

International Exchange Alumni Newsletter

Issue 9, Summer 2017

U.S. Embassy, Ankara – Public Affairs

Welcome to the International Exchange Alumni Newsletter of the U.S. Embassy, Ankara where you hear the success stories of fellow alumni, information about Embassy programs and events, and training and job opportunities offered exclusively to our alumni. Have an idea for an alumni project or event? Have a success story or useful tip you want to share? Write to the Alumni Coordination Office at usaturkeyalumni@state.gov



Re-entry and Networking Meeting

[The Turkish Fulbright Commission](#) organized a "Re-entry and Networking" meeting on February 3, 2017 in Ankara for Fulbright alumni upon their return to Turkey from the United States.

Professor Ülkü Gürler, alumna of Fulbright Visiting Student Researcher Program, shared insights on her own networking experience and how to give back to their communities.

Dr. Ümit Yazman, Humphrey Program alumnus, gave a speech on the re-entry period, reverse culture shock, and how best to overcome this period.

At the end of the meeting, Professor Ersel Aydın, Executive Director of the Turkish Fulbright Commission, welcomed guests to take part in a reception. Among the guests were U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Mr. John Bass, members of the Commission Board, Turkish and American alumni, and current American Fulbright grantees in Ankara.



Hubert H. Humphrey Alumni Association Holds its Annual Dinner

[The Humphrey Alumni Association](#) held its annual dinner on Friday, March 31, 2017 at Bahçelievler, a local restaurant in Ankara. Over 20 Humphrey, 6 YES Alumni, and U.S. Embassy staff attended. Humphrey Alumni Association President Ayşegül Çerçi, U.S. Embassy Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer Saad Bokhari, and YES Alumni Association President Çoşkun İşlek highlighted in their remarks the importance of U.S. Exchange Alumni to furthering mutual understanding between Americans and Turks. During the night several informal professional mentorships were introduced between Humphrey professionals and YES alumni currently in school or new to their careers. The Public Affairs Section is working on a small, informal mentorship program between Humphrey and YES alumni in Ankara. Details to follow soon.



Exchange Programs Alumni at the 21st International Ankara Jazz Festival Opening

The 21st International Ankara Jazz Festival kicked off with songs from the Queen of Jazz, Ella Fitzgerald - in honor of the centennial of her birth - performed by the Ece Göksu Band at the United States Embassy residence on May 8th, 2017. Among the guests attending the opening night were well-known names from the arts and culture circles, dignitaries from other diplomatic missions in Ankara, jazz festival sponsors, U.S. Embassy exchanges programs' alumni and jazz music enthusiasts.

In his opening remarks, United States Ambassador John Bass said, "Hoşgeldiniz. I am delighted to have all of you here to join us in kicking off the 21st Annual Ankara Jazz Festival. Jazz is America's gift to the world. Jazz has space for every culture, and every musical tradition. I think it is one of the best cultural forms for magic to happen when you bring two or more cultures together and you see talent from different historical perspectives created before your eyes and ears." Prior to Ece Goksu Band taking the stage to perform, Ambassador Bass noted, "It's been 241 years since Americans were ruled by royalty. But that doesn't mean that we don't have royalty. We do. And the brightest star in our royal firmament is the queen of jazz, Ms. Ella Fitzgerald. So, this 100th year since she was born is the perfect time of course to celebrate the queen."



YES Alumni meet in İstanbul

On, April 29, [YES Alumni Association Turkey](#) held its annual brunch meeting at Hisar Recreational Center of Yıldız Technical University in İstanbul. 102 The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program alumni and 13 representatives of various partnering organizations attended. Many alumni residing in different cities of Turkey travelled to İstanbul to join their alumni friends who live in İstanbul to review and evaluate last year's activities of the association.

[The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study \(YES\) program](#), funded by the U.S. Department of State, provides scholarships for secondary school students (age 15-17) from countries with significant Muslim populations to spend one academic year in the United States.



Burcu Çatak, 2017 YES alumna, participated in "Summit for Global Ambassadors in the North Africa and Middle East" (23-28 April, Jordan) organized by AMIDEAST. The summit focused on United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and Burcu was one of the moderators in the event.

Alumni Speaker Programs:



Berkay Orhaner, a 2007 SUSI Alumnus, meets students at Ege and Dokuz Eylül Universities.

The U.S. Embassy invited Berkay Orhaner to Izmir to speak to students from Ege and Dokuz Eylül Universities. Berkay presented his work to around 100 students on the *Perception of Turkishness among the Immigrants in Rochester, New York* to the American Studies Departments April 26.

Berkay received his bachelors and master's degrees in sociology from Middle East Technical University in 2008 and 2013 respectively. He participated in the Study of the US Institutes for Student Leaders (SUSI) Program in 2007. Currently, he is a PhD candidate at the Department of Sociology, Hacettepe University. Please click [here](#) to read Berkay Orhaner's thesis called "Reconstruction of Turkishness among the Turkish Immigrants in Rochester".



Dr. Canan Dağdeviren meets YES Alumni

On February 8 at the U.S. Ambassadorial Residence, Dr. Canan Dağdeviren, MIT and Harvard faculty member and Fulbright Alumna, met with a group of female YES alumni currently pursuing STEM fields in universities throughout Turkey as a part of "[Girls Can STEM](#)" project. During the event, Dr. Dağdeviren shared her thoughts on the state of the scientific sectors in both countries and her professional experience.

Alumni Community Service Projects:



Alumni Project: Next Generation Teachers Co-Working for Refugee and Immigrant Communities in Turkey and Ireland

A reception for the “*Next Generation Teachers Co-Working for Refugee and Immigrant Communities in Turkey and Ireland*” project took place January 12th at TED University. Dr. Elif Karşlı, a Fulbright alumna, aimed with this project to create positive change in refugee and immigrant communities in Turkey and Ireland by empowering next generation teachers through cross-cultural collaboration. After having been nominated by the U.S. Embassy, Dr. Karşlı participated in the Alumni Thematic International Exchange Seminar (Alumni TIES) on Refugee and Migration Issues in Europe in Zagreb, Croatia in February 2016, and was awarded with a grant from World Learning to carry out this follow-up project.”

Alumni Project: Holocaust Awareness Seminars

İlker Aytürk, a Fulbright Alumnus, contributed to increasing Holocaust awareness through a one-day seminar in İstanbul December 2016. Speaking to a group of 25 attendees, İlker introduced new methods to teach about the Holocaust, which bolsters interactive learning. His project concluded with a live video conference from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, where Alfred Münzer, a Holocaust survivor addressed the Turkish audience.



Alumni Project: Raising a Bilingual Child

On May 17 at Bursa Technical University, Mustafa Çoban, a SUSI Alumnus, organized a seminar on raising a bilingual child as a part of his “Multilingual Awareness” project. The seminar’s speaker was Mohammad Turgeon, English Instructor of Bursa Technical University Foreign Language School. Mr. Turgeon is an American man married to a Turkish lady with two kids. They are raising their children bilingual. Therefore, over hundred attendees did not only learn the methods of raising bilingual children but also how to put these methods into actions.

Alumni Small Grants Program

U.S. Embassy Alumni Programs Office gave out over \$13,000 in funding during the 2017 Alumni Small Grants Program competition. The competition's main objective is to support innovative, small-scale, cutting-edge projects developed and implemented by U.S. Department of State exchange alumni. The following alumni projects received a grant:

- Climate Simulation Program – Working with MIT, students from five Ankara-based universities will participate in workshops to learn hands-on approaches to measuring carbon emissions and ways to engage the municipality. Budget: 5,000USD. Implementing partner: Ramazan Tosun, Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) program alumni.
- Computer Coding for Disadvantaged Youth – IT professionals will teach coding to 70 students from a disadvantaged İstanbul neighborhood, followed by a professional mentorship program to enable potential employment. Budget: 5,000USD. Implementing partner: Deniz Gundogan, Fulbright program alumni.
- Take My Hand, I'm With You – Working with fifteen Syrian refugee students currently enrolled at Cukurova University in Adana, this project will identify ways to better promote social integration into Turkish society. Budget: 2,000USD. Implementing partner: Hasan Bedir, American English E-Teacher program alumni
- Raising Multilingual Awareness – This grant will identify best practices already in place within Turkey that increase individual awareness of the country's linguistic diversity. Budget: 1,000USD. Implementing partner: Mustafa Coban, SUSI program alumni.

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Alumni Success Story

Interview of the Turkish Fulbright Commission with Professor Ersin Kalaycioglu, 1976 Fulbright Alumnus on Political Science:



Please click on the following link to read interview: <http://fulbright.org.tr/en/basarioykuşu/prof-dr-ersin-kalaycioglu/>

NOTE: We would like to highlight the accomplishments of our alumni, help them to engage with the larger community, and organize collaborative programs. Please share your success story with us at usturkeyalumni@state.gov or 0312 457 7204.

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SWT Turkey 2017 Video Contest

The U.S. Embassy in Ankara and the U.S. Consulate General in İstanbul want you to share your best 2017 Summer Work Travel (SWT) experiences this summer! Some things can happen *only in America*! Submit a 15 second video to Instagram showing us what you can do *only in America* and you could win a prize!

Participating is super easy – just use #SWTTurkey when posting your *only in America* videos on Instagram while in the United States this summer. The contest starts on May 15, 2017, and ends on October 30, 2017. Please read the “**Official Video Contest Rules**” (PDF) for all the requirements.

<https://www.facebook.com/swtturkey/>

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Open Vacancies at U.S. Mission, Turkey

Ankara

Political Assistant (Syrian Affairs) – GAZIANTEP – Open until filled
Temporary Engineer (Mechanical) – Closing Date for Applications: Until Filled
Temporary Engineer (Electrical) – Closing Date for Applications: Until Filled
Temporary Engineer (Civil) – Closing Date for Applications: Until Filled
Temporary Shipment Clerk – Closing Date for Applications: Until Filled
Temporary Administrative Clerk – Closing Date for Applications: Until Filled
Temporary Administrative Assistant – Closing Date for Applications: Until Filled
Temporary Chauffeur/Clerk – Closing Date for Applications: Until Filled
Temporary Guard Force Supervisor (5 each) – Closing Date for Applications: Until Filled
Temporary Armed Guard (24 each) – Closing Date for Applications: Until Filled

İstanbul

Customs Expeditor/Customer Service Representative – Closing Date For Applications: August 9, 2017
Consular Cashier – Closing Date For Applications: August 9, 2017
Bodyguard (6 ea.) – Closing Date For Applications: August 9, 2017

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KEEP IN TOUCH

International Exchange Alumni

International Exchange Alumni Website: a place where past and present U.S. government-sponsored exchange program participants find tools to advance their communities and our world. Benefits of joining: alumni directory, job center, grants, events, research tools. View all benefits: <https://alumni.state.gov/about-international-exchange-alumni/benefits-joining>
Register to become a member of International Exchange Alumni Website: <https://alumni.state.gov/>

ExchangesConnect Web Site

ExchangesConnect is an international online community managed by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs that connects potential, current, and former exchange program participants so that they can discuss application processes, programs, and living abroad.

Facebook

Get connected with international exchanges!

Facebook: Summer Work and Travel Turkey

The U.S. Consulate General in İstanbul's SWTTurkey Facebook page! On this page you will find recent news, videos and photos distributed by the Consulate's Consular Section.

Twitter

ExchangesConnect is the online community from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), U.S. Department of State.

YouTube

With YouTube individuals are able to document their personal experiences with other cultures and share it with online viewers.

Tumblr

International Exchange Alumni on Tumblr.