tr to confirm their attendance.

AMERİKA'YA GİTMEMEYE HAZIR MISINIZ?

Amerika'da eğitimlerine başlayacak tüm öğrencileri Türkiye Fulbright Eğitim Komisyonu tarafından düzenlenen **Amerika'ya Gidiş Öncesi Oryantasyon Seminerlerine** (Pre-Departure Orientation) davet ediyoruz. Bu seminerler tüm öğrenci ve velilere açık olup, katılım ücretsizdir.

Amerika'ya Gidiş Öncesi Oryantasyon Seminerlerimizde bilgi verilecek konular:

- Giltmeden önce yapılacak resmi işlemler (Öğrenci Vizesi başvurusu)
- Sağlık sigortası ve aşilar
- Yolculuk planlama, götürül(mey)ecekler
- Amerika'da banka hesabı açma, para transferleri
- Kalacak yer ararken dikkat edilecekler noktalar: yurt, ev, diğer imkânlar
- Özlük hayat ile ilgili pratik bilgiler
- Akademik ortam ve sorumluluklar - neler Türkiye'den farklı?
- Kültür şoku ve yeni kültüre uyum süreci

Departures

Ankara
10 Haziran 2015 + 7 Temmuz 2015
Saat: 15:00

Seminer yeri Komisyonun web sitesinde ilan edilecektir.

Kayıt yaptırmak için:
advising@fulbright.org.tr

İstanbul
12 Haziran 2015 + 10 Temmuz 2015
Saat: 15:00

Türkiye Fulbright Eğitim Komisyonu
Dömen Sokak No: 3/11 Gömüsuşu

Kayıt yaptırmak için:
fulb-ist@fulbright.org.tr

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 Katılım için detaylı bilgiyi www.fulbright.org.tr adresinden ulaşabilirsiniz.

Fulbright on Social Media



We are actively using our Facebook and Twitter accounts, and sharing new videos on our YouTube channel. When you like our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter, you not only learn about our advising activities but also you are informed about Fulbright scholarship opportunities in the U.S.A., new initiatives, and webinars on different topics.



Student Ambassador Program Mid-Year Evaluation Meeting



The Student Ambassador Program, which started at the beginning of this academic year, soon will complete its first year. Our Student Ambassadors met with Fulbright Advising Coordinator Ms. Bahar Deniz Türkaslan at the end of January for a mid-year evaluation meeting.

They spent two days in Ankara. On the first day, the U.S. Embassy in Ankara made a video of the Student Ambassadors and shared it on the embassy's YouTube channel. The video can be watched at this link <https://goo.gl/ZcXIQM>



On the second day, the Student Ambassadors shared their experiences about the program's first term and then made a SWOT analysis of the program. The SWOT analysis helped us understand the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the program.

We are planning to expand this program to different cities in the next academic year. These cities will be Adana, Bursa, Gaziantep, İzmir, Samsun and Trabzon. Detailed information about the Student Ambassador Program can be found at <http://goo.gl/tcdDWT>

Our Outreach Activities



Our advising team gives seminars on Fulbright Programs and Study in the U.S.A. throughout Turkey. They have visited 17 cities and 64 schools this academic year. These visits provide students with opportunities to ask their questions to our Educational Advisers face to face and be better informed about different study options they may have in the U.S.A.

NAFSA Conference

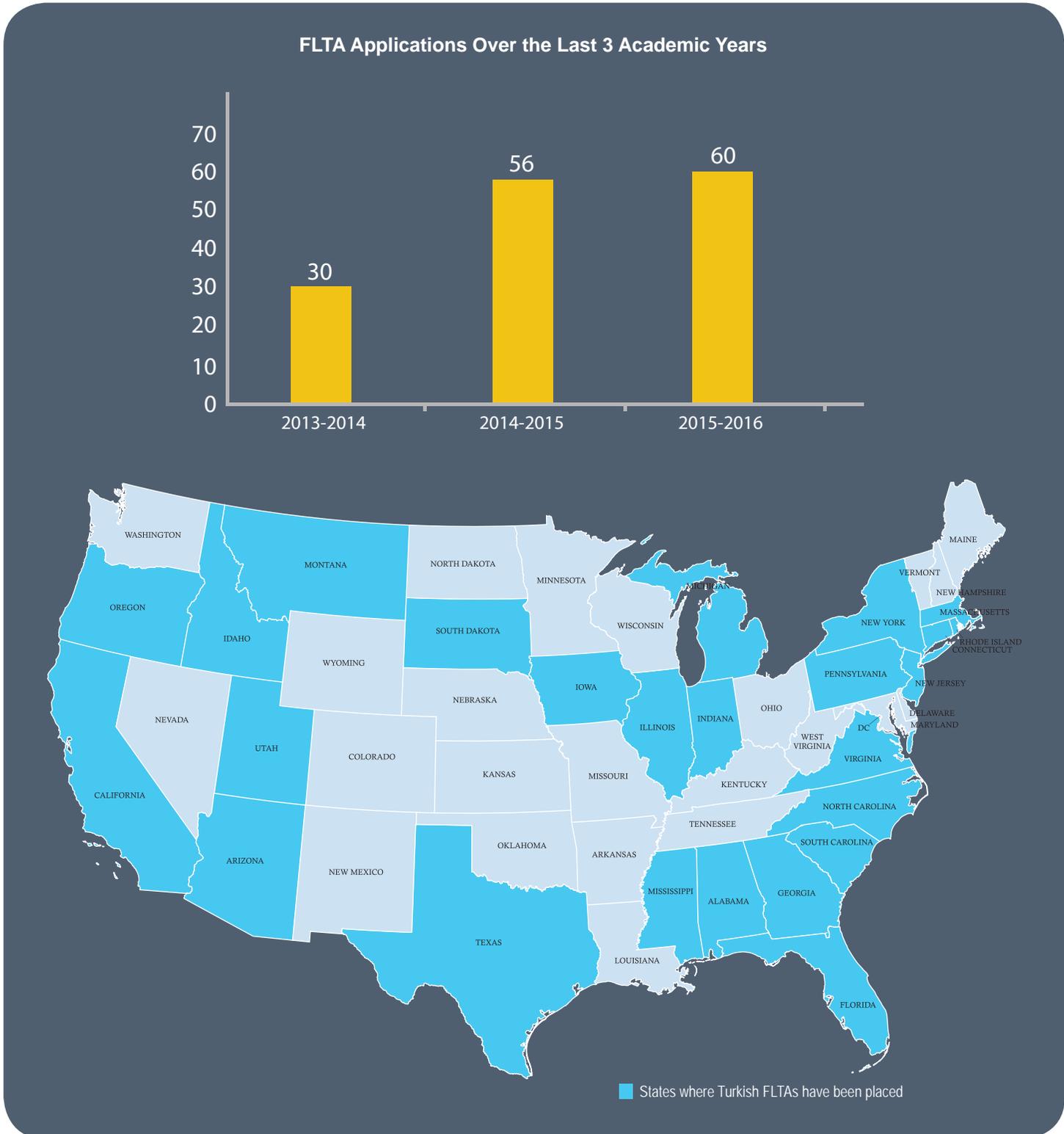


Our Advising Coordinator Ms. Bahar Deniz Türkaslan participated at the May 24-29 NAFSA Conference in Boston. During the conference, she informed the U.S. higher education institution representatives about Turkey's education system and the best ways to recruit students from Turkey. She also hosted a table to represent Turkey at the EducationUSA Country Fair and answered questions about Turkey asked by higher education professionals.

The Turkish Fulbright Commission Grants in Numbers

The Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship (FLTA) Program

The Fulbright FLTA Program has been an integral part of the Fulbright Foreign Student Program since 1968. Turkey is one of the 54 countries in the world, which have nominated and sent FLTA grantees since 2002. The graphic below shows the number of FLTA applications we received in the past three academic years, and the states where FLTAs were placed since the Program started in Turkey can be seen in the map under the graphic.



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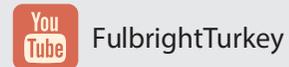
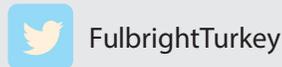
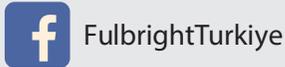
TURKEY

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