

Among Friends

The Newsletter of FABSIT—Friends of the American Board Schools in Turkey, Inc.—Spring 2009

Dr. Dilhan Kalyon (TAO '67, TAC '71) and FABSIT Host Alumni Reception at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ

Dr. Dilhan Kalyon and Stevens PhD student Asli Ergun (TAC '99), below with TAC '71 classmate Muhtar Kent



(left), helped FABSIT bring together New York area ABH school alums on May 2, 2009. There was Turkish music in the background and a view of the New York City skyline. A slide show of all the schools, then and now, inspired much discussion about the impact of these unique institutions on their students and teachers, and FABSIT's special role as their U.S. 'friends' organization.



Coming up...

September:

Local "Welcome" meetings for new American school grads studying in **Boston** and **New York City** areas; watch email for details

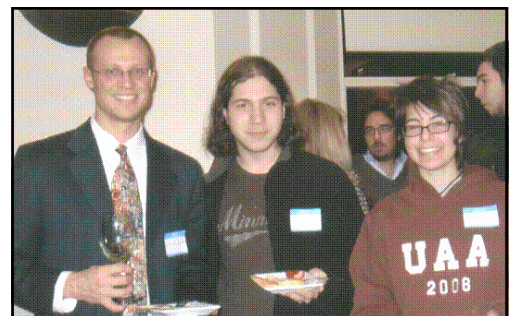
October 3, 2009: Washington, DC area alumni gathering and **Fall Meeting** of FABSIT Board of Directors

FABSIT Reception at MIT Faculty Club for Alumni, School Directors and New Teachers

About 40 local alumni from across the decades came out in a show of support of their favorite alma maters, and to illustrate to new teachers the quality of the student body at the schools. The FABSIT reception at the Faculty Club of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology hosted American School alumni, School Directors, and their new teacher hires. The Directors were in Cambridge for the annual Search Associates teacher recruiting fair, held just down the street at the Cambridge Hyatt Regency Hotel. FABSIT plans to make this an annual event (see calendar listing below).

This is an opportunity that "will certainly give us a better appreciation of our ABH Stateside extended family" — "Chris" Hanna, ACI Director

Foreground from left, Ward Ryder, newly hired English teacher who will begin teaching at ÜAA in September 2009, Emil Tan Erten, UAA '08, studying at Berklee College of Music, and Can Gençler ÜAA '07, now at Brown University



From left, Nilhan Çubuk, SEV Izmir Elementary Principal; Charles "Chris" Hanna, Director, ACI; Paula Dinçer, FABSIT

Executive Director; and Eric Trujillo, former ACI Director and current FABSIT Board member

January 23, 2010: Career Night for American School graduates; **New York City**. Details TBA.

February 6, 2010: Boston/Cambridge Alumni reception for school Directors and FABSIT **Winter Meeting**
...watch email, facebook, and our upcoming new website for details.

ACI update from Director Charles C. (Chris) Hanna

Springtime catches us at an exceptionally interesting and exciting period of the year. If you haven't checked ACI's website (www.aci.k12.tr) recently, you are missing out on more highlights than can be included in this brief FABSIT newsletter update.

Having just recently returned from a very successful teacher recruitment trip to the United States, with a most enjoyable ABH alumni reunion in Boston hosted by FABSIT, our efforts are now focused on the current and upcoming events which are turning the campus into a hub of activity, regionally as well as internationally.

Why is there so much going on at ACI? It literally boils down to "passion;" intense interest and motivation on the part of ACI faculty members to provide students and fellow teachers alike with rich educational experiences. The energy needed to organize and host such events would otherwise simply not materialize. To share a few, Sefa Akseki traveled with ACI students to Spain to continue

his ongoing promotion of the European Comenius Exchange Program. Eren Evren, with her husband, Dr. Serdar Eren, sponsored an Astronomy Day, attended by some 130 teachers and also organized related activities for students, all in honor of the 400th anniversary of the first use of the astronomical telescope by Galileo Galilei. Helen Özbay, with members of the English department, are also taking center stage by hosting this year's four day International Schools Theatre Association Festival (ISTA), bringing students and workshop presenters from across Europe to Izmir's ACI campus. After a short break, ACI will then host IB Day for International Baccalaureate teachers



3D sample drawing of a boarding room at the new Taner Hall

ISTA opening ceremony presentation of Hacivat and Karagöz by ACI students; ISTA participants working together in the ACI amphitheatre



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TAC update from Director Robert Mallett

As we come to the end of another school year, I am glad to have a moment to reflect on what has been a second consecutive year of improvement.

Our students understand and appreciate more completely their place in the school, helped by our administrators who have patiently applied the new honor code I mentioned last fall. Students are beginning to see that consequences flow naturally from actions, and that the learning of responsibility is not always smooth. This is difficult for many of our students who misunderstand the school's traditions. Much credit for improvement in this area must go to our assistant principals and Turkish vice-principal who have patiently worked very hard to increase students' acceptance of their responsibilities.

Our IB program has weathered a few storms this year, and has arrived in port wiser and more determined. Next year should mark an improvement, since our first fully trained IB coordinator will be with us from the beginning of the year. We are looking forward to his leadership of this flagship academic program. Also, more teachers will have been trained than ever before, and many of our Turkish colleagues will also receive the benefits of IB training. We will be working hard to ensure that our parents and students understand that the IB program differs little from the regular program of study offered at TAC. English, for example, will differ only in that a few assignments will be marked externally by IB markers for IB students, while the same assignment for non-IB students will be marked by their class teacher according to the same standards. As I mentioned last fall, the IB program can be the student's assurance of not taking a Prep year at college and the parents' assurance that they may not need to pay for one.

The new teachers who arrived last fall have proven to be the best group of new teachers in a decade. The standards of both academic effort and conduct have risen, not without a few challenges. Non-compliance with rules against plagiarism has not been tolerated, and self-reliant effort has been rewarded. As a result of more consistent application of

TAC Career Day participants



TAC at the basketball finals in Mersin

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ÜAA *update* from Director Whitman Shepard

We have reached the end of the 3rd quarter and are poised to complete a full year. In addition to our rigorous academic program we have enjoyed a wide variety of activities this year. I would like to draw your attention to some of them.

ÜAA hosted the 15th annual session of the Turkish International Model United Nations (TIMUN) conference in November. 400 students from 45 different schools attended the conference. There were 21 schools attending from outside Turkey. They came from the following countries: Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Kuwait, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Sweden and Switzerland. There were 24 schools from Ankara, Gebze, Istanbul, Izmir and Tarsus. This year we received good press coverage with a whole page devoted to TIMUN in the Turkish Daily News. This event continues to be the premier Model United Nations event in Turkey. Our MUN club has also participated in the following conferences: DSAMUN (Athens, Greece), THIMUN (Hague), ACMUN (Thessaloniki, Greece), MUNESCO – Ankara, Haarlem MUN (Holland), and RCIMUN (Robert College).

TIMUN conference in Istanbul at ÜAA



The Social Service Club with friends from the Hasan Tan Orphanage

This year our Social Service club realized a photography and book project related to the Hasan Tan Orphanage in Üsküdar. 18 orphans were invited to our campus. They each wore a different animal costume and their photos were taken by a professional photographer. Each child wrote a story and drew the picture of the animal whose

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

recent key activities from update by SEV Board of Directors Chairman Erhan Dumanlı, translated by Kenneth Frank

On March 12 the SEV American Hospital in Gaziantep celebrated the completion of the new 'Şifahane' Plaza, located at the hospital entrance. The Greater Gaziantep Municipality was instrumental in the redesigning of the plaza through architectural alterations and road works. Erhan



Erhan Dumanlı (above left), Chairman of the SEV Board of Directors, presenting a commemorative shield to Gaziantep Mayor Dr. Asım Güzelbey (right); the lamppost installed in the newly dedicated 'Şifahane Plaza' in front of the hospital.



Recent key activities at SAH:

- ◆ A multi-functional laser unit has been established in the Hospital's dermatology section. With 2940 nm waves, It can be used for facial resurfacing, elimination of scars, and cosmetic and other dermatological procedures.
- ◆ The contract was renewed for equipment in the central laboratory.
- ◆ The National Cigarette Health Committee recognized SEV American Hospital for its efforts toward a cigarette-free Turkey. A plaque was given to SAH at a ceremony on 2 April 2009 at Gaziantep University.

Dumanlı, Chairman of the SEV Board of Directors, therefore honored Mayor Asım Güzelbey at the ceremony with the presentation of a commemorative shield. The electric utility company also contributed to the plaza project by eliminating unsightly towers and above-ground cables. Now the venerable and esthetically pleasing old stone facade of the hospital building presents a new face to the public. For his part the mayor pledged to

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An article entitled “ **Creating the ‘New Woman’ in Early Republican Turkey: The Contributions of the American Collegiate Institute and the American College for Girls**” by FABSIT Friend, Dr. Faith Childress, appeared in the July 2008 issue of Middle East Studies. With help from Mr. Eric Trujillo during his tenure as ACI Director, Dr. Childress, Associate Professor of History at Rockhurst University, was able to research ACI’s archival material for the article including the lesson notebook left by Miss Olive Green. Dr. Childress is following up the ACI article with a piece on Zekiye Eglar

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A Living Example of Early Republican Turkey’s ‘New Woman’

The Izmir Konak sub-municipality has named a street in honor of Ayşe Mayda, 1937 graduate of ACI. A ceremony held on 6 March 2009 featured the unveiling of the new street sign.

Ayşe Mayda, daughter of one of Izmir’s leading families, was Izmir’s first female orthodontist. She has become well known through the years as a benefactor and contributor to charities and to educational and environmental projects. In the unveiling ceremony the Konak mayor called her an exemplary woman of the Turkish Republic. Reminding everyone that she saw Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in person twice in her lifetime, Ayşe Mayda still takes her place in the marches and parades to celebrate the principles of the Republic. She was present at the ground-breaking for the first Taner building on the ACI campus, and last year was present again at the beginning of construction of the new Taner Hall.

ACI is proud to have its graduate honored by the city in this thoughtful way. The street with Ayşe Mayda’s name runs beside her house in the Küçükyalı area of Izmir, not far from ACI. —submitted by Kenneth Frank



Ayşe Mayda at the unveiling ceremony on the arm of Yaşar Yaşer, former head of the SEV Board of Trustees. In the background is Piraye Erdem, ACI graduate and member of the SEV Board of Directors; the new street sign ready for unveiling.



SEV REPORT

SAĞLIK VE EĞİTİM VAKFI

by Erhan Dumanlı, Chairman of SEV Board of Directors, excerpted from his report to the SEV Trustees Meeting, 2 May 2009, translated by Kenneth Frank

“This year we are meeting in Gaziantep on the occasion of the 130th anniversary of our hospital. Last year we had the 120th year of Tarsus American and the 130th year of Izmir American. Below is the report on the work of our administrative bodies in these historical institutions for the first half of 2009.

In the last Trustees meeting the Head of our Trustees, Prof. Dr. İter Turan, declared that our Foundation has reached the stage of "rootedness in society," especially among our graduates. When we were celebrating our 40th anniversary last fall we endeavored to grow closer to our graduates.

In our most recent report we mentioned the efforts to update our graduate database. We have current information on about 6000 graduates in this online database. Each graduate was sent a DVD of a documentary on the Foundation prepared by Tolga Örnek and his group, together with a special inaugural issue of the *Buluşma* magazine covering the 40th anniversary activities, followed by a brochure introducing the Foundation. Now the May issue of *Buluşma* is on its way to the graduates.

School and Foundation administrators attended five teacher employment fairs abroad in January and February. Contracts were signed with a total of 17 international teachers. Using other channels both locally and abroad, six more international teachers were hired, meeting the international teacher needs of our schools.

As of the 2009-2010 school year, Izmir Collegiate Institute will resume a girls' boarding section. The implementation phase has begun, and the necessary changes have been made in the school regulations, with the approval of the Ministry of Education.

“... a total of seventeen students have received acceptances to prestigious American universities.”

According to the results for early acceptance applications of students seeking entrance to higher education institutions abroad, seven students from ACI, six from TAC and four from ÜAA, for a total of seventeen, have received acceptances to prestigious American universities.

The prep year is now compulsory in all of our high schools. A "Prep Handbook" has been prepared with a prep curriculum, which will help our teachers give the best possible English language education. The handbook also

news from the FABSIT Family.....

has the weekly class distribution, elective courses, textbooks, and all regulations pertaining to Prep. In addition to academic success, co-curricular activities are highly important to us. Two students from ÜAA represented their school in the European Youth Parliament in April. The Youth Parliament is a forum focused on the society in which young Europeans will live. ACI students won the privilege of showing two of

their projects in an Education and Science Fair organized by TUBITAK. ACI students also showed great success in their second foreign language by joining the "Le Gros Chantier Lise French Theater Festival," in which there were mostly French high schools. A Comenius Project prepared by Tarsus SEV students was greatly successful and was published as an

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The Teachers' Corner: "Where are they and what are they doing now...?"

Donald Barry (TAC '73-76) "Don was in the TAC Lise Math department and I taught the little Preps. We then moved to Robert College for 1976-1980 where Don again taught math in the Lise. Don's specialty at both schools was starting math competitions. Don, who has been at Phillips Academy since 1980, is on a Spring term sabbatical in Turkey. He is meeting with a number of schools — Koç, Bilkent, SEV schools — and starting an international math competition called IRML. He has worked with several of these schools' math teams and finds our Üsküdar team to be one of the best! He has really enjoyed working with them this Spring; they will participate in the IRML math competition on Saturday, May 30th along with many other teams from the US and around the world. Don is also studying Turkish again, which he has wanted to do for some time, and he is doing research on a book he hopes to write on the Talas school.

Don has traveled to Erzurum to see the school Arif Çağlar (Talas '58) helped build, and worked with their math teachers and students while there. One of the things Don has enjoyed the most is reconnecting with his students from both Tarsus and Robert College days. He has enjoyed their great hospitality and friendship! I look forward to joining Don for three weeks in June." — submitted by Roxanne Scott Barry (ÜAA '66)

Dave Donahue (TAC '77) "I've spent the last 27 years working with folks with developmental disabilities, and am now retired. I'm also re-editing a book about my time in Turkey with our little literary press RA PRESS. The book is called YABANCI but I was wondering if there is a specific Turkish word for expatriate that I might use instead. Will send FABSIT a copy as it really describes the school and the town in those days when Çukurova was described by the folks there as the Wild West.....

I came across this old photo and thought I'd share it. It was Tarsus in 1977 and I was meeting an Orta 1 class to tell the kids the classroom had changed. We all look



quite confused. A Lise student, Metin Gönen, was following me from a distance doing a photo study for his Photography class with Mr. Steve Coe. Metin showed me the shots later and we had a good laugh. It's kind of neat to have them now.

It all seems so long ago and then sometimes like yesterday. Have thought about doing a film about the school with its rich history, and with my son just out of NYU Film School, postproduction would be taken care of."

Isabel Hemingway passed away recently on February 1, 2009. She began her nursing career in China, then was transferred to Turkey where she served for twenty years, from 1953 to 1973. She worked with Dr. Nute at the Talas Clininc for her first five years in Turkey, then spent the next ten years at the Gaziantep American Hospital. She returned to the Talas Clininc for five more years before retiring in the United States. — submitted by Mary Alice Shepard



Isabel Hemingway and Dr. Nute with young patient at the Talas Clininc. Photo courtesy collection of Fikri Güler Dikmen (TAO '55-56)

Maxine Jacobson (TAC '72-77) visited her 'Orta 1 Boys' in Tarsus a few summers ago as illustrated in this picture from a local newspaper.



Professor Howard Reed (TAC) is contributing to a new book, Studies in Atatürk's Turkey—The American Dimension, Leiden; Brill, due out in June 2009.

Marion Cast Ruge (ACI '69-72) has recently retired and joined the Peace Corps with her husband, Alan. They will be in Ghana, West Africa for two and a half years.

■ *If you taught at ACI, TAC, ÜAA or Talas, your former students and fellow teachers want to know what you're doing now. Please sent your news to office@fabsit.org.* ■

ACI continued from page 2..

throughout Turkey under the theme “From Local to Global,” thanks to the organizational efforts of Mine Erim, our IB coordinator. Our new Taner building (for Prep and Lise 1 classes, with a new boarding facility on the top floor) is also nearing completion. Students add to the excitement by announcing their news of early acceptances, this year to Brown University, University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern, Emerson College and the University of Arts in London. Our ACI website will keep you up to date on these and other happenings at ACI.

This passion can also be experienced daily on the ACI campus, both within and outside classroom walls. “Passion” for what one believes in is the most important factor which strengthens personal and professional relationships among ACI faculty, students, and staff. Add a bit of sunshine, the Aegean climate and the beauty of the ACI campus and you’ll quickly understand why ACI remains so special to alumni and the school community alike.

We continue to look forward to welcoming you back to ACI on your next visit to Izmir. From the members of the ACI administration, our best wishes to all of you.



TAC continued from page 2...

rules our students are becoming more comfortable with the challenges of academic life.

Boarding at Tarsus was a much improved situation over previous years. Our boarders were kept busy and engaged in a variety of activities, including sports and social events supervised by our boarding supervisors and volunteer teachers. They undertook the daunting task of acting as parents to the boys and girls in moments when they needed direction and those times when they deserved applause. This first year of the new configuration has taught everyone much about the complexities of ensuring a home-away-from-home for students. The program will be stronger next year as we make adjustments.

In all this we have been aware of the role played by FAB-SIT, our other private supporters, and our alumni, who have all given us reliable assistance whenever we have asked. We hope to continue to develop these relationships to the benefit of all our students who continue to make us proud. To everyone who has sent their support, our sincere thanks.



Childress article continued from page 4...

(a student and teacher at ACI in the 1920s and '30s). She has an interest in the ACI staff and students from that period and is interested in hearing from “Among Friends” readers who may have information about, or memories of, Olive Green, Edith Parsons, Zekiye Eglar, or any of the Ataturk-period reforms. She would also like to connect with other scholars researching ACI. If you have such information or interest, or would like a copy of the article please email office@fabsit.org. ■

ÜAA continued from page 3...

costume they wore. The photographs will be exhibited in an art gallery downtown where the photographs will be sold. A book containing the stories and photographs will be published and sold. All profits will be donated to the Hasan Tan Orphanage.

Another Social Service Club project is the neighbor school theater project. Every Friday after school students from the club conducted rehearsals for Turgut Özakman’s “Ah Şu Gençler”. 32 students from the Bağlarbaşı Elementary School had roles in the play. ÜAA students were responsible for all the aspects of the play, including directing the play, designing the costumes, and arranging the décor. The play was staged at our school’s auditorium on Friday, April 3rd. Parents and teachers of the Bağlarbaşı Elementary School were joined by representatives of the Ministry of Education to witness an excellent performance.

Yusuf Kulca, the head of the Street Children Foundation, had a meeting with Prep students where he explained the facts about the lives of street children. Our Prep students have begun a fund raising project which will culminate with a concert at the end of the year during which a donation will be made to the foundation.

The Social Affairs Club has arranged popular trips to Kartalkaya for skiing, to Göynük and Beypazarı to see Ottoman village architecture, to Abant to frolic in the snow and to Barcelona to have a bit of Spring in Spain.

Our students have been demonstrating their mathematical skills in a wide variety of events. Koç University has hosted a high school math Olympiad where Prep student Kaan Cem Ketenci and 11th grader Tolga Özdoğan achieved success. At the Ministry of Education sponsored Istanbul Science Olympics 11th grader Tolga Özdoğan placed in the top ten out of 1500 participants. We have also participated in the Canadian Waterloo University’s Pascal, Fermat, and Cayley Competitions; the AMC (American Math Competition); the AIME (American Invitational Math Exam); and the national Tubitak Math Olympics. Students regularly attend activities of the Math Competition Club which take place after school every Friday.

6 of our students and a chemistry teacher took part in the 3rd Children’s World Water Forum. They spent several days in earnest discussion about the difficulties the world is facing with regards water shortages and focused on possible solutions. ÜAA also took part in the National Association of Independent Schools’ 20/20 Challenge with a project focusing on depletions of fisheries. An article was written and sent to Atlas magazine where it was published.

ÜAA hosted a concert given by the American School of London. This concert was part of a student musician program and culminated with choruses from both schools singing “Üsküdar’a Gider iken”. Our own musicians have recently traveled to Kiev where they gave concerts at the Kiev-Meridian High School and the Triumph High School.

Our Art Club has been active with visits to the Archeological Museum and exhibits of Salvador Dali and Chagall. Our Photography Club has been on trips to the SEVEN Lakes (Yedigöller), the Covered Bazaar and the Galata area of town. They have also organized a photography exhibit at a local gallery.

This year 10th grader Lotus Tüzün became the Istanbul Champion in fencing. She then parried her way to becoming Turkish Champion and now has been selected to be on the Turkish National Fencing Team. The ÜAA Boys Basketball team has become first in the Üsküdar County. They were joined on the podium by the ÜAA Swim Team.

4 students and a teacher have attended an International Esperanto Conference which took place in İznik. They were joined there by a multitude of Esperanto speakers from in and outside of Turkey.

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.



SAH continued from page 3...

continue renovating the neighborhood around the hospital in view of its historical value. He noted the importance of the city's creation of a wider connecting road that provides easier access for patients and ambulances. 'Şifahane' is Turkish for 'House of Healing' and was the name by which it was popularly known by Gaziantep residents in years past. Historian Dr. Brian Johnson appropriately applied the same name to the title of his brief history of the hospital's early years.



SEV continued from page 5...

exemplary project in the International School Services Spring 2009 issue of "Newslink." Tarsus and Üsküdar SEV continue their social service activities. In the carnival organized by TAC students there were various entertainments and food sales. The revenue obtained will be used to meet the needs of an elementary school in Urfa. Üsküdar SEV students organized activities in their school to benefit children in the Children's Surgery unit of the Istanbul University Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, by providing things to keep the children patients busy while in the hospital. The money will be used to establish an art area, plus a book and toy corner. We thank our students for their success and their social consciousness.

Graduation ceremony dates for our schools are:

Tarsus American: 5 June 2009

Izmir SEV: 10 June 2009

Izmir American: 15 June 2009

Üsküdar American: 17 June 2009

Üsküdar SEV: 18 June 2009

We wish all success to this year's graduates as they continue their education at higher levels.

The web site of the Üsküdar American Academy (www.uaa.k12.tr) has been revamped and is up and running. A new school administrative program, "Okulnet," is integrated with the web site. Our parents can now obtain information about their students (grades, attendance, lessons, and so on). This interactive and modern technological project has set an example for our other schools. During 2009 work will begin on renewing the web sites of our other schools.

The ECDL (European Computer Driving License) certification program began in the prep classes of Izmir American Collegiate Institute at the start of the 2008-2009 school year, following months of preparation from March 2008 onward. The purpose is to increase computer usage skills among our students. The ECDL program is being applied to Prep (4 modules/4 exams) and Lise 1 (3 modules/3 exams). The aim is to implement the program in our other schools following an evaluation at the end of its first year.

Plans are being made for an official opening at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year, or at the end of the current school year, of the nearly completed and rebuilt Taner Hall at ACI.

SEV-YAY's "Redhouse Mobil" dictionary project has reached the sales stage. It is designed for use with new mobile applications (Windows Mobile, Palm, and Symbian 60). Dictionary products that will work with the Apple I-Phone are about to be completed. As for hard copy dictionaries, the Redhouse Thematic Dictionary Series has started, using 3 different freelance editors. The plan is to complete the first three products of this series by the end of the year. The purpose of this dictionary project is not simply to achieve direct sales but also to increase the prestige of the Redhouse brand and open the door to sponsored dictionary projects in other areas. Using its own staff, SEV-YAY also intends to issue by the end of the year a Redhouse Elementary School Dictionary, a Redhouse Dictionary of Proverbs, and a Redhouse Dictionary of Sayings. Our fifth book in the Redhouse Education Series, "Thinking Styles," is being prepared for sale in May.

In addition to its publication work, SEV-YAY has begun taking measures as summer approaches to provide for existing textbooks, student stationery supplies,



For the full text of Mr. Dumanlı's report please send a request via email to office@fabsit.org.

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“Thank You.”

Our schools in İstanbul, İzmir and Tarsus, the SEV Gaziantep American Hospital, and FABSIT thank YOU, our generous donors, for your gifts received from November 15, 2008 to May 31, 2009.

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