

## Inspiring Story: Prof. Üstün Ergüder

Academic, Turkish Fulbright  
Alumnus, 1983-1984

**In This Issue:** News from the Commission  
Alumni Corner • American Programs • Turkish Programs  
Advising Activities • Fulbright in Numbers



Spring  
Issue

2022

# Newsletter



— Pictured left:  
**Prof. Ersel Aydınli's  
U.S. Visit**

— Pictured right:  
**Meeting with ECA  
and IIE**

## From the Executive Director

Dear friends,

Welcome to the Spring 2022 issue of our Commission's newsletter, I hope it finds you all doing well. I am writing my comments this time from Boston, where I am wrapping up a visit to university campuses across the US. More on that below! In the meantime, I'm very happy to note that the Commission is gradually seeing a normalization of all our programs. We were fortunate to get through what I hope was the worst of the COVID pandemic with the minimal possible impact on our practices and our fellows.

As signs of this normalization, first I would note that applications for several of our programs hit record highs this year. While interest in our programs is always very high—reflecting the prestige of and respect for Fulbright—this year's numbers additionally reflect a returning confidence for international travel. Another sign of normalization is that we will be starting to resume our in-person activities, the first of these is the end-of-year meeting for our US grantees, which will be held in Çeşme in June. This regular event, which we held online for the past two years, is an opportunity for the grantees to make presentations about their time in Turkey and to report on their experiences, research and observations.

I would like to take a moment here to say goodbye to one of our American Board members, Public Affairs Officer Robert Hilton, whose posting to Ankara has just ended. Robert was an excellent friend to Turkish Fulbright, and we wish him all the very best in his next post.

Finally, as noted at the outset, I'd like to mention my cross-country journey this spring. Because of COVID and the extra burden it placed on the system and, more importantly, on our grantees, I traveled to the US to meet face-to-face with Turkish Fulbrighters and with Turkish and American alumni of our programs. I visited campuses across California, Arizona, Texas, Florida, Georgia and North Carolina, and held feedback sessions and happy hour gatherings in Washington DC, New York, and Boston for grantees and alumni from those cities and surrounding regions. Throughout the trip I was most impressed by the exciting work our Fulbrighters are doing—proof that we really do select the best and the brightest for our grants. We also held extensive feedback sessions to collect suggestions on how to make things even better for the grantees, such as helping ensure better support systems. I thank everyone involved, particularly the staff at the Commission and the current grantees who helped coordinate, for their efforts in making this possible.

I hope you enjoy reading the stories and news on the following pages, and I wish you all a good summer,



**Prof. Ersel Aydınli**

## An Inspiring Story

Guided by his father, who believed in the transformative power of a good education, and nurtured within the democratic, liberal, and humanistic environment of the school where he studied nine years as a boarder; Üstün Ergüder's lifelong ambition became to preserve and uphold those values that he wholeheartedly believed in.

He studied Political Science, became an academic, taught at Boğaziçi, took on various administrative responsibilities, and led the university as rector from 1992 to 2000. He turned to Public Policy and assumed other important positions, working to develop policies, especially on education.

Prof. Ergüder attributes his Fulbright experience as a catalyst in his academic career, an opportunity to retool, learn new disciplines, build networks, and widen horizons.

*(For the full interview, please go to page 15-20)*





# News from the Commission

## Staff Events

The annual traditional “Secret Santa” activity was carried out on December 28, 2021, on Zoom, with presents opened online. Staff members tried to guess who the senders of their presents were by interpreting the clues written on a note.



A casual staff meeting was held on January 28, 2022, where staff members exchanged recent developments and shared stories.



And on April 13, another similar meeting was held in order to go over the procedures for when all staff would return to the office, beginning April 18th.

This meeting also gave the opportunity to all staff to “meet” our newest member, Ms. Ece Yaluğ (3rd Row, 1st on Left)





## Visit from the U.S. Embassy and Consulate Officials

The Istanbul Office welcomed U.S. Embassy and Consulate officials on January 19, 2022. Both the Istanbul advisers and U.S. officials braved the cold and the occasional snow during the meeting held in the courtyard, in order to keep safe. Among the topics of discussion were the Fulbright programs, and the increased demand in one-on-one educational advising.

***Pictured:** From Left to Right: Cultural Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy, Ms. Gabrielle M. Price; Public Affairs Officer Ms. Allison Lee, Mr. David Panetti, Cultural Attaché, and Mr. Onur Dizdar, Cultural Affairs Assistant at the U.S. Consulate General – Istanbul; Ms. Deniz Can, University Outreach Coordinator at Ankara.*



## Robert Hilton's Visit to the Ankara Office

Mr. Robert Hilton, Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy paid a farewell visit to our office, as the end of his term approached. Office staff thanked him for his support in the Commission's affairs.



## Prof. Ersel Aydınli's U.S. Visit



Our Executive Director, Prof. Ersel Aydınli took on a long visit to the U.S.A., lasting for a month and half. This multi-city trip had several objectives: visiting clusters of Turkish Fulbright grantees and hearing about their experiences; meeting with U.S. Fulbright alumni in several dense locations, refreshing their ties with the Turkish Fulbright

Commission; visiting universities that host many Turkish Fulbright grantees as well as those that send the most U.S. grantees to Turkey and forming closer contacts with related officials; and finally meeting with several Turkish American associations related with the Commission or willing to cooperate in mutual objectives.

The first of these meetings was held in Berkeley, with both Turkish grantees and U.S. alumni attending the gathering, some with their children.



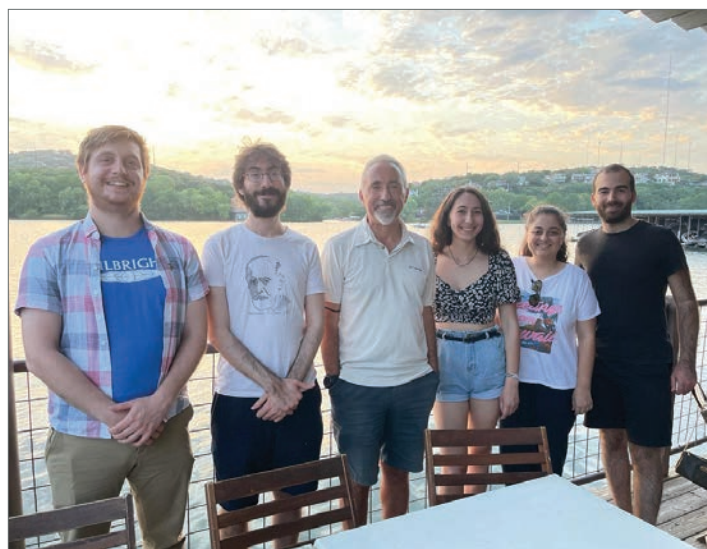
The second stop on Prof. Aydınli's U.S. tour was Los Angeles, where he met with Turkish Fulbright grantees studying or conducting research at UCLA, USC, California State, Loyola Marymount, and Claremont at a feedback session. U.S. Alumni joined the group for the Happy Hour event afterwards.



He next visited Arizona where he made three stops in Flagstaff (NAU), Tempe (ASU), and Tucson (UArizona). He met with current grantees in each city and with various Turkish and American Fulbright alumni, including Dr. Fredericka Stoller and businessman/philanthropist, Haldun Taşman.



In Austin, Texas, Prof. Aydınli met with Turkish Fulbright students and alumni (below left). They had a fruitful feedback/review session, and a Happy Hour, enjoyed by all (below left).



During the Ramadan festival, Prof. Ersel Aydınli met with current grantees and alumni from several universities in Florida, visiting Tallahassee, Gainesville, and Miami (below right).







The next stop was at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he met with student and scholar grantees from various universities around the state of Georgia.



In North Carolina – Chapel Hill, Prof. Aydın met with both Prof. Aziz Sancar and Fulbright fellows.



In Washington D.C., Prof. Aydın met with grantees from George Washington and Johns Hopkins Universities, and hosted a Happy Hour for grantees and alumni, as well as the incoming Consul General and his wife, Jonathan and Dominique Henick



In New York City, Prof. Aydinli met with current Turkish Fulbrighters at Türk Evi, and later hosted a happy hour for grantees and alumni. Great memories were refreshed and new friendships forged.



On the final stop of his US tour, in Boston, Prof. Ersel Aydinli met with current grantees for a

feedback session and then with grantees and alumni from schools in the area for a happy hour.





## Meeting with ECA and IIE

Our Finance Officer, Ms. İmge Su Karakuş, and Turkish Programs Officer, Ms. Duygu Kimençe, scheduled one-to-one meetings with our program partners at ECA (Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs), Washington, D.C. and IIE (Institute of International Education), New York City. These meetings served as great opportunities for the Commission to foster relations not only between our two countries, but also with the Commission's counterparts in the U.S., after the pandemic.



## Board Transitions

Two Turkish Ministry of Education officials who served on the Fulbright Commission's Board were transferred to other positions, and were thus replaced by two new Board members appointed to their positions: Mr. Hasan Ünsal replaced Ms. Burcu Eyisoy Dalkıran as the General Director of European Union and Foreign Affairs Department;

and Prof. Cemal Yıldız, General Director of Higher Education and Foreign Education, Ministry of National Education, replaced Prof. Muhsin Kar – who now is the Chairman of the Turkish Higher Education Quality Council. We welcome the new Board members and wish them success in their new roles.

The latest of the triannual Turkish Fulbright Commission Board meetings was held at the Consul General's residence on February 24. All members of the Board were present, as well as the U.S. Ambassador Jeffrey L. Flake, and his wife Cheryl Flake.





## U.S. Istanbul Consulate Event

Educational Adviser at the Commission's Istanbul Office, Ms. Serin Alpokay, attended the coffee hour hosted by the Cultural Attaché David Panetti, and Public Affairs Officer Allison J. Lee on March 18th. Fulbright Alumni Association board members and American Fulbright grantees currently residing in Istanbul and surrounding regions came together for this event on a snowy day. The hosts and guests had the opportunity to exchange experiences, and build the ground for future collaborations while enjoying the stunning view and a selection from the photography exhibition "Female Gaze" in honor of Women's History Month. We would like to give our special thanks to the U.S. Istanbul Consul General Daria Darnell for opening the doors of her residence for the event, and to Ms. Allison Lee and Mr. David Panetti for hosting the event.



*Pictured (L-R): Left to Right: Mr. Burak Bekircan, Alumni Ass; Allison Lee, Public Affairs Officer U.S. Consulate General Istanbul; Dr. Ümit Yazman, Alumni Ass.; Aygün Çatak, Alumni Ass. ; Serin Alpokay Taş, Faruk Aktay, Alumni Ass.; U.S. Fulbright grantees, Mr. David Panetti, Cultural Attaché, and Dr. Hande Gündüz, Alumni Ass.*

## Visit from the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB)

On January 18, officials from the YTB visited the Commission in Ankara to consult with our Alumni Affairs and Archives Specialist Neslihan Tekman. Mr. Servet Turan, Mr. İsmail Özsoy, and Ms. Merve Solak asked about best practices used in alumni outreach and procedures of engagement with alumni. The visitors were also interested in establishing and maintaining contact with alumni as well as improving the effectiveness of the Alumni of Turkey portal.



*Pictured (L-R): Ms. İsmail Özsoy, Ms. Merve Solak, Ms. Neslihan Tekman, Mr. Servet Turan*

## Staff Transitions

Gizem Gür, Program Assistant, has left the Commission to pursue her career at a start-up; and we thank her for her valuable contribution to the Turkish Programs department. Ms. Ece Yaluğ has now taken her place as the Turkish Programs Assistant. Ece has

a BA in Political Science and Public Administration from METU, and a Master's degree in Development and International Cooperation Sciences from Sapienza Università di Roma. We wish her a long and successful career at the Commission.





# News from the Alumni

## Fulbright Alumni Association Events

### Visit to the US Consul General Istanbul:

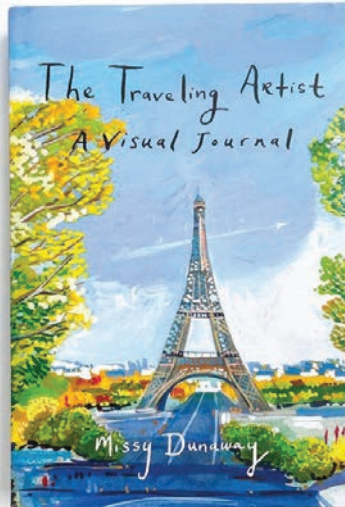
Members of the board of directors of the Turkish Fulbright Alumni Association visited the US Istanbul Consul General, Daria Darnell, to share their projects and planned activities in science, education and cultural exchange for the 2021-2024 period, and discuss opportunities for cooperation.

**Panel Participation:** Two of the Alumni Association's Board members, Mr. Faruk Aktay and Dr. Ümit Yazman participated in a panel organized by the U.S. Consulate General titled: "Strengthen your career path with resilience strategies and mental health support during the pandemic." Mr. Aktay and Dr. Yazman shared their own strategies, and advised participants on career paths, job interviews, and employment opportunities.

**Fulbright Alumni Dinner:** Fulbright Alumni Association members came together at a dinner at Galataport on March 4. Discussion points included networking with former grantees and fostering cooperation among the group. Old stories were told, and new friendships were made.



## Melissa (Missy) Hammond Dunaway's Book Gets Published

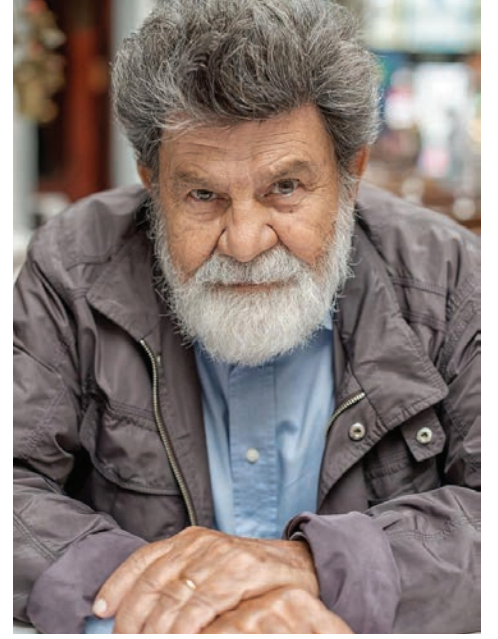


Inspired by the vivid colors of impressionist art, *The Traveling Artist* follows painter and writer Missy Dunaway's voyages over five years, spanning four continents, rendered by hand into her journals. Ms. Dunaway, while a student at Carnegie Mellon University, carried out her research on Painting and Printmaking at Selçuk University as a Fulbright scholar in 2013-14. A solo-traveler, and artist-in-residence, Missy traverses a variety of terrain, from urban Istanbul to Morocco's Sahara Desert to Iceland. The book's pages transport readers through the hand and eye of an artist with the spirit of a poet.



## Prof. Cevat Çapan's New Poetry Book Gets Published

The famous academic, poet, translator, and actor Cevat Çapan added another prize to his impressive list, the 2021 Yunus Nadi Poetry Award with his collection of poems "Bir Başka Coğrafyadan"; and celebrated his 90th birthday with yet another poetry book, "O Geniş Boşlukta." While teaching at İstanbul University, Prof Çapan won a 1981-1982 Fulbright Award to carry out his research in Modern American Poetry & Teaching of Drama at New York University.



## The Pavilion of Turkey at the Venice Biennale 2022 to host Füsun Onur

An installation by the influential artist and sculptor Füsun Onur will be presented at the Pavilion of Turkey for the 59th International Art Exhibition, la Biennale di Venezia, to be held between April 23 and November 27, 2022. Ms. Onur was a 1962-1963 Fulbright Master's Award alumna at the Maryland Institute, College of Arts (MICA).



## Murat Germen's Latest Photography Exhibition

A 1988-1989 Master's alumnus, who earned his degree in Architecture at MIT, after graduating from Istanbul Technical University, Murat Germen is an artist, academic and archivist using photography as an expression and research tool.

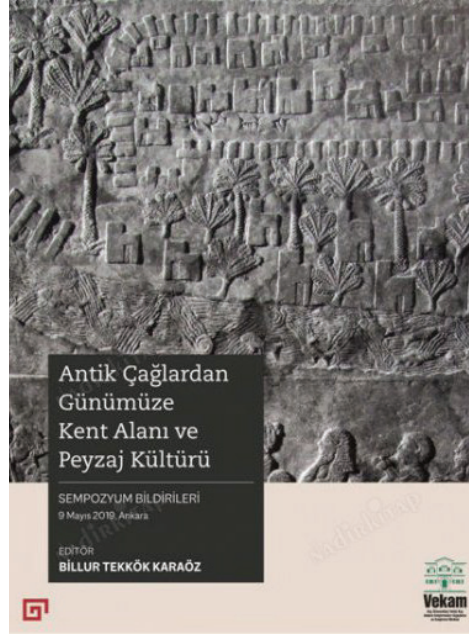
His work focuses on a wide variety of ecological and sociological issues, ranging from the impacts of over-urbanization and gentrification, dispossession, to participatory citizenship, sustainability of local cultures, human devastation of nature, climate change, and global warming.

His exhibition titled "Global Warning", which featured 17 of his photographs taken in Svalbard, Norway and Greenland, was hosted at the Kale Group's Art Center in April 2022.



## Book compiled by Prof. Billur Tekk k Kara z gets published by Ko  University

The recipient of a research grant in Archaeology, Art History and Fine Arts in 2010-2011, Prof. Tekk k Kara z is an academic at Ba kent University, and has been the head of the post-Bronze Age ceramic dating team at the Troia excavations since 1992. She has published extensively, and her latest book is a compilation of the papers presented at the symposium titled *City Space and Landscape Culture from Ancient Times to the Present* held by Ko  University VEKAM in 2019.



## Ekiz Lab tries to figure out how non-coding RNAs fit in the picture of tumor immunology



2010-2011 Ph.D. Alumnus Dr. Atakan Ekiz earned his B.S. in Molecular Biology and Genetics from İzmir Technological Institute (IzTech), M.Sc. in Clinical Investigation, and Ph.D. in Molecular Biology (Oncological Sciences) both from Utah University. After working as a Postdoctoral Fellow at

the Department of Pathology at the same university; he came back to his alma mater to start a lab working on cancer research. His research laboratory at IzTech, which will be funded by a TUBİTAK grant for three years, is investigating how the immune system fights cancer and what can be done to make this process better, by trying to understand the roles of non-coding RNAs in tumor immunology, and develop new algorithms to facilitate data analysis.

## Nazlı De er, the first recipient of the Prof. Dr. Aziz Sancar Ph.D. Award, earns her Ph.D. in Quantitative Biology

Ms. Nazlı De er successfully defended her dissertation under the direction of Prof. Aziz Sancar on January 12th, and has received her PhD. The title of her dissertation is "Nucleotide Excision Repair Map of *Drosophila Melanogaster* at a Single Nucleotide Resolution". We congratulate her for her achievement.





## 10th Anniversary Meeting of ETAs

On April 30, organized by Daniel Drucker, Taylor Hawkins, Cori Curtis, and Ryan Fordice, all 2011-2012 Fulbright ETA grantees to Turkey came together in Arlington, Virginia; to reminisce and commemorate the 10th anniversary of their Fulbright experience.

Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, who served during their Fulbright grant period, joined the meeting as well, where they discussed the collective impact Turkey had on their lives and careers, their fondest memories, and hopes for the future of the US-Turkey relationship.



## Fulbright Impact on Families!

We were happy to learn that the Fulbright mission, while striving for academic excellence and mutual understanding in multicultural settings; can sometimes provide a means for matchmaking as well!

2015-2016 CCIP Alumna Kardelen Köse and alumnus İlker Çakır first met each other at the program orientation meeting. Kardelen went to Santa Rosa College in California, and İlker to Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, but they met again and spent time together during the trip to Washington D.C. They were dance partners at a folk dance event, while representing Turkish culture there.

After coming back to Turkey, Kardelen completed her B.A. in Business Administration and Management at the İzmir University of Economics with a full scholarship and İlker worked as a

computer programmer and frontend developer, while they stayed friends.

Two years later, they began seeing each other, developed a serious relationship, and eventually got married on May 21, 2021. Due to Covid restrictions, they couldn't hold a reception or have a traditional bride and groom dance; but they say they had already danced together in Washington D.C., during their Fulbright year.

They are now based in Berlin, where Kardelen is doing her M.A. in Business Psychology at Steinbeis-Hochschule; and İlker is working as Senior Software Engineer at a tech firm.





## Hamsi, a Baby Boy Named after Local Culture

*Pictured right*  
Hamsi with our Executive Director Prof. Ersel  
Aydınlı at the Berkeley reception

*Pictured below*  
Hamsi with his father Erdem Durgunoğlu



Erdem Durgunoglu was a U.S. Fulbright grantee in Anthropology, who came to Turkey in 2013-2014 to conduct research in Food Anthropology and the Turkish slow food movement.

Mr. Durgunoğlu comes from a family who emigrated to the U.S. from İzmir, Turkey. After receiving his degree in anthropology, together with his wife, Mary, he came to Turkey with his Fulbright grant and traveled all over the country, eating, learning about, and researching all kinds of food. One of the places that they were both impressed with was Trabzon, where they savored the local culture, their love of football, and the anchovies (Hamsi) that is the characteristic fish in the area.

So, when they had their baby boy in August 2021, he was named after this fish, Hamsi, and his second name became “Kekik”, after thyme – an indigenous herb from the Ege region.

Hamsi was also present at the reception in Berkeley, where Prof. Aydınlı met with grantees and alumni in his U.S. tour.



## Prof. Üstün Ergüder

*Could you talk about yourself, and your childhood within the family culture you were brought up in?*

My father was a military surgeon and worked in a military hospital. I grew up in Ankara, back when its population did not exceed 400.000. It was a small town, largely populated by bureaucrats; the bureaucracy of the Republic. During my upbringing, the Republican ideology was very important, and I have very pleasant memories from those days. When I graduated from primary school, my father insisted that I attend Robert College. He took me to Istanbul, and I remember staying at the old Park Hotel. I was there to take the entrance examinations. When I got accepted to the school, I started my secondary education there as a boarder. On holidays, I would travel to Ankara, to be with my family – I traveled by train, as it was the only practical option available at that time.

Apart from those times, I lived at Robert College, and so the school became a very important part of my life. Obviously, it was a good school and had very good teachers; but it was also a way of life. The atmosphere was liberal and democratic, which provided us with good experiences. For example, we had student courts that dealt with disciplinary issues when they came up. Additionally, activities outside the classroom were very important for me, they made an impact on my life. That was between 1948 and 1957.

When I graduated in 1957, my father, again was very instrumental in my education. He suggested I talk to Mr. Tomlin, the director of the British Council in Ankara at the time. Mr. Tomlin informed me about higher education and academic programs in England. Given my interest in a possible career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs he recommended that the most popular program in England was PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics).

*Was that what you wanted to study?*

I didn't have a very clear idea of what I wanted to do at the time. But I was aware of the value of a good education, which prepares you for life – that's what Robert College taught me.

This time my father took me to London, where I applied to a few universities. An important memory I have is from the London School of Economics for which I took an exam and passed and was invited for an interview. They asked me what I wanted to study, I said "Politics, Philosophy and Economics." One of the professors at the interview was a world-famous economist, and she said, "well, that doesn't sound like us, this sounds more like Oxford. Did you read our prospectus?" And I hadn't! From then on, I devoured all the prospectuses and information I could find about the schools I was invited to for an interview.

In the end, I got into Manchester University to study politics and economics. I liked it very much. In those days, the town was very smoggy and polluted. The shirt I put on in the morning would become black in the evening.

After I graduated, I came back to Turkey. I was gradually becoming



interested in an academic career. My father was pushing me to join the Foreign Office. So, I applied there, and in the first examination I had the top grade in English, but I flunked the interview, because my knowledge in Law, especially Civil Law, was very limited. I had never studied it.

At the same time, I also applied to METU (Middle East Technical University), and was accepted as an Assistant. In January 1962, Robert College announced Rockefeller Foundation scholarships to train future faculty for Robert College. I saw the ad, but I was quite happy at METU. Nevertheless, I took the Foreign Office examination again. This time I flunked in English! That was a great disappointment for me, and I decided to apply to the Robert College fellowship and was accepted. I also knew that METU was sending young teaching assistants to American universities, based on a USAID program, to train future faculty. As I was enjoying my time at METU, I decided to apply for their fellowships as well. I approached the dean of the Faculty of Administrative Sciences, Prof. Arif Payaslıoğlu, with the intention to apply. He had insisted that I do my Ph.D. at Ankara University. I started doing that, but half a year went by, and I didn't see any faculty coming to the lessons. I told him that he was disadvantaging me, and he said, "You've studied in England, now you have to be acquainted with





***"...Robert College had the greatest impact. It was more than a school; it was an institution where I lived for close to nine years. I learned a lot there; I developed my philosophy of life, my political attitudes there."***



*Pictured: Üstün Ergüder at Robert College*

Turkey, you're not going to the U.S." So, I resigned from METU, and with the scholarship from Robert College, I began studying at Syracuse University. I did my doctoral studies at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University and earned my Ph.D. degree in Political Science.

***In retrospect, what and who do you think had the greatest impact in your life and career? Your father, the schools you went to?***

My father clearly directed me in my studies, getting a Western type of education; but Robert College had the greatest impact. It was more than a school; it was an institution where I lived for close to nine years. I learned a lot there; I developed my philosophy of life, my political attitudes there.

I consider myself a political liberal – which is a very rare commodity in Turkey. I think like and act like a liberal; not many people act as they speak.

My father believed in the value of a western type of education and was instrumental in directing me to an institution which had a huge impact on me.

***Where was your father educated?***

Here, in Turkey. His family immigrated from Skopje, Macedonia, right after the First World War; and his father died when he was very young. So, he was sent to Kuleli, the cheapest way he could get an education, and after that he was accepted to Medical School. He became a surgeon, well known in Ankara. He was also the private doctor to the President of the Republic, Celal Bayar.

***At first, when doing your undergraduate degree, you had said you didn't have a clear idea of what you wanted to do; did it change over time?***

Yes, definitely! I grew into the field, I liked what I was doing and learning.

The academy suited my character, my individuality as well. When you go into an academic career you need to learn and develop yourself all the time. You don't have to fit into organizational structures and constraints. It's a good career for those who are curious about life, and who want to be in command of their own time.

I came back to Robert College in 1969 and started teaching. But during the following two years, the Board of Trustees of Robert College Yüksek (higher education programs at the Bebek campus) was turned over to the Turkish government on condition that a state university would be founded on that campus. Consequently, Boğaziçi University came to life during the summer of 1971 based on the heritage of Robert College. Yet, at the time, I was very suspicious of the bureaucracy in Ankara, which I thought would try to control it. I felt it was a danger for the inherited liberal values of the school. I couldn't convince even my friends that this change would eat into our values.

So, outside the courses I taught, I assumed a lot of responsibilities, administrative ones as well. One of my goals was to protect the values of Robert College.

***Is this the reason why you went into administration?***

Well, I like academia, but I have to push myself to do it – when I teach or conduct research, I like it, I enjoy it. You have to sit down, be very patient, concentrate, investigate, read, and write – which are all very good. But I like to get things done. For example, a mission that became very important to me was to make Boğaziçi a place of freedom. An institution that emphasizes the importance of the individual, regardless of his ethnic, religious background. That was the environment at the College at which I grew up, where half of my classmates were from different backgrounds. I loved the diversity, which was one of the core values of the institution. That is why it was called by the students "Switzerland of WWII" during the student unrest and political violence of the late seventies. Boğaziçi campus was very peaceful compared to what was going on on other campuses. Differences were always respected. Students were aware of this and wanted to keep it that way.

So, I thought this and similar values had to be protected. And you can't do this by writing articles. I believed that the institution should become a haven for academics. I know what academics



is, and what type of executive direction is necessary. The administration should not be command oriented; it should be horizontal, respect individual opinions and differences between disciplines. It should be democratic, transparent, and must uphold academic values. I always think administering a university is like conducting a symphony orchestra, and that you have to let everyone do their best and bring all of this into harmony.

So that was my main objective- to protect those values. I thought the school's nationalization could be a threat to those values, and that we had to be vigilant. It was not easy to explain that looming threat, the impact was not evident then; changes came very gradually. Additionally, with the Higher Education Law 2547, other changes came. When I was the rector, I remember saying to the Head of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE), "I don't represent the Council at Boğaziçi; I represent my university against your centralization drive." Fortunately, he was a good friend!

Boğaziçi was a haven for me, for academics, and for students as well, and my mission was to protect it.

#### ***How did you decide to apply for the Fulbright grant?***

I did two stints in the U.S.

One was again, a USAID scholarship to do postdoctoral studies. I went to Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1974-75. I developed very good friendships there. I also retooled myself and learned quantitative studies by taking some courses. Michigan was one of the top universities that developed surveys. That's where I learned the

technology and the tools. When I came back, we immediately started a course in Survey Studies. In 1977, we did the first opinion poll in Turkey for the elections. That study was not only an opinion poll, it was an academic study. And we predicted the results quite closely.

Spending time in the U.S. was very important for me. Especially because my involvement at Boğaziçi was more than academic, I spent a lot of my time in institution building – which didn't leave me much time for publication. So, when I was in the U.S., I developed those tools, made new friends, wrote multiple papers, and conducted joint studies with the late Prof. Richard I. Hofferbert- a well-known political scientist at that time. That year was very productive for me. I learned how to use big data, learned statistics and quantitative research methods. We published in good journals.

I came back in a euphoria.

But gradually, you just drift into the realities of your everyday life. In 1982, when they started to implement the CoHE Law 2547, especially in Social Sciences, we were hit very hard. They first announced that all universities would have similar departments. They would implement the same programs – which was very much against the spirit and values of Boğaziçi University. Furthermore, the CoHE of the day (1982) erased Political Science from the map of academic disciplines. Public Administration was designated as the major discipline. We had a very good Social Sciences Department, built and developed by Prof. Şerif Mardin during the seventies. This had an immediate impact on us, during September of 1982, as the academic term was about to start. In the new academic structure imposed by the CoHE, departments of sociology and psychology became a part of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. We, as Political Sciences, stayed in the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences. Yet our name changed to Public Administration. That spelled the end of the innovative experimentation in interdisciplinary studies kicked off by the late Şerif Mardin.

We talked about what we were going to do, and I suggested that we keep on teaching Political Science related courses but warn the students that the courses labeled under Public Administration were in reality Political Science courses. That is what we ended up doing. And, for the next ten years we worked to change the name of the department.

These things take up time, they sap your energy. So, as these were happening, I decided to apply to the Fulbright Program. These events were exactly why I applied! I wanted to get away from all that. I remembered my wonderful experience at Ann Arbor. Furthermore, I had invited my good friend Richard Hofferbert to Istanbul for an OECD funded project at Boğaziçi, where he stayed for a year. He kept badgering me to come to SUNY Binghamton, where he had moved after Ann Arbor. He was getting interested in Public Policy, which appealed to me as well. So, I applied for the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program and in 1983-1984, went to SUNY Binghamton, to do research on Public Policy.

At the time, we had a Public Policy program at Boğaziçi, which was interdisciplinary, with input from the departments of economics and management. I wanted to retool myself again.

***"I always think administering a university is like conducting a symphony orchestra, and that you have to let everyone do their best and bring all of this into harmony."***



***Pictured:*** Prof. Üstün Ergüder in his early years as the rector of the Boğaziçi University





It was another very productive year for me. We published articles and I learned a lot. When I went to the U.S., I was also planning to buy an electric Smith-Corona typewriter. In Richard's house, I saw a new gadget, a big machine with a little screen, where he would write, and then print. I thought I should buy one of those. But I had made friends at the IT department as well, and they told me to buy an Apple product. Still other friends suggested that I should buy an IBM product, as that would be the future. In the end, I bought an IBM portable PC, one of the most developed machines at that time, and brought it to Turkey. And with it, I was introduced to computers and IT technology. And by the time I left Binghamton, I had surpassed Richard in using the technology.

That machine is now at the Rahmi Koç Museum! Eventually, I switched to using Apple technology.

So, the Fulbright year, in addition to the papers we wrote, and the expertise in Public Policy that I developed, gave me the opportunity to get introduced to this technology. At Boğaziçi University they were debating buying new machines, and they were teaching students programming. I suggested that they stop doing that and teach students software skills. I advised them to buy IBM computers and teach students software, how to use them.

I am very grateful to the Fulbright Program to have given me all these opportunities. It was a new window that gave me new perspectives, new knowledge, and skills.

#### *How did you become the rector, what was the story?*

By the time I came back to Turkey, Boğaziçi University had a rector, appointed by the CoHE. Despite the fact that he was from İstanbul Technical University, I believe he did his best to protect our values. Yet, being an arbitrary appointment by the CoHE from another institution, he was not popular among the academic staff.



*Pictured: Prof. Üstün Ergüder with succeeding rectors of Boğaziçi University: Prof. Sabih Tansal (2000-2004) and Prof. Ayşe Soysal (2004-2008, also a Fulbright alumna)*

The 1980's witnessed a process during which universities were getting sucked into a very centralized system. My initial fears at the time of nationalization became real. I felt that the cardinal values of academic freedom and institutional autonomy of academic life were in great danger. I thought that as Boğaziçi University we had to resist that trend. Left alone, I don't know if I would have done this, but my friends kept prodding me to run for the rectorship. There was no bottom-up procedure; rectors were appointed by the CoHe, without any consultation with respective institutions. There was an upcoming rectorship appointment in 1992, and in 1991, I announced to friends that I wanted to become



*Pictured: Prof. Üstün Ergüder with then First Lady, Hillary Clinton during her visit to Boğaziçi University (1999)*

the rector. Some people I talked to said that my head "would be cut off" as the saying goes, if I started out campaigning so early, some others didn't think I was good for the job. I came up with a program of what I wanted to do; that I wanted to turn Boğaziçi into a research university. So, I carried out this campaign for a year, but I never thought it would come to anything!

#### *You had already held a few administrative positions, right?*

Yes, I was the Head of the School of Foreign Languages, the chair of the Department of Political Science, founded a research institute and I was also elected to the Senate. All these were assets in getting to know other members of the staff. The Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences was the smallest faculty at the university, so very few people would normally know about me. During May of 1992, the faculty members of the university decided to hold an informal election, with four candidates, and I came out at the top. As we were coming out of the meeting with a colleague, I told him we would be regarded as rebels, and be "executed." I thought my dream of becoming the rector of Boğaziçi was over. It was May 26 – I remember the date as one of my grandchildren was born that day.

But then, things moved so fast. Other universities started doing the same thing, and then a law was passed overnight that allowed universities to elect their rector. We had never expected that! The law stipulated that universities would hold elections, and rank order six candidates, submit the list to CoHE, who would then rank order and make a short list of three candidates from among the list of six submitted by the university. This list of three

***"Boğaziçi is a special place. I am emotionally attached to the institution. From time to time I see that attachment as a weakness as, I believe, these kinds of institutional-individual relations should be more professional"***



candidates would be submitted to the President of the Republic for final appointment. To sum up the new system was a hybrid system of appointment and election. The President of the CoHE, the late Prof. Doğramacı resigned to protest this development. In late June, we held an election at Boğaziçi, which was formal this time, and I was again the top candidate. The list of candidates was sent to Ankara, and the President, Turgut Özal wanted to talk to me. I drove to Marmaris, to his residence at Okluk Bay, Marmaris. His residence was very modest, somewhat like a village house. I believe a presidential palace is being constructed on the same site. I explained at length to him what I wanted to do at Boğaziçi University. He didn't talk much; he listened a lot; he was very much interested in public opinion studies we were doing with colleagues.

For the next eight years, I was the Rector at Boğaziçi, and I tried to fulfill my promises.

After that, I moved to Sabancı University. Prof. Sabih Tansal took over from me; he was a good friend, and I trusted him completely, knowing he would do a good job. I didn't want to be around as the former rector as it takes time to get rid of your ideas and beliefs developed during very intense involvement of eight years. In short, I did not want to cast a shadow.

Prof. Tosun Terzioğlu, the rector at Sabancı, another great friend, offered me a position, in fact a project - the Istanbul Policy Center (IPC), and then the Education Reform Initiative (ERI) grew out of IPC. It was one of the most successful projects of the Sabancı University. I was involved in the ERI until now. I am now about to turn over my post, the Chair of the Executive Committee, to someone else.



*Pictured: Prof. Üstün Ergüder as the chairman of the Magna Charta Observatory*

***What made you interested in the Education Reform Initiative – this was a different area, education in K-12 schools.***

Again, it was due to the impact of my Fulbright year – the year that placed my interest in Public Policy! The ERI is an attempt to develop a bridge between civil society and the government through academia, in order to develop policies in education.



*Pictured: Prof. Üstün Ergüder with the Education Reform Initiative team*

***We understand you were involved in other projects and initiatives as well, like the Magna Charta and European Association of Universities***

Yes, I was active in several programs. One of my diagnoses at Boğaziçi was that Boğaziçi University flew – so to say -- over the Atlantic without developing any links with Europe. While I was the rector, I tried to push for European engagements. There was a committee of European University rectors (CRE) which evolved into the European Universities Association (EUA). I was active there and had good friends. In 1997, they started to develop a program, Quality Evaluation of Universities, which I was invited to join in. We developed a program, and I later served as chair and member of the various EUA evaluation teams that visited European universities for quality evaluations. So, I had the opportunity to visit various universities. I also invited EUA's quality evaluation board to Istanbul, to Boğaziçi; so that they would get to know us. Boğaziçi was the first university to apply for quality evaluation. The evaluation group came to Istanbul in 1999. Now, there are about 36 universities, it became a trend afterwards.

At EUA, they also nominated me for the Magna Charta Observatory of Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy in Higher Education, located at Bologna, Italy, and supported by the Bologna University, EUA, and UNESCO. It's a watchdog of universities' academic freedom and autonomy. The reason I was elected was because Turkish Universities had developed a good reputation among European universities. I was not the reason I got elected, it was the reputation of Boğaziçi, and Turkish Universities, in general. I became a member of the executive committee in 2004 and became the President between 2009 – 2013.

***"I am very grateful to the Fulbright Program to have given me all these opportunities. It was a new window that gave me new perspectives, new knowledge, and skills."***





***"...there's one thing I have learned and would advise young academics to do the same: you need to pursue the truth, and there's never one sole truth – "The Truth" – there are many truths".***

***When you were seeking the rectorship of Boğaziçi, you said you wanted to transform it to a research university; were you able to achieve that?***

I have many friends at Bodrum, most of them academics, many of them METU alumni, and they told me that they could see the results. Our research output went up. We supported all faculty to participate in academic conferences all over the world and present their papers, research – which was a big incentive. We enlarged the capacity of the foundation to support this effort, by reaching out to corporations and alumni. We developed projects to appeal to the academic staff. There were donations for scholarships and other projects.

Another thing we realized was that various religious organizations had established themselves on campus and were active especially when new students came on campus for registrations. They would offer services, occupied classrooms to give advice to new students on how to pass the English Proficiency Exam, offered places in their dormitories. When we saw that, we decided to redesign our registration process. We prepared brochures in advance and talked to alumni about the need for new dormitories. We built the Superdorm with contributions from alumni and foundations such as Vehbi Koç Foundation, and which was inaugurated in 1988 by the President of the Republic, Süleyman Demirel.

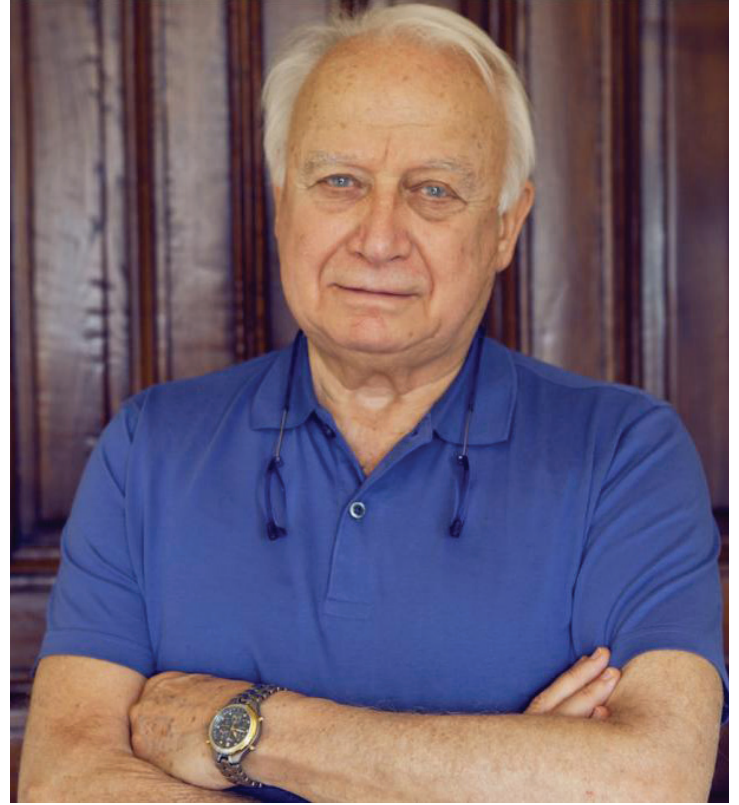
The Boğaziçi University foundation collected a significant amount of donations to increase capacity and make these services available. We never used the donations for petty consumption; all of it was devoted to academic purposes. For example, we developed an academic support program that rewarded faculty who produced papers published in internationally recognized journals – which is still valid. Those kinds of measures helped.

***Of all your achievements, your life as an academic, as an administrator, your participation in many local and international organizations; what do you think is your best work, those that make you proud?***

I believe academia is a wonderful world, worthwhile and very satisfactory. It's a way of life that I value very much. My two years in the U.S., both at Ann Arbor and SUNY Binghamton with the Fulbright grant were much more important for me than the years I spent at Syracuse, doing my Ph.D. They were also years during which I was very productive academically. I developed long-lasting friendships among the academia.

Boğaziçi is a special place. I am emotionally attached to the institution. From time to time I see that attachment as a weakness as, I believe, these kinds of institutional-individual relations should be more professional. I haven't been on the campus for the last two years. But that campus will always be special for me.

The Education Reform Initiative was also very important for me – and as I said earlier, the impetus came from my Fulbright year, when I moved into Public Policy!



***What type of advice would you offer young academics wishing to study Political Science and Public Policy?***

I sometimes joke with my friends, seeing where the world is now, and wondering whether what we taught and discussed were correct, or what we were doing was wrong!

But there's one thing I have learned and would advise young academics to do the same: you need to pursue the truth, and there's never one sole truth – "The Truth" – there are many truths. The aim is to be aware of the different truths and bring them to a synthesis. When you decide there is One Truth, you become its slave and lean to authoritarianism. When I was teaching Political Science 101, the first thing I told students would be there is no universal truth; that they need to learn to talk to and listen to each other.

The materials that you read or use in teaching may change - they are only tools – what's important is your mindset and outlook.

Furthermore, I certainly think that academics working in our field would benefit a lot from some time in a good U.S. university, even a year. It would provide a different outlook, time to relearn, retool, conduct research, make connections. My Fulbright year gave me such an invaluable experience, and I believe it would have a similar impact on aspiring young academics as well.

***"My Fulbright year gave me such an invaluable experience, and I believe it would have a similar impact on aspiring young academics as well"***



# American Programs

## Mid-Year Evaluation Meeting with Our Grantees

The Mid-Year Evaluation Meeting was held online on February 7, 2022, with the 2021-2022 academic year U.S. Scholar, U.S. Study/Research, and Fulbright Turkish Universities Master's Program grantees, and on February 9, 2022, with the ETA grantees. Five Senior Scholars, nine Student Researchers, two Masters, and fourteen ETA grantees from Ankara, İstanbul, Eskişehir, Trabzon, Bartın, Sivas, Antalya, Düzce, İzmir, Kırklareli, and

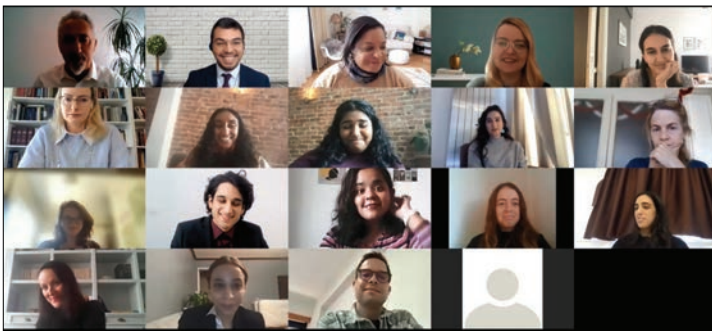
Kastamonu attended the sessions. Prof. Ersel Aydın, Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission, Mr. Robert Hilton, Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, and Ms. Gabrielle M. Price, Cultural Affairs Attaché, welcomed the grantees and officially commenced the meeting. Grantees made presentations on their research and teaching and discussed the areas where the program could be improved.

*Pictured (below left):*

*Mid-year Evaluation Meeting with U.S. Scholar, U.S. Study/Research, and Fulbright Turkish Universities Master's Program grantees*

*Pictured (below right):*

*Mid-year Evaluation Meeting with ETAs*



## Stories from U.S. Grantees

### "Beyond the Classroom"

#### Banu Elif Gulecyuz

2021-2022 ETA Program Grantee

University of Illinois/ Eskişehir  
Osmangazi University, Eskişehir

Since arriving in Turkey, I hoped to act as a sponge. In absorbing Turkish culture, people, society, and social issues, it has been my goal to teach my students both what I know about the United States and to learn their perspectives on Turkey as well. My first step as a sponge was to share. I focused my efforts since arrival on how I can teach my students about the U.S. beyond only the classroom, which led me to hold events such as "clean the park and feed animals' day" or "write letters to senior citizens on New Year's" as a way to teach volunteerism. As an American, I've lived by the mentality "it is not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." I have also held several "paint and speak" events where we took old glass bottles and painted them while speaking to teach my students the importance of upcycling and being more mindful of waste. To continue, my CV/ LinkedIn workshop sought to teach them the importance of career search and ideas of how they can impact their community beyond just the classroom through taking leadership positions. I hope to instill values such as creativity, making a positive impact, confidence in English, and ultimately a new perspective to them by doing so.

English, I have learned the reality of their lives and their struggles on a daily basis. For example, I've noticed a lack of part-time job opportunities, family support, and a crippling economy leave many of my students feeling hopeless with their dreams and futures. As a Turkish-American, sitting back did not feel right. I felt inspired by the dreams of my hard-working students, and could only imagine what one piece of good news could do for them. Thus, a seed was planted in my mind: Kuzum Foundation. Kuzum Foundation seeks to be a bridge between Turkish and foreign communities in countries around the world with Turkey providing a platform to give monthly scholarships for 4-month or 9-month semesters to students around Turkey. While everything seems impossible for Turkish students, winning a Kuzum Foundation scholarship not only helps students with their rent and textbooks, it also provides a light of hope. Thus far, Kuzum Foundation has helped to give 10 scholarships to students from various cities around Turkey with the goal to continue to expand.

My time as a Fulbrighter taught me not only what it means to share U.S. culture with Turkish students, but also how to truly understand them as well. I am grateful to be in such a position to be both a life-long teacher for my students as they will forever be for me too.

*Pictured:*

*At Kanlikavak Park in Eskişehir*





## "Wrapping up the year in Turkey: A Blend of All Cultures"

**Hamad Ahmad Khan**

**2021-2022 ETA Program Grantee**

*University of Houston, Texas / Sivas Cumhuriyet University, Sivas*

*Pictured: Hamad at Sivas: Seminar Titled "Life as an American-Pakistani in Turkey"*



Pondering upon how swiftly the year has gone by, it's true, time flies when you're having fun. I remember my initial feelings as I entered the classroom to be greeted by more than thirty students. Questions ranged from wondering about life in America, to curiosity about my choice to teach in Turkey. For my curious students Turkey was ordinary, and the world outside was vibrant - however through my classes we began to create a quest to explore the dynamic world within Turkey.

To my amazement, I was simultaneously learning with my students. Prior to my grant I was familiar with Turkey being a multicultural country, but to what extent was a mystery for me. During those first months, I recall my students' quick comparisons to how diverse people in all cities of America are, and how in many cities in the eastern part of Turkey, diversity is rare to find. As our classes progressed, my students and I began to realize that even in Sivas, culture is everywhere. One day during the last twenty-five minutes of a lesson, I created a speaking topic to discuss my

student's "favorite phrases" in the English language, and from their respective native languages. That day the class and I learned phrases from several different languages, including Arabic, Azeri, French, Kazakh and Persian. We were all convinced and appreciated that diversity certainly exists even in the "not as popular" cities such as Sivas. Furthermore, continuing their quest to explore more, my students quickly requested that I present a lecture on my life as an American-Pakistani. More than happy to fulfill their request, I accepted but on one condition - that they create presentations about their lives as well.

After this wonderful experience, the memory continues to appear in my mind as my students and I have created a casual deal that in case anyone of us comes across something international, they should present a quick story and their opinions on that international item. First to provide an example, I showed my students a picture of myself with fellow grantees enjoying waffles in Ankara. We all agreed waffles were not Turkish, however still very delicious!

**Anna Gerda South**

**2021-2022 ETA Program Grantee**

*College of William and Mary, Virginia / Kırklareli University, Kırklareli*

*Pictured: Anna with a former student from Paper Airplanes in Isparta.*



Back in April of 2020, in the midst of battling the unemployment phone line, stress-baking bread, and panic-washing groceries (before we knew Covid wasn't transmitted via everyday surfaces), I got my TEFL certification and started volunteering as a speaking class tutor.

Paper Airplanes is an organization built of volunteer tutors, which connects conflicted-affected individuals from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region with online English tutors around the world.

When I started leading speaking classes for my group, my students lived in Syria and Turkey, while I was working out of Baltimore. Now, almost two years later, we are sharing the same time zone, and living in the same country, which I never would have imagined was possible. We've discussed art and education, supernatural creatures, and public transportation, but we also shared our own stories, and became good friends.

One of the most meaningful experiences of my Fulbright year was meeting one of my online students in-person in Isparta back in January. After almost two years of online conversations, meeting in a cafe for çay was surreal - I never imagined back in Baltimore that I would get to meet any of my students, let alone live in Turkey.

If any current or former Fulbright ETAs are interested in continuing their English education journey after their grant period, I would recommend joining Paper Airplanes.



## Miso Kwak

### 2021-2022 ETA Program Grantee

Harvard Graduate School of Education,  
Massachusetts / Izmir Institute of  
Technology, Izmir

*Pictured: Miso with Eşpedal group at Konak  
Clock Tower in Izmir*



As a blind Fulbright grantee to Turkey, and an aspiring academic in the field of Special Education, one of my desires was to learn more about the lives of disabled people in Turkey. Thanks to an acquaintance's recommendation, I found Eşpedal, a tandem cycling group composed of blind cyclers referred to as co-pilots or stokers, and sighted cyclers, referred to as pilots or captains.

The first time I showed up to Eşpedal was a chilly Thursday night in late October, barely a month into my time in Turkey. I was nervous because of my very limited Turkish proficiency and equally limited experience in biking, but I quickly felt at ease as everyone welcomed me with warm hospitality and eagerness to learn about me – an American blind newcomer.

The night proved to be rather challenging, mainly because I had no idea that the distance of the tour that evening was

40 km. As I got tired during the first half of the journey, my pilot encouraged me to keep going by saying "Bas! Miso, Bas!" which I couldn't understand at the time but later learned that it meant to pedal harder in this situation. She also told me there is "a steak waiting for us" in her limited English. The "steak" turned out to be a köfte sandwich, which remains as one of the best köfte sandwich I have had in Turkey to date.

Needless to say, after I finished the 40 km ride, I experienced an immense pain in my legs. Yet, the friendly atmosphere and the thrilling sensation of biking kept me returning to Eşpedal. A few of the highlights include cycling through the city center of Izmir to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3), sharing traditional songs from America and Turkey, and taking a road trip from Izmir to Antalya to participate in a 50 km bike race in early May.

I am grateful and proud to say that my friendship with the members of Eşpedal, as well as my strength as a cyclist have grown so much in the last 8 months, and I will cherish these beautiful memories for a long time.

## "I'm Learning English Because It's an International Language"

### Jessica Renee Parry

#### 2021-2022 ETA Program Grantee

University of California-Berkeley,  
California / Kastamonu University,  
Kastamonu

Whenever I ask my students why they chose to participate in the voluntary English preparatory program at Kastamonu University, I invariably receive the same answer from many of them: "Because, 'hocam', English is an international language".

They're right of course. When combining both native and non-native speakers, English is recognized as the single most

widely spoken language. However, in daily life, how often do we experience the "internationality" of the language? Does it just mean that many people speak the language, or could it mean something more?

I got some answers to these ponderings one Tuesday afternoon. I was surprised in my office one day by three very excited students. They told me they were organizing English lessons, all on their own, at the university. They had heard a Fulbrighter was teaching classes in the School of Foreign Languages and hoped I would be a part of their self-started project.

Their excitement made me motivated to find a way to engage with them despite my busy schedule: we made plans to start a casual conversation club at a café on campus.

During our first meeting, we spent the full hour introducing ourselves and answering questions about our backgrounds. I discovered that many of the students were recent arrivals to Turkey from all around the world. That international quality of our club has in fact become its strength and beauty. Through an interest in learning English, we bring together



*Pictured: Jessica with students at Kastamonu*





students from so many different cultures—Turkish, Indonesian, Afghan, Pakistani, and Kazakh—just to list some. Through this, students both native and foreign have used English to learn about new cultures and to create a community of their own on campus. Regardless of the topic at hand,

meetings are always enhanced by the diversity of cultures, languages, and lived experiences.

Helping organize this club has solidified my interest in continuing to be involved in English language instruction in some

capacity when I return home to San Francisco. I want to help maintain this understanding of the “internationality” of English in my own community, the one that brings people of all backgrounds together to learn and grow as individuals (ideally over a warm, caffeinated beverage).

## "Enjoying the land and gracious people of Turkey"

### Prof. Mark Robin Fairchild

2021-2022 U.S. Senior  
Researcher

Huntington University, Indiana /  
Uludağ University, Bursa



Since arriving on February 1st, I have spent time every day studying Turkish. “Ama Türkçe çok zor.” I have made great progress, but I’ve come to realize that there is much more to learn. The Turkish people speak fast, so it is particularly difficult to follow the conversations.

The first two weeks were busy with finding an apartment and settling in, setting up a bank account and applying for a residency permit. On the occasions when I have traveled to Uludağ University, the faculty, administration, and students have treated me extraordinarily well. Mustafa Şahin, the head of the archaeology department has set me up with my own office at the university and when I need to stay for longer periods, I am able to stay in the Uludağ guest housing in Bursa, twenty-five minutes from the campus.

On March 8, 2022, I offered a lecture entitled: “The Importance of Anatolia for the Study of Early Christianity.” The address was promoted on campus in the weeks prior to the lecture (see the poster), and many students and faculty of the university attended the lecture. The lecture was well received, and several questions and discussions followed.

I was also invited to visit with the Rector of Uludağ University, Professor Doctor Ahmed Saim Kılavuz. The meeting was also attended by Professor Bülent Şenay, Chair of the Faculty of Theology at the university. We had many delightful conversations which were followed by another invitation to offer another lecture at the university.

On March 24th, I offered a lecture for the Culture and Faith Tourism Association (Kültür ve İnanç Turizmi Derneği), entitled “From Polytheism to Monotheism: The Three Great Faiths in the Region of Izmir” (see poster). The meeting was attended by ninety-four tour guides and businessmen from Izmir and the surrounding areas.

I was able to travel to the area of ancient Lycia for ten days working on my secondary project. There I was able to follow the routes of several ancient Roman roads that ascended the Taurus Mountain range and to track their directions and connections to ancient cities. Tomorrow (April 4th), I will fly to the area of Mersin (Rough Cilicia) to continue work on the book that I am writing. I anticipate finishing this before my Fulbright semester is finished.

## Grants Open for Applications



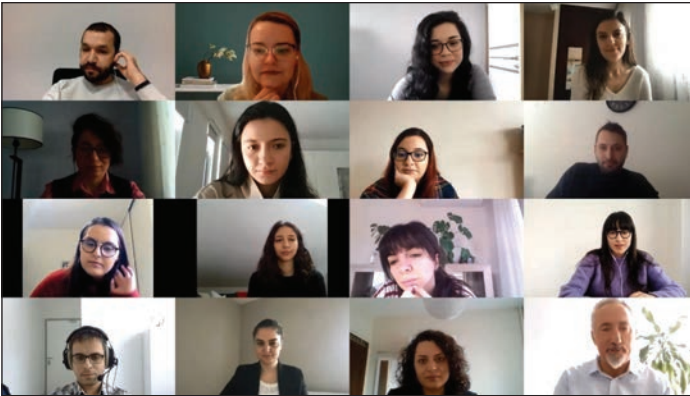


# Turkish Programs

## Initial Orientations for the 2022-2023 Academic Year Grants

The orientations for the newly selected candidates from all categories continued during the winter and early spring in 2022.

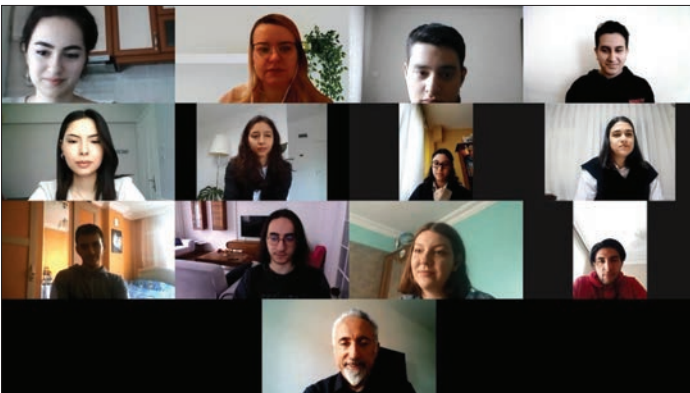
We met with our 2022-2023 Visiting Student Researcher (VSR) Program cohort on February 1, 2022, for a virtual orientation.



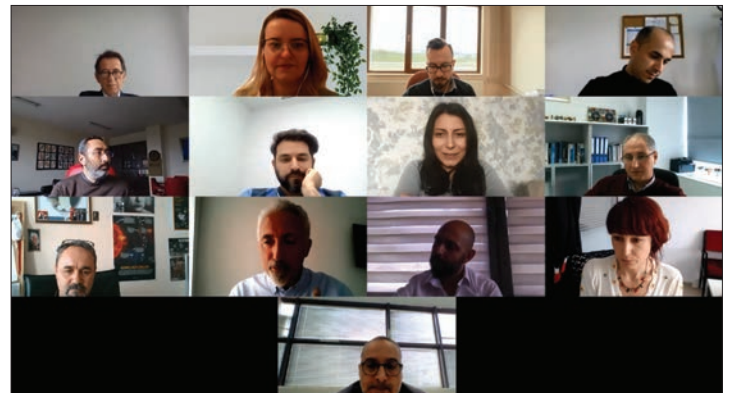
*Pictured left* 2022-2023 Visiting Student Researcher (VSR) Program Candidates at the Initial Orientation. *Pictured right:* 2022-2023 Postdoctoral Program Candidates at the Initial Orientation

The VSR Orientation was followed by a meeting with the 2022-2023 Postdoctoral Program candidates on February 28, 2022, Community

College Initiative (CCI) Program candidates on March 17, 2022 and Visiting Scholar Program candidates on March 29, 2022.



*Pictured:* 2022-2023 Community College Initiative (CCI) Program Candidates at the Initial Orientation



*Pictured:* 2022-2023 Visiting Scholar Program Candidates at the Initial Orientation



## Application Period for the 2023-2024 Grants

The application deadline for the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program is **June 29, 2022**

The application deadline for the FLTA (Foreign Language Teaching Assistant) Program is **July 27, 2022**

Please visit the Commission's official website for more information:

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



## "Home Away from Home"

### Ece Zivrali

2021-2022 Master's Program  
Grantee

Yaşar University, İzmir / University of  
Florida, Florida

Studying in the field of tourism and being a former tour guide, I represented my country many times to tourists. My stay in the U.S. as a Fulbright scholar gave me the opportunity to represent my country outside of Turkey.

The absence of an active Turkish organization at the University of Florida, and the many people that I met, either Turkish or interested in Turkish culture, inspired me to step forward. Therefore, I jumped at the opportunity to become the president of the Turkish Student Association and to connect people with similar cultural interests. With the help of our board members and club members, we successfully rejuvenated the organization. Additionally, with the support of the university,

we managed to connect students at UF and the Gainesville community to Turkish culture. We organized general body meetings, Turkish conversation hours, cultural classes, and even a Turkish Picnic. Lastly, we participated in the Viva Europe Event, where each student organization represented their country and culture to the community. We created an informative booth with facts and photos of Turkey, and we provided Turkish evil eye beads and materials to make bracelets. It was fascinating to see how many people were interested in Turkey and its culture.

We actively continue to represent Turkish Student Association at the University of Florida. The small community that we have created in Gainesville makes me so happy and proud.

*Pictured: Ece (first from the right) with the Turkish Student Association board members and volunteers for Viva Europe Cultural Event in Gainesville, Florida*



***"The absence of an active Turkish organization at the University of Florida, and the many people that I met, either Turkish or interested in Turkish culture, inspired me to step forward. "***

## "Academic Solidarity in New York"

### Yeşim İpekçi

2021-2022 Visiting Student  
Researcher (VSR) Program  
Grantee

Middle East Technical University,  
Ankara / Fordham University, New York

My academic journey as a visiting student researcher at Fordham University started on August 25, 2021. The saying "New York is My Campus Fordham is My School" has been very meaningful for me in academic terms.

Surrounded by many universities, campuses, and libraries in New York, I have engaged in various academic activities and built great connections that have tremendously contributed to my Ph.D. thesis. I have audited courses and presented seminars at Fordham University and Columbia University and established an enriching network with several colleagues and friends who read my papers and shared their ideas and suggestions that enlarged my vision. I have been in contact with professors from Columbia University, New York University and City University of New York, and made

use of their comments and questions on the hypotheses in my thesis. I have visited the Harvard University Library for another project I have been involved in and been welcomed very warmly by the director and the associate librarian; with whom I held fruitful meetings for the project. Above all, my supervisor from the English Department at Fordham University encouraged me to hold a seminar on my thesis in collaboration with the Department of Comparative Literature. Out of several prominent academics in my field that I have invited, I was very happy to learn that Prof. Esty from the University of Pennsylvania and Prof. Redfield from Brown University have accepted to be discussants at the seminar to be held at the end of the semester.

The academic solidarity I have enjoyed at the universities in (and outside) New York has been a huge contribution to my professional and personal development. I am very grateful for the Fulbright scholarship that rendered this possible.

*Pictured: A meaningful sign at Fordham Lincoln Campus located in the heart of Manhattan*





# Stories from Our Turkish Fulbright Grantees

## "Harmony Unites People"

### Deniz Hande Çakmak

2021-2022 Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program Grantee

Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Eskişehir / University of California, Santa Barbara, California



Before coming here, I would not think of taking part in an ensemble and have a couple of stage experiences, although I have always been interested in listening to and producing music. As soon as I learned about the Middle Eastern Ensemble, I contacted the professors from the Music Department who founded the group and was warmly welcomed. I was amazed by the instruments that I saw and songs that I heard as they were all familiar to me. We were even singing a Turkish song and I helped them learn the meaning of the lyrics and how to pronounce the words.

I had never touched, or maybe even seen, a real frame drum, but I just found myself playing it and following the rhythms of the ensemble. All the ouds, qanuns, neys were in such an amazing harmony, and I was humbly contributing to the group by playing the frame drum. Besides all this, I was learning a lot about instruments, Eastern music and hearing a lot of cool stories.

I have already performed three times since I came here, and we are regularly rehearsing for the spring concert. We had a couple of guest artists as well as professional dancers. I even had a chance to work with a very famous tombac – a Persian drum- player and I learned a lot of precious information about percussion. He also told me that music is in my blood, which made me feel so proud.

I saved the best for the last! There was another moment on the stage when I felt so honored. It was when the chair of the ensemble, the professor at the Music Department, introduced me to the audience as the Fulbright grantee from Turkey. You can see how shy and happy I was in the picture, and you can find our concerts on YouTube just by searching for UCSB Middle Eastern Ensemble.

*Pictured: Deniz with the UCSB Middle Eastern Ensemble*

### Muhammed Salih Taşdemir

2021-2022 Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program Grantee

Şehitkamil Belediyesi Kız Anadolu İmam Hatip Lisesi, Gaziantep / Kent State University, Ohio

**"I acknowledged the fact that being a good person, like music, is a concept that has no relation to language, culture, ethnicity, and countries. While the people hosting us were asking questions with sincere curiosity and listening to our answers carefully, I enjoyed the pleasure of telling something eagerly, being listened to with care and being valued with sincerity."**

At the end of the 6-week program in Kent, I brought back to my hometown not only my luggage for clothes and presents, but also knowledge and experience that I accumulated in a cognitive bag.

At every seminar I attended at Kent State University, I became more aware of the efficiency of an individual-centered approach and social interaction in the learning process implemented by the lecturers, in which critical thinking, participation in discussions and developing ideas are encouraged. While I was curiously making observations and reflections by a fireplace in a friendly American house where I was warmly invited for dinner, I acknowledged the fact that being a good person, like music, is a concept that has no relation to language, culture, ethnicity, and countries. While the people hosting us were asking questions with sincere curiosity and listening to our answers carefully, I enjoyed the pleasure of telling something eagerly, being listened to with care and being valued with sincerity. In each school visit to the Western Reserve Academy, a prestigious school in Ohio, I observed with appreciation how the principles of contemporary learning theories can be put into practice that I had previously thought were very challenging to implement.

While experiencing moments that I would never have experienced otherwise, I learned lessons that I will never forget. I may not be able to meet the nice and kind people I met again; however, the lessons I learned from them about education, friendship, humanity, and kindness will guide my life. I would like to thank the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, IREX, Kent State University, Gerald H. Read Center for International and Intercultural Education, our professors and KSU staff, each one of our host families and The Turkish Fulbright Commission for this opportunity.

*Pictured: Mr. Tasdemir at Fairchild Ave, Kent, Ohio*



## "From Age 14 to 41"

### Zehra Akkaya

#### 2021-2022 Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program Grantee

Ankara University, Ankara / University of California, San Francisco

I heard the name Fulbright for the first time as a 14-year-old student, from my marvelous English teacher, Ms Saltuk, who had just returned from the U.S. as a "Fulbrighter" herself. Today, at age 41, I am writing these lines from San Francisco, as a Fulbright visiting scholar at UCSF. Repeating her words, I can confidently say that this is the most transformative experience I have had. I would like to thank everyone in the Turkish Fulbright Commission for their hard work and diligence who made this possible for me, despite a global catastrophe.

Since I have come to UCSF, I have had the opportunity to collaborate with some of the greatest minds in body compositional imaging, network with not only colleagues from the U.S. but also from Europe and

Asia. Moreover, I have come to realize what Prof. Aydınli and Ms. Kimençe had meant with the "cultural exchange" aspect of this program in their earlier talks. They were right! I now have incredible memories and friendships that will surpass time and distances. It is not possible to name every amazing friend I made throughout my Fulbright experience, but I would like to mention two of those special people who made this experience personally unique for me. Nina, a Fulbright visiting scholar from Czech Republic, researching gender disparities in technology, is now a great friend whose positive attitude and spot-on comments on women's aversion against technologic advances has made me reconsider my own attitude. In a city where there is an app for almost everything, and where smart cars roam in the traffic, this has proven to be quite useful!

The Northern California Fulbright Enrichment Program has been incredibly active, doing their best to ensure a great cultural exchange experience for us in accordance with the day-to-day changes in the pandemic. I would like to thank all their staff and members and particularly mention Marilyn, who is the former coordinator of the Bay Area Fulbright Visiting Scholars Program. Despite having

been retired, she still does her best, to ensure that scholars in San Francisco have the utmost Fulbright experience. She has kindly invited me to her home for lunch at Christmas, for which I made her our traditional Ramadan desert, gullac. I can't think of a more personal cultural exchange experience for either of us, nor can I thank my mother enough, for sharing her kitchen secrets with me.



*Pictured: Dr. Akkaya with her friend, Nina, at the Nutcracker Ballet performance at Paramount Theater, Oakland-CA, as courtesy of Northern California Fulbright Enrichment Program*

## "What Is Your Plea: Guilty or Not Guilty?"

### Yalın Baştanlar

#### 2021-2022 Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program Grantee

İzmir Institute of Technology, İzmir / George Mason University, Virginia

*Pictured: Dr. Baştanlar with his son, Yaman, at the front yard of Yaman's school, Daniel's Run Elementary School, Fairfax, Virginia*



I am a full-time faculty member at the Department of Computer Engineering, İzmir Institute of Technology. I was looking forward to spending my sabbatical year in the United States. After delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, my Fulbright journey finally started in early September 2021. It was a bit unfortunate that due to her father's illness, my wife could not join us at the beginning. Nevertheless, I decided to set off with my son not to jeopardize his academic experience (school year had already started for him). First weeks were a bit harsh since I had to meet my son's needs, in addition to the standard tasks of starting a new life in a new country: renting a flat, arranging furniture, buying a car, banking transaction etc. I must admit that it would have been much harder if one of my friends, living close-by, hadn't helped and shared his house at the beginning. After three weeks I enrolled my son in an elementary school, then the turmoil subsided.

An interesting experience that I would like to share is my trial in a U.S. court. I got a speeding ticket shortly after settling in. In Virginia,

police directly give you a document that shows you are summoned to appear in the court (of the county). Paying the fine and not going to court is an option, however I wanted to have the experience (possibly under the influence of watching some funny U.S. court videos on YouTube :) At the day of trial, we went to the court with my wife. The environment was very tense with the guards and everything. A staff member gave detailed instruction on how trials were handled. The most important thing was when the judge gives you the right to speak, the first thing you should say is your plea, which is either guilty or not guilty. There were 15-20 people to be heard in the same session. Until my turn, I listened to other people pleading guilty/not guilty and explaining their situation at the time of the event. I was advised to say 'guilty' since I did not have any counter evidence to prove my innocence. So, I started my words with 'guilty' and added some details about my life, that I was new in town, trying to get used to a new country etc. In the end, the judge didn't exempt me from the fine, but she lowered the penalty points, which is a consolation because if you go over the points limit in a year, you have to take a driving training course.



## "Advice to Those with School-Aged Kids - A Visiting Scholar's Experience"

**Emine Arzu Ayhan**

**2021-2022 Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program Grantee**

*Hacettepe University, Ankara /  
University of California, San Francisco*



When I arrived in San Francisco my number one concern was enrolling my children in schools. My attempts to do that before I got to the U.S. had ended in vain as I was told that the procedure could not be started before I stepped foot in San Francisco. The school year had already started by the time I arrived (despite all efforts to expedite the process) and was moving into its third week so I didn't want the enrollment process to be lengthy and the kids miss out on school for much longer. The unified school district however informed me that the medical report I had, which I had our home pediatrician fill out, would have to be repeated locally, which meant a pediatrician appointment; not to mention maybe repeat blood tests; I had just arrived and was still in the process of acquiring health insurance for the girls. Furthermore, due to the pandemic, the paperwork we had regarding our proof of residence was an online document, which we were told had to be changed with one with a wet signature.

It was over the first weekend that I was up at night (the adrenaline no doubt kicking in, in addition to the jetlag) pondering about what to

**"to all the parents out there - charter schools are a great option especially if you are late arriving!"**

do when I decided to email a charter school close to our home, attaching all the documents I had brought with me, while also trying to understand what the difference was with respect to a public school. To my relief the girls were accepted and started school within the next three days. My worries over the past weeks were all for nothing, if only I had known about this option previously. Charter schools I have learned are autonomous and do not have to exactly follow the regulations that traditional public schools have and can bend some of the procedural workflow (they accepted the medical report of the pediatrician from our home country and our documents proving residency). So, my advice to all the parents out there - charter schools are a great option especially if you are late arriving!

*Pictured: San Francisco's hills and pretty houses immediately drew Dr. Ayhan's attention as she hurried along the streets during those first couple of days in which she was occupied with school arrangements*

**Güzden Varinlioğlu**

**2021-2022 Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program Grantee**

*İzmir University of Economics, İzmir /  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

*Pictured: Dr. Varinlioğlu on Charles River with MIT Sailing Club*



I am currently a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) at the Department of Architecture, working on an architectural heritage project exploring the potential contribution of computational tools to the understanding of the Silk Road networks, and their role in connecting cultures, ideas, and people during the Seljuk period in Anatolia. This research led to new directions in both my personal and academic interests, the latter particularly aligned with my status as a woman researcher originating from Turkey, known throughout history as a land of diversity and inclusion.

By diversity and inclusion, I refer to equality in the academic research environment. The concept of 'anti-disciplinary' is associated with the work of MIT, in which I played a role, representing a new perspective which envisages that the distinctions between research areas will disappear, leading to greater diversity and richness. My Fulbright-supported project necessitates an anti-disciplinary working environment which involves the simultaneous exploration of the fields of cultural heritage, biological and artificial intelligence, architectural design and digital fabrication. At this point, I have

benefited from the broad perspective of Takehiko Nagakura, my faculty host, who has enabled me to engage in interdepartmental collaborations, and to contribute to the work at MIT, the world's most important research institution, and this has naturally been an important step in my academic career. My preference is confirmed by Boston's status as a center of intellectual achievement, the diversity of universities, cultural and sports activities, but also by its reputation as a congenial and accessible city. Another considerable advantage is its range of accommodation, considering the variability of seasonal conditions, and the long winter months spent mainly inside.

With the arrival of spring, sailboats, rowing teams and surfers glide across the water set against the unique Boston skyline on the Charles River. While participating in social and sports activities, I am able to observe the awakening city, with its many cyclists, joggers, and even street musicians. When I consider the city of Boston, with its myriad social events and long-established academic traditions, I am strongly reminded of Ankara, just as MIT reminds me of METU, where I spent my undergraduate days.



## "Full of Adventure, America"

**Sema Aygar**

*2021-2022 Fulbright  
Postdoctoral Program Grantee  
Hacettepe University, Ankara / Harvard  
University, Massachusetts*



I would like to start by telling the story of my title. I would guess that some of you can remember, it is the intro and chorus of a song from the '90s sung by Rafet El Roman, a famous Turkish singer. I was in secondary school when this song first got stuck in our mouths. Since then, whenever the subject of America has come up, this song has always been on my mind. I guess it is something like settling into the subconscious.

These days, I can say that my incredible journey here is full of adventures. The first day of the adventure started with feeling like the moon and star on a pumpkin painted for Halloween was inspired by the Turkish flag. Then, it continued with meeting Pilgrims (portrayed by actors) in a live museum; celebrating Halloween by carving a pumpkin; grabbing the candy bag hanging on the door on Thanksgiving;

feeling dizzy around Times Square at Christmas; dropping off swab samples for the weekly COVID test; being a butterfly by laying on the snow when it reached the height of a car; understanding the feelings of Hindu friends, bombarded with colors at the Holi festival; being unable to get enough of exploring incredibly magnificent libraries that have a branch on almost every street; looking forward to the cultural adaptation events organized by World Boston; and, of course working most of a day in the lab for the health and quality of your stem cells. I hope to show my gratitude to the Fulbright Commission for allowing these all to be components of my adventure by soon presenting valuable outputs of my work here.

*Pictured: Dr. Aygar (on the right) celebrating the Holi Festival (Festival of Spring/Festival of Color/Festival of Love) with her Indian lab mate*

## "A Nice Break from My Postdoctoral Study"

**Nur Elibol Pekaslan**

*2021-2022 Fulbright  
Postdoctoral Program Grantee  
Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University,  
Ankara / Cornell University, New York*

After I arrived in Ithaca to conduct my postdoctoral research, I received an invitation from One to World Organization to join their activities in New York City. I was checking their activities, but it was difficult to find a suitable time to attend due to my work schedule. My husband and I were planning to go to NYC for an NBA game. While we were planning, I received an invitation from One to World to join an NBA game and meet Fulbright scholars. It was a nice coincidence, and I immediately accepted their invitation.

My husband is a big fan of basketball and I also like to watch the games. I heard from lots of people that going to an NBA game is a must while in the USA, even if you are not a fan of basketball. We were very excited about the event. Before the game, we had dinner and met other Fulbright Scholars conducting research in different cities of the New York State. There were people from several countries. We were sitting next to a family from Japan and program organizers from the U.S. We talked about places to visit and the food to try in our countries. We shared cultural information and gave suggestions to each other. It was a lovely conversation.

While we were walking to the venue for the game, we met other Turkish Fulbright scholars. It was nice to share our U.S. experiences with each other. Then, we arrived at the Barclays Center and began to watch the game. The atmosphere was magical. There were also activities for Women's History Month before the game and during the breaks. Important women's successes were acknowledged during these talks and shows. During the game, we had conversations with Fulbright scholars from other countries as well. It was one of the best days of my life. I had so

much fun, -experienced one of the most exciting events, and exchanged cultural information with Fulbright scholars. I am thankful to Fulbright and One to World for giving me such an amazing opportunity.



*Pictured: Dr. Elibol Pekaslan at Barclays Center after the Brooklyn Nets Women's Empowerment Game*



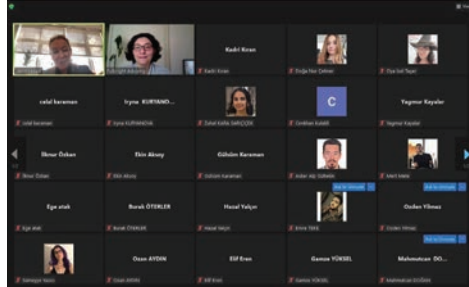
# Advising Program

## Outreach Activities for Fulbright Grants

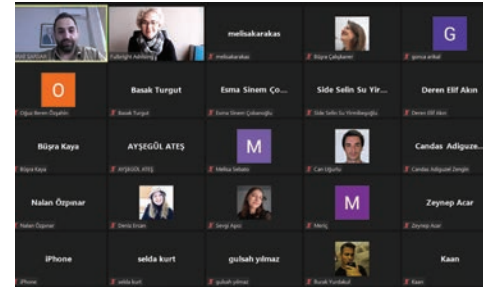
**Master's and Ph.D. Grant:** Advisers promoted the Fulbright Master's and Ph.D. Grants through many channels, throughout the application period which ran from December 29, 2021, to April 6, 2022.

Digital posters were sent to all rectors, faculties, institutes, and departments.

A total of 42 university-specific webinars were organized in collaboration with Turkish universities, which were attended by 1779 students and academics.

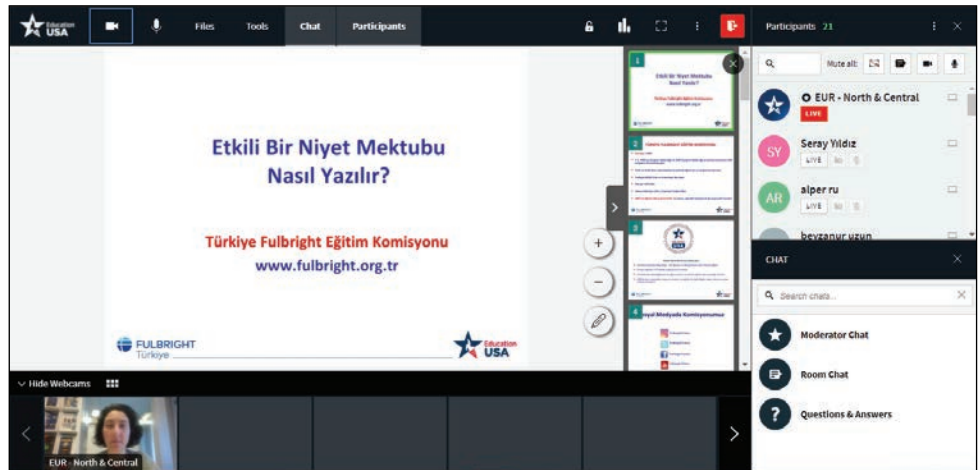


*Pictured:* Eskişehir Technical University, Fulbright Master's and Ph.D. Grants and Study in the U.S.A. webinar



*Pictured:* Ege University, Fulbright Master's and Ph.D. Grants and Study in the U.S.A. webinar with alumnus Dr. Firat Sarsar contributing with an account of his experiences

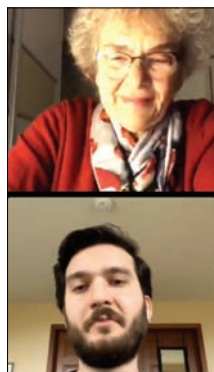
Multiple webinars were organized to aid the applicants for the grants: six sessions on the details of the applications process, five, on "How to make an Effective Application" and another six on "How to Write an Effective Statement of Purpose" were presented by our advisers to a total of 613 students.



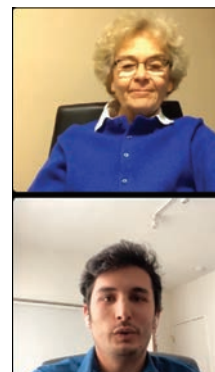
*Pictured right:* Webinar: How to Write an Effective Statement of Purpose

Four Instagram Live sessions were conducted with alumni where details of the application process, the Fulbright experience and useful tips were discussed. A total of 1114 participants were present at these sessions.

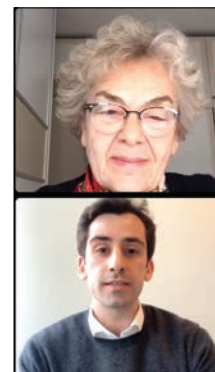
In addition, five Instagram Live Q&A sessions were carried out, with a total of 1215 participants.



with Ph.D. Grant (Civil-Environmental Engineering) alumnus Çağlar Tamur



with Master's Grant (Architecture) Alumnus Burak Çelik



with Master's Grant (LLM) alumnus Yusuf Kumtepe



with Ph.D. Grant (Materials Science) alumna Bengisu Sarı



### Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program:

In mid-April, when this program opened for applications, announcements and posters were sent to many types of institutions, like universities, governors' offices, municipalities, bar associations, foundations, and NGOs.

Several webinars were organized to inform interested applicants and answer their questions about the Humphrey Fellowship program.

One Instagram Live session was organized to host Humphrey alumnus Dr. Rifat Ünal Sayman, a public policy expert, working on Climate Change and Circular Economy, in early June.



## Coffee with U.S. Grantees

The Istanbul Advisers were able to host another coffee hour for U.S. Grantees on April 29. Five grantees were able to join in the lively conversation and a delicious choice of desserts.



#### *Pictured:*

*Clockwise, from left to right: Sheila Turan, ETA; Amrutha Ramaswamy, Student Researcher; Amanda Montes, Senior Lecturer; Serin Alpokay Taş and Betti Delevi, advisers; Anna South, and Miso Kwak, ETAs*

### Follow us on social media:



Fulbrightturkey



FulbrightTurkey



FulbrightTurkiye



FulbrightTurkey



## EducationUSA Activities

The Education USA Europe Network continued to connect for scheduled monthly calls, professional development webinars, Turkey Team calls, and group events. Our advisers from both Istanbul and Ankara offices attended the Professional Development Seminar on Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL). Online Advising Hours are

carried out as usual, in one-hour sessions, thrice per week. More advisers log in on weeks with high demand.

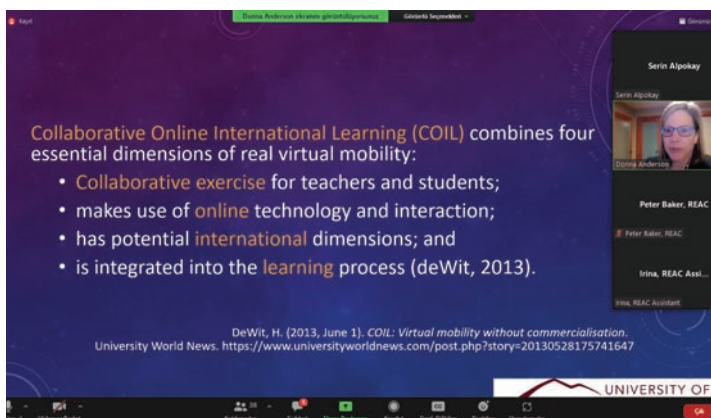
One-on-one advising sessions which became very popular during the past year are still organized frequently, to inform students and parents of educational options in the U.S., and advise them on the

application process, standard tests, and other tips.

Our education adviser, Ms. Serin Alpokay Taş gave an online presentation to the students and parents of Saint Michel French High School. She presented the essentials of applying to U.S. colleges and answered questions.



*Pictured: Team Turkey Call*



*Pictured: PD session on COIL*

## Study Abroad Fairs

In April, our advisers at our Istanbul and Ankara Offices physically attended both A2 and IEFT International Education Fairs. The fairs were the first face-to-face public events that our advisers attended since the beginning of the pandemic. Our advisers answered questions regarding studying in the U.S.A and Fulbright Grant Programs. Our booths were visited by 215 students and parents in A2 Fairs, and 130 in IEFT. More than 1,000 brochures and flyers were distributed.



*Pictured above left: Serin Alpokay Taş at the A2 Fair in İstanbul*

*Pictured above right: Meriç Karateke at the A2 Fair in Ankara*

*Pictured below left: U.S. CG Ms. Daria Darnell, visiting the Fulbright & EducationUSA booth at the IEFT Fair*

*Pictured below right: Mr. David Panetti, Cultural Attaché, Serin Alpokay Taş, Consulate Officials*



## Presentation for EducationUSA Adana: LLM Programs & Fulbright Master's Grants

Our office gave a presentation on the LL.M. program, and the Fulbright Master's Grant for the benefit of EducationUSA Adana office's student base, hosted by EducationUSA Adana Adviser Ms. Tuba Bada. Participants were informed about both subjects and asked many questions.



## U.S. Higher Education Officials Visits

As the Covid-19 restrictions were slowly lifted, we resumed pre-Covid activities and visits with some caution.

On March 24, we had the pleasure of hosting two representatives from The University at Albany, SUNY. Our Istanbul advisers met with Ms. Jane Benson-Rivera, Assistant Director of Communications & Operations and Ms. Ann Gogerty,

International Recruitment Specialist at the Center for International Education & Global Strategy; and had the opportunity to share information regarding the Turkish education system while learning about the opportunities and programs offered by The University at Albany-SUNY. We also exchanged information regarding the collaboration between Turkish and U.S. universities, and dual degree programs.



On April 13, the Istanbul advisers hosted Ms. Vicky Yang, the Director of International Recruitment from Columbia University, School of Professional Studies. Ms. Yang shared information regarding the programs offered by the School of Professional Studies and scholarship opportunities. Our advisers shared details of Fulbright Grants and the Turkish education system.

Mr. Engin Ayvaz, Director of the Intensive English Center, and Dr. Jewell G. Winn, Executive Director for International Programs and Chief Diversity Officer at Tennessee State University visited

the Istanbul Office on May 10, 2022. The advisers were able to learn about the institution, a HBCU, its offer of scholarships for international students, its strong



programs in Engineering, Business and Agriculture; and its strong and well-known music program, with its ties to the famous Nashville music scene.



## College Board Visit:

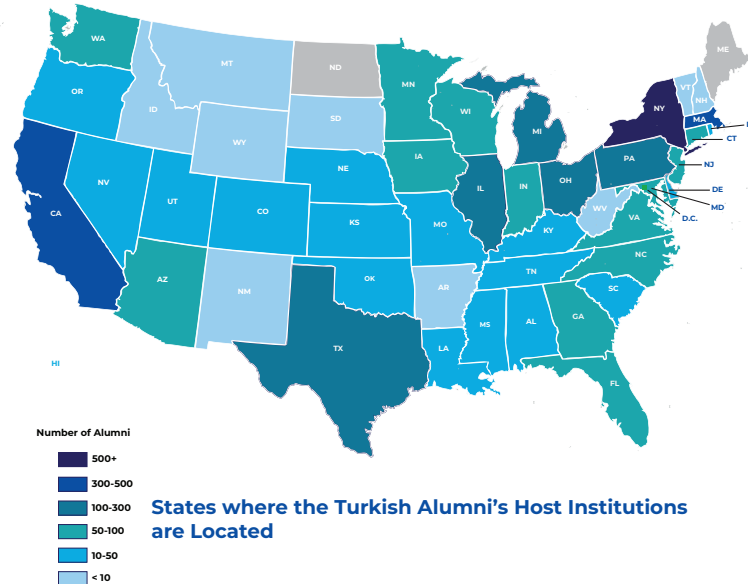
On May 11, Dr. Matthew Chovanec, Director of Market Management for MENA visited the Fulbright Istanbul Office to learn about the Office's services, to give updates about the new SAT, and the latest developments on AP programs.



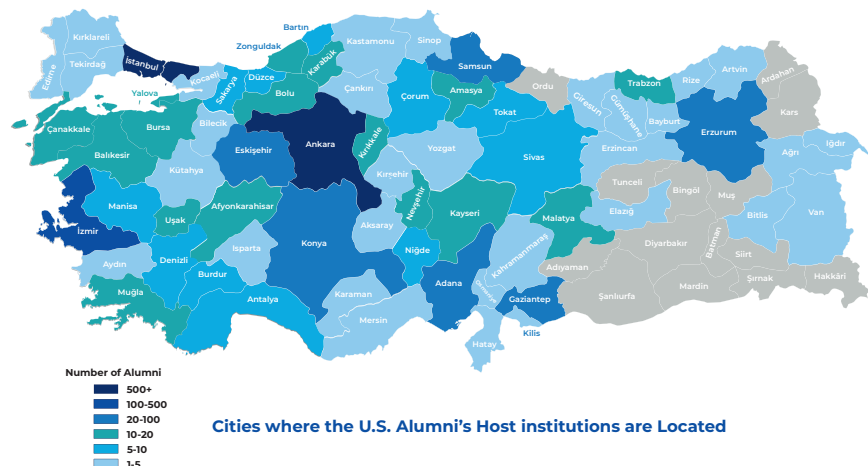


## WHERE DO OUR GRANTEES STUDY / WHERE DO OUR U.S. GRANTEES COME FROM?

Statistics show that in the past **70 years**, since our programs began, the states where the universities that hosted the most Turkish grantees were New York, Massachusetts, and California; followed by Texas, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvania.



The country map shows the cities where the institutions U.S. grantees have chosen to study, conduct research, teach, or lecture, are located. Istanbul and Ankara come up at the top, as expected; followed by İzmir, Eskişehir, Konya, Adana, Gaziantep, Samsun, and Erzurum. It is comforting to observe that **67** out of **81** cities, or **83%** have been covered.



This graph indicates the universities that have both sent and received Fulbright grantees the most, in the same time period.





# FULBRIGHT Turkey

THE TURKISH FULBRIGHT COMMISSION

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

Please send contributions and comments to:

**Türkiye Fulbright Eğitim Komisyonu  
Tepe Prime İş Merkezi B Blok No: 124**

**Dumlupınar Bulvarı 06800**

**Çankaya - Ankara Turkey**

**Ph: (0312) 427 13 60 / 428 48 24**

**Fax: (0312) 468 15 60**

**e-mail: [fulb-ank@fulbright.org.tr](mailto:fulb-ank@fulbright.org.tr)**

*All submissions are subject to editing.*



*This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.*



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



Fulbrightturkey



FulbrightTurkey



FulbrightTürkiye



FulbrightTurkey