

Among Friends

The Newsletter
of FABSIT—
Friends of
the American
Board Schools
in Turkey, Inc.

Spring 2008



FABSIT FOUNDATION AND THE FABSIT FAMILY THANK YOU, OUR RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS



ZEYNEP ÜÇER BURSAL

Member 1998 to 2008



LAWRENCE M. KAYE

Member 1995 to 2008



EROL OKTAY

Member 1997 to 2008



FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF COMMITMENT AND
SERVICE ON OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS.



YOUR LEADERSHIP AND GUIDANCE HAVE
ENABLED FABSIT TO CONTINUE ITS
VALUABLE SUPPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND
HEALTH CARE MISSION OF THE AMERICAN
BOARD INSTITUTIONS IN TURKEY.

FABSIT Welcomes Six New Board Members

Kirkor Balci, a 1961 graduate of TAO and a 1965 graduate of TAC, is a consultant to international and domestic apparel corporations in market development and global sourcing/manufacturing.

Dr. Zafer Ecevit, a graduate of TAO and TAC, has been a principal economist, division chief, and consultant at the World Bank, and is currently a consultant for USAID.

Mr. Ismail Ekmekci, a 1990 graduate of TAC, is Vice President of Product Development for State Street Corporation in Boston.

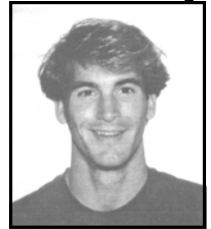
Dr. Dilhan Kalyon, a 1967 graduate of TAO and a 1971 graduate of TAC, is Director of the Highly Filled Materials Institute at Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey and holder of the Institute Professor Chair.

Mr. Eric Trujillo, ACI Director from 2003 to 2007 and TAC Lise Dean from 1999 to 2001, is currently completing his doctorate in Educational Leadership at Colorado State University.

Mr. Kerem Turunç, a 1996 graduate of ACI, is a legal associate with Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen and Hamilton LLP in New York City. He received his *Juris Doctor* degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Generous Donors Establish Two New Scholarships through FABSIT

The **Nejat B. Ezal and Anne Woodard Ezal ÜAA Scholarship** has been endowed by Mr. Bülent Ezal in memory of his son Nejat B. Ezal and his wife, Ann Woodard Ezal to benefit worthy students of need at ÜAA.



Nejat B. Ezal

Nejat Ezal, was a first-year Ph.D. student in Marine Biology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, at the time of his death on April 23, 1994.

Information about Nejat can be found on his website

www.geocities.com/nejat_ezal/index.html. His mother, Anne Woodard Ezal, passed away on February 25, 2007. She had taught English at the Üsküdar American Academy in Istanbul from 1958 to 1960, and at Tarsus



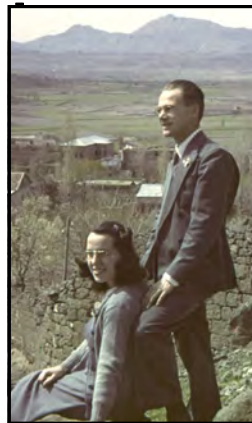
Anne Woodard Ezal

American College in Tarsus from 1962 to 1964.

The FABSIT John and Gwen Scott Scholarship

was established with seed money from a donation by Mr. Feramarz Attar (Talas '59) to honor the Scotts' 37 years in Turkey.

From 1937 to 1940, John Scott was a single teacher in Tarsus teaching science and English. He saw Ataturk at the train station when Ataturk came to receive the first box of grapefruit produced in Çukurova. He married Gwen in 1941 and, following his service in WWII as a Commissioned Officer, returned with Gwen to Turkey



in 1946. They took positions at Talas where Gwen taught English and was the librarian; John taught science and was principal from 1953 to 1960. After 1 year in Izmir they came to Üsküdar where John taught Orta science until he died in December of 1975. Gwen taught Orta English until 1980 when she retired and settled in Northfield, MN. Gwen moved to Andover, MA in 1998.

This scholarship will rotate among the three schools.

To donate to either fund please see details on page 8.

ACI update from Director Charles C. (Chris) Hanna

On Tuesday, March 4, a special, Groundbreaking Ceremony was held for the new Taner Hall. The event was hosted by SEV (Health and Education Foundation) and brought together local Ministry of Education officials, the Konak mayor, trustees and a wonderful sampling of graduates, students, faculty and campus board representatives. The simplicity of the ceremony and the heartfelt remarks by honored guests, combined with the sunshine and light breeze, provided an ideal ACI atmosphere which was welcomed and greatly enjoyed by everyone. A following reception offered time to visit and renew contacts as well as acquaintances, all in addition to the delicious refreshments prepared by our head cook, Veysi Okumuş, a tradition we look forward to on this campus. The basement of Taner Hall is now standing and the walls of the first floor are under construction. Work continues on weekends and it is gratifying indeed to recognize progress on a daily basis. We are also pleased to announce that an additional floor will be added to the top of the new Taner Hall so as to provide a boarding facility on campus to attract out-of-town students as we continue to expand ACI's enrollment.



At the Taner Hall Groundbreaking Ceremony



Above, ACI Robotics Team; right, ACI French Club poster



ACI continues to maintain and promote student interaction on an international basis. Our Robotics-Lego club placed second in national competition and will represent Turkey as well as ACI this April in Japan. Students and teachers involved in the Comenius Project "Media Links in Europe" continue their work with partner schools in Italy, France, Spain and Portugal. The French drama club will participate at festivals in Istanbul and then Madrid. Students in ACI's Model United Nations club have represented various countries at events in The Hague, Dublin, and currently in St. Petersburg. These as well as other activities involving social service, academic competition and hosting events on campus all fit seamlessly into our school program as students continue to meet the requirements of a rigorous and demanding curriculum.

Continued on page 6

TAC update from Director Robert J. Mallett

This year has been an unusual one at Tarsus, to say the least. In a year of transition, the staff and students have demonstrated courage and have appreciated the traditions that support us. The Foundation has been entirely supportive, and because of their support we have had the opportunity to improve the school. The Alumni and PTA have been unwavering in their willingness to lend a hand when asked (and many times without being asked). The level of communication among the segments of our school community has risen dramatically, so that we now have a duly elected student council; we have alumni and parent groups that have not only been informed of changes and events but have contributed to them. And we have teachers who understand the intensity of our determination to improve the academic standards of the school.

This year when we were in North America recruiting, FABSIT hosted us royally for dinner - after a long two days of recruiting, we were ready for a change of focus in congenial company. Later on the same trip, FABSIT, on very short notice, helped us identify and locate three local alumni in Seattle who were instrumental in helping us attract a new, highly qualified assistant principal. Not many schools can contact their alumni and have

Continued on page 6

Letter from The Spring Glen Church TAC Alan Bartholomew Scholarship Recipient, Hurigül Sarı...

"Hello, I am Hurigül Sarı.

I was born in Bursa, Turkey on November 4 in 1991. My father was then a police officer and we were living in Bursa because of his job. When I lost my father in February 1992, we moved back to Tarsus, our hometown and at present I live in Tarsus with my mother.



My mother, Şerife Sarı is 44 and she is a housewife. She is a perfect and sacrificing mother who would do anything for my and my brother's happiness. My mother has always been very important and special to me. I have a brother who is four years older than me. He is not living with us right now, since he is studying at a university in İstanbul.

I started elementary education at another school in Tarsus, but in my third year I transferred to Tarsus SEV Elementary School. I also studied middle school at the same institution. At present, I am a Grade 11 student at Tarsus American College. I am very satisfied and

Continued on page 7

ÜAA update *from Director Whitman Shepard*

We are in the midst of the second semester. I want to share some of our highlights and keep you informed as to progress. We have been recently inspected by the Ministry of Education and were rewarded with an outstanding report. The combination of accreditation by the Council of International Schools and the exceptional report of the Ministry are tributes to the efforts of the ÜAA community in pursuit of excellence. We have been incorporating the recommendations that we have received into our five year strategic plan. We trust that you will see the results soon and that we will become an even stronger school.

This year ÜAA has entered into a sister school project with the Berufskolleg am Haspel school in Wuppertal, Germany. Thirteen ÜAA students and their advisors, Ağavni Yezegel and Semrah Gözde, travelled to Wuppertal in the fall and stayed with families of students of Berufskolleg. This May we will be hosting our new German friends as they return the visit. Besides improving their German, the students worked on a joint website project drawing attention to intercultural dialogue as well as the attractions of Istanbul and Wuppertal.

Five ÜAA students who serve as the presidents of the Social Service and Interact Clubs and their advisor, Bengü Shepard, attended an international social service conference held at the Frankfurt International School-Germany in March. The objective of the conference was to meet with 50 student representatives from 10 schools and share experiences with regards to social service and to collaborate on new projects. The conference began with Andy Furco from California University sharing his views on "Service Learning & Research". Each school then shared their national and international experiences with others. The other schools were especially interested in the success of ÜAA's social service projects. Our students returned with newfound energy and knowledge. They have already started to plan for new projects to be implemented next year.



Presidents of the ÜAA social service and Interact Clubs with advisor Bengü Shepard, far right

In March, ten ÜAA students and their advisor, Susan Akyurek, participated in the HMUN conference in Haarlem, Holland. The main theme of the conference was Water Management and Sanitation. Three of our students were in the Commission on Sustainable Development debating such issues as coastal biodiversity, ways to combat falls in the water levels in lakes and the promotion of the creation of National Parks, both to protect flora and fauna and also to stimulate local economies. The Special Conference focused on ways to protect countries against water disasters such as flooding and tsunamis and how to reach the Millenium Goal to reduce by

Continued on page 7

SAH update *from contributions by John Blake, Founder, Friends of Merzifon, and Kenneth Frank, Joint General Secretary of the American Board, Istanbul*



As reported in the Fall issue of "Among Friends", the SEV American Hospital (formerly Gaziantep American Hospital) has recently received a donation of 280 wheelchairs through a joint project of the Friends of Merzifon (FoM) and the Wheelchair Foundation in California. The total cost of this project to purchase, ship, and deliver 280 wheelchairs to Gaziantep was \$42,000. Mr. Earl Rupp, President of FoM single-handedly raised \$17,000 toward the original \$21,000 which the Wheelchair Foundation promised to match to reach this total. A commitment of \$4000 from SEV brought Mr. Rupp's \$17,000 to \$21,000 in the name of FoM. Friends of Merzifon (FoM), founded by Mr. John Blake, is a sister city organization uniting Pleasant Hill, California with Merzifon where Mr. Blake's parents, Lynda and Jack Blake, served for eight of their 43 years in Turkey.

The hospital advertised the availability of the wheelchairs in Gaziantep and its surrounding towns. Now that all of the chairs have been spoken for, the hospital is proceeding with their distribution. If the recipient cannot be brought to the hospital to receive the chair, the hospital staff goes to their home. There are two institutions in Gaziantep for handicapped/differently-abled children and youth where the hospital has provided several students with wheelchairs.

Without The Wheelchair Foundation's matching grant, its infrastructure, and its logistical services, a project of this magnitude could never have been conceived, much less implemented. However, the motive force behind the donation of 280 wheelchairs—the man who first conceived the idea, then raised \$17,000 himself—is Mr. Earl Rupp. For his vision and commitment the wheelchair recipients in Gaziantep are truly grateful.



news from the FABSIT Family.....

■ZEREN EARLS (ÜAA '56) REPORTS FROM POINTS AROUND THE GLOBE

Mrs. Zeren Earls, member of the ÜAA class of 1956, founder of First Night International, and former President of FABSIT's Board of Directors is now a travel writer for the digital magazine <http://www.berkshirefinearts.com>. Several of her travel journals on Turkey, including her piece entitled "*Turkey: Akyaka, Gulf of Gökova and Muğla, Mediterranean Towns off the Beaten Path*", are posted on this site. Within the past year Zeren has also posted a six-part series on Morocco, and the first of a six-part series on Southern Africa, both with photographs. ■

■TAC GRAD NAMED CEO OF COCA-COLA

Mr. Muhtar Kent, a graduate of Tarsus American College, will become chief executive officer of Coca-Cola in July. Mr. Kent is currently president and chief operating officer of Coca-Cola International. From 1999 to 2005 he was president and CEO of Turkey's Efes Beverage Group, one of Europe's largest beverage businesses. ■

■TAO/TAC ALUMNI COMPILE EXTENSIVE READING LIST ON TURKEY

Mr. Yaşar Atakam ('56/'61) and Mr. Erdal Atrek ('61/'65) have compiled a comprehensive list of book and website sources on Turkey, in Turkish and English, totaling over 200 titles. **A sampling of the entries is presented below.** For the entire list please write to office@fabsit.org and include "book list" on the subject line, or visit the Talas 1889 yahoo groups website.

BOOKS IN TURKISH

Compiled by Yaşar Atakam

- Firdevsî (Fars), Şehnâme (İran-Turan mücadelesi, destan) Millî Eğitim Bakanlığı Yayınları, 1992
- Marko Polo Seyyahatnâmesi (1271-1295)Tercüman, 1001 Eser, 1978
- M. Aziz Ahmet (Hint yazar) , Siyâsî Tarihi ve Müesseseleriyle Delhi Türk İmparatorluğu (1206-1290)Tercüman, 1001 Eser
- İbn Batuta Seyyahatnâmesinden Seçmeler, (1300'ler) Tercüman, 1001 Eser
- Auguste Bailly, Bizans Tarihi (395-1453) Tercüman, 1001 Eser

BOOKS IN ENGLISH

Compiled by Erdal Atrek

- Aaronsohn, Alexander, With the Turks in Palestine Houghton Mifflin Boston 1st 1916 85
- Appleton, T. G., Syrian Sunshine Roberts Brothers Boston 1st 1877 308
- Armstrong, Harold, Turkey in Travail John Lane London, 1st 1925 280
- Auldjo, John, Journal of a Visit to Constantinople Longman et al London 1835 259 ■

■UPDATE FROM SEV HEALTH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Autumn Teachers' Conference– October 20

This year Üsküdar American Academy hosted the "11th Autumn Teachers' Conference" on October 20, 2008. 1052 teachers from thirty-seven schools attended this year's conference on the Üsküdar Campus.

TIMUN (Turkish International Model United Nations)- December 6-9

Üsküdar American Academy hosted the 14th TIMUN between December 6th and 9th. A total of 350 students from 38 schools attended the conference including 120 students from 13 schools outside Turkey. Üsküdar American Academy is the only school in Turkey authorized by the Hague International Model United Nations. This year's guests of honor at the conference were anchorman Mehmet Ali Birand and Şiyma Barkın Kuzmin from UNICEF Uzbekistan.

THIMUN (The Hague International Model United Nations)

The Model United Nations clubs of all American Board schools participated in The Hague International Model United Nations Conference (THIMUN) this winter.



The ÜAA MUN Team in Holland

Compulsory Prep Year

The English Prep year at all ABH Schools is becoming compulsory. Üsküdar American Academy has been implementing the compulsory prep year for several years. TAC will introduce this program next year, and ACI the following year. Previously all students who earned admittance to the ABH Schools could take an English proficiency exam at the beginning of the prep year; those who passed the exam were promoted to the 9th grade.

Books on Education from SEV-YAY

SEV YAY has introduced the "Redhouse Books on Education" series to its product line. "The Educator's Guide to Preventing and Solving Discipline Problems" was published in September and "The Differentiated Classroom" was published in January. A third book in the series is now in production. These modern books written by famous educators have been translated into Turkish by ÜAA graduates.



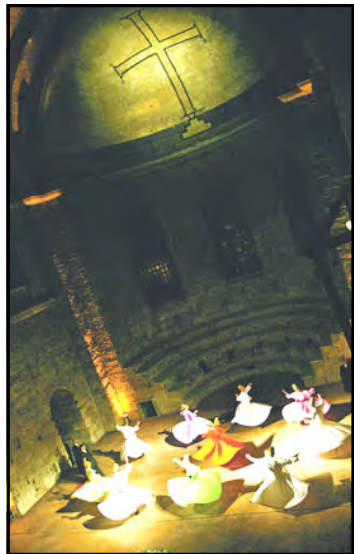
Continued on page 6

news from the FABSIT Family.....

■ TOGETHERNESS IN PEACE from Ken and Betty Frank - Istanbul, Turkey

It seems to happen all too rarely--a communal event that inspires hope for our future. We'd like to tell you about one that we recently witnessed.

[Http://www.milivet.com/2007/12/03/vasam/vas02](http://www.milivet.com/2007/12/03/vasam/vas02)



The view from the Hagia Irene balcony

It was an amazing religious/musical presentation in the Hagia Irene (Holy Peace) Church on the grounds of the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul in mid-December. The inside was strikingly lit, which is especially effective at night. The walls are bare, except for a large cross on the ceiling of the front dome, above the apse. Hagia Irene, the second largest Byzantine church after St. Sophia, dates from the year 360. It is used today as a classical music concert hall because of its excellent acoustics and mystical atmosphere.

The concert featured two groups. The first one was a 35-member men's choir, the "Lovers of Istanbul Music Who Live in Athens." They sang a *cappella* hymns and prayers from Greek Orthodox services. The music was almost like chanting, in minor keys, solemn and reverent. Dressed in black robes, the men were of all ages. Some of the compositions were very old, from the 6th century, and it was thrilling to hear this music just as it must have been sung in the very same building fourteen centuries ago. This was the first time this choir had ever performed in Istanbul.

After the Greek choir left the stage, a Turkish group came on called the "Association of Modern Lovers of Mevlana." This group presented their Sema ceremony, a worship ritual combining music, poetry, and dance. Westerners call these people "Whirling Dervishes" because of their twirling sacred dance. The Mevlana (or Mevlevi) followers are Islamic mystics who are organized around a charismatic leader, or sheikh. Their first such leader, Mevlana, is called Rumi in the West, where he is best known for his poetry and messages of love and tolerance. UNESCO had declared the year 2007 a special year of celebrations of Rumi's 800th birthday. The Hagia Irene concert took place in this context.

This Mevlana group (there are several in Turkey and throughout the world) consisted of both Muslim men and women in almost equal numbers, which is perhaps one of the innovative features that merits the term "modern." In their worship ritual there were the usual roles: the instrumentalists, the choir, the dancers, the dance master, and the sheikh. All participants seemed to be in their 20s and

30s, another modern element since the traditional Mevlana image is that of an elderly man.

As in the Christian Greek Choir presentation, the Islamic Mevlana ceremony was done in great reverence. Everyone in the Mevlana group was dressed like the Greeks, in black robes, but each participant additionally wore the traditional tall, brown, felt conical hat. When the sacred dance began the dancers took off their black robes to reveal dancing costumes, traditional in shape, and in various colors for the women -pink, green, orange, blue - while the men wore the more traditional white. Each dancer slowly approached the sheikh for a blessing and then began to twirl in place, causing the skirt to billow out. The dancers' arms are held up at shoulder height, and the head slightly inclined to one side, in the traditional pose. There were about a dozen twirlers, each holding the same pose, and it formed an impressive and colorful sight

Continued on page 6

■ MICK AND SALLY McCAIN HONORED AT ANDOVER NEWTON THEOLOGY SCHOOL

Alan "Mick" McCain and Sally Bliss McCain (posthumously) were recipients of the 2008 SPIRIT OF THE HILL AWARD presented at the Andover Newton Theology School Alumni Convocation on May 15, 2008. The award recognized their service to the survivors of the 1999 earthquake in Turkey. Mick was administrative coordinator of the relief effort through Turkish Action of Churches. Together with contributions from the World Council of Churches and Church World Service, tents, bedding, stoves, hygiene kits and layettes were distributed. With a small grant from Global Ministries, Sally helped local women organize a cooperative to decorate and sell scarves trimmed with the traditional "oya" edging. The Turkish Scarf Project provided needed income for these women and their families at a time of great need.



Mick McCain at ANTS

Mick and Sally met as students at Andover Newton in 1964 and, after graduation, taught English at the **Tarsus American College** in Tarsus, Turkey. They returned to the states in 1974 where Mick served as Pastor of UCC churches until 1988. Duty called them back to Tarsus and Mick assumed the principal position at TAC through 1990. Mick then served the *Amerikan Bord Heyeti* in Istanbul as Education Secretary and General Secretary until 2002. Sally died unexpectedly of a cerebral hemorrhage in 2001.

Members of the FABSIT Board of Directors, Roxanne Barry, Dee and Bob Keller, and Lois Sundeen attended the Convocation. ■

ACI continued from page 2.

Data on initial college admissions for ACI's Lise IV students is now beginning to arrive. Many have received multiple acceptances and quite a number of scholarships have been offered as well. The colleges and universities throughout North America and England which have granted ACI students admission include institutions such as Penn State, Purdue, Brandeis, Beloit, Michigan State, Babson College, Bentley, Fashion Institute of Technology, McGill, Concordia, Carleton, University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, Cardiff, Exeter and the universities of Edinburgh, Leeds, and Manchester. This information is based on some 30% of the returns and further notifications of acceptance are expected through the Spring.

We hope that this brief snapshot of life at ACI lets you know that we are well, working hard, but also enjoying equally rewarding results. When we walk through the campus from building to building, the sunshine, blue sky and wonderful spring temperatures remind us that ACI and Izmir are unique, both locations where vocation and avocation fit happily together. We send you our best wishes and look forward to welcoming you back for a visit in the near future!



SEV continued from page 4.

Annual SEV/ABH Math Contest

This year the Annual Math Contest was held on World Pi Day, March 14. 45 8th graders from SEV Schools and 45 9th graders from ABH Schools competed in this contest. All the first, second and third prizes went to ACI among ABH Schools and the first and second prizes went to Tarsus SEV Elementary School among SEV Schools.

Reconstruction of Taner Hall at ACI

The reconstruction of Taner Hall, built in 1955 in memory of Mr. Ibrahim Taner, the Turkish Vice Principal (1919-1960), has started. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on March 4, 2008 with participation by the SEV Board of Directors, SEV Trustees, and ACI family.

English Conference for SEV/ABH Schools

All English teachers from SEV and ABH Schools participated in the English Language Conference (March 21-23) in Kuşadası. The theme of the conference was "From Scrolls to Smartboards". There were 20 presentations/workshops by the English teachers of the SEV/ABH Schools. Some of the titles were "Vocabulary and Academic Writing", "Thinking in Pictures", "The Mind Map as a Creative Thinking Mechanism", "Drama Techniques in the Classroom", and "How to Have Fun with Shakespeare". After the workshops, the participants toured Ephesus for inspiration and worked on group projects. These challenging projects made use of the conference theme and experiences from the Ephesus tour. ■

Mevlana continued from page 5...

as the music - again solemn, minor in key and mystical in tone-accompanied them. The theology is that the dancers are a metaphor for the innumerable cycles of nature and the universe. With one hand up and one hand down as they twirl, they symbolize the granting of God's blessings to the earth. When the Mevlana group finished their ritual they did not leave the stage, but the Greek choir came on to join them. The Greeks then began to sing as in their first presentation. The Mevlana instrumentalists accompanied them, while the dancers once again began to twirl. We were all astounded. The darkness outside the building, the grandeur of the ancient space inside, with its mystical atmosphere and lighting, the dignified minor key music, the chant-like singing, the repetitive twirling dance, the mixture of Greek and Turk, Christian and Muslim, all combined to make a mind-blowing experience. We feel privileged to have been there. We are not aware of such a thing happening before. As one person said, "Only in Istanbul."

Why can't this interplay of religious forces be more common? Why don't we have more of this openness to inspiration? There are those who want us to believe that Greeks and Turks are eternal enemies; who claim that Christian and Muslim civilizations must clash; and that history is only a power struggle in which one way must triumph. The event we witnessed shows us alternatives. It shows us that we were created to be more than selfish antagonists. There is hope: mutual respect and appreciation and love of God can rise above our prejudices. ■

TAC continued from page 2...

them appear within twelve hours to spend time out of their busy lives supporting their former high school. We are grateful to them and to all who have lent their support to us. Next year, with FABSIT's help, we intend to ask graduates in all the cities where we recruit to join us at the recruitment sites.

This year, we are very glad to announce that, for the first time in years, TAC will have an English-speaking boarding couple to mentor and guide our Boarding students. This not only marks a return to TAC's past, but connects it to its future - our Boarding students will be better prepared to use English in their lives than many students in recent memory. As we build our Boarding complement, we build the strength of our students' English-language facility, and thereby honor TAC's past while we enhance our graduates' future.

As some of you know, we are in the midst of planning a new Primary school (grades K to 8). Replacing the current campus is essential, since it does not have adequate numbers of classes - or classes of sufficient size - to accommodate our burgeoning population. We continue to work with the Foundation to provide buildings that will enable us to provide a 21st Century education for our students. At the moment, teachers are excited about the possibilities, and administrators in both schools are looking forward to the day when the campuses will have adequate space to provide the education the teachers are

ready to deliver.

We do have one issue of immediate importance, which I would like everyone to understand: One of our students has a single - slim - chance to attend a university this year. I say slim because his family does not have the resources to provide his post-secondary education. We are in urgent need of generous donors to commit to providing funds for three to four years to ensure he has an opportunity to develop his talents and ensure his future. In short, I am appealing to those of you who can commit US\$ 500 or more for three years to help us assure this young man's future. Since the university has immediate deadlines, please contact me at your earliest convenience at robertmallett@tac.k12.tr. You will be changing this young man's future.

Our Tarsus schools are ascending. We are rising on our ability, on the foundation of our tradition, and on our respect for ourselves, for our family and friends, and for our school. As members of the TAC family have always done, we understand that membership in this elite community carries responsibilities, and we are eager to shoulder them.



Hurigül Sarı continued from page 2...

happy with my education, friends and teachers here.

I try to make the best of my spare time. On the weekends, after the routine academic work, I spend time outside with my friends. I love watching movies and listening to music. Since Tarsus is a small town, there is not a big variety of social activities. But I get a chance to be involved in them in my school. For example, I am a member of the Turkish Drama Club and I really enjoy club activities. I also like to do sports. I received a two-month training in tennis, but had to quit because of my busy academic work schedule. Therefore, I am able to give more time to social activities during summer months. Swimming is one of my favorite hobbies.

Recently, I have been working very hard to prepare for the ÖSS (National University Entrance Exam) and next year it will be even a heavier load. I have totally concentrated on this exam since it will be the determining factor on the road to my aspirations. I have to do my very best in the exam in order to realize my potential, meet the expectations of my family and my teachers and lay the groundwork of a solid future for myself. My career goal for the future is working as a senior administrator in a large company. I think the responsibilities of managing a major company, handling heavy work as a routine are a good match for me. In order to do this in an international level, I would like to continue with the foreign language education, the basis of which was formed at this school, at university and beyond. I believe that I will succeed in making the most of the opportunities that I now have for a better future, a happy and a comfortable life."

Hurigül's high academic standing and this scholarship are allowing her to complete her education at TAC.

ÜAA continued from page 3...

half the number of people without access to clean water.

The Boys Football and Girls Volleyball teams will be participating in a tournament in Italy this April at the International School of Milan with their coaches, Okan Satır, Bilge Çetin and Ahmet Daout. This will be the first international tournament that our sports teams have participated in for several years. Both teams have been practicing very hard and we wish them the best of luck representing ÜAA.



UAA Boys Football and Girls volleyball teams

This year our students have been hitting the slopes hard and have gained success at the national level. Mehmet Ali Ünal, Derya Teoman and Umur Gençoğlu earned a gold, silver and bronze medal respectively at the Turkish national snowboarding competitions. On the international platform, one of our grade 11 students, Celal Tümsen, has had the honor of representing his country at the World Youth Laser Sailing Championships in Auckland New Zealand and the European Sailing Championships in Lugano Switzerland this spring. Celal has put considerable time and energy into his sport while also maintaining an excellent academic average at ÜAA. We look forward to learning about his experience upon his return to school.

In May the ÜAA percussion group and the ÜAA polyphonic chorus will be travelling to Deventer, Holland. They have been improving at a tremendous pace under the guidance of their music teacher, Keysudar Sever. As a testimony to their talent and hard work they have been invited as guests of the Turkish Embassy in Holland. They will be representing not only their school but also their country as they have been asked to perform in concerts which will honor Atatürk as part of the celebrations of May 19, the Turkish National Youth and Sports Bayram. In the past our talented student musicians have visited Saint Petersburg Amsterdam where they gave concerts in various local high schools. The trip to Deventer is a continuation of their work as musical ambassadors of ÜAA.

It is a pleasure to share these highlights with you. Your support, as always, is needed for us to be the community that we are.



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

“Thank You” to Our Supporters
Our schools in İstanbul, İzmir and Tarsus, the SEV Gaziantep American Hospital, and FABSIT’s Board of Directors thank YOU, our generous donors for gifts received from November 11, 2007 to May 31, 2008.

“We make a living by what we get... We make a life by what we give...”

-- Winston Churchill

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\$5000+

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