

# Among Friends

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

Fall 2005

## FABSIT *news*

### Through FABSIT, USAID/ASHA Continues its Support of the ABH Schools and Hospital

Under the direction and guidance of FABSIT, **Tarsus American College** has been able to reallocate USAID/ASHA funding from a previous grant toward 'campus upgrades' in several areas. Among the improvements that students and faculty will enjoy are new student and teacher desks and chairs, computers for the library, improvements to the Student Lounge, and an expanded music curriculum.

FABSIT has also been helping **Gaziantep American Hospital** fulfill ASHA requirements for disbursement of the funds granted in May toward purchase of a much needed MRI instrument. GAH is eagerly looking forward to making this technology available to its patient community.

### FABSIT Sponsors Alumni Reception

On a rainy Saturday evening in early October, Boston area alumni of ACI, TAC, and ÜAA gathered in Lexington, Massachusetts with former faculty and FABSIT Board members at the home of FABSIT President Zeynep Bursal. While enjoying a Turkish *meze* buffet, participants reminisced, networked, and vowed to keep in touch.

- If you can host or organize a gathering in your area, FABSIT can help with e-group lists for the area, e-mailings and website postings.
- FABSIT is working with alumni in New York, Washington, DC, and California to begin regular meetings in those areas, but help from the FABSIT community is needed. If you would like to participate in alumni gatherings but have not received announcements, please send your email and regular mailing address to [office@fabsit.org](mailto:office@fabsit.org).

### Thank you for remembering FABSIT when you buy on amazon.com!



FABSIT has been earning dollars in referrals every time a purchase is made on amazon.com through the FABSIT website. Thanks to everyone who will keep this in mind this season.

### FABSIT Board Welcomes Two New Members

**Dr. Barclay M. Shepard** was born in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, and grew up in Istanbul where his father, Dr. Lorrin A. Shepard, was the founding director of the American Hospital of Istanbul, also known as the Admiral Bristol Hospital in Nişantaş. He came to America in 1938 and attended schools in Exeter, NH and Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts. He graduated from the Maine Maritime Academy in 1946 and Bowdoin College in 1950, and taught English at Robert College from 1950 to 1953. Dr. Shepard graduated from Tufts University Medical School in Boston in 1958 and was a career medical officer in the US Navy from 1957 to 1979. He was board certified in General Surgery and Thoracic Surgery. After retiring from the Navy, Dr. Shepard served at the Central Office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, DC from 1979 to 1991. He served as Medical Director of the Gaziantep American Hospital from 1995 to 2001, and was a speaker at the opening ceremonies of the new outpatient building of the Gaziantep American Hospital on June 13, 2005.



**Dr. Shepard at the GAH outpatient clinic opening ceremonies.**

**Reverend Dr. Lois Sundeen** is a retired minister of the United Church of Christ, and lives in Concord, NH. She worked for five years with the American Board in Boston (1955-1960) writing about mission work and missionaries. She made her first trip to Turkey in 1958, visiting the schools in Izmir and Istanbul. She has returned to Turkey 5 times - sometimes doing volunteer work at the Board office in Istanbul. Most of her ministry was in Conference work (Vermont, New Jersey, and New Hampshire). She also served as pastor of two churches in England at which time she was appointed an Associate Missionary of the Board for World Ministries of the UCC. She was on the Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries from 1999 to 2005.

*Best Wishes to the FABSIT Family  
for Peace this Holiday Season and through  
the New Year*

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## ACI *update* from Director Eric Trujillo

ACI started this year with very good university placement results from the graduating class of 2005. 100% of our 2005 graduates were successful in the University Entrance Exams and 97% of them have been placed in distinguished universities in Turkey and overseas. 21 students from the 2005 graduating class were accepted at reputable overseas universities such as Cornell, Brandeis, University of California-Berkeley, Parsons School of Design and even three students at the Berklee College of Music!

We are very pleased with not only our outgoing graduates, but also with our new incoming class to ACI. This year, we successfully filled our initial contingency and had to apply for an extended contingency to meet the demand. For the past three years, the school has worked hard to increase not only the number of incoming students but also the minimum points to enter the school; we have succeeded on both counts.

In addition to the SEV Foundation's generous scholarships, our Alumni Association has provided funding for several scholarships for our students. On September 27<sup>th</sup>, we organized a special ceremony to honor our ACI Alumni Association for their support. We also recognized two of our alumni, Ayşe Mayda ('37) and Ayla İkbâl Şarman ('57), for their very generous donations to the ACI student scholarship fund. We hope these contributions will be the start of a new "fundraising campaign" for the ACI scholarship fund allowing us to accept an even greater number of academically successful students who need financial assistance.



**The new Blake  
Performing Arts  
Center**

On a side note, we are pleased about an exciting public relations opportunity one of our ACI graduates provided for ACI. Didem CAYLAN (ACI '93) is a voluntary contributor to the Izmir Chamber of Architects guidebook, *Izmir Architectural City Guide*, which was published this summer in conjunction with the International Union of Architects Congress held in Istanbul in July. The guidebook features select historical buildings in Izmir through text, drawings, and photographs. Didem graciously helped to get the ACI-Göztepe campus, and its historic buildings, prominently

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## TAC *update* from Director Daryl York

A very warm welcome to the 2005/2006 Academic Year from Tarsus American College!

And where has this semester gone? Barely have we opened the school in September and we are already at Thanksgiving (celebrated by part of the school community at least). Because of the local holidays being early this year, the first of our two semesters ends on January 6, which means that to all intents and purposes we only have December left before we are halfway through the year.

At the opening of the school year we celebrated the academic successes of the graduating Class of 2005. Twelve of



the class took up places at universities overseas, including one young man who won a substantial scholarship to study at Stanford. A large number of the class were accepted into demanding faculties at very good Turkish universities. The most notable result in the Turkish national universities entrance examination came from our 2004/2005 Spring Glen Church Alan Bartholomew Scholarship recipient Ertan Ertangun who was 70th among more than a million candidates over the whole country. We wish him well in his computer engineering studies at the prestigious Middle East Technical University in Ankara.

We are still enjoying the benefits of certain physical improvements that have been made to the educational environment of the school. When parents and students arrived at the school in September they were treated to some pleasant surprises. The brand new green space (after tons and tons of concrete were dug up) and the continuation of the

paving stones (started last summer) in front of Maynard, Friendship and Unity has made the whole campus a lot more attractive. The dining hall at *Misak-ı Milli* was renovated over the summer and the garden was brightened up by the removal of two containers (used as a tea room and a faculty room) and the old drinking fountains. The provision of a door between the Friendship and Unity buildings provided not only an extra emergency escape route, but also access

*Continued on page 7*

## ÜAA update *from Director Whitman Shepard*

First of all, I would like to share with you news concerning our students. This past year we graduated 119 students. We had excellent results in placing our graduates in universities both in Turkey and abroad. This year we sent 25 students abroad. You may see the details on our website: [www.uaa.k12.tr](http://www.uaa.k12.tr). We are especially proud of Nur Selin Çağlı who has matriculated to the University of Pennsylvania. Nur Selin was named Advanced Placement Scholar by the AP Board for her high achievement on the exams that she took. We know that she will carry on the Üsküdar tradition of academic excellence and look forward to hearing of further successes.

Following a long registration period that began with the 8th grade students taking the private schools entrance exam last June, we have enrolled 96 eager students into the Academy. These new students have already impressed us with their spirit and drive. We have added a year to our curriculum and are now a five-year high school. As a result, this year we will not have a graduating class of seniors. This will give us the opportunity to focus in depth on issues such as accreditation and site planning. We will miss the singing of the Alma Mater in June, but look forward to it in the future.



Üsküdar American Academy continues to thrive and grow. Several years ago, the Health and Education Foundation (SEV) embarked on a major facilities upgrading and renewal project. In recent years, we have witnessed the retrofitting and modernization of Huntington Hall, Emir Konak, and Martin Hall. This past summer Morgan Hall went through the same process. The construction in this building was more difficult than the others due to the science labs, computer center and the boiler room. Through careful planning combined with patience and determination, we now boast a state of the art building which students and teachers are enjoying.

*Continued on page 7*

## GAH update *Excerpt from the October 2005 letter from Tamer Şahinbaş, Chairman of the SEV Board of Directors; translation by Kenneth Frank*

“We have entered into a cooperative arrangement with *Sabah* newspaper as part of our work to renew the image of the Gaziantep American Hospital following the opening of its new Outpatient Building. *Sabah* publishes a column on health in its supplement for southeast Turkey in order to increase consciousness and sensitivity toward health matters in the region. Once in every 15 days doctors at our hospital answer questions from readers. Positive feedback we have received from this activity in the areas of varicose veins, obesity, infertility, and breast feeding prove that we are on the right track.

I would also like to announce that the Hospital’s web site, [www.sevamerikanhastanesi.com](http://www.sevamerikanhastanesi.com), will soon be in service. It will play an important role in our hospital’s public communications. If you visit the site you can see new developments and services in a ‘virtual environment’.

The European Union, which was at the top of Turkey’s agenda as a result of developments on 3 October, donated

*Continued on page 7*

**Lobby and outside view of new Outpatient Clinic**



# TALAS *"Summer School" update*

By Jean Griswold, photos by David Whitelaw

Thirty-eight years after the Talas American Orta Okulu closed, this past summer the Lower Compound reverberated again with the sounds of children playing *futbol* on the tennis courts, singing "Scotland's Burning, Fire! Fire!" in the basement of the Konak, and struggling to speak to their American teachers in their newly learned English. From June 27 to July 15, 2005, the third English Language Summer School in Talas opened to a student body of about 60 children from elementary and junior high schools as well as a small class of university students from Erciyes University in Kayseri. The first and third Summer Schools were in Talas, the second in Merzifon. Two TAO alumni coordinated the program: Cem Baysal (TAO, 1964), heading the TAO Alumni organization, and Cemal Özgüven (TAO, 1961) who, as Dean of Erciyes University's Business Administration Department, played the important role of intermediary with the university. The three-week session took place in the Lower Compound of the former TAO, now a part of Erciyes University. The volunteer teachers who staffed the school were, for the most part, teachers who had taught at Board schools in the 1950's and 60's.



Do you believe it?!



Jean Griswold's Class

Classes took place on the campus property in the former Talas clinic, now renamed the Talas Evi, recently renovated by monies gathered from TAO alumni in Turkey, and from alumni in the U.S. through a fund managed by FABSIT. When completely finished, the uses of the building will include not only English Language Summer Schools but also a memory museum of the TAO and medical work of past years. Eventually it will house the Nilson Friendship Library for children, established this year by the family of long-time TAO principal, Dr. Paul Nilson.

The 8 to 15 year-olds, coming every morning at 8:30, filled the lower *meydan* with exuberant voices and enthusiasm to learn to speak English through ESL lessons, drama and songs. Yes, they learned "Scotland's Burning, Old MacDonald, and even Ahmet Ağabey". These children, unlike past Talas students, didn't have to worry about tests or grades, but could just enjoy the fun of com-

municating in another language. Having classes of only 10 students each gave every child an opportunity to practice speaking English correctly.

The children's program of four classes in the morning, was paralleled by a small class of Erciyes University English literature students who furthered their already well-trained ability to speak English. Lessons included American and English literature, photography, sociology, pronunciation and a discussion class on "US Foreign Policy and Its Effect on Turkey", a very popular topic.

How impressed the parents and friends were at the closing program, as they observed their children singing English songs, acting in a Nasreddin Hoja play in English, and conversing, however hesitantly, with their American teachers! This year's volunteer faculty included former Board teachers **Bob and Dee Keller, Jean and Paul Nilson, David and Nancy Whitelaw, Jean and Bill Griswold**, and Non-Board teachers **Richard and Anne Elbrecht** (Merzifon and Talas), **Betty Brown, Kathryn Kastama** and Danish intern **Morten Philipps**.

For the volunteer teachers, children and parents, the Talas Summer School was a great success as it renewed, in a small way, the Talas role of providing an education in English to a new generation of young Turks.



The Faculty

# **news** from the FABSIT Family

## **CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS**

*By Ann Walko, photos by Marcia Hoffmann*

In September, members of the Spring Glen Congregational Church, of Hamden, Connecticut visited the Tarsus American College to commemorate twenty years of its association with the School. They spent the day touring the campus facilities, attending classes K-12, and lunching with the students. The History Club also gave the visitors a tour of ancient historical sites in the city.

Since 1985 the church has annually contributed scholarship funds, in the form of the Spring Glen Church Alan Bartholomew Scholarship, awarded to needy, outstanding students. It has also sent art materials, athletic equipment, and 700 books for the elementary school library.

Each year Spring Glen sponsors a "Taste of Turkey" program for the congregation where members are able to meet and talk with former Tarsus students now attending U.S. colleges.

**Fran Dittes with  
TAC German  
teacher**



**Meeting with TAC Director Daryl York**

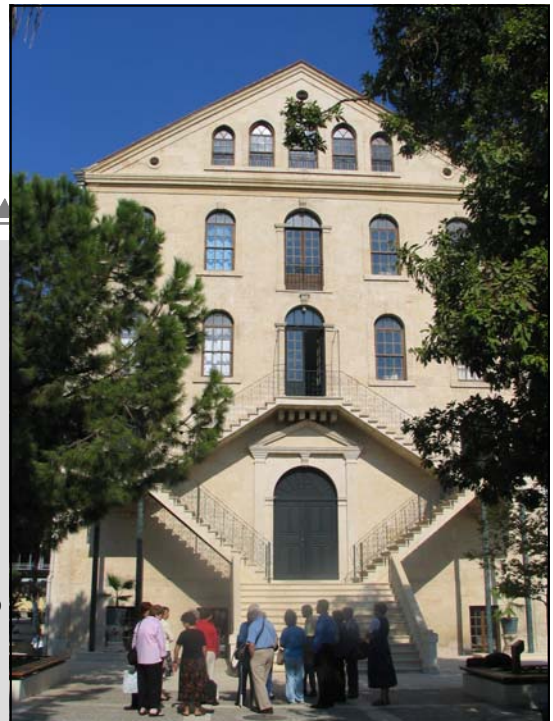


**English Class**

**Touring the TAC campus**

### **A New Opportunity for Children of Turks Living Abroad: Turkish Summer School at TAC**

This year for the first time SEV will open a summer school on the TAC campus to teach Turkish to children of Turks living abroad. The program is planned for 3-28 July for children in the 10-13 and 14-16 age groups. The younger group will have lessons in Turkish speaking, reading and comprehension, writing, and Turkish for enjoyment, Physical Education, and Music. The older group will be given lessons in Turkish and Turkish literature, speaking, composition, grammar, news from Turkey and the world, Turkish History, and Turkish Geography. In addition to lessons there will be field trips and various activities in arts and sports. Those who complete the program will receive certificates. SEV plans to advertise the program on websites frequented by Turks living outside Turkey, as well as in newspapers and on radio. For more information please contact [sevbilgi@sevakfi.org](mailto:sevbilgi@sevakfi.org).



*ACI update continued...*

displayed in the guidebook. We thank Didem Hanım for her help with this unique opportunity.

As you may remember from our past news, renovation of Blake Auditorium began this summer with the ultimate goal of turning Blake Auditorium into the Blake Performing Arts Center. The official opening ceremony was held on October 21, 2005 when we shared our pride and joy with SEV Foundation executives, ACI teachers and staff, students, parents, ACI graduates and representatives of the local municipality. Prominent ACI graduates who are artists, and former ACI art teachers were invited to display their work in the exhibition space of the newly extended foyer which will provide a venue for art shows, student work, history displays, etc. It was an exciting evening for all the participants. The evening concluded with a performance by the Kerem Görsev Trio (Kerem Görsev-Piano, Cengiz Baysal-Drums and Volkan Hürsever-Bass). They performed together with ACI students and later played splendid pieces from their recent album "Orange Juice."

The renovation of the Blake Performing Arts Center was partially funded through the generosity of the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) division of USAID. ACI has received over \$1,000,000 USD in assistance from USAID/ASHA since its first application in the late 1980's. The funds have been used to construct the Hill Science Center, the Naomi Foster Library and Media Center, one of the finest libraries in the Aegean region, a video-conferencing facility, and most recently the partial funding of the Blake Performing Arts Center. On behalf of the students, faculty, and graduates of ACI I thank USAID and ASHA for their generous assistance in helping make ACI the great academic institution it is today, and Paula Dinçer and FABSIT for their assistance in writing the grant, securing the USAID funding, and following through on the process. Without FABSIT's guidance and assistance through the grant process we would not have qualified for nor received this funding.

In addition to the Blake renovation, the old student co-op was dismantled and a new, larger co-op was built in its place. During the design phase of the project we asked for a facility that would not only be larger but also blend into the garden atmosphere of the campus. Overall, students and faculty are very pleased with the new co-op. It is much larger than the previous co-op both internally and externally with a large covered terrace for sitting. In addition, the interior receives lots of natural light and is decorated in light colors setting a positive and energetic tone. We are currently displaying artifacts, documents, and photographs from ACI's history in the co-op, and are planning future exhibits of student artwork.

With the merger of the SEV Preschool into the SEV Elementary this spring, the decision was made to move the preschool grades into the 'new' SEV elementary building leaving the lower campus empty. On the lower campus

are prefabs which once housed the SEV Primary lower grades, K-2. ACI, SEV Elementary, and the Foundation all made the decision to donate the prefabs at no cost to ECEV, a regional non-profit foundation, who will use them as an "Educational Center" in Altındağ, a poor area near Bornova. ECEV is working in cooperation with the Izmir Municipality on this project to better the living standards of the people in that area. ECEV's plan for the prefabs is to set them up as an educational center with the following uses; study groups for primary students to participate in after school, weekend courses for those taking the Lycee Entrance Exam, courses designed for personal development such as; art, English, computer, chess, etc. ECEV also plans to educate adults in the same center through literacy courses, craft lessons, etc. ECEV has in place a similar educational center in Yamanlar, which they will use as a model for the Altındağ Project. We are pleased to continue to "serve" the community as our motto asks.

At the beginning of October, the school was visited by representatives from the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) to assess whether ACI is ready to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP). The visit went well, and we recently received confirmation that the school has been authorized to offer the IBDP starting in the 2006-2007 school year. We are excited about the authorization and we are very proud to be the only Turkish Lise in the Aegean region to have IBDP authorization and ECIS/CIS accreditation.

In November, the school will host the second annual Shepard Sports Cup, a competitive basketball and volleyball tournament for private Lise schools in Izmir. The Shepard Cup was created to raise the sports profile of the school in the Aegean region. This year we have two separate tournaments for volleyball and basketball on separate weekends as we have more teams participating. We are very fortunate that individual ACI graduates and their companies have offered to sponsor tournament t-shirts, food and drinks, and even the fees of match officials.

ACI is hosting two Rotary exchange students this year, one from Canada, and one from the United States. We have six ACI students who are overseas and participating in International Student Exchange programs this year. Two are with ATAD, two with AFS, and two with Rotary. The school is very proud of these students and we wish them the best in their experiences.

As you can see, ACI continues to not only serve the local community but also maintain its tradition of academic excellence.



*If you have news of events that you would like to share with the FABSIT community through this newsletter, we would like to hear from you. Please contact FABSIT at office@fabsit.org or call 617-523-3433.*

*TAC update continued...*

for the middle school classes to much better science laboratory facilities than they were able to make use of in previous years. The provision of 600 new desks at TAC has done a lot to improve the academic atmosphere of the school. We would like to thank Paula Dinçer of FABSIT for her help with finalizing an ASHA grant that enabled us to allocate funds to a raft of improvements.

As for academic developments, after two years of talking and planning we were very happy to start teaching the IB Diploma Programme in Grade 11 (to be continued in grade 12 next year). We wish all students and faculty in the programme the best of luck with this new endeavour. Work towards Council of International Schools Accreditation continues, with the all important team of peers inspection visit lined up for April.

I would like to end with a few lines to introduce our 2005/2006 FABSIT Alan Bartholomew Scholarship and Spring Glen Church Alan Bartholomew Scholarship recipients, Meryem İnce and Hurigül Sarı. Meryem is the daughter of a clerk who gave long years of service to the school. Hurigül is the daughter of a man who died in the service of his country. They both have a very good attitude to studies and have a bright academic future. By coincidence, they are both interested in Turkish folklore and are members of the school folklore club.



That is all for now from Tarsus. We send you all our best wishes for the holidays.

*ÜAA update continued...*

In addition to modernizing the internal facilities with new technology, we are in the midst of several campus wide projects. The first is the installation of a wireless network system. The first phase will allow students and teachers to access the internet at several key areas around the campus. Should this experiment prove successful, we look forward to having an entire campus with wireless access to the internet. We have also started a broadcast club. This will allow students to create live programs which we will broadcast during lunch and after school. We anticipate that our budding reporters will focus on critical issues facing the school and society.

As a community we remain focused on the issue of community and social service. This year, due to the retrofitting of Morgan Hall, we had a large amount of excess furniture as well as computers. We did not have to go far to find a school that could benefit. The Armatörler Elementary School is a state school in nearby Kandilli. They were more than grateful to receive the old seats from our mini-auditorium, the "Red Room". They were even more so when we offered to outfit a computer room with 22

computers which we will refurbish and set up. Our plan is to involve the students in these projects so they can experience first hand the satisfaction of helping others who are less fortunate.

As you can see, the Üsküdar community remains a concerned and active one. We continue to look for ways to improve and use our energy constructively. We also value our traditions and heritage. Our Alumni Association has revived the Brownie Day tradition. On September 24th we enjoyed welcoming our graduates back to school, where they could refresh their sweet memories of years gone by with the sweet taste of a brownie on the palate. We enjoyed reconnecting with our graduates and encourage them to continue to stay in touch.



*GAH update continued...*

money to us for a project in Reproductive Health (the full name of the project is "Health from the Workplace to the Home: Education and Information Centers for Health and Family Planning for Young Workers and Their Spouses"). Out of a projected budget of 266,000 Euros the EU will cover about 240,000 Euros. Through the cooperative work we have planned to establish in Southeast Turkey, and especially with the Gaziantep American Hospital, the long term aim of this project is to reduce the rate of population increase in the country in general and thus remove the negative effects such an increase would have on the economy. The project's target is to provide training and information to 7500 young male and female workers in the industrial zone of Gaziantep over a period of twelve months by means of "Education and Information Centers." After the beginning date of the project is known, the project partners will come together for a "Kickoff Meeting" and "Press Conference," and a common media plan will be put into effect."

### ***Gone from Among Us...***

*We remember the friends listed below, beloved classmates, faculty and long-serving administrators from the ABH schools...*

Loretta Kreider	Paul Heide	Margaret Mosher
Andrews	George Helling	Arthur Newell
Mildred W. Ballard	Mary B. Thayer	Edward Rivinus
Arthur Barnes	Horst	Edgar Sather
Daniel Bliss	Doris Houser	H. Francis
Lillian Sedlar	Sylvia Jackson	Shattuck
Burton	Harold G. S. King	Fern F. Smith
Saylan Enustun	Sally Taylor King	Mabel Smith
Sarah S. Foote	Florence Lerrigo	Jessie St. Jean
J. Ford Forsyth	Caroline Lovejoy	Frances Warren
Alice Franco	James E.	Don E. Webster
Irene Goodsell	MacDonald	Eleanor Willson
Norman H.	John Miskoff	
Gouldin	Helen Morgan	



## *“Thank you” to Our Supporters*

**On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, our schools in İstanbul, İzmir and Tarsus, the Gaziantep American Hospital, and the TALASEvi Building fund, we extend our sincere gratitude to our generous donors for gifts received from May 1, 2005 through November 30, 2005.**

### **\$1,000+**

Congregational Church of  
Boothbay Harbor, Maine  
Mr. Lawrence Kaye  
The Spring Glen Church

### **\$500-\$999**

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Barry  
Ms. Zeren Earls  
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Ms. Yasemin İşler  
Mr. Ali G. Kadaster  
Mrs. Susan Combs Jabusch  
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### **\$250-\$499**

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Mrs. Carol E. Carpenter-Yaman  
Mr. and Mrs. Bud Cratty  
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### **\$100-\$249**

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Ms. Sandra Whiteley  
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Mrs. Nancy Wittler  
Mr. Fikret Yegül

### ***Please Support Our Institutions in Turkey***

We need your partnership to ensure that our institutions continue the wonderful work in education and health care services described in these pages.

Your generosity enables us to support the missions of the **American Collegiate Institute, Tarsus American College, Üsküdar American Academy, and Gaziantep American Hospital.**

***Your gift changes lives.***