

# *International Exchange Alumni Newsletter*

## *Issue 12, Spring 2019*

### *U.S. Mission to Turkey – Public Affairs*

*Welcome to the International Exchange Alumni Newsletter of the U.S. Mission to Turkey. This is your space to share alumni success stories, get details about upcoming Embassy and Consulate events, and find training and job opportunities offered exclusively to our alumni. Your newsletter contributions and ideas are always welcome. Write to Alumni Coordination Office at [usaturkeyalumni@state.gov](mailto:usaturkeyalumni@state.gov)*



### **U.S. Exchange Alumni Launch Mentorship Program**

After two years of planning, the U.S. Embassy in Ankara finally launched the alumni mentorship program! Professionals from the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship program will lend their career expertise and mentor YES alumni. During the March 16 workshop, Acting Public Affairs Officer David Gainer opened the program and encouraged each team to think big and be creative. After the program several Humphrey and YES alumni flew to Istanbul to participate in the 40th Anniversary of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship program reception hosted by the Consul General Jennifer Davis, with special guest Education and Cultural Affairs Assistant Secretary Marie Royce. A/S Royce recognized the mentorship program in her remarks as demonstrative of the transformative power of U.S. exchange programs.



### **Fulbright Alumni Meeting in Antalya**

On December 8, 2018, the Turkish Fulbright Alumni Association held an alumni gathering in Antalya in collaboration with Fulbright alumna Prof. İsmail Tufan. Fulbright Alum Dr. Ozlem Erden highlighted the importance of alumni connectivity for developing better ties among Fulbright alumni. Turkish Alumni Association President Faruk Aktay invited alumni to join the Association and become part of something bigger.



### **The First Alumni Fair of Turkey in Ankara**

The USA Education Center at Turkish American Association and U.S. Embassy Ankara organized the first alumni fair of Turkey November 7 at the Sheraton Hotel. Over 20 Turkish alumni representing diverse U.S. universities promoted their alma mater and shared their own experiences with prospective students. Embassy personnel were on hand to take questions about student visas and to hear about Fulbright scholarship opportunities.



### **2nd YES Alumni Network Day in Istanbul**

YES Alumni from different careers and schools gathered for the Second YES Alumni Network Day November 4. Participants spent a pleasant and productive day after exchanging questions and experiences with each other.



### **YES Celebrates 15 Years of Success in Turkey**

On 17th of July, Consul General Jennifer Davis hosted a cocktail with 130 YES alumni and guests to celebrate 15 years of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program.

## News about Alumni Projects



### Alumni Project: A Bus to Unimaginable Achievement

A team of YES alumni, university students, and instructors visited four schools in Tekirdağ on October 24 and 25 to provide equal educational and training opportunities to socio-economically disadvantaged students. Students took part in different hands-on activities and discovered their potential in STEM fields. The activities included science experiments, mathematics applications, robotics, and verbal skill development workshops. As a result, students broadened their horizons and created a mentor-mentee relationship with the project's volunteers.

As news of their success spread, three more provinces officially invited the project for more outreach in April and May. The alumni team is busy making preparations to continue their success. YES Alumni in Turkey are preparing to conduct small-scaled version of this project in various schools.



### Alumni Project: Safe Internet Strategies for Students in Izmir

A project team consisting of a group of Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) alumni has been implementing the Safe Internet Strategies for Students project to train students, teachers, and parents in preventing cyberbullying and protecting children from online threats. To date, the project has reached 331 students in the seventh grade, 80 teachers, and 80 parents since last September. Trainings for all groups focused on the psychological aspects of cyberbullying, internet addiction, and problematic internet usage.



### Alumni Project: “Artık Top Sende”

Sports Ambassadors of the “Artık Top Sende” project came together in December to review the progress of their work. In this project, YES alumni mentor middle and high school students to come up with and implement their own proposals for future “Artık Top Sende” submissions. ATS aims to create social impact by using sports as a tool.

## **Interview of the Turkish Fulbright Commission with Prof. İsmail Tufan, 2007-2008 Fulbright Alumnus on Sociology & Social Work**



Please click on the following link to read interview:

<https://fulbright.org.tr/posts/40/Prof.-Dr.-%C4%B0smail-Tufan>

**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](mailto:usturkeyalumni@state.gov) or 0312 457 7204.

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## ***Newcomers at the U.S. Mission, Turkey***

### **Chargé d’Affaires Jeffrey M. Hovenier**

Jeffrey M. Hovenier began his assignment at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, Turkey and assumed the duties of Chargé d’Affaires in August 2018. He came to Ankara after serving as Acting Deputy Chief of Mission and Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, Germany. A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, he has also served at U.S. missions in Croatia, Greece, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru; at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); and on the staff of the UN Special Envoy for Kosovo Status.



His Washington assignments include service as Director for Central and Southeastern European Affairs at the National Security Council, and in the State Department’s European Bureau with responsibility for NATO and Central European Affairs.

Mr. Hovenier is a multiple recipient of State Department performance awards and holds government honors from the Republic of Kosovo. He grew up in Bellingham, Washington and holds a Master’s degree from Georgetown University and a Bachelor’s degree from Brigham Young University. He speaks German and Spanish and has studied Greek and Croatian. He is married to Laura Williams Hovenier. They have four adult children.

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## **Open Vacancies at U.S. Mission, Turkey**

Please click on the link to see available vacancies at U.S. Mission in Turkey

<https://tr.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/jobs/jobs/>

## ***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.

### **[Tumblr](#)**

International Exchange Alumni on Tumblr.