

International Exchange Alumni Newsletter

Issue 2, Summer 2014

U.S. Embassy, Ankara – Public Affairs

Welcome to the International Exchange Alumni Newsletter of the US Embassy, Ankara. Here you will learn about the success stories of your 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 Alumni Coordinator Ersin Dur at DurE@state.gov



Farewell reception for outgoing Turkish Fulbright grantees

U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Jess L. Baily hosted a reception in honor of the 2014 Turkish Fulbright grantees on Thursday, June 26 in Ankara. Fulbright alumni, Fulbright Jury members, Fulbright Commission personnel and Embassy staff attended the reception. The alumni attendees shared their exchange experience with the outgoing grantees and suggested ways to make their study in the USA more beneficial, both professionally and personally, during the reception.

* * *



Legislative Fellows Program dinner

On June 9 in Ankara U.S. Embassy Assistant Cultural Attaché Phaedra Gwyn and nine Legislative Fellows Program alumni met at a dinner in honor of Leslie Ryan, Program Manager of American Councils for International Education.



Izmir alumni meet at a local cafe

On July 2 in Izmir U.S. Embassy personnel and exchange program alumni met at a local café to share their experiences and discuss ideas for future alumni programs in Izmir.



Konya alumni meet at a local restaurant

On April 21 in Konya U.S. Embassy personnel and several U.S. exchange program alumni met at a local restaurant. Alumni talked about their U.S. experience and its impact on their careers. The attendees expressed their desire to meet together more often.



Alumni Project: Encouraging Youth for Social Entrepreneurship

Prof. Dr. Yeşim Toduk, 1987 Fulbright alumna, received an alumni grant for her project “Encouraging Youth for Social Entrepreneurship” from the U.S. Embassy, Ankara.

The project brought together unemployed young people with business executives in order to support their social entrepreneurship endeavors.

A jury composed of seven business executives evaluated 100 applications and selected 30 young applicants. The selected participants, many of whom are university students or graduates, attended two training programs on April 25 and 26 at Kadir Has University and on May 2 and 3 at Management Center Turkey (MCT) in İstanbul.



Alumni Project: Increasing Pre-School Children’s Awareness of Nature and Sustainable Environment

Dr. Banu Öztürk Kurtaslan, 2010 Fulbright alumna, received an alumni grant for her project “Increasing Pre-School Children’s Awareness of Nature and Sustainable Environment” from the U.S. Embassy, Ankara.

On April 14 in Konya, officials from the Konya Provincial Directorate of Education Ministry and Konya Metropolitan Municipality, a group of volunteer students from Selcuk University and American English Teaching Assistants attended one of the events at Japan Kyoto Park, which was built upon Turkey’s ratification of the Kyoto Protocol a few years ago. At the program opening, Deputy Cultural Attaché Phaedra Gwyn made

The participants learned the concept of social entrepreneurship, the impact of a person and an action, areas that an entrepreneur can influence, the management of a social entrepreneurship project and presentation skills.

Upon the completion of the trainings, jury members and participants chose the top 10 project ideas. The winners continued the competition on May 10 at MCT. The leaders of the following three project ideas received with financial and mentorship support: “Horse-riding Therapy for Disabled Youth” by Zeynep Kayacan, “Tontonlar and Tentenler” by Mert Güler and “To Crank Up Traditional Rag Carpet Production” by Yasin Sert.

The project received extensive media coverage at *Hurriyet Pazar* and yenibiris.com.

a speech about the U.S. exchange alumni grant programs and the importance of environmental education for children. She also awarded certificates to the participating teachers.

The preschool children completed outdoor science activities, participated in social activities in Japan Kyoto Park and learned about environmental responsibility.



Fulbright alumnus Barış Dinçer receives the “Rising Star of Corporate Governance” award from Columbia University in New York

On Thursday June 12, Columbia University in New York granted the “Rising Star of Corporate Governance” award to Mr. Barış Dinçer.

As indicated in the press release of Columbia Law School dated June 13: “The award recognizes global corporate governance

professionals under the age of 40 who are making their mark as outstanding analysts, experts, directors, managers, or advocates. The 2014 Rising Star of Corporate Governance Award recipients were nominated by their peers in a global search for nominees. The selection process is based on criteria such as accomplishments and thought leadership, current and anticipated projects and endeavors, reputation within the field, and the potential to influence the industry in the future.”

Barış Dinçer was selected as an award recipient based on “his past accomplishments, his ability to demonstrate leadership, his reputation among existing industry leaders, and his potential to influence the industry in the future”, a press statement released to announce the award read.

Barış Dinçer studied policy analysis as a PhD student at John F. Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University on a Fulbright scholarship in 2008. Mr. Dinçer is working as Managing Partner at ARGE Consulting, and he is also a board member at Corporate Governance Association of Turkey.

His great success was also featured in both *Hurriyet* and *Milliyet* dailies. Please click the links for more information:

<http://ekonomi.milliyet.com.tr/-kurumsal-yonetisimin-yukselen/ekonomi/detay/1901065/default.htm>

<http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/ekonomi/26650896.asp>

Alumni share their U.S. exchange experiences with through web stories and video clips

[Please click the links to watch videos]



[Fulbright Alumni Nurhan Pınar Sürek shares her U.S. Exchange Experience](#)

Alumni Small Grants Program

August 15, 2014 was the deadline for the Alumni Small Grants Program. The main objective of the grant program is to support innovative, small-scale, cutting-edge projects developed and implemented by U.S. Department of State exchange alumni, especially in the areas of women's empowerment, gender equality and human rights, freedom of expression, and environmental protection. The Embassy will announce the winners by October 1, 2014.

U.S. Embassy organizes grant writing workshop exclusively for alumni

With the purpose of honing the grant-writing skills of our alumni and to inspire them to come up with solid grant proposals, the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy organized three Skype sessions on Thursday, July 3. Five participants attended each session. Each alumnus received a presentation on the U.S. Embassy Grant Program by Dilhayat Barışçı, U.S. Embassy Grants Coordinator. Ms. Barışçı then answered alumni's questions over Skype.

Exchange Program Announcements

[Foreign Language Teaching Assistant \(FLTA\) Program](#)

A nine-month, non-degree program for early career English teachers or professionals in related fields. Application deadline: September 29, 2014.

[2015-2016 Hubert H. Humphrey Program](#)

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program is a non-degree program designed for young and mid-career professionals in leadership positions. Application deadline: August 22, 2014

Newcomers at the U.S. Mission, Turkey

Lawrence (Larry) Mandel, Deputy Chief of Mission



Lawrence (Larry) Mandel was in Turkish language study before beginning his assignment as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, Turkey, in July 2014.

Larry's previous assignment was as Director, Office of Performance Evaluation, from October 2011 to September 2013. Previously he served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan. His other overseas assignments include Counselor for Management Affairs at the U.S. Embassies in Jakarta, Tel Aviv and Budapest, Procurement Director in Tokyo, Consular Officer and Ambassador's Aide in London and General Services Officer in St. Petersburg, Russia. He served on school boards in Budapest, Tel Aviv and Jakarta, helping to make new school campuses realities.

In Washington Larry served from 2003-05 as Director of the ICASS Service Center, responsible for an annual budget in excess of \$1 billion and coordinating overseas operations with over 40 federal agencies. He has also served as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Management, and as a Post Management Officer for posts in the Near East and South Asian regions. Other Washington assignments include the 24-hour Operations Center and the Office of the Legal Advisor.

Before joining the State Department in 1984 Larry was an attorney in Massachusetts, and worked as a retail executive for a chain of stores in Chicago. He and his wife Judy have four children. Larry is the recipient of numerous State Department awards and holds the rank of Minister Counselor.

Jonathan Henick, Public Affairs Officer



Jonathan Henick, a 20-year veteran of the State Department's Foreign Service, served most recently as Faculty Advisor and Public Diplomacy Fellow at the Institute for Public Diplomacy and Global Communication at George Washington University where he taught an undergraduate course on public diplomacy. Previously, he served as the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary and Director for Press and Public Diplomacy in the Bureau for South and Central Asian Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. In those positions, he was responsible for overseeing the public diplomacy and public affairs operations of the Bureau for South and Central Asian Affairs and for providing policy guidance and management oversight for the conduct of U.S. public diplomacy by over 400 U.S. government employees working at 11 Embassies and 7 Consulates in 13 countries, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India.

Mr. Henick also served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Timor-Leste, where he was responsible for managing a mission that included four U.S. government agencies and almost 200 staff. He has also served in Azerbaijan, Turkey, Portugal, and Uzbekistan, as well as at the Department of State in Washington, D.C. Mr. Henick spent one year as a visiting research fellow and diplomat-in-residence at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. Mr. Henick received the 2008 Award for Achievement in Public Diplomacy granted by the Public Diplomacy Alumni Association, and he has also received four individual Superior Honor Awards from the State Department. Originally from New York, he speaks Russian, Portuguese, Turkish, and Azerbaijani, and holds a Master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University as well as a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Hawaii.

Open Vacancies at U.S. Mission, Turkey

1. Position: Mobile Patrolman

Open To: All Interested Candidates

Closing Date: Until filled

2. Position: Engineer

Open To: All Interested Candidates

Closing Date: COB August 21, 2014

Please check the following link for open vacancies at the Embassy:

http://turkey.usembassy.gov/hr_open_vacancies.htm#LES

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!

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.