

International Exchange Alumni Newsletter

Issue 6, Winter 2016

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 Coordination Office at usaturkeyalumni@state.gov



Alumni Potluck Dinner at Deputy Chief of Mission Residence

U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief Lawrence Mandel hosted an Alumni Potluck Dinner in honor of Executive Chef Marc Murphy and Turkish chef and cookbook author Ömur Akkor on Sunday, October 4 at his residence in Ankara.

Alumni brought dishes to share. This was an opportunity for Marc to taste Turkish home cooking.

This event was a good opportunity for the participants and U.S. Embassy to underscore the message of how sharing culinary traditions brings countries together.



Turkish Alumni at TAA's Thanksgiving Dinner

More than 40 U.S. exchange alumni attended the Turkish-American Association's (TAA) Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, November 26, 2015 in Ankara. Like their American friends, Turkish alumni took this opportunity to stop and appreciate the good things in life. They enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal, which included sliced turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, salad, corn bread and pumpkin pie.



DVC on Cyber Bullying with Dr. Justin Patchin

The U.S. Embassy organized a Digital Video Conference on Cyber Bullying with Dr. Justin Patchin in Ankara on Wednesday, September 16, 2015.

Dr. Justin Patchin defined cyber bullying, and spoke about how the United States is addressing it from multiple angles (legally, within schools, and within the home, for example). He also addressed the issue of dissemination of incriminating and illegal photos of minors by other minors and how the US is dealing with this growing problem.

Eleven people attended the event, including exchange alumni and representatives from the Ministry of Justice, non-governmental organizations, and universities. After listening to Dr. Justin Patchin, they asked questions and conducted a spirited debate on the many issues related to this phenomenon in the U.S. and Turkey.

Two Turkish Fulbright Alumni enter MIT's "35 Innovators under 35 List"

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Technology Review magazine included three Turkish women in its "35 Innovators Under 35" list this year. Two of them are Fulbright alumni: Canan Dağdeviren and Gözde Durmuş. They were selected due to the following accomplishments:



Canan Dağdeviren built a device that can measure changes in skin quality too slight to be detected by human touch. While working with dermatologists to develop the instrument, Dagdeviren found that it could be put to better use by screening for skin cancer, catching cancer earlier and helping patients avoid unnecessary biopsies.



Gözde Durmuş invented a simple, fast method for distinguishing cells by their distinctive physical characteristics by making them levitate in a magnetic field and measuring how high they rise. White blood cells, red blood cells, cancer cells, and different bacteria each rise to different heights because they have a characteristic density that determines the balance between the pull of gravity on the cell and the push of magnetism. Durmus has found that when a bacterial cell responds to an antibiotic, it tends not to rise as high in the magnetic field as it did before. This change can now be detected in about an hour instead of a day.

News about the selection of Canan and Gözde for the MIT awards received wide national media coverage. Please click on the link to read the related articles:

[The three most innovative Turkish women of 2015](#)

[2015'in yenilikçileri arasında 3 Türk kadını](#)

[Dünyayı değiştiren üç Türk kadın](#)

[MIT Teknoloji Dergisi'nin "35 Altı 35 Yenilikçi 2015" listesinde, 3 Türk kadın da yer aldı](#)

FY2016 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) Competition

The Office of Alumni Affairs in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) is pleased to announce the FY2016 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) competition. AEIF offers alumni of U.S. government sponsored exchange programs the opportunity to propose innovative projects that address one of six global foreign policy themes. Alumni are invited to submit project ideas through the International Exchange Alumni (IEA) website (<https://alumni.state.gov>) February 9 - March 9, 2016. Winning proposals will be announced in late April.

News about Alumni Projects

This month the U.S. Mission in Turkey is funding the project "Educate and Empower Girls to Stand up against Violence." Approximately 100 girls from a high school in the Balçova District of İzmir will be trained by experts on the dangers of domestic violence. A few months later, a separate session will be held to train their teachers on how to safeguard girls' rights and dignity in schools.

"We are educating our young women to put an end to this shame. Women of the future are advancing towards an equal, fair, and free world," says Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nesrin Oruç Ertürk, who is implementing the project.

Alumni share their U.S. exchange experiences through video clips



Turkish alumni share their thoughts about what U.S. higher education means to them?
[Please click on the photo to watch video]

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 benefits here:

<https://alumni.state.gov/about-international-exchange-alumni/benefits-joining>

Register to become a member of International Exchange Alumni Website here: <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 they can discuss application processes, programs, and living abroad.

[Facebook](#)

Get connected with international exchanges!

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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.