



THE TURKISH FULBRIGHT COMMISSION  
**NEWSLETTER**

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FULBRIGHT  
TÜRKİYE



**In This Issue**

Message from the Executive Director  
**Inspiring Story: Prof. İsmail Tufan**

News from Our Alumni

News from the Commission

Stories from Our Turkish and American Grantees

Educational Advising Activities

## From the Executive Director

Dear Fulbright friends,

It has been another busy and exciting year. By the time you have this newsletter in hand, we will have celebrated our final event in honor of the Commission's 65th anniversary--a reception marking the release of our documentary on the Commission's history, which features alumni interviews, music, and archival photos. For those of you who can't make it to the reception, CDs of the documentary will be available, and a link to it will be open on our website. We hope that you will enjoy the product of our enthusiastic amateur spirit and minimal budget! This documentary exists because of a huge amount of committed and bona fide efforts by many, both in Turkey and overseas. Obviously, and unfortunately, we were only able to feature in it just a few of our many, many valuable alumni, but this initiative has inspired us to continue with compiling such interviews, in order to make available archives for future generations of Fulbrighters to enjoy and benefit from. I'd like to thank Ambassador Bass for opening up his house for the celebration of the 65th and the release of the documentary.

For now, please enjoy the great stories and news in this latest issue of our newsletter. I wish you all a happy holiday season, and don't forget to drop by and visit us in our Ankara or Istanbul offices. Our staff always looks forward to seeing you.



Prof. Ersel Aydınli

## An Inspiring Story

*Prof. Ismail Tufan is the founder of the Department of Gerontology at Akdeniz University. He also conducts his research at the Ismail Tufan Gerontology Institute (ITGE).*

*Since 2000, Prof. Tufan has been working on a project called GeroAtlas, the goal of which is to discover new dimensions of old age and the aging process in Turkey. According to Prof. Tufan, it is not our biological age but rather our lifestyles that age us. He has many publications in this field and is currently working on Alzheimer's, which is one of the most common diseases among elderly people in today's world.*

Prof. Tufan's first visit to the U.S.A. was with the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Grant, which he received for the 2007-2008 academic year. He spent 6 months in the U.S.A. and has benefited immensely from this program by doing research with his colleague Prof. Dena Shenk at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

*(You can read our interview with Prof. Tufan on pages 6, 7, 8, & 9)*



# News from Our Alumni

## Media Works Exhibition in the U.S.A.

McLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS

November 21 – December 23, 2015



### Wanderer: The Travel Journals, Works by Maria Karametou

Atrium Gallery

These mixed media works are based on visual observations the artist has collected while wandering in different parts of the world. Karametou has saved these visual glimpses as a way of synthesizing and interpreting her experiences, encasing them in small plastic sleeves, like an archival photographic display. Hung together with artist made books and other works, they present an open-ended story with both personal and universal impact.


 Maria Karametou, *Wandering* (detail), mixed media.

November 21 – December 23, 2015

Reception and Gallery Talk: Thursday Dec. 3. 7-9 pm



McLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS • 1234 INGLESIDE AVENUE, McLEAN, VA 22101  
AT THE McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER • PH: 703.790.1953 • WWW.MPAART.ORG  
A critically acclaimed visual arts center offering classes, camps, workshops, exhibitions and lectures.  
Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Friday 10 am – 4 pm; Saturday 11 am – 5 pm

Associate Professor of Art, Maria Karametou, who was a Fulbright Senior Researcher Grantee in 2010 at the Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University in İstanbul and who is currently a faculty member at the George Mason University, opened an exhibition in Virginia entitled “Wanderer: The Travel Journals, Works by Maria Karametou”. The exhibition includes the works Ms. Karametou did during her Fulbright grant period in İstanbul. Ms. Karametou states, “[T]he ties I established during my time in Turkey have been truly enriching and have remained strong.”

Thanks to the relationships she established during her stay in Turkey, she has recently co-curated the project “EcoReflections: Creative Responses to a Changing Environment” in collaboration with a Turkish faculty member at Gazi University in Ankara. The project included five Turkish and five U.S. artists and was just presented through exhibitions at both universities in the United States and in Ankara in October-November 2015.

## A Wonderful Fulbright Ambassador

2014-2015 FLTA alumna Nihan Yilmaz, who completed her grant at the University of Texas, Austin, recently had her blog post published on the Fulbright Program blog. Please find her post at the following link:

<http://blog.fulbrightonline.org/when-i-wanted-time-to-freeze-my-fulbright-foreign-language-teaching-assistant-experience/#more-7253>

Nihan was a wonderful ambassador during her time in the program, and she also participated via Skype in one of the FLTA orientation sessions in 2015.



# News from the Commission

## Meeting with Ms. Lana Muck from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Ms. Lana Muck, who is the Deputy Director of the Office of Academic and Exchange Programs at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, visited our Ankara Head Office and had a meeting with our Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Program Officers and Advising Coordinator. During this meeting, she was informed about the Grant Programs provided by our Commission and our activities in general.



## A Heartfelt Thanks to Associate Professor Ömer Açıkgöz

Associate Professor Ömer Açıkgöz, who was a member of our Commission Board, was appointed as the Deputy Undersecretary at the Turkish Prime Ministry and a member of the Council of Higher Education by the President of the Turkish Republic in June 2015. We gratefully appreciate all the work that Dr. Açıkgöz did for our Commission and we wish him all the best.



## Fulbright on Social Media

### We are now on Instagram and LinkedIn

Following the trends in social media, we now have accounts on Instagram and LinkedIn. Our user name for Instagram is **fulbrightturkey** and **The Turkish Fulbright Commission** for LinkedIn.

### YouTube Channel

The videos on our YouTube channel have been renewed with updated information. These videos are a great tool for anyone who is interested in Fulbright grant programs and study in the U.S.A. We encourage you all to subscribe to our YouTube Channel.

## New Website Design

With developments in web design, we have decided to renew our website to make it more user friendly. We hope you will like our new design and visit our website to learn more information about our grant programs and study options in the U.S.A.



FulbrightTurkiye



The Turkish Fulbright Commission



FulbrightTurkey



fulbrightturkey



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www.fulbright.org.tr



## Meeting at the Council of Higher Education

Our Executive Director Prof. Ersel Aydınli, Deputy Executive Director Ms. Seher Türkyılmaz Sinclair, and Advising Coordinator Ms. Bahar Deniz Türkaslan attended a meeting on the Higher Education System in Turkey and International Relations which was organized by the Council of Higher Education. The meeting started with an opening speech by Prof. Yekta Saraç, the President of the Council of Higher Education, and was very informative for all participants, who came mostly from Embassies in Ankara.



## Welcome Party for Our U.S. Scholars and Student Researchers

We welcomed our U.S. Scholar and U.S. Student Program grantees with a party held in our Istanbul Branch Office on October 23, 2015. Our Deputy Executive Director Ms. Seher Türkyılmaz Sinclair, Public Affairs Officer Mr. Jeff Anderson, and Cultural Affairs Specialist Ms. Sevil Sezen from the U.S. Consulate as well as some former Turkish Fulbright Scholars were present at the party, which enabled our new U.S. grantees to get to know each other, our staff, and other participants.

## Fulbright-National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellowship Program

The Fulbright-National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellowship Program Grantee Ms. Heeba Dlewati has started her grant period in Turkey. Ms. Dlewati received the grant for a nine-month period to conduct her research project in Jordan, Turkey and Sweden about the Syrian Diaspora. Ms. Dlewati has recently completed the first three months of her grant period in Jordan, and will be in Turkey until the end of February 2016, when she will depart to complete the final three months of her research project in Sweden. In Turkey, she will conduct her research in Gaziantep, İstanbul, İzmir and Mersin. Her project will examine issues of cultural adaptation amongst urban Syrian refugee populations. She is one of five grantees, selected from over 300 applications, receiving the grant for the 2015-2016 academic year. Ms. Dlewati shares her stories about her research project weekly on the National Geographic blog.



## Ms. Harriet Fulbright's Visit to Our Istanbul Branch Office

Ms. Harriet Fulbright, the widow of Senator J. William Fulbright, visited our İstanbul Branch Office on October 7, 2015. She was hosted by our Educational Adviser Ms. Aybüke Uzunca and was informed about the grant programs and activities of our Commission.

## Ankara Office Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner



On Wednesday, November 25, 2015, a Thanksgiving potluck celebration was held at the Turkish Fulbright Commission's Ankara Head Office. Turkish Fulbright Commission staff, members of the Commission Board, and U.S. grantees and their families came together and enjoyed a wide range of traditional American Thanksgiving dishes as well as some classic Turkish food.

### New Members of Our Staff

New members joined our staff at our Ankara and İstanbul offices. Ms. Aybüke Uzunca is working as our new Educational Adviser, and Ms. Simge Zilif as the Administrative Assistant and Social Media Specialist in İstanbul. Mr. Coşkun Akkaya is working as the Finance Assistant in Ankara. We believe our new colleagues will bring more dynamism to our Commission.

## Staff Retreat in Eskişehir

We spent a weekend at the end of November in Eskişehir. This was a great opportunity for our staff and their families to get together. At this retreat, our staff and members of their families were divided into two teams and took part in a treasure hunt in downtown Eskişehir. The game was a great opportunity to develop team work and cooperation, and we all had a lot of fun.



## Heartfelt Goodbye to Our Colleagues

Ms. Merih Uğurel Kamyılı, who was working as the Acting Director and Educational Adviser in our İstanbul office, was on maternity leave and gave birth to a beautiful daughter in July. We congratulate Merih and her husband Murat, and wish them a healthy and happy life as they continue in Texas, where Merih has also started a PhD program.

Mr. Hakan Kocabıçak, who was working as the Office and Advising Assistant in our İstanbul office, will be completing his military service. We wish Hakan all the best in this important phase of his life.

We would like to thank both Merih and Hakan for their work.



# An Inspiring Story: Prof. İsmail Tufan



(continued from page 1)

## Can you briefly tell us about yourself?

I was born and raised in the southern part of Turkey. In this part of the country, the weather is usually very hot in the summer and mostly warm in the winter. However, my mother who can be regarded as a senior, told me that it was unexpectedly cold when I was born in February 1961. That might be the reason for why I do not like the cold much, which means that I feel really uneasy if the temperature is below 30°C. I lived in Tarsus most of my life, which is one of the most modern cities in southern Turkey and where St. Paul lived once upon a time.

I started my higher education in Berlin and studied Sociology while I was also studying Gerontology in Vechta, so I ended up having two diplomas. I received my PhD from the Free University of Berlin.

I cannot exactly claim that I was among the “Top 10” students at university, because in those days I had other concerns as a young man such as keeping my weight under control. Although I still have this concern, it is not as important to me now as it was at that time. When one gets older, it becomes easier to determine what is important and what is not. Growing older always has a dimension that connects people from

different cultures and countries.

When I look at my hobbies and interests, I realize that they have not only shifted prominently but have also deepened significantly with time. For example, when I look at myself and the people around me today, I see different things than my perception about myself and these people before.

I have never been obsessed with a particular hobby such as collecting stamps or coins, but I enjoyed writing. No matter how much I dedicate myself to rationalism and objectivity as a scientist, I have always had a romantic side, which can also be irrational. I like to think about things that will never become true. For instance, my biggest dream is to meet an alien and to be able to observe the whole universe with the help of that creature. In that sense, I can say that I am also a dreamer. I believe that we need new dreamers today who can dream about a beautiful and a fantastic world and who work to make this dream real.

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

If you are asking me how I became a Gerontologist, I can confess that I am also asking the same question to myself today. I do not remember any particular person or event related to this, and I have a good memory. My love toward Gerontology was not “love at first sight.” Instead, it was more like love at third, or maybe fourth, sight, and it grew slowly.

After I completed my education in Berlin, I first worked with the children of immigrants in the field of youth studies. However, I realized that this interesting field of study indeed was not as interesting as I thought it was or, to look at it from the other side, youth studies might have found me uninteresting. I will leave the decision to you. →

***“I never had any kind of experience in the U.S.A. before submitting my application to the Fulbright Program. Therefore, my travel to the U.S.A. and the 6 months I spent there doing scientific research were quite new for me. To be in the U.S.A. was a total success for me.”***

# GeroAtlas

By coincidence, I was offered to work with senior Turkish immigrants for a couple of hours, 2-3 days a week, and I said “Yes.” That was the first time I came across old age. That generation, which is called “the first generation,” was standing in front of me, and as I worked with them, I began to explore the interesting sides of those people which I had never noticed before. Their language, ideas, and the solutions they came up with for problems and many other things were different from my generation and completely different from the young people whom I worked with every day.

After that experience, another side of me, which even I myself was not aware of started to come out. I realized that I was interested in the concept of old age and getting older much more than young people, but first I needed to accept this situation and make a decision. I would either stay in youth studies, or I would resign from my job. I was not even sure whether I would have a promising future in the field of Gerontology. At that time, I had to make up my mind, and that decision had to be the right one because I was not in my twenties anymore.

Finally, I found the right answer and decided to continue studying with elderly people. While I was doing some practical work with elderly immigrants at AWO (Workers Welfare Association), I started studying Gerontology in Vechta. Afterwards, I received my PhD degree. Even I could not understand how everything took place so fast like this. Nevertheless, today I am very grateful for what happened in the past.

## **Could you please tell us what GEROATLAS is?**

I remember it very clearly, even today. It was mid-winter in Berlin and I was sitting in my kitchen staring at the chestnut tree covered in snow through the window. That is certainly a wonderful scene if you sit in a warm kitchen drinking your hot tea and have a friend with whom you can discuss world problems, although you know that your solutions will not be cared about. I believe that we all need such kinds of discussions in our private lives in order to feel more important than we actually are.

One significant thing that I have learned in my career in Gerontology is that nothing is more important than life itself, and everybody’s life is equally significant. First of all, we

need to learn how to live. Biologically we are living longer, but the real lifetime in this anticipated period for us is indeed gradually decreasing. Our quality of life is in danger. That’s why I miss Christmas time in Germany because during that time people let the media manipulate their actions and think they actually live in an amazing world. I also let myself be manipulated by it with pleasure, as I liked the idea that we are living in an amazing world as much as it is not so in reality. Nevertheless, dreaming about such kinds of things in those days

raised an opportunity for me to dream about establishing a Gerontology department in Turkey. I never believed that it would be successful. It was just a dream, a beautiful dream that I had in the kitchen of my house in Berlin. I came to Turkey about two years later. I was married and still considered a young man with more hair on my head and less belly fat. I began to make my dream real in 1998.

After 2 years of preparation, I pressed the “start” button and I began to conduct empirical research on old age and aging in Turkey, which I named GEROATLAS. It was actually a kind of abbreviation for the “Gerontology Atlas/Map of Turkey.”

By “Gerontology Atlas,” I do not mean the geographic features of Turkey. What I actually mean is the new dimensions of old age and aging in Turkey that need to be discovered, and GEROATLAS is composed of a research series based on this empirical foundation. It started in 2000, and it will continue until 2023. It has four stages, and every stage takes five years to complete. In every stage, a representative sample is chosen, and every sample is examined once at the beginning of the stage, which means that cross-sectional research is conducted in those stages. Moreover, the people who have attended the previous stages and who are still alive are contacted by phone calls or email for this research.

***“I certainly wanted to be a part of this program, which influenced me so deeply, so I made my application.”***

With the help of this procedure, we aim to detect changes in people’s health, social relationships, or in their psychological state during each particular stage of getting old. Thus, GEROATLAS is a kind of dimensional analysis. Furthermore, we do one more experiment on the representative sample of the current stage once a year. This is also performed through emails or phone calls. Thanks to this research, whose results we will publish soon, we are exploring the scope of old age and getting old in Turkey. We define this study area as the atlas of old age and aging in Turkish society.



***“I would like everyone to experience this great opportunity. If someone has any intention of applying to the Fulbright Program, I advise being open to every kind of experience, and they should be honest throughout their application process.”***

### **Could you inform us a little about your current research projects?**

I am working on a project on Alzheimer’s patients and their family members. I have conducted similar projects in Aydin, Nazilli, Izmir, and Ordu before. Nowadays, I am busy with establishing a care center where free care service will be provided for Alzheimer’s patients on a daily basis in Dinar, which is indeed a small remote town in western Turkey. In the meantime, I am also writing a book and continuing the preparations for introducing the results of the GEROATLAS research to the public.

### **How did you hear about the Fulbright Program and what, in particular, helped you to make an application?**

I read an article that encouraged me to become a Fulbright scholar. Meanwhile, the Turkish Fulbright Commission was also organizing seminars to introduce their programs at various universities of Turkey, so I attended one of those seminars, and I was impressed. I did some research about Senator J. William Fulbright, the founder of this program. The importance he gave to the world, to humanity and to the potential of learning from each other impressed me, and I guess the other Fulbrighters as well. I really liked the vision of this person, whom I respect, and I admired the way he managed to put such a program into practice. I certainly wanted to be a part of this program, which influenced me so deeply, so I made my application. I owe my thanks to Prof. Dena Shenk from the Department of Gerontology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She was the one who always encouraged me, and she was a great host, whom I can never forget. We had the opportunity to implement our

joint projects. I had an unforgettable work environment there, and we had the chance to learn many things from each other.

### **Did you have any work or study experience in the USA before becoming a Fulbrighter?**

I never had any kind of experience in the U.S.A. before submitting my application to the Fulbright Program. Therefore, my travel to the U.S.A. and the 6 months I spent there doing scientific research were quite new for me. To be in the U.S.A. was a total success for me.

***“I spent 6 months until February 2008 in this beautiful country, and it never disappointed me.”***

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

After a 10-hour long flight, I was very pleased to set my feet on the ground. I had never spent so much time in the air before, so my first impression about traveling to the U.S.A. is hard to define, but on the other hand it was elusively pleasant. Subsequently, I noticed how different people looked in the U.S.A., but I could not understand the reason. Although the passport control was really strict, I found the variety and the difference in people around me pleasant. The police were so kind towards passengers. Gradually, I realized that what distinguishes Americans from people of other nationalities is their smile. My positive perception about Americans could be the result of my ever-present positive attitude towards the U.S.A. because my uncle, who traveled to the U.S.A. a lot, used to bring us many beautiful things whenever he returned from the U.S.A.

I went to the U.S.A for the first time in September 2007 and was impressed very much by the things occurring around me. Taxis and people looked very different, and even the smell of weather was different to me. I spent 6 months until February 2008 in this beautiful country, and it never disappointed me. No matter how tired I was on my first day in the U.S.A., I did not want to spend the day in the bed; therefore, I did not sleep. Even today, I



*Prof. Tufan with elderly people*

remember those beautiful 6 months while I am drinking my tea in Turkey. My thoughts take me to the U.S.A. again, and I see the faces of those smiling people, whom I will probably never be able to see again. The vision of my memories there throughout those 6 months is still crystal clear in my mind.

***“There are still some other dimensions of my experiences as a Fulbright scholar that I make use of today. All of these social, cultural and scientific experiences have influenced my life in a positive way and I regard all of these as a success.”***



I was impressed not only by her professionalism and knowledge, but also by her humaneness. I would love to work with her on another project. I owe her my thanks for representing her country in such a good way and for sharing her scientific experiences with me. I took all the information that I learned from her with me to Turkey, and that information has been really helpful in the studies that I have conducted in Turkey.

had better not set barriers between themselves and the people there. My advice at this point is that they need to act as “a bridge” and meanwhile work to establish new scientific, cultural and humanistic bridges by benefiting from the Fulbright Program and the opportunities the program provides them. ■

There are still some other dimensions of my experiences as a Fulbright scholar that I make use of today. All of these social, cultural and scientific experiences have influenced my life in a positive way and I regard all of these as a success.



**What advice would you offer to those who are planning to apply to a Fulbright Program?**

I would like everyone to experience this great opportunity. If someone has any intention of applying to the Fulbright Program, I advise being open to every kind of experience, and they should be honest throughout their application process. What I mean by “being honest” is that they should neither exaggerate their knowledge nor underestimate it. They need to put forward what they have done so far for the sake of science and what they want to do in the future. There is no need to be ashamed of the fact that they do not know much. After all, the main goal of this program is to learn and experience something new and to apply what you have learned there in your own country. Moreover, I recommend that applicants develop their language skills before travelling to the U.S.A., since they can overcome most of the difficulties they will face there only with the help of their language skills. Additionally, they

***“My advice at this point is that they need to act as ‘a bridge’ and meanwhile work to establish new scientific, cultural and humanistic bridges by benefiting from the Fulbright Program and the opportunities the program provides them.”***

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

Those six months went by so quickly! While I was preparing to return, I felt the same gloom I felt before leaving my family and my close friends behind. It is true that the U.S.A. and I became very close friends in those 6 months.

It was a big chance for me to meet and work with Prof. Dena Shenk from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. I was impressed by her professionalism and knowledge in the field of Gerontology. I can say that I have learned a lot from her and I hope that I managed to contribute a little to her existing knowledge.



# American Programs

The American Programs of the Turkish Fulbright Commission offers different types of grant programs that are awarded to U.S. citizens. These programs include the U.S. Scholar Program, U.S. Student Program, and the Fulbright Specialist Program.

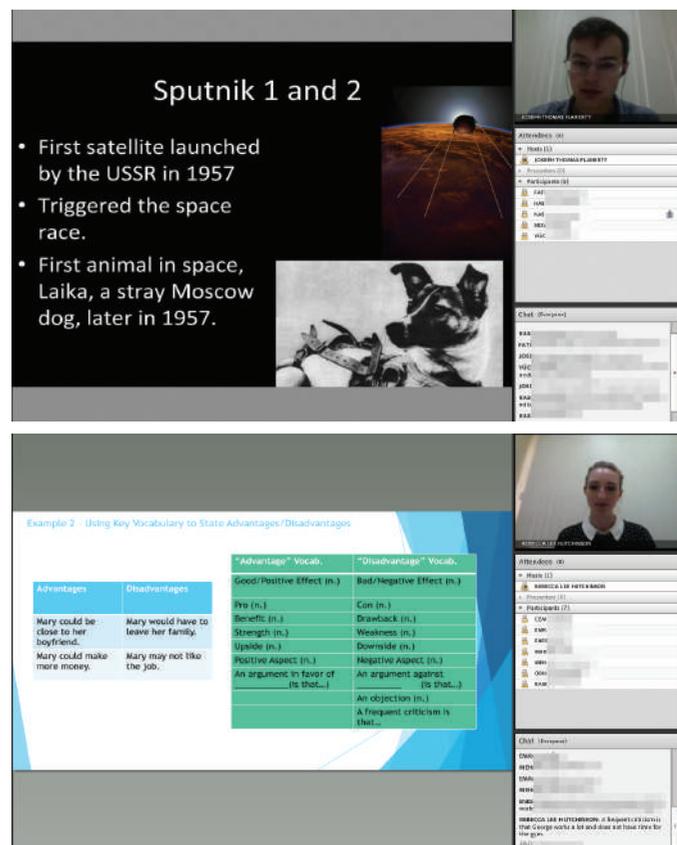
Turkish universities are welcome to host grantees in the above mentioned grant categories on their campuses. The application deadline for each program differs, and universities interested in hosting a scholar or a student grantee on their campuses should directly write to the American Programs of the Commission at [amprog@fulbright.org.tr](mailto:amprog@fulbright.org.tr) for detailed information.

## NEW

### Initiative

## Online Teaching Project

The Turkish Fulbright Commission is pleased to announce the commencement of a new online teaching initiative. The program, the *Improvement of English Language Speaking Skills Amongst Academicians Project* (Akademisyenler için İngilizce Konuşma Becerisi Geliştirme Projesi), has been established by the Council of Higher Education (YÖK), and is being administered out of Yıldırım Beyazıt University in Ankara. Three English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Program host universities, Sakarya University in Sakarya, Karabük University in Karabük, and Yıldırım Beyazıt University in Ankara, are providing instruction for these courses. A total of fifteen Fulbright ETA grantees at these universities conduct online speaking classes on a variety of contemporary topics, ranging from global warming to immigration. The classes are attended by university professors and academic staff from across the country, representing a variety of departments. The program aims to reach 150,000 academic personnel and consists of classes capped at twenty students per session. Offering an interactive discussion setting, participants in these classes can use technology to practice their speaking and listening skills as well as learn new vocabulary related to a particular subject.



**Sputnik 1 and 2**

- First satellite launched by the USSR in 1957
- Triggered the space race.
- First animal in space, Laika, a stray Moscow dog, later in 1957.

**Example 2 Using Key Vocabulary to State Advantages/Disadvantages**

Advantages	Disadvantages
Mary could be close to her boyfriend.	Mary would have to leave her family.
Mary could make more money.	Mary may not like the job.

"Advantage" Vocab.	"Disadvantage" Vocab.
Good/Positive Effect (n.)	Bad/Negative Effect (n.)
Pro (n.)	Con (n.)
Benefit (n.)	Drawback (n.)
Strength (n.)	Weakness (n.)
Upside (n.)	Downside (n.)
Positive Aspect (n.)	Negative Aspect (n.)
An argument in favor of (n.)	An argument against (n.)
A frequent criticism is that...	A frequent criticism is that...



**YÜKSEKÖĞRETİM KURULU** Akademisyenler için İngilizce Konuşma Becerisi Geliştirme Projesi

2015-2016

Üç adımda, anadili İngilizce olan öğretmenlerle İngilizce Konuşma Becerini geliştirir.

1. Rezervasyon Yap
2. Etkinliğe Katıl
3. İngilizce Konuş

2015-2016 akademik yılı birinci dönemi 2 Kasım 2015 tarihinde başlayacaktır. Etkinliklere ve ayrıntılı bilgiye Yükseköğretim Bilgi Sistemi (<https://yoksis.yok.gov.tr/>) üzerinden ulaşabilirsiniz.

**"This program allows me to connect with other instructors across Turkey. I enjoy sharing ideas and learning their opinions on different topics," said Fulbright ETA Rebecca Hutchinson at Sakarya University. "That's a unique opportunity that I wouldn't have without this program."**

The Turkish Fulbright Commission is very pleased to be able to partner with the Council of Higher Education to bring this opportunity to both Turkish academics and American ETA grantees across Turkey.

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



The Orientation Meeting Program for the Senior Scholars (including Senior Lecturers and Senior Researchers) and Student Researchers was held on September 28-29, 2015 in Ankara. The six Senior Scholars and ten Student Researchers who attended the program are currently teaching or working on their research projects in Ankara, Çanakkale, İstanbul, İzmir and Tekirdağ. The Orientation Meeting Program consisted of a variety of activities including lectures on Turkish culture and recent challenges and developments in Turkey, cultural visits to significant sites in Ankara, and a welcome reception hosted by Dr. Jonathan Henick, Public Affairs Officer, Embassy of the United States of America.

### Story from Our U.S. Scholar

#### Dr. Douglas van Hoewyk

2015-2016 Senior Researcher  
Coastal Carolina University, South Carolina / Ankara University, Ankara

#### “Want free baklava? Bring your kids to Turkey”

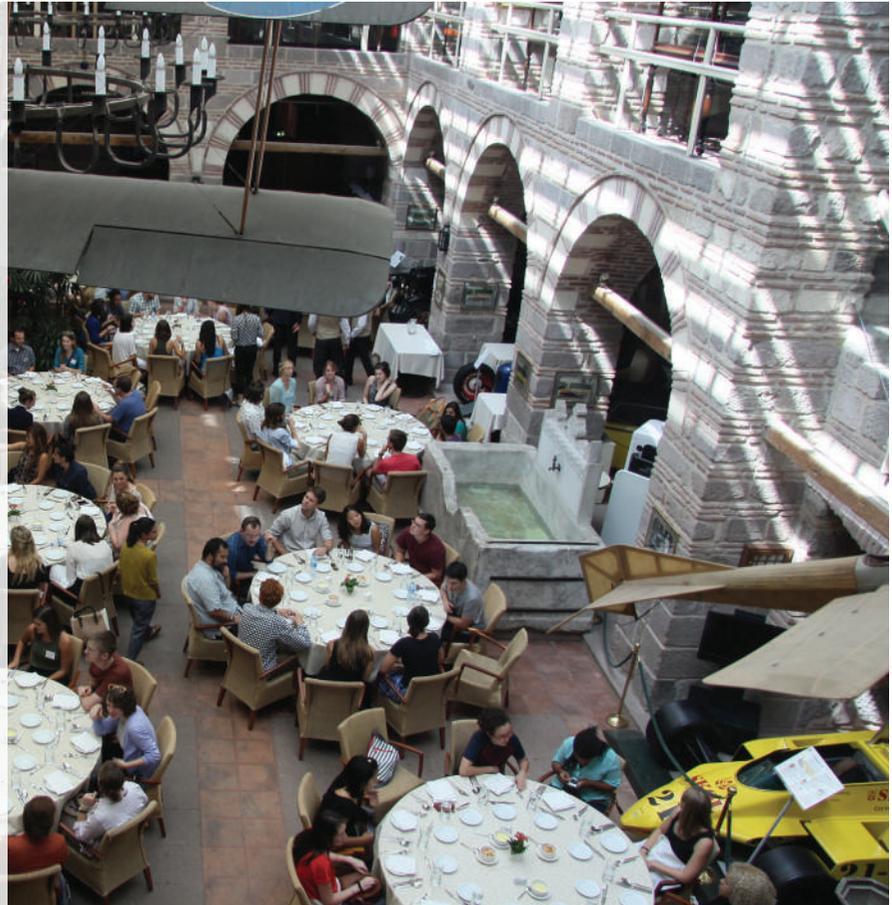
Turkish hospitality might be well renowned, and it is now clear to me that this certainly extends to children. How Turks treat children is vastly different than in other countries in which I have lived, and I can only sum-up their genuine behavior towards my kids as both welcomed and extremely positive. My children- ages 4, 6, and 9- are now used to getting their cheeks pinched and the occasional kiss on the forehead by waiters, bank tellers, taxi drivers, etc. Turks who know some English are quick to engage my children in conversation, and this applies to Turks living in Ankara and other cities to which we have traveled. I fondly recall the time a policeman pushed my younger children on a swing as he passed through our neighborhood park. At restaurants, my children routinely get complimentary pastries, which their conniving father enjoys. It’s hard to explain why my children get this preferential treatment, as they are not exactly role models of good behavior and they don’t impress anyone with their Turkish (however, they are all enrolled either in a Turkish or bilingual school). As the saying goes: happy kids make happy parents. And I’m very happy to be in Turkey.



## The English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Program

The English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Program Orientation Meeting for the 2015-2016 academic year was held in Ankara from August 30 to September 12, 2015. A record 104 grantees have been placed in 41 universities in 37 cities across Turkey. This year's group also includes 14 renewal grantees, who have returned for a second year with the program.

The ceremony to welcome these grantees and officially commence the Orientation Meeting featured speeches by Prof. Ersel Aydın, Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission, Prof. Abdullah Çavuşoğlu, Executive Board Member of the Council of Higher Education, as well as Dr. Jonathan Henick, Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara.



In order to provide the grantees with the information they need to be successful, the orientation meeting included sessions on Turkish culture, history, politics, and the legal and educational systems. Grantees also took Turkish language courses. Many sessions were devoted to English Language Teaching Methods, and the grantees had the opportunity to meet in person with the university representatives from their respective host universities while still in Ankara. The renewal grantees also led panel discussions on the ETA experience.

The grantees visited museums and other important cultural and historical sites across Ankara as part of the Orientation Meeting Program. In addition, the Commission hosted a welcome dinner for the grantees at the historic Ankara Palas Devlet Konukevi, where grantees were joined by their university representatives as well as the Commission and the U.S. Embassy staff. The grantees were also welcomed at a reception at the residence of the U.S. Ambassador, Mr. John Bass. With cultural, social, and educational components, the Orientation Meeting sought to comprehensively prepare the grantees for their new experiences teaching and learning in their host cities across Turkey.

## Stories from ETA Grantees

### 2015-2016 ETA Program Grantee, Social Sciences University of Ankara

Karlene Marie Groshek, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Wisconsin

#### “At Home in Trakya”



My host city: Ankara. Though spending “Cumhuriyet Bayramı” (Republic Day) in the nation’s capital would seem logical, I chose to spend it in a more typical Turkish city, in Kırklareli, Trakya. It was an incredibly humbling experience to celebrate the Turkish Republic in a city where Turks are so proud of and thankful to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. The day began with a celebration in the city square, attended by government officials, military personnel, and community members. Spectators observed traditional dancing and a parade of youth, soldiers, and military vehicles, following the national anthem and words spoken by the well-loved female governor. Pride and progress.

I am certain that my Turkish coworkers and friends are the best Ankara has to offer. They unconditionally include me in their social circles and are eager to help me improve my Turkish. I have found the transition to living in Turkey quite easy and enjoyable. I feel incredibly thankful that I am being embraced by my host culture, both professionally and personally.

### 2015-2016 ETA Program Grantees, Sinop University, Sinop

Sarah Batool Khan, East Stroudsburg University, Pennsylvania

Theodore Parker Charles (Renewal Grantee), Pacific Lutheran University, Washington

#### “Fulbright on Hallowe’en Night”

Fulbright ETAs began to arrive as the clouds parted over Sinop. The first were from Malatya, but others came from Çanakkale to Kırkkale. The peninsula of Sinop hosted nearly one third of the ETAs for Hallowe’en. Mornings were spent exploring the walled city, smelling whiffs of frying hamsi and salt air after massive Turkish breakfasts. While some wandered the cavernous halls of the prison, others explored miniature boat builders’ shops.

Fulbrighters scaled Sinop Castle and sipped tea while watching the sunset, while a few braved the chilly waters of the Black Sea for a swim, followed by Sinop mantı laced with butter and walnuts. The night of Hallowe’en was glorious, packed with costumed friends and stories from their new homes. Not only did guests feast on paçanga böreği, but also samosas, pakoras, and peanut butter cookies. All in all, Hallowe’en weekend was filled with laughter, dancing, and bonding time!



### 2015-2016 ETA Program Grantee, Niğde University, Niğde

Claire Catherine Lind, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Wisconsin

#### “Turkey, Turkey Trot and Plenty of Thanks”

To keep with familial traditions, I encouraged my students to come and run with me at 7 a.m. on the Thursday of Thanksgiving for a Turkey Trot in Niğde, Turkey.



On a blustery morning before the busses even started running, I had a handful of students show up to show their support and see what this crazy American tradition was all about. We finished our 5K run/walk/bike ride with smiles and each was awarded an inaugural Turkey, Turkey Trot “medal” and indulged in a hearty breakfast afterwards. Proud of our accomplishments, we headed off to work and school for 8:30 a.m. lessons.

### 2015-2016 ETA Program Grantees, Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon

Nicholas Teruo Masada, Hastings College, Nebraska

Christian Darius Gordon, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri

Samer Fawaz Hjouj, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, North Carolina

#### “Thanksgiving with (New) Family”

We recently hosted Thanksgiving in Trabzon (Trabzgiving) for Fulbrighters, ex-pats, and a few Turks. What we thought might be a fun few days of reuniting with new friends ended up being one of the best and warmest weekends we can remember. It’s fairly easy to avoid homesickness when Thanksgiving commercials of food and family aren’t blasted on our televisions. But we were feeling a twinge of nostalgia the week leading up to the holiday. Instead of this melancholic feeling coming to a head on Thanksgiving Day, we were awash with sincere and deliberate love from amazing people whom we certainly call family.



# Turkish Programs

The Turkish Programs of our Commission will be sending off approximately 80 Turkish grantees to the U.S.A. under six different programs in the forthcoming 2016-2017 academic year.

## The Student Core Program

As practiced in previous years, for the 2016-2017 academic year, the Student Core Program offered grants to students for master's and doctorate studies as well as for PhD dissertation research. The Commission has selected the nominees, whose application and placement processes to U.S. institutions have already begun.

For their placement process, the selected nominees were presented with two options, IIE-placement or self-placement, from which they have chosen according to their specific needs and expectations. These two options were first introduced to the nominees during the Initial Orientation Meeting organized on August 3, 2015.

During this meeting, the stages of how university applications will be made based on each option was also discussed in details. Following the Initial Orientation, both the Commission's Advising Unit and IIE's Placement Team conducted webinars to further discuss the differences between the two placement routes.



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

The 2016-2017 nominees were selected from 29 different fields. Once they receive admission from the U.S. institutions, each grantee will receive a grant package of up to \$50,000 per academic year, which will help them make the optimal placement decision.

**The application announcement for the 2017-2018 academic year has been made on the Commission's website.**

**For more information: [www.fulbright.org.tr](http://www.fulbright.org.tr)**

advising@fulbright.org.tr veya [fulb-iste@fulbright.org.tr](mailto:fulb-iste@fulbright.org.tr)'. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn, along with a QR code." data-bbox="608 392 930 715"/>

## The Visiting Scholar Program

The Visiting Scholar Program supports the research of scholars visiting colleges and universities in the United States. Scholars spend time in the U.S. to conduct full-time advanced research in their specialized areas for three to twelve months. The program also provides joint collaborative opportunities with U.S. scholars.

The Commission conducted a Pre-Departure webinar on August 25, 2015, for the 2015-2016 grantees.

Currently, the 2016-2017 academic year applications are being evaluated.

## First Fulbrighter at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee

2015-2016 Turkish Student Program grantee Nefike Gunden was welcomed to the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee as the first ever Fulbright grantee.

<http://www.bradenton.com/2015/09/10/5983855/turkish-student-joins-university.html>

## The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program offers a year of non-degree academic study and professional development in the United States to young and mid-career professionals. Humphrey fellows are selected based on their potential for leadership and commitment to public service.

Practical professional experience is the core of the Humphrey program. Fellows design and implement individualized programs to acquire career related knowledge, interact with colleagues, and gain professional experience.

The U.S. faculty, students, and community members who welcome Humphrey fellows expand their own horizons by learning about Turkey from Turkish fellows as well.

Humphrey fellows return home reinvigorated by broader perspectives, enhanced leadership skills, and greater professional knowledge.

A total of ten candidates are nominated (including candidates for the Long-Term English Program) for the 2016-2017 academic cycle.



The Commission Staff and the Turkish Humphrey Alumni Association President with the 2015-2016 Humphrey Fellow

## The Community College Initiative (CCI) Program



CCI Program Grantees at the Pre-Departure Orientation Meeting held in Ankara

The Community College Initiative (CCI) Program provides a high-quality academic program at U.S. community colleges intended to build technical skills, enhance leadership capabilities, and strengthen the English language proficiency of Turkish students studying at vocational colleges in Turkey. The program also provides opportunities for professional internships, service learning, and community engagement activities.

Participants spend one academic year in the United States and may earn certificates in their fields of study. After completing the program, participants return home with new skills and expertise to help them contribute to the economic growth and development of Turkey.

The 2015-2016 grantees participated their Pre-Departure Orientation on July 6, 2015 at the Commission's Ankara office.

The deadline for application for the 2016-2017 academic year was December 21, 2015.

For more information: [www.fulbright.org.tr](http://www.fulbright.org.tr)

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MESLEK YÜKSEKOKULU  
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**BURS VERİLECEK ALANLAR**  
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İřletme Yönetimi  
Kamu GÖvenliĐi  
Medya  
Okul Öncesi EĐitim  
Turizm ve Öteliçlik Yönetimi  
Uygulamalı Mühendislik  
Ziraat

**Son Başvuru Tarihi: 21 Aralık 2015**

Bursa 2015-2017 Akademik Yılı için başvurulara başvurmak için başvuru formunu [www.fulbright.org.tr](http://www.fulbright.org.tr)  
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İstanbul Şubesi Ofis: (0212) 249 11 00 [istanbul@fulbright.org.tr](mailto:istanbul@fulbright.org.tr)

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## The Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA)



The Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program is a non-degree program that offers young professionals in the field of English teaching an opportunity to increase their English language proficiency, to refine their teaching skills, and to expand their knowledge of American society and culture 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 2016-2017 academic year FLTA nominees was held on November 23, 2015, at the Niza Park Hotel in Ankara.



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

## Stories from Our Turkish Fulbright Grantees

### Murat Ceyhan

2015-2016 SCP grantee at Columbia University, LLM (Masters in Law)

As soon as I picked up my luggage from New York's JFK airport and headed out for a cab I immediately felt like I was home again. Born and raised in Istanbul, New York welcomed me with the same chaos I was accustomed to in my hometown. The social/cultural offerings of the city and the 24-hour liveliness of its streets made my transition to the U.S. much smoother than I ever imagined. The constant sirens, the presence of crowds in every neighborhood, and most importantly the welcoming nature of the city always made me feel at home. You always hear how the United States embraces diversity and tolerates every culture. To actually see and feel this in person, you just have to hop on a New York subway and look

around you. In this city you will never feel as an outsider because of your race, gender, religion, because apparently there is not even a concept of "an outsider" in people's minds to begin with. New York City has surpassed all my expectations and it ultimately feels like "Istanbul" on the other side of the ocean.

As for my academic experiences in this exciting city, I am fortunate enough to pursue my master's studies at Columbia University's gorgeous campus in Manhattan. I have witnessed that the university, particularly its Law School, acts as an intellectual hub for the city. Every major civil rights organization, the United Nations, law firms, and corporations have their headquarters in NYC. For example, I am taking a class by a leading attorney from the most fundamental civil rights organization of the USA, the ACLU. I am



also taking a class from two Prosecutors of the New York District, and also a class from an Honorary Judge from the 2nd Circuit. The experiences they share about the core legal problems of New York and the U.S. in general are fascinating and drastically changing the way I approach my legal profession.

The attractions at the law school and in this city welcoming a wide array of scholars, attorneys, and leading political figures allow me to see that my Fulbright experience is beyond my classes and exams.

In sum, this has been an utterly fascinating journey in New York City. Every day I get to learn about a different perspective; I get to meet a different culture. Visiting Times Square or getting a boat ride to the Statue of Liberty is ok for one day. But living here, studying at Columbia, and feeling the everyday vibes of the city is indispensable. To be honest, as a Fulbrighter from Istanbul, I always liked organized chaos in a city. And New York City is offering tons of it.

*“The attractions at the law school and in this city welcoming a wide array of scholars, attorneys, and leading political figures allow me to see that my Fulbright experience is beyond my classes and exams.”*



Murat with his friends in front of Columbia University Library

**Burçin Yapıcı**

2015-2016 FLTA grantee at University of Arizona

**Turkish Breakfast in the U.S.**

It is a unique and amazing experience to be working as a Turkish language assistant as part of the Fulbright FLTA program! As a 2015-2016 FLTA assistant, I am actively involved in the department where I work having multiple duties ranging from teaching and assisting Turkish classes, preparing materials, assessing the pop-quizzes and assignments. These duties I mentioned are more of the academic ones; however, I also have cultural responsibilities as an FLTA during this 9-month period. As a cultural representative of Turkey, I have the opportunity to share Turkish culture with my students, such as the education system in Turkey, the daily lives of Turkish people, their traditions as well as eating habits.

I thought that the students in the department would enjoy learning about Turkish culture and one of the best ways to motivate them was to give them the opportunity to experience it. Therefore, in an attempt to introduce Turkish food, we decided to organize an event called “The Turkish Breakfast” with the Turkish instructor in the department. We organized this out-of-class activity not only for introducing Turkish food but also for enhancing relationships among the students and with the faculty.

In order to receive financial support for the Turkish breakfast, I applied for the ‘Student/faculty interaction grant’ that was offered by the department for such activities. I completed the required form by writing the reasons for my application, the aims of the event as well as when and where the event was planned to take place. I also



*“It is a unique and amazing experience to be working as a Turkish language assistant as part of the Fulbright FLTA program!”*

provided an estimated budget required for the event. As soon as my application was approved, we started to get prepared because we thought that the earlier it would take place, the more motivated the students would be in our Turkish class. At last, we decided to conduct the event in October 2015 and we prepared a poster to announce it. We also sent invitations to the students, faculty, and several Turkish people via e-mails.



There is a very close hotel to the department, so we talked to its administrator about the event. We gave them the list of the ingredients, the menu as well as the recipes of the food that a typical Turkish breakfast would probably have.

The event was fabulous! We have 43 students in elementary level Turkish and 23 students in higher levels, and almost all of them

participated in the event. Everybody enjoyed the food and the colorful atmosphere. The beginner-level students were able to learn the tradition of Turkish breakfast and the food. It was also important for them to interact with intermediate-level Turkish learners as well as Turkish people because they had the opportunity to practice Turkish with them.

## Sezen Genç

2015-2016 Humphrey Program grantee at Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MIT...my dream university.... Since I graduated from METU in 2008 and started to work in the public sector in Turkey, I have dreamed of receiving the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship and getting the opportunity to be able to have a professional program in one of the most reputable American universities. When it was time, my dream came true. After dreaming for many years, finally, I had the chance to be enrolled in SPURS at MIT, thanks to the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program. As everybody can imagine my impressions of MIT have been great so far. I am especially very captivated by the openness of the university and by seeing less hierarchy within the university. This is something I cannot see in many Turkish universities. Professors and students are very comfortable on the campus and I believe that is one of the main reasons behind the success of MIT. It has a very creative environment full of support and opportunities. I can claim that this university does not sleep at all! There are always classes, workshops, seminars, projects, meetings, panels, and conferences about any subject. In addition to academic life, there are also many cultural events, recreational activities, concerts and student club activities. The dynamism and energy of MIT feels like being in a wonderland! The environment is full of teaching, contributing and empowering. Sometimes this might be overwhelming but being a part of MIT makes me feel so happy, content and more resilient.

### Society & Community Development

Since I arrived in the USA, I have not had major issues related to cultural adjustment. People have been very kind and especially the H. Hubert Humphrey Program authority and program coordinators at MIT have been so helpful and welcoming. I have been getting support for everything I need. As a result, I have felt like I'm at home since the first day of the program. As I have started to experience city life more, which is different than the university and surrounding environment, I have realized some differences between the USA and Turkey. In fact, the only thing that surprised me badly is the local homelessness problem and to see that everybody has already got used to seeing people sleeping on the streets. Of course, I have seen that fact in many movies before coming to the USA; however, until seeing it in reality I had not thought it would be such a big issue within the city life. To be honest, this was a surprising and sad thing for me. After making a quick research and experiencing it a little bit, I have realized that the housing market is booming in Boston. As a result, many people cannot afford to rent or



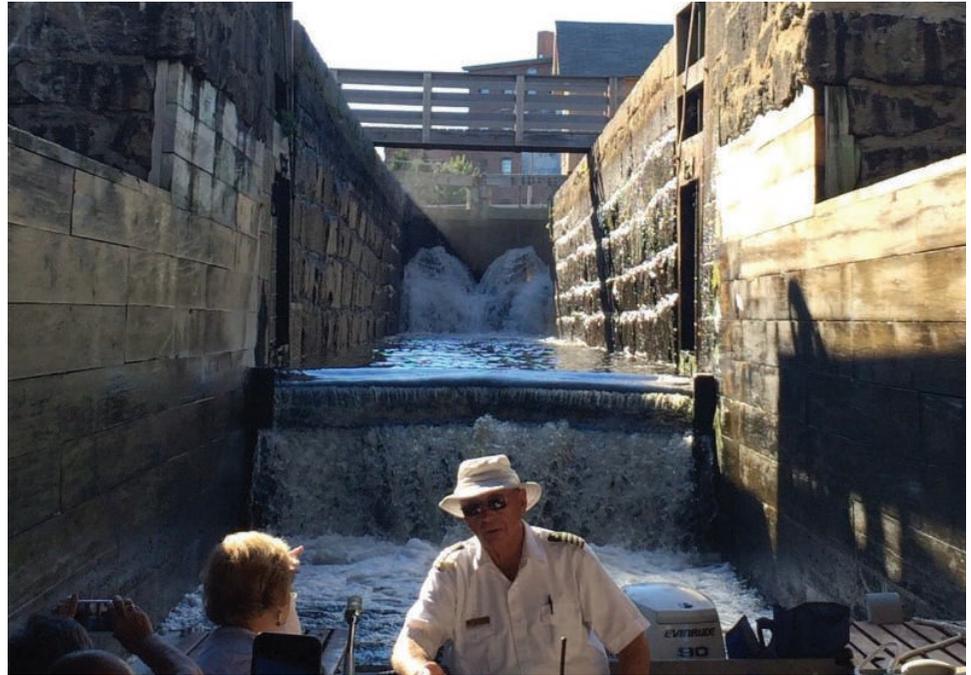
buy a house. This led me to question the social solidarity and the role of local authorities in affordable housing. I am especially attending some workshops and seminars based on affordable housing and trying to understand the main reasons lying behind this problem. But I guess this is a problem of many big cities in the world due to income disparities. In addition to that, seeing the high diversification of the society was quite impressive and interesting. However, this has been creating some segregation issues as well. Therefore, most of the planning implementations are based on community development. Seeing the significance of community development has made me think about planning in a different way. In fact, this concept has been the dominant notion in planning of US cities. Furthermore, American people are aware of their citizenship rights more than Turkish people. This is one of the impressive things to see. For instance, I have attended some public meetings and had the chance to witness different implementations of bottom up approaches in participatory planning. Seeing people talk loudly in meetings and share what they want for their cities made me understand what a developed country means in reality! Witnessing the freedom of speech.... this I admire a lot! For me, this is one of the greatest examples of real democracy in cities. Lastly, I would like to say that the social life is pretty amazing in Boston. This is a fantastic city in which everybody would enjoy living, and it is definitely a great place to study. Therefore, I definitely recommend Turkish students, professionals, and tourists to visit and live in Boston at least once in their lives.

*“I have felt like I'm at home since the first day of the program”*

**Dr. Arcan Fehmi Dericioğlu**

*2015-2016 Fulbright Visiting Scholar  
Program grantee at University of  
Massachusetts Lowell*

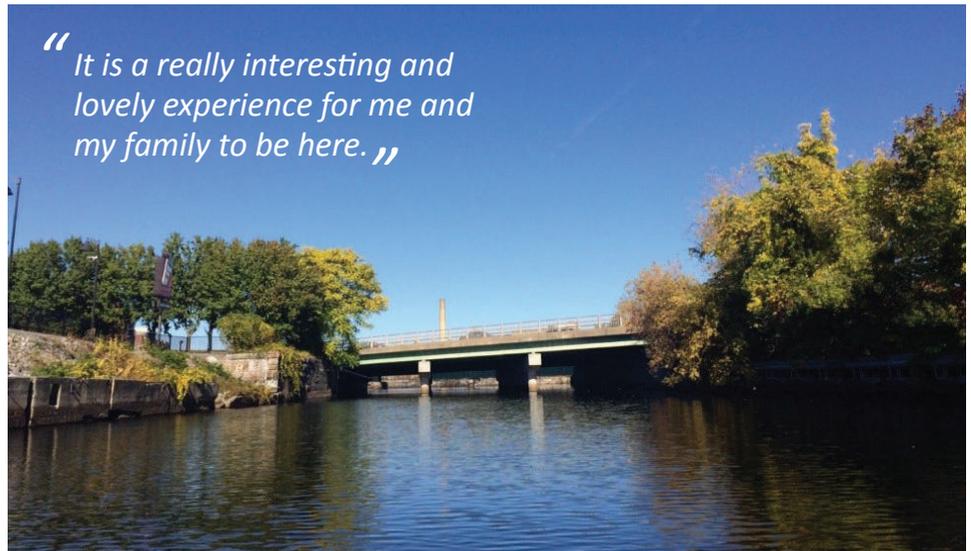
I am a visiting scholar at UMass Lowell and doing research on the modelling and simulation of electromagnetic wave absorbing composite materials. UMass Lowell is located near downtown Lowell with its several campuses situated around the Merrimack River. Even though I have been to Massachusetts and the Boston area several times before, this is my first chance to visit this nice and old city. Having a motivating river view from my desk and hearing about the cotton mills being renovated recently, I wanted to discover more about the history of Lowell. So, we visited Lowell National Historical Park on Columbus Day and used the season’s last chance to make a guided canal boat tour with my family.



*Dr. Arcan’s trip to Dormant Lowell*

Although the history of the area around what is now Lowell goes back to 1600s, the city has become one of the most important touchstones for the industrialization of the United States. The idea of using water power for manufacturing textiles via power looms was first applied by Francis Cabot Lowell at the beginning of 1800s in Waltham, Massachusetts, who was an American entrepreneur, businessman, and textile merchant. Later, Lowell’s successor Patrick Jackson developed his idea by establishing another plant by the Merrimack River making use of the potential of the 34-foot drop of the Pawtucket Falls. Following this, the city Lowell became the first large-scale factory town in the country, and hence is considered the “Cradle of the American Industrial Revolution.”

The booming city with many low-skilled jobs, including construction to improve the canal system, attracted many immigrants to Lowell. Moreover, women from New England farms came to the city to work for the textile corporations. Known as “Mill Girls,” these women were the first to challenge the assumptions of female inferiority and dependence. Later, as the nature of the new “factory system” became clear, many of these women joined the broader American labor movement to



*“ It is a really interesting and lovely experience for me and my family to be here. ”*

protest the dramatic social changes being brought by the Industrial Revolution. All of these developments affected and, in fact, built the demography and social structure of Lowell.

The decline of the city started by the 1920s when the New England textile industry began to shift “South” where steam-powered factories taking advantage of the cheaper labor and transportation costs became more popular. As a result, many of Lowell’s textile mills began to move or close.

This decline continued until the mid-1970s, when the Lowell Heritage State Park (1974) and Lowell National Historical Park (1978) were founded to preserve and capitalize on the city’s history. With this restart, Lowell has become a functioning modern city of over 100,000 residents and the dynamic UMass Lowell community, focusing the city toward a post-industrial economy. It is a really interesting and lovely experience for me and my family to be here and to observe the awakening of the dormant Lowell.



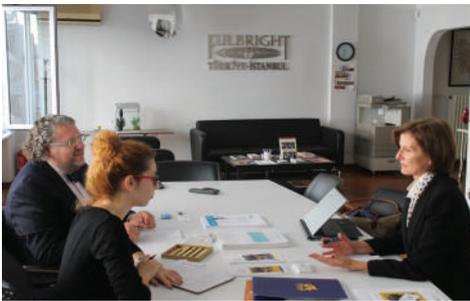
# Advising Program

## Outreach

Our Advising team has started their outreach for 2015-2016 academic year. During the outreach season, our Educational Advisers make presentations on Fulbright Grant Programs and higher education system in the U.S.A. They will be visiting many cities in Turkey, as they did in previous academic years, and they will also conduct webinars for those who are interested but cannot physically attend the presentations. We recommend that everyone follows the activity calendar on our website to learn more about our outreach activities and webinars.



## Visits by Representatives of U.S. Higher Education Institutions



Since our offices are also EducationUSA centers, the representatives of Higher Education Institutions in the U.S.A. visit our offices to provide information about their schools and programs and also to learn about the higher education system in Turkey and how to recruit Turkish students. We also help them organize their high school and university visits by making recommendations on the best time of year to visit and where to find potential students. We

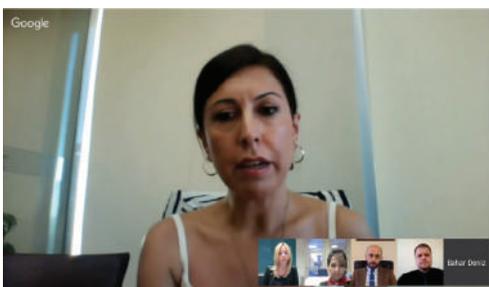
are also open to holding webinars with colleges and universities in the U.S.A., as long as these webinars do not focus only on the advertisement of the school or the program but provide an overview of an aspect of the U.S. higher education system.

## Presentation at the Turkish Republic Ministry of Development

Our Advising Coordinator, Ms. Bahar Deniz Türkaslan, was invited to the Ministry of Development by the Institutional Development and Training Department of the Ministry to make a presentation on Fulbright Grant Programs and the higher education system in the U.S.A. The participants had the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation. We would like to thank Ms. Burcu Miraç Diraor, the head of department, and her team for their warm welcome and hospitality.



## Google Hangout



ABD'de Eğitim Olanakları, Burslar ve Öğrenci Vizeleri

November 16-20 was celebrated as International Education Week to raise awareness of the importance of international education and exchange programs. During this week, U.S. Embassies, Fulbright Commissions, and EducationUSA centers worldwide organized events to introduce the higher education system and exchange programs available in the U.S.A. As part of the celebration, the U.S. Embassy in Ankara organized a Google Hangout on November 20, 2015. Our Advising Coordinator also participated in this event, which was then posted on the YouTube channel of the U.S. Embassy and was watched by 5340 people. If you still haven't watched the video, you can watch it at <https://goo.gl/V4RsWz>.

## Turkish-American University Partnership Workshop



The U.S. Embassy in Ankara organized a workshop on Turkish-American University Partnerships on December 10, 2015, at Ankara University. Representatives of both public and private universities in Turkey participated in the workshop which opened with speeches by the Rector of Ankara University, Prof. Erkan İbiş, and the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, Mr. John R. Bass.

The keynote speakers of the workshop were Ms. Linda Tobash, Director at World Education Services, and Ms. Clare Banks, Assistant Director at the Institute of International Education, who provided the participants with an overview of U.S. higher education institutions, accreditation in the U.S., and partnership building with U.S. higher education institutions.

Our Executive Director, Prof. Ersel Aydın, Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Seher Türkyılmaz Sinclair, and Advising Coordinator, Ms. Bahar Deniz Türkaslan, also attended the workshop. Ms. Türkaslan was the moderator of the session, "Challenges and Opportunities in Partnerships." We hope that there will be more partnerships between Turkish and U.S. universities after this workshop.

## Open Doors Report

- The annual Open Doors report was released by IIE on the first day of International Education Week. This report provides information on the number of international students studying in the U.S.A. and U.S. students studying abroad. According to the report, during the 2014-2015 academic year 10,724 Turkish students studied in the U.S.A., meaning that Turkey is now 13th in the world and 2nd in Europe in terms of the number of students studying in the U.S.A.
- Of Turkish students studying in the U.S.A., 50% are pursuing a graduate degree, while 30.2% are working toward an undergraduate degree. Additionally, 11.5% of Turkish students in the U.S.A. are doing their OPT (Optional Practical Training) and 8.3% are on non-degree programs such as intensive English and certificate programs.
- When we look at the number of U.S. students studying in Turkey, we see a 6.2% increase from the 2012-2013 academic year. The number of U.S. students studying in Turkey was 2,163 for the 2013-2014 academic year.



## Transition of our REAC

The REAC (Regional Education Advising Coordinator) for Northern and Central Europe, Mr. Christopher Medalis, was based in Turkey working from our office in İstanbul. However, he will be gradually transitioning out of the REAC position and will finish his work with EducationUSA at the end of March 2016. Due to family reasons, he moved back to New York on December 23rd.

We thank Chris for his cooperation with us while he was in Turkey and wish him all the best. We hope to see him again either in Turkey or the U.S.A.

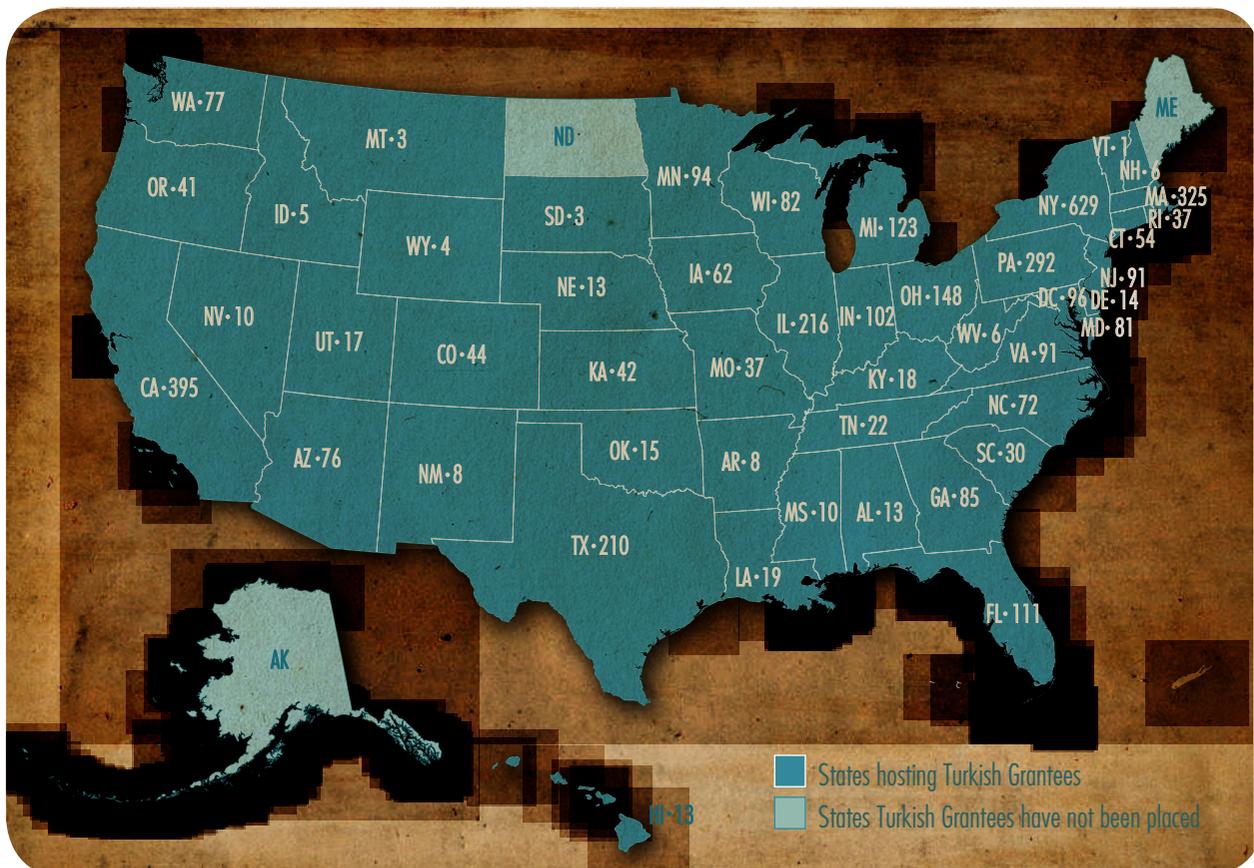


# The Turkish Fulbright Commission in Numbers in 65 Years

## Host Cities of U.S. Grantees in Turkey since 1953



## Number of Turkish Grantees in Host States in the U.S.A. since 1951



# FULBRIGHT

## TÜRKİYE

The Turkish Fulbright NEWSLETTER is published by the  
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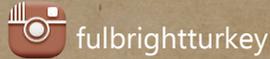
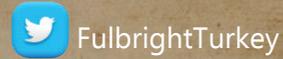
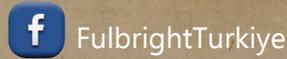
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