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# Among Friends

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

Spring 2005

## FABSIT *news*

### **FABSIT Gathers Alumni, Faculty and Friends in Boston and New York**

On Saturday, February 12, 2005 nearly fifty ABH school alumni, former staff and FABSIT friends gathered at Boston's historic Parker House Hotel to welcome visiting TAC Director, Daryl York, UAA Director, Whitman Shepard and Bengu Shepard, and SEV Education Coordinator, Tülin Büyükalkan.



Boston Friends

Many New York area alumni and former staff took the opportunity to reconnect on Saturday, May 14, 2005 over a gourmet Turkish meal while enjoying stunning views of Manhattan from the Rooftop Lounge of the Marmara Manhattan on New York's Upper East Side.

### **Executive Director, Paula Dinçer Visits ABH Schools and Hospital, March 21-28, 2005**

In seven days from March 21 to March 28, FABSIT Executive Director Paula Dinçer visited SEV and ABH offices in Istanbul, and traveled to the three schools in Istanbul, Izmir, and Tarsus, and the hospital in Gaziantep. SEV graciously made former Assistant General Coordinator, Zehra Sunbay, available throughout the trip, and provided hotel accommodations and transfers along the way. Although Ms. Dinçer has been to Turkey over a dozen times, and has visited all of these cities, this was her first visit to the ABH institutions. It proved invaluable in terms of relationship building, clarifying ASHA grant requirements, and understanding the unique challenges facing each institution.

Ms. Dinçer reconnected with staff from SEV and the schools at the USAID/ASHA Workshop in Alexandria, VA from May 23rd to the 25th. Kenneth Frank, ABH General Secretary, Ziya Köseoğlu, SEV General Coordinator, Eric Trujillo, ACI Director, and Ayşe Apa Dildar, TAC Business Manager attended to gain further insight into ASHA's mission and the reporting requirements that FABSIT must meet in the grant management process.

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All of SEV-YAY's publications are available for purchase in the US through Redhouse Publications and FABSIT by clicking on the Amazon.com link on the FABSIT website. Starting at 5%, FABSIT's referral earnings from Amazon are performance based, so the more you order after going through

the FABSIT site, the more FABSIT can earn to support the work and mission of SEV and the ABH institutions in Turkey. **It's just one extra click, and it doesn't cost you an extra penny.**

Many may already be familiar with Redhouse Press, now SEV-Matbaacılık ve Yayıncılık EğitimTic. A.S. (SEV-YAY). For those who are not, it is one more of the SEV organizations supported by FABSIT. SEV-YAY is the branch of SEV that publishes and distributes books which help support and further the mission of SEV in helping to bring together English and Turkish speaking communities. For more information on Redhouse Press/SEV-YAY, please see the excellent history written by Dr. Brian Johnson, called "Changing Fonts, The Evolution of a Press". The following brief summary of its history is taken from this work.

### **Short History of SEV-YAY**

Started in 1822, in Malta, as the Malta Press by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), the press published literature in a variety of languages for distribution throughout the Middle East. Finding the Ottoman government more receptive and tolerant of its activities, the press moved its operations to Turkey, eventually locating in Istanbul, in Eminönü. After being located in Eminönü since 1872, the operations have just been moved to their new address in Üsküdar.

The primary works that the Press published and continues to publish are the famous Redhouse dictionaries, based on the scholarship of Sir James Redhouse. His efforts resulted in the dictionaries of 1861 and 1890. These dictionaries continue to set the standard by which all English-Turkish/Turkish-English dictionaries are judged to this day. The dictionaries have been

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ACI has been busy throughout the school year; the following are a few of the many highlights of our student activities:

In the first week of November, the school held the first Shepard Sports Cup, a competitive basketball and volleyball tournament for private Lise schools in Izmir. We created The Shepard Cup to raise the sports profile of the school in the Aegean region. We are proud of our Lise boys' basketball team who won their division. Our future plan is for the Shepard Cup to become an annual invitational tournament featuring the best teams in the region. On November 15th, Ülkü Adatepe, Atatürk's adopted daughter, spoke to the student body about her childhood memories of Atatürk.

In December, ACI hosted the ABH Social Service Conference. The conference served as an opportunity for the three ABH schools to share their many social service endeavors with one another and hear prominent ABH graduates speak about their continuing roles in social services. Also in December, The ACI Model United Nations (MUN) team attended the annual THIMUN Conference in Üsküdar and in January went to the Hague MUN in Holland.



Janet's friends from ACI, colleagues from Aegean University, and ACI students at her memorial service

On March 22, 2005, ACI hosted a memorial service to honor Janet Akyüz Mattei (ACI '62), renowned astronomer and longtime director of the AAVSO, who passed away one year ago. Janet's classmates from the ACI Class of '62, members from the Aegean University faculty, representatives of the ACI Alumni Association and students all participated in this special service.

On another note, the school completed a new web-site in February with detailed updated information about the school. We are featuring more about the history of the school and have scanned many old photos from the ACI archives for use throughout the site. Please visit [www.aci.k12.tr](http://www.aci.k12.tr) to learn more.

The school also opened a public relations office this year. One of our graduates, Aydan Yakın, now serves as the PR Coordinator. We are very pleased with the results. When you visit our website, you can view the latest press clippings under the Office of Communications link.

In April, the ACI Junior Achievement team hosted their JA colleagues from Derby High School in Connecticut. ACI and Derby High School have had a working partnership for several years. Derby has graciously hosted our JA team in the past, and we were excited to finally reciprocate and show famous Turkish hospitality to our American JA colleagues! The visit was a resounding success. We not only were successful with all related JA business, but took our guests on tours to Foça, Efes, and other local sites. Our student's parents served magnificent dinners to our visitors, and we look forward to hosting the team again soon.

Also in April, the Council of International Schools (CIS) visited SEV Primary for the Preliminary visit. The purpose of the visit was to determine if the school could continue with the planned accreditation steps. We are pleased that the visiting team recommended we continue to the Self-Study phase beginning in

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**"Flowers are stars of the Earth - Stars are flowers of the Universe."**



*Born in Bodrum, Turkey on January 2, 1943, Janet Akyüz Mattei (ACI '62) was one of the most unforgettable students who attended American Collegiate Institute. She was so successful at ACI that her friends claim she was the one they were always hoping to get help from if they didn't understand a subject. After ACI, Janet studied General Science at Brandeis University, in Waltham, Massachusetts. After graduation, she was offered a job at the Maria Mitchell Observatory in Nantucket. Through years Janet worked on her Masters and in 1982 she received a Ph.D. in Astronomy from Ege University in Izmir.*

*As head of the AAVSO for over 30 years, Janet collected observations of variable stars from amateur astronomers around the world. She coordinated many important observation programs between amateur observers and professional astronomers. She was also keenly interested in education and student science projects.*

*Janet believed firmly in the potential of young people. She supported and encouraged them whenever she could, helping them explore the excitement of astronomy and scientific research. Asteroid 11695 Mattei is named in her honor.*

*Dr. Mattei won many awards, including the Centennial Medal of the Société Astronomique de France, 1987; George Van Biesbroeck Prize, American Astronomical Society, 1993; Leslie Peltier Award, Astronomical League, 1993; first Giovanni Battista Lacchini Award for collaboration with amateur astronomers, Unione Astrofili Italiani, 1995; and the Jackson-Gwilt medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, 1995.*

**TAC update** from Director Daryl York

There have been some very positive developments at Tarsus American in recent months, developments that we would like to share with you.

Acting on the following expression in our school mission, "It is one of the aims of SEV/ABH Schools to raise individuals who participate fully in democratic processes and philanthropic organizations, as part of lifelong service to humanity", we have significantly strengthened our community service program. Since we believe that student involvement in social, artistic and sports activities is just as important as academic activities, we have expanded the scope of the program from an optional club activity that used to compete for students with the Sports Club, the Model United Nations, and other important facets of school life, to a general expectation on the whole student body. This year's programs include:

- Literacy courses for adults
- Academic support for nearby schools
- IZEM Rehabilitation Center for the Mentally Defective- Social Activities and Academic Support
- Inköyü - Social Activities and Academic Support
- Mersin Orphanage - Social Activities
- Association for Development of Modern Life Academic Support
- Senior Citizens Home

Continued from page 2 **ACI Update**

the next academic year. It is both an exciting and demanding process. We all look forward to SEV Primary receiving notice of accreditation status during the 2006-2007 school year.

ACI is also very pleased with the planned renovation of Blake Hall this summer; the construction is partially funded by USAID, through the help and support of FABSIT, and by the SEV Foundation. At the same time, we are also having the Lise co-op rebuilt. Computer-aided graphic designs of the renovation are posted on the ACI website with details of the renovation. We will have our grand opening of the newly-renovated facility in September 2005.

As always, the ACI family wishes our alumni and friends the best. We look forward to hearing from you, so please keep us informed of your latest news and activities.

Below are what some graduates have had to say about their ACI experience.



*"Continuous curiosity to learn and being ready to face uncertainties in life were the main things that I learned in ACI. They were the reasons of my success in professional and private life and helped me face difficulties with no fear. When I think of the years that I spent there, I realize the importance of ACI in my personal development and individual success, once more. I wish everyone was lucky enough to study at ACI"*

**Efe Çakarel**  
ACI, Class of 1994 • MIT, B.S.in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, 1998 • Stanford Graduate School of Business, MBA 2005



*"Studying in a foreign country is an extremely challenging endeavor both personally and academically. It requires a strong desire to explore uncommon grounds. You have to be willing to come out of your safe environment, put yourself in continuously uncertain situations and learn to adapt to new cultures and ways of thinking. Looking back on my teenage years, I can confidently say that it was ACI that gave me the desire to explore new areas and the strength to adapt to new environments. Universities in the States value these qualities more than test scores or grades."*

**Özsel Beveli**  
ACI, Class of 1997 Georgetown University, 2001



*"During my university years, I'm not sure how many times, I've thanked God for the great education I had at ACI. If you ask me who an ACI graduate is...An ACI graduate is a self-confident person who is always after his dreams... An ACI graduate is equipped with the best English taught in Turkey...An ACI graduate is never lonely with the great friends that he makes throughout his life..."*

**Kivanç Özdemir**  
ACI, Class of 2000  
Cornell University, 2004

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**Redhouse Publications through FABSIT**

revised and reprinted many times since, while other titles including children's books, guide books, cookbooks and books on Turkey's natural environment have been added to the list of works.

The Press, reorganized in 1996 as SEV-YAY, continues the important work of publishing and distributing books that promote education, understanding and dialogue between cultures. SEV-YAY books are distributed in the US by Redhouse Publications. Run by various missionaries, who have returned to the US, it has most recently been managed by Bill and Anna Edmonds, after serving in Turkey for over 40 years, primarily with the Press.

**Redhouse Publications-US Moves**

Redhouse Publications has now been turned over to Rob Edmonds and has been moved from Bainbridge, WA to Hopkins, MN. After many years of continuing to support the activities of SEV-YAY, Anna and Bill Edmonds decided it was time to share some of the fun with their son. Anna and Bill still continue in an advisory role to the operations and their time and talent is greatly appreciated.

In addition to the move to Minnesota, a website: [www.redhousepublications.com](http://www.redhousepublications.com) has been created by Colin Edmonds. The website is to provide a U.S. based source of information and contact about and for SEV-YAY. The excellent "Changing Fonts, The Evolution of a Press" written by Dr. Brian Johnson is available, in pdf format, on the website, in addition to information about the various available publications. Look for reviews and descriptions of Redhouse works in future issues of this newsletter.

Redhouse Publications is interested in promoting and distributing any publications that would help support the activities of FABSIT and SEV. Please share your suggestions, and thoughts.

Below are some of the many titles available through Redhouse Publications:

[Galata: A Guide to Istanbul's Old Genoese Quarter](#)

[Anatolia and its Biblical Visionaries](#)

[Istanbul, the Great Palace Mosaic](#)

[From Villages to Cities](#)

[Guide for Coins Commonly Found at Anatolian Excavations-ROMAN](#)

[The Legacy of Gaziantep to World Culture](#)



## Tarsus Summer School for Turkish Children Residing Outside Turkey

A summer school for 10-16 year old Turkish children who live overseas is being planned at Tarsus for summer 2006 between July 3-August 7. Classes such as Conversational Turkish, Reading in Turkish/Turkish Literature, Turkish Writing Skills and Grammar, Current Events in Turkey and in the World, Geography of Turkey, and Modern Turkish History will enable the participating children to improve their Turkish language skills, to develop their acquaintance with Turkish traditions and values, and to spend their summer holiday in the warm and friendly atmosphere of Anatolia. In addition to classes, students will take field trips to Mersin, Adana, Antalya, the GAP Region, Urgup, Goreme, and Istanbul.

## GAH update

(In a letter to Ziya Köseoğlu, SEV General Coordinator from GAH Başhekim, Dr. Cezmi Ük, translated by Kenneth Frank)

"Dear Ziya Bey,

I feel the need to share with all of our directors/administrators, and with you first of all, my thoughts and feelings about what I experienced last week.

Last Monday the National Nurses-Midwives Association, at their major congress, declared that they had accepted only the Gaziantep American Hospital and the Sanko Hospital as correspondent organizations in our area, and they invited our head nurse as a speaker.

In addition to this, when I and Dr. Ertan Dumanlı [SEV Director responsible for the hospital] submitted our documents to the Social Security Administration in Ankara (I am very grateful to him for postponing his operations and coming to Ankara to help us), they said to us, "Why are you so late? We have been waiting for you. Let's get you taken care of."

On Saturday, a group of about 20 people from Gazi University, including the Dean of the Medical Faculty, visited us and repeatedly said how amazed they were. The Rector of the university invited me this evening to dinner at the University. On Monday our mayor brought representatives of the Turkish Chamber of Architects to tour our hospital. If you had heard what they said, you would have been extraordinarily proud.

The whole hospital campus is like a construction area but, God willing, everything will be sorted out by opening day of the new out-patient building. We will have a marvelous hospital. All of our employees, and the doctors most of all, are full of excitement and pride. They are looking with hope to the future. Even on the day with the least patients, the most pessimistic of our doctors told me, "Never mind, everything will be fine."

Believe me, when they see the new out-patient rooms, even my colleagues in Istanbul will be amazed. A short while ago I gave our previous head doctor Dr. Enver Taner a tour of the hospital. At one point he couldn't contain himself and murmured, "If only I were young again, I would work in this hospital." These are the things that I heard and saw only last week... Every day there are such conversations. Even in our eye clinic I had to select from among four specialists; only two years ago I was pressed to find even one.

In short, on behalf of my colleagues and the hospital employees, I wish to thank again and again with all my heart first of all Tamer Şahinbaş, Ertan Dumanlı, and all of the Board of Directors, our trustees, those who work in the foundation, those who volunteer their support, those who made it possible for us to create such a terrific hospital, those who are always behind us with their full energy and courage, those who strengthened us by helping us straighten out, and those who offered their material and spiritual support and resources – you have all made us proud. Thank you.

Yours truly,  
Dr. Cezmi Ük"

More good news for GAH: On May 21 FABSIT received USAID/ASHA approval of its application for funding of an MRI machine for Gaziantep American Hospital.

## news from the FABSIT Family



- On March 13, 2005 Bob and Dee Keller gave a detailed presentation on Turkey to 79 attendees of all ages for the Outreach and Benevolence Committee of the Second Congregational Church in Attleboro, MA. The Committee had decided to broaden its focus beyond local needs to educate its congregation about Turkey, a Muslim country with a secular democracy, with whom the church shares a long history. Through slides, posters, photos, and a variety of artifacts the Kellers illustrated their knowledge and love of Turkey and its people gleaned from over 13 years of service there.

- SEV Assistant General Coordinator and Financial Coordinator, Zehra Sunbay, will be leaving SEV after eight years of service. Zehra Hanım worked hard to form a strong working relationship between FABSIT and SEV. She was FABSIT's liaison to the schools and hospital in Turkey, and a reliable source of data for reporting on USAID/ASHA grant projects. Her responsibilities will be assumed by Mr. Ahmet Ceylan, new Financial Coordinator.

- FABSIT Past President Zeren Earls reports that Ipek Mutlu, who arrived from UAA four years ago on a full scholarship to Harvard, is graduating with honors on June 9, and is among the few Harvard graduates selected by the McKenzie consulting firm in New York for a two year work/training program.

A group of Lise 2 and Lise 3 students has provided English lessons to 50 students from Tarsus Sakarya Primary School twice a week. For the same children, sports activities and movie sessions at our auditorium have also been organized. A new year's party was organized for ninety children from our sister school in the mountain village of Inköyü. Our students also provided food for 140 families in the village. Bake sales and book donation drives continue. At the end of the academic year the number of hours of work undertaken by students will be totaled and students will be awarded participation and merit certificates accordingly. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to and supported our activities.

The 2004 - 2005 school year has seen the beginning of a new initiative for TAC - the establishment of an art department. Wayne Barnett, from New Zealand has joined the staff to facilitate this venture. Mr Barnett has had over 25 years experience in teaching art and is also a practicing artist, having had two solo exhibitions in New Zealand since 1999. He also played drums and sang in several rock bands, and has illustrated four books. So far during the course of the year, students have been able to explore a variety of areas within art, including painting, drawing, sculpture and graphic design. Putting works of art on display within the school has been a high priority. Already there are a number of murals being completed by the students in Centennial and Unity buildings, and further exhibitions of student work are planned.

At TAC we continue to emphasize the study of either German or French as a second foreign language. Within this framework, we aim to teach all our students a second foreign language starting from the bare conversational minimum progressing to a more advanced level. Through the additional language, our students have a greater chance to learn about cultures other than their own, understand their own languages and cultures better, access information in other fields by using that language, and become a participant in the global community. In order to maintain a more effective learning environment, German and French classes are split classes. The instruction emphasizes improving written and oral skills. Class work and daily homework make up a significant part of the program. Student progress is ensured by regular study habits, effective participation in class, completing homework assignments, and reviewing for tests and short quizzes. Oral evaluation is based on pronunciation, vocabulary and fluency as well as on participation in class.

Of course as we approach the end of the school year, our thoughts turn to graduation and university entry. Our Seniors, Bartholomew Scholarship recipient Ertan Ertangun among them, are working hard in preparation for the notoriously competitive national university entrance examination. We wish them well.

## ÜAA update

from Director Whitman Shepard

Üsküdar has been very active in many areas. We would like to present you with our "report card". As you can see we have an abundance of "A's". This is befitting for a school of our caliber and heritage.

### Academics

ÜAA is actively involved in implementing new curricular programs as we transform ourselves from a Prep and 3 year High School to a Prep and 4 year High School. Department Heads and faculty are busy writing new curricular programs, submitting them to the Ministry of Education for approval, and then implementing them in the classroom. We are fortunate to have

a dedicated and hard working team for this project. One interesting consequence of this transformation is that we will not have a graduating class next year. This will allow us time and energy to focus in depth on certain institutional issues.

### Accreditation

Üsküdar American Academy and the SEV Elementary School will be entering the Council of International Schools (CIS) accreditation process this spring. The accreditation process will take two years to realize. The Preliminary Visit by CIS will take place in May and will prove beneficial as we plan for the rest of the process. A major part of the process is an in depth self study in which the entire school community examines itself with respect to agreed-upon standards of excellence. We are looking forward to the process as well as the opportunity to plan for improvements.



The UAA Badminton Team



UAA's Winning Snowboarders

### Athletics

We are proud to report on the success of our students. Our table tennis team has been swatting the ball well and became 6th in Istanbul. Our badminton team has chased the birdie throughout the city and became 4th in Istanbul. Our swimming team has splashed its way to success and has become 1st in the Üsküdar district. Our snowboarders were able to slide their way into the nationals and we slid away with a Silver and Bronze medal when the spray cleared. We congratulate all our sportsmen and sports-women and look forward to continued success in the future.

### Accomplishments in Social Service

Our Social Service Club continues to be active. They have strengthened our relationship with the Sabancı School for the Blind in our district and have organized regular trips, where our students visit, play with, and read to those less fortunate. Our Interact Club, in association with our Parents Association, recently visited a battered women's shelter in Kadıköy. They were able to take much needed supplies to the facility and to meet with the residents. The Interact Club will organize a "Day in Support of Life" for children from poor areas of neighboring districts. The day will be full of workshops, entertainment and sports.



Teacher Seminar Participants

### Access to our Expertise

On March 26th, 143 teachers from 14 neighboring schools will be participating in an Üsküdar District Schools Seminar organized by ÜAA teachers. Our teachers will share their expertise with colleagues from state schools. Seminars will be given on

Turkish Literature, Guidance and Counseling, Physics, Social Studies, and English. We look forward to sharing and entering into dialogue with teachers from nearby schools.

### Acoustic Delights

Our students continue to impress us with their talents and skills. We were entertained by a large number of students during our Talent Show at the end of the first semester. This student led and student run performance gave us glimpses into

the many hidden talents within our student body. Now that they are no longer hidden, we look forward to many more performances. The music department has been able to interest many students in its programs. We have percussion groups, rock groups, musicals, guitar groups, and Turkish classical music groups practicing throughout the school. The halls are alive with the sound of music.

### Adaptability

SEV, our foundation, has proved its adaptability as it searches for ways to acquire much needed adjacent property in order to plan for expansion. We have been able to make some purchases and now are working through the bureaucratic process of acquiring the necessary permissions to build school facilities. When these projects are realized, we will be able to meet many of our growing needs and desires.

As always, it is a pleasure to share with you our successes, and plans for the future. We can only accomplish these through your continued support.



## In Memorial

Nazlı Suzan Oyhon

Suzan Oyhon was a part of our Üsküdar school community since 1983. After being diagnosed with lung and thyroid cancers in May of 2004, she maintained a keen interest in all that was happening at school. She taught orta science in the days of

the girls' school, then moved into lise biology. She served as Head of the Science Department and was an active part of the Department Heads' Committee for several years. Her energy, broad interests, diverse knowledge and gift with words made her lessons and discussions very memorable. Students will always wonder where she would find the challenging questions for her exams, that would require them to think, and to pull ideas together. Suzan was involved in many school clubs including a few years with the school band, but she will probably always be best remembered as the "mother" of the Turkish International Model United Nations (TIMUN). She worked to have this yearly conference affiliated with The Hague International Model Nations (THIMUN), and was acknowledged for this successful conference by being named as the first Turk to the Advisory Board of THIMUN. Her work with students was very effective because she trusted and respected the students' abilities to assume leadership and responsibility. They almost always rose to her expectations. As a strong, articulate, knowledgeable, entertaining and caring individual she was a model to Turkish youth. Her life impacted many well beyond the school community as was shown by the large, diverse number of people who came to say goodbye at her funeral on March 24th. She will live on in our memories of her and in our love for her.

Whitman Shepard

*FABSIT has established a Suzan Oyhon Scholarship Fund for students at ÜAA in honor and recognition of her service to the ÜAA community. Please make contributions payable to FABSIT Foundation – Suzan Oyhon Scholarship.*

## TALAS "Summer School" update

This is the third year of the Summer School, geared toward children ages 9 to 14, and the first year it is being organized in Talas and Merzifon. Also new this year will be a separate course for English/American Literature students from Erciyes University. They will be accommodated at the renovated TalasEvi. EU will provide chairs and other equipment required to run the classes.

Volunteers will reach Talas on June 24th and 25th for a weekend's orientation before classes start on Monday, June 27. Classes will end on July 15. Mr. Cemal Özgüven (Talas '57), Dean of Business Administration at EU is the EU/Summer School liaison. He will provide two assistants to help volunteers with all their requirements.

Classes for the children will start at 8:30 am and end at 12:30pm when the children will go home for lunch. The EU students will arrive at TalasEvi at 10:30 am, have lunch with the volunteers, and continue classes for two more hours. Several of the volunteers will teach the EU students as well as the children. Books will be photocopied to keep costs to the students low. A professional photographer will be on hand to teach the "tricks of the trade" to interested students.

Among volunteers who had 'signed on' as of early April are: Bill and Jean Griswold, Bob and Dee Keller, Betty Brown, Kathryn Kastama, and David and Nancy Whitelaw.

## SEV news

from Education Coordinator,  
Tülin Büyükalkan

### 1+4 MODEL ( One year of preparatory year + 4 years of High School)

Since the 2002-2003 school year, ABH Schools have been four-year high schools. As a result of the 1+4 model, the high school English, mathematics, science, history, geography, and second foreign language (French and German) curricula were revised. The ABH Schools have been implementing the common English curriculum for the last two years. The SEV Elementary Schools have been using the common SEV English curriculum for K-8 since 2003.

### CURRICULUM

SEV Elementary Schools and ABH high schools have been collaborating in order to develop their academic programs and to prepare common curricula. The ABH Schools have been implementing the common English curriculum for the last two years, and the SEV Elementary Schools have been using the same common SEV English Curriculum for K-8, which was prepared between 2002-2004. The second foreign language (German, French) curricula for grades 9, 10 and 11 have also been revised and the schools have agreed on a common program.

### ASSESSMENT

Standardized English proficiency tests such as the TOEFL Exam and the Michigan Test for high schools and the PET exam for the seventh graders were administered this year as well. Applying these exams in all of the schools gives us the opportunity to evaluate the English language education given in our schools. The results we have obtained prove that both ABH high schools and SEV Elementary schools lead the way in teaching English.

In addition to the language exams, the SEV General Exam was given to grades 5-8 in order to test students' overall knowledge

in mathematics, Turkish, English, and science. The 8th graders also took the SEV Preparatory Exam which has been designed to test students' readiness for Turkey's mandatory Private Schools Exam. A successful result on this exam will determine placement in Turkey's best private high schools.

### ACCREDITATION

The SEV Board of Directors has decided to have all SEV and ABH Schools accredited by CIS. ACI was reaccredited by CIS in 2004. This year Tarsus American College and Tarsus SEV Elementary, along with Izmir SEV Elementary are in the process of being accredited by CIS. This year Üsküdar American Academy has also applied to CIS for accreditation.

### IB (International Baccalaureate)

Tarsus American College has been authorized for IB. Starting with the 2005-2006 school year, TAC will offer IB education to its students. Of 34 TAC students who applied for IB, 27 were accepted into the program. Being an IB school will help the students of TAC in the process of applying to overseas universities. ACI has also applied for IB authorization. At this stage, their teachers are being trained for IB.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The SEV Education Department continues to organize various professional development programs for the teachers of SEV and ABH Schools. Here is the program for the 2004-2005 school year:



New Foreign Teacher Orientation

- Orientation Program for New Foreign Teachers - Istanbul, Sep.3-5, 2004
- CIS Accreditation Workshop (Dr. Gerry Percy) - Tarsus (all schools), September 2004
- IB Training (by Gautam Sen) - Izmir (ACI only) Nov. 27, 2004
- Effective Communication in Education (by Sedefhan Ögüz) – Tarsus, Dec. 18, 2004
- Effective Communication Techniques (by Cengiz Eren) - Tarsus,
- SEV Elementary Schools' Class Teacher Rotation - December 2004
- Turkish Language and Literature Education in IB (by Sabriye Özerden) - Tarsus (TAC only), June 7, 2004
- IB Training (by Mustafa Üstünişik) - Izmir (ACI only), Jan. 14, 2005
- Turkish Language and Literature Education in IB (by Sabriye Özerden) - Izmir (ACI only), Jan. 17, 2005
- The New Elementary Social Studies Curriculum (by Dr. Hüseyin Köksal) - Üsküdar (Üsküdar SEV only), March 5, 2005
- The New Elementary Turkish Curriculum (by Dr. Turan Temur) - Üsküdar (Üsküdar SEV only), March 12, 2005
- Science Education in IB (by Oya Yazar) - Izmir (ACI only), Apr. 5, 2005
- The New Elementary Social Studies Curriculum (by Dr. Gülin Karabağ) - Izmir (Izmir SEV only), April 16, 2005
- The Art of Management (by Assist. Prof. Yonca Gürol) – Üsküdar, Apr. 27, 2005
- Effective Communication at School (by Assist. Prof. Turhan Erkmen) – Üsküdar, Apr. 2, 2005
- The New Elementary Turkish Curriculum (by Dr. Turan Temur) - Izmir (Izmir SEV only), April 30, 2005
- Art Teachers' Meeting - Üsküdar, April 30, 2005
- The New Elementary Science Curriculum (by Dr. Mehmet Bahar) - Üsküdar (Üsküdar SEV only), May 7, 2005
- The New Elementary Mathematics Curriculum (by Assist. Prof. Soner Durmuş) - Üsküdar (Üsküdar SEV only), June 11, 2005
- PTC Conference (by Bambie Betts) - On each campus, end of

August-beginning of Sept. 2005

- Psychological Counseling and Guidance Conference for Guidance Teachers - Marmara University, September 2005
- PYP Applications for Elementary Schools - 2005
- Instructional Techniques for Classroom Teachers - 2005
- Discipline in the Classroom - 2005

### SCHOLARSHIPS

#### Prospective Teachers

As part of SEV's scholarship program for university senior level students who will become teachers in return for two years of compulsory service in one of the SEV or ABH Schools, this year SEV Education Coordinator Tülin Büyükalkan, American Board General Secretaries Ken and Betty Frank, and SEV HR Manager Defne Tokay went to Bilkent University in Ankara and interviewed 19 students. Nine of the students interviewed were deemed appropriate for the ABH schools. In April, some of the administrators from SEV and the Schools went to Ankara to further interview the nine teacher candidates.

### EDUCATION COUNCIL

The SEV Education Council continues to meet at least three times a year. During its last meetings, various issues such as the refinement of the SEV and ABH Schools' Mission Statement, improving the quality of education in the schools, strategies for increasing interest and applications to Izmir and Tarsus Schools and ways of attracting high-achievers to Uskudar American Academy were discussed.

### COMMON ACTIVITIES AMONG ABH SCHOOLS

#### Leadership Conference

This year the conference was held at TAC on October 1-2, 2004. Student Councils of the three ABH Schools participated in the conference. The key note speaker was the journalist Mr. Mete Akyol (TAC '55), who is also a member of the SEV Board of Trustees. The speakers were as follows: "Effective Leadership: A Personal Story" – Mete Akyol; "Actualizing a Leadership Role" and "Enhancing Your Leadership Skills" – Tülin Büyükalkan; "Consensus Building" and "WIN WIN: Building Trust to Make Both Sides Winners" – Daryl York.

TIMUN	UAA - Dec.2-5, 2004
Social Studies Fair	TAC - Mar. 18-19, 2005
Art Festival (ABH)	ACI - May. 16-17, 2005
TAC Folklore Festival	TAC - Mar. 31-Apr. 1-2, 2005

### Social Service Fair

The Social Service Fair was held in Izmir on December 10-11, 2004 among SEV and ABH Schools. At this event each school gave a full account of their social service activities. Yaşar Yaşer, general coordinator of the Turkish Family Planning Foundation and chairman of the SEV Board of Trustees, Gülseven Güven Yaşer, president of the Contemporary Education Foundation, and Gülgün Unal, former president of the Aegean Contemporary Education Foundation attended. Students and teachers visited a retirement home, an orphanage, the MS Center, and some schools. The participants also talked about a common community outreach project they could develop among SEV/ABH Schools.



Social Service Fair