

Among Friends



The Newsletter of **FABSIT** FOUNDATION

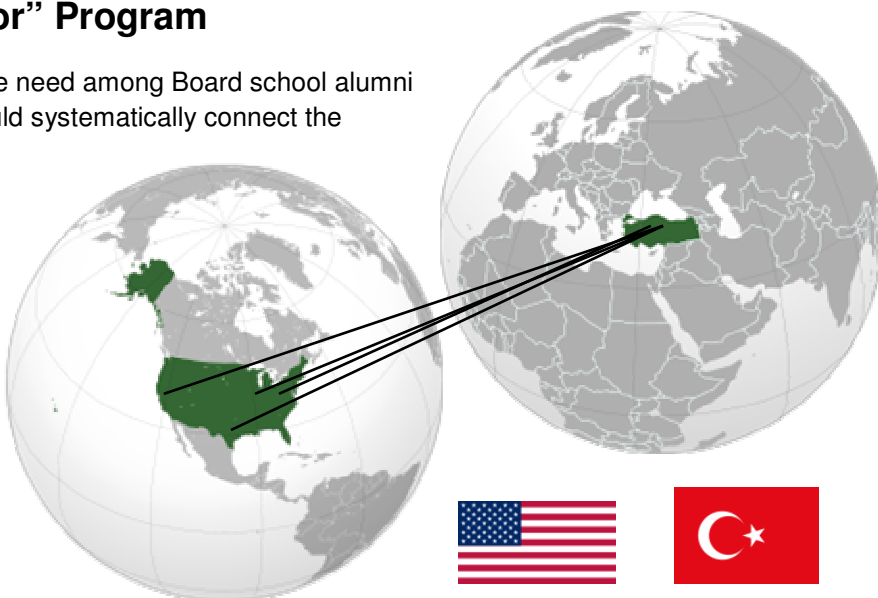
Spring 2010

FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN BOARD SCHOOLS IN TURKEY

American Collegiate Institute • Tarsus American College • Üsküdar American Academy • SEV Gaziantep American Hospital

FABSIT Launches “Connector” Program

For many years FABSIT has recognized the need among Board school alumni in the United States for a resource that would systematically connect the newest graduates in the U.S. with established U.S.-based alums even before they arrive from Turkey so that their transition would be that much easier. FABSIT Connectors are alums from the students' own *alma maters* who will link them initially with other recent grads from their schools, and ultimately with alums from the other board schools, and the FABSIT community at large. Connectors will be a social contact, a first stop for answers to questions like where can I find a good dentist or where can I get my computer fixed. Often the need is as simple as having a group to gather with



“For those who are thinking about sending their children to North America to study, it came as relief to know that there are alumni who are organized and willing to help.”

over the Thanksgiving holiday, or knowing there will be at least one familiar face at a *Buluşalım!* event. It is hoped that many of these students will eventually become FABSIT Connectors themselves.

FABSIT Board member Eric Trujillo met with the Uskudar Parent Teachers Association in March and reported “*strong interest and excitement from parents about FABSIT and its core mission. For those who are thinking about sending their children to North America to study, it came as relief to know that there are alumni who are organized and willing to help.*” Such a resource could provide the American Board schools with a major competitive advantage over other private high schools in Turkey in attracting ambitious students.

More Connectors are needed. By August 2010

FABSIT would like to identify a Connector for each school in five major US university centers: Boston, New York, Washington, DC, Chicago, and San Francisco/LA. If you would like to be a Connector please send an email to office@fabsit.org with your name, city, American Board school name and year of graduation. This is a highly effective way to maintain a connection with your *alma mater* and broaden your own network with the satisfaction of knowing you are reaching out to meet a need ■



Current FABSIT Connectors:

Boston

Ali Cem Yıldırım (ÜAA '99)
Tarık Mughisuddin (TAC '99)

New York

Arzu Ertaş (ÜAA '82)
Artun Alparslan (TAC '99)
Selim Sulos (ACI '02)

San Francisco

Elif Unlu (ACI)

More are needed for...

Boston: ACI

Washington, DC: ACI,
TAC, ÜAA

Chicago: ACI, TAC, ÜAA

San Francisco and Los

Angeles: TAC, ÜAA

To be a Connector

contact office@fabsit.org with your name, city, *alma mater* and year of graduation. And Thank You!

ACI update *from Acting Director Kenneth Frank*

The Izmir American Collegiate Institute, ACI, has a rich tradition of extra-curricular and social service activities.

It's a major part of ACI school culture, a defining factor in its identity. Generations of students remember their club and social service activities well into later life, much more than they recall any particular subject they were taught. ACI asks each student to join at least one activity each year, and to enroll in one Social Service activity before they graduate. Although there are faculty advisors for each group, the students are urged to run things themselves.

“...participation in the ACI extra-curricular activities ... prepares students for voluntary roles in NGOs and other social service organizations in their adult lives.”

There are 64 separate extra-curricular groups at ACI this year. 15 of them are committees. These committees promote student government and organization, such as the Points Committee, which awards student citizenship and participation. 9 of the groups are social service activities, such as the Multiple Sclerosis Club. And 39 are special interest clubs, like the ever-popular Hiking Club. There are 249 students in our social service activities, 364 students in committees, and 733 students in the clubs. As the student body totals only 600, you can see that many students join more than one activity.

Special events are another part of the extra-curricular program. ACI recently staged its second nationally based music contest, where the jury consists of well-known names from the Turkish music scene. Here's an excerpt from a



From above, an ACI band onstage; an aspiring guitarist; and a student receiving an award Özkan Uğur of the famous MFO trio.



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TAC update *from Director Charles "Chris" Hanna*

Experience the Color at TAC.

If you want to experience the many “wonderful colors of Turkiye”, come to Tarsus and visit this part of the country! Even life at Tarsus American College (TAC)

remains very colorful and especially so during this spring semester of 2010. “Consistent with the goals of TAC and Mustafa Kemal’s emphasis on the importance of service by youth to improve the nation, TAC students and faculty remain committed to keeping ‘service to others’ a high priority.”

Above, TAC’s new Director, Charles “Chris” Hanna, and right, TAC Turkish Principal, Can İstif, completing eleven years of service to the Tarsus schools



First, TAC’s leadership has been and will be changing. Mr. Chris Hanna, previously at the American Collegiate Institute in Izmir, joined TAC as its new director on 1

March 2010 following the departure of Mr. Robert Mallett , the former head. On July 31, Mr. Can İstif, TAC’s Turkish Principal will be concluding 11 years of loyal service to the Foundation’s Tarsus Schools, having held both teaching and administrative positions at TAC as well as in the SEV Elementary School during his period of tenure. His presence will be missed and we send with him our best wishes for the years ahead.

Second, “color” can also be seen in many of the spring events this year. The 9th Annual Güner Baykal Basketball Tournament hosted by TAC’s Sports Club brought teams to our campus from around Turkiye as well as one each from Syria and Georgia . TAC’s yearly Homecoming event organized by the Alumni

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Some of the 800 graduates who attended TAC’s Homecoming 2010

ÜAA update *from Director Whitman Shepard*

As we reach the end of the academic year, we look back on a calendar full of academic and extracurricular events. I would like to highlight a few of them.

MUN

ÜAA hosted the 16th annual session of the Turkish International Model United Nations (TIMUN) conference in December. This year we had the largest number of foreign schools and students attending. Üsküdar's conference continues to gain in terms of reputation for being the premier MUN conference in the area. In addition to hosting the conference, Üsküdar students attended conferences in The Hague, Cairo, Haarlem, and Milan. Reports that we have

“(MUN) organizers confirm our beliefs that our students are able to intelligently and intellectually debate on current topics in a mature manner in English.”

received from organizers confirm our beliefs that our students are able to intelligently and intellectually debate on current topics in a mature manner in English. Not content to stay monolingual, we participated in a French MUN conference in Istanbul in early April. Needless to say, our students once again proved their merit. We have already begun to plan for next year. One of our out-of-country events will be attending the

MUN conference hosted by the American International School of Johannesburg. Through a community service project involving a local South African school, we will be combining diplomacy with social service.

English-Speaking Union Success

ÜAA joined in a public debate competition hosted by the English-Speaking Union, an international charity founded in 1918 to promote



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SAH update *from Kenneth Frank, Joint General Secretary of the American Board, İstanbul;*

Daria Darnell, appointed in August as US consul-general in Adana, visited the SEV

American Hospital on 6 October 2009. The consul-general met with the Head Doctor, Cezmi Ük, and the

Business Manager, Metin Güneş, who spoke to her about the hospital and its history. She then toured the hospital and talked with patients. Consul-general Darnell said she was proud that the SEV American Hospital combined both history and modern technology under one roof, and that it has been charitably-minded in serving the people of the region for 130 years.



Panoramic view of the SEV American Hospital campus, Gaziantep

She also visited the small memorial garden in the hospital's grounds. Debra Lo, Assistant to the US Consul in Adana and the Education and Cultural Attache, visited the hospital and said she was ready to give every support to our "Pain Center".

SEV American Hospital:
“charitably-minded in serving the people of the region for 130 years.”

From a report by SEV Board of Directors Chair, Erhan Dumanlı, translated by Kenneth Frank: In accordance with the wish of the Preservation Commission, building studies are being conducted on all structures in the Hospital complex. The parking lot has been widened to make hospital visits easier for patients and their relatives. The Pain Center has grown to accommodate an increasing number of patients, and there are now two ramps to transfer patients between

Block A and Block B, after widening the area concerned. A Fire Detection system has been installed in the hospital and polyclinic buildings. SAH has been categorized as a Class A hospital according to the Social Security Administration's circular No. 2009/15627 of 8 December 2009. There are three other hospitals

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news from the FABSIT Family.....

FABSIT *Buluşalım!*-Let's Meet! Series: More Than Just Social Events

Part of FABSIT's mission is to build community among American Board schools alumni, faculty and friends in the United States. Thus these "friend-raising" activities are meant to continuously bring new faces into the FABSIT fold so its network will represent the broadest range possible of



"The *Buluşalım!* events are "friend-raising" activities meant to continuously bring new faces into the FABSIT fold so its network will represent the broadest range of schools, regions, ages and professions."

schools, regions, ages and professions. This network in turn will ultimately support FABSIT's efforts to help meet this community's needs in areas such as professional mentoring and networking, navigating U.S. bureaucracies, and helping its members find ways to give back to their *alma maters* and to Turkey.

Our *Buluşalım!* gatherings take varied forms depending on the location. In Washington we may gather in a friend's home with former diplomats and founders of NGO's, while in Boston we take advantage of our School Directors' attendance at recruitment fairs in February to introduce alums the Directors' new teacher hires.



Arranging for a *Buluşalım!* in your city is as easy as picking a place and time. FABSIT can send email announcements to its list in your area as well as to addresses you provide. So look at your address book, send FABSIT a note at office@fabsit.org and *Buluşalım!*



Above, February 6 *Buluşalım!* In Cambridge, MA where alums welcomed TAC's new biology teacher and ÜAA's new English teacher and Foreign Admissions Counselor; left, May 22 NYC *Buluşalım!* - dinner at The Turkish Kitchen.



FABSIT Welcomes Two New Board Members

Gözde Küçük (ÜAA 2002) is Program Director and Coordinator of the Turkey-USA Relations Task Force at the Global Relations Forum-an independent, non-profit membership association on foreign relations founded in Istanbul. She holds a B.A. Degree from Princeton University and a Masters in International Economy and International Relations from Johns Hopkins University.

Ali Cem Yıldırım (ÜAA 1999) is a Brand Manager at Kaz, Inc. managing the marketing and growth of the top three products of this multi-national health care product manufacturer. He holds a B.A. Degree from University of Maryland-College and an M.B.A. in Marketing and Strategic Management from the University of Minnesota-Carlson School of Management.

Both Ms. Küçük and Mr. Yıldırım bring critical skill sets, professionalism and fresh ideas to the table. We are fortunate to have them among us.

Highlights of the successes of the SEV/ABH institutions and students between November 2009 and May 2010.

İpek Kaymaz, a 12th grade student from the Üsküdar American Academy, joined a story contest held in January at the Koç High school. Competing against students from 15 other schools in Istanbul, İpek came in third place. And in February 40 students and one teacher from ÜAA attended the Waterloo Mathematics Competition. One of the 11th grade students, Barış Bircan, came in first place with a 100% result.

In an English speaking contest held by the English Speaking Union in March, Aslı Altınışik from the ÜAA 10th grade came in first place, while Sümer Kaya came third. Our first place student won the chance to enter the international level contest, which will be held in London.

Leyla Sokullu, a student at ACI in Izmir, was one of three winners of an International Schools Margaret Sanders Foundation Scholarship. She can use the \$5000 scholarship toward her higher education in the United States. One must be an exemplary student of high academic standing to be eligible for this award.

24 high schools performing 30 works entered the Second Turkish High School Rock and Pop Music Contest, hosted by ACI. The students performed in front of a jury composed of many of Turkey's prominent musicians.

The ACI robotics team came in second place in the First Lego League Tournament. Having achieved success in three local tournaments against 120 teams, as well as in the national tournament, the students won the right to represent Turkey in May in Taiwan in the International Tournament of Champions.

Sixteen Tarsus American College students joined the Talking Books Project for the Visually Impaired, which is being carried out in coordination with the Bosphorus University Technology Center for the Visually Impaired (GETEM). The purpose of the project is to record books that are widely liked or needed in the classroom, and to make these recordings available to the visually impaired.

Psychologists Süheyla Özgirgin and Fadime Yaslan of the Yoret Foundation have been working together with the TAC Guidance department since February to provide six weekly personalized programs for ninth grade students on the topic of "Peer Support." Every week on Wednesdays, Lise Prep students in four groups with two advisors joined development programs in both the mornings and afternoons.

Construction developments on each campus:

In **Tarsus** plans have been made for summer 2010 construction projects, zoning plans for the Sadıkpaşa-Kozacioğlu property are about to be finalized, and building survey and restoration studies for the Stickler and Alibey House have been submitted to the Historical Monuments Commission. At ACI in **İzmir** renovation of the Emerson House has begun and work on the boys' boarding project gets underway this summer. In **İstanbul** approval of zoning modifications for the Beylerbeyi Campus is expected from the city's Greater Municipal Council so that ÜAA campus redesign can proceed.



Whitman Shepard Leaves ÜAA for New Role at SEV

After nine successful years as director of the Üsküdar American Academy, Mr. Shepard will join SEV as Education Coordinator for the high schools. He comes from an American family serving in health and education in Turkey for four generations. His knowledge of the country, and its people and culture will be invaluable at the Foundation level as it has been for the Üsküdar schools. He will assume his new post at the end of this school year..



FABSIT Board Member Eric Trujillo Returns to Turkey as ÜAA Director

Mr. Eric Trujillo served as Lise Dean in Tarsus from 1999-2001, and as director of the American Collegiate Institute and Izmir campus from 2003-2007. He then returned to the United States to complete his doctorate in education at Colorado State University. As a FABSIT Board member he used his experience with strategic planning for ACI to lead FABSIT's planning initiative. We look forward to supporting him in his new role at ÜAA.



CALL FOR PAPERS To scholars doing research on THE AMERICAN BOARD

2010 is the American Board's bicentennial. To commemorate the event, the Congregational Library of Boston, in association with Bentley University and the Boston Theological Institute, will host a conference to discuss the history of the American Board and the many institutions it established around the world.

The Conference will be held in Boston at the Congregational Library, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, MA on Saturday, September 25, 2010

Contact: **Clifford Putney** Assistant Professor of History at Bentley University **781-891-2285** cputney@bentley.edu

ACI continued from page 2...

report on this event written by a Lise 4 student, Emir Gidel.

"On 13 March 2010 our school organized the second Pop and Rock Music Contest amongst the high schools in Turkey. The first contest which was held in 2008 had turned out to be a very successful event which encouraged us to organize this year's....63 schools registered for the contest, out of which only 24 passed the semi-finals and had a chance to compete on March 13th.

As ACI, we also passed the semi-finals and became one of the finalists and competed with 2 songs. One of them was "It's too Late" by Carole King and the second song was my own composition called "Love Don't Mean A Thing"...We only got one award which I was fortunate to get--the best keyboardist. I'm really happy to win this award, which is really encouraging. However as a group we had hoped that we could have won something in the best cover and best composition areas.

I think this year's contest was better than the previous one in the sense of participation, organization and the friendly atmosphere. All students from different schools came together and had a chance to meet each other. I hope that the third one will be held next year and it will become something traditional."

Proud participation in the ACI extra-curricular activities promotes loyalty to the school. It also prepares students for voluntary roles in NGOs and other social service organizations in their adult lives. The Health and Education Foundation, SEV, is fortunate in being able to draw on this deep background of volunteerism when searching for Izmir graduates to work on its boards.



TAC continued from page 2...

Association followed directly thereafter, attracting some 800 graduates who enjoyed a fun filled weekend reconnecting with friends and the school itself. Add to this the enthusiasm generated by the SEV Foundation's co-sponsorship of this year's Tarsus Semi-Marathon event and you'll soon begin to sense that Tarsus attracts both regionally as well as internationally. Granted, the 1st annual TAC Dog Show recently held on campus did lack the international component, but it too was a very welcomed change of pace.

TAC student community service organizations also show "color" not only through their variety but in the various insights gained by all participants. Consistent with the goals of TAC and Mustafa Kemal's emphasis on the importance of service by youth to improve the nation, TAC students and faculty remain committed to keeping "service to others" a high priority. One of our tenth grade students, Gamze Savaşır, who is involved with the "Children in Prison" committee ("Hidden Flowers" project), upon returning from a visit summed

up her feelings. "We were a bit nervous since even when you are a first time visitor, you experience different emotions. We went into their play room and their reactions were all different. Some were smiling, some were shy and others were trying to understand what was going on. We read them stories and gave them all individual attention. They earned many 'abis and ablas' that day. The children were very happy when they learned that we will come back. We felt wonderful as we were leaving the prison that day, strongly convinced that it was a very profitable day for all". As her words convey, valuable lessons are learned from student participation in community service projects

Finally, "color" continues too when one reflects on this year's TAC graduating Class of 2010, those completing the Turkish National Curriculum and the eight students who will, in addition, have also completed the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Twenty-six out of fifty-five students applied to study abroad and in the process, over half a million US dollars in scholarships were awarded. Acceptances have been received from McGill, University of Toronto, University of British Columbia, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Bentley, Georgetown, Boston University and St. Andrews, to name a few. Later on this summer, once results of the OSS University Entrance Exams are known, acceptances at Turkish Universities will be finalized. The individual choices of students offer a "colorful" picture of the various directions our graduates will take in the future.

Our goal at TAC is to keep these "colors" strong so that they too will blend in well with the many wonderful colors found in this part of Turkiye.



ÜAA continued from page 3...

"international understanding and friendship through the use of the English language." We are proud to share the news that Aslı Altınışık, a 10th grader placed first in the competition and now will be flown to London to take part in the world wide finals. Aslı is a clear example of the power of our curriculum. She is a confident young lady whose communication skills are equally refined in English and in Turkish.

Esperanto

ÜAA students are not content with learning a second foreign language. We have 13 students who are on their way to mastering Esperanto. This year our Esperanto Club organized an international Seminar which took place in Eskişehir. Participants from 11 foreign countries attended the event. Of the 15 Turkish participants, 10 were Üsküdar students. Our students presented a Nasreddin Hoca play and sang songs in Esperanto. We have five students who are striving to attain certification to teach Esperanto without the use of the native language.

Foreign Trips

This year we introduced a trip to Italy for our applied art

history class. 19 students and two art teachers flew to Florence where they spent a week focusing their studies on renaissance art and architecture. All participants returned with glowing reports and a renewed interest in the arts. 30 students took advantage of the Social Affairs Club's trip to Paris. Visits to museums were augmented with walking through the various neighborhoods of the city. Certainly time was taken to sit at a café along the banks of the Seine.



Shakespeare Day

Üsküdar's English department hosted a day in tribute of William Shakespeare on his birthday, April 27th. Students took part in performances throughout the campus. There were competitions among the classes to see which class can interpret the bard in the most creative manner.



Furthermore there was a renaissance knowledge contest and a special lunch featuring food and utensils (or lack of them) of the time. The day culminated with a Lady Macbeth death scream contest. It was an entertaining day for all.

Alumni on Campus

We continue to welcome alumni back to campus and share their return with ÜAA students if and when possible. Recently '92 graduate Prof. Gizem Karaali, a professor of mathematics at Pomona College gave a lecture on Toric and Tropical geometry. Students and faculty members were enlightened on the topics and some have already decided to attend further conferences based on the subjects presented.

Sports

This year we have been enjoying the success of several of our teams. Our girls and boys basketball teams placed first in the Üsküdar county tournaments and were able to take part in the Istanbul finals. Our boys' tennis team placed second in Istanbul and now will be attending the Turkish national championships in Antalya in May. In addition to the success of our teams we have many students who have achieved individual successes. The pinnacle of these is Lotus Tüzün who continues to parry her way through opponents at fencing tournaments and has become the Istanbul champion.

ÜAA Seniors

Our seniors have just entered the first exam of a new

Turkish university entrance exam system. The April exam will be followed by multiple subject exams in June. We are proud of the resilience of the class of 2010 as they cope with the pressures of the new system. For those planning to study overseas, we already have good news following early decisions and are expecting more in the weeks to come. We anticipate excellent matriculation results which are typical of Üsküdar graduates. We congratulate all our graduates on their success, whether they are studying in Turkey or abroad.

It is a pleasure to share these highlights with you. As always, your support is needed to continue to be the community that we are.



SAH continued from page 3...

in Gaziantep that share the Class A ranking.

A sponsor of the January-August Duty Roster of the Gaziantep Chamber of Pharmacists, SEV American Hospital continues to make its name known in various ways. Free blood sugar screenings were given as part of a joint project with the Gaziantep Lions Club on 14 November, World Diabetes Day. In addition, the students, parents, administrators, and teachers of the Gaziantep Özel Seçkin College, the Gaziantep College

“...SEV American Hospital continues to make its name known in various ways.”

Foundation, and the Ayten-Kemal Akinal Anatolian High School all received education about the H1N1 epidemic.

There are ongoing conversations with the Roads Department concerning advertising panels about to be placed on the highway that

runs from the airport into the city.

The Dermatology Clinic is undergoing developments in technology because of heavy demand while efforts continue to make the clinic known through its Epilation and Vascular laser machines. In October the Ministry of Health approved the First Aid Center of the SEV American Hospital. The first training was given to 120 workers and administrators in the Merinos Group.

The hospital continues to meet the health needs of its community with care and vision.



FABSIT FOUNDATION

Friends of the American Board Schools in Turkey, Inc.

14 Beacon Street, Room 708

Boston, MA 02108

Phone: 617-523-3433

E-mail: office@fabsit.org www.fabsit.org

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Our schools in İstanbul, İzmir and Tarsus, SEV American Hospital in Gaziantep, and FABSIT's Board of Directors thank YOU, our generous donors for gifts received from November 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010

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