Merhaba/Greetings,

In this first newsletter of our Center, I would like to introduce you to what is happening in Contemporary Turkish Studies at our University. Since its establishment in late 1990s, our program grew rapidly and now comprises an exciting research center, Center for Turkish Studies, and a certificate program in Contemporary Turkish Studies (CTS).

Funds for the CTS come from three sources. First was a generous grant from the Turkish government to fund a position of endowed chair in CTS and a grant from the Institute of Turkish Studies at Georgetown University to partially fund a faculty position in Modern Turkish Language in the Department of World Languages. These funds were generously complemented by Portland State University and started what has become a unique academic program in the U.S.

Our Center is an interdisciplinary institution that brings together faculty and students from across Portland State and other institutions of higher education across the U.S., Turkey, and Cyprus to work on collaborative projects. As one of few such Centers in the United States, our Center’s goal is to promote scholarly works focusing on Contemporary Turkish Studies and advance public awareness about Turkey and the Turkic world. In that regard, we aim to:

- Carry out academic research and education on the culture, history, and contemporary political economy of Turkey and the Turkic world,
- Organize international conferences and meetings,
- Promote greater understanding between American and Turkish citizens, businesses, and public officials,
- Arrange industry & NGO specific training and education seminars,
- Provide private and public sector consulting on topics pertaining to contemporary business, economics, finance, and politics in Turkey and the Turkic world that include:
Announcement

Study Abroad Program in Istanbul
Politis, Religion and Globalization in Modern Turkish Society

July 4–29, 2011

Center for Turkish Studies/International Studies Program &
Marmara University Middle East Studies Institute

Contact: Dr. Tugrul Keskin

- Policy evaluation (micro and macroeconomic policy),
- Risk assessment (economics and politics), and
- Program evaluation

Since its establishment, our Center signed collaboration agreements with institutions of higher learning in Turkey to promote faculty and student exchange and collaborations. These agreements aim to promote academic research and educational goals of PSU and showcase the university’s rich course offering and research activities in contemporary Turkish Studies across four departments and two colleges. Students who major in International Studies, World languages, History, Economics, and Political Science benefit from obtaining the Certificate in CTS.

This option enables students to be competitive in the job market. The U.S. federal government lists contemporary Turkish language, politics, and economics as a target field for recruitment. Graduates would have high degree of knowledge of the modern Turkish language, understanding of the modern Turkish world and its significance for the West-East linkage in world affairs, key role the Turkish economy plays in the new emerging markets of the financial system of the global economy (at present citizens from 71 countries own property and/or businesses in Turkey), the complexity of political and economic transformation of modern Turkey from its Ottoman history and the uniqueness of this experience in the Islamic world.

The CTS program enriches the university’s academic offerings and contributes to President’s internationalization initiative. It also enhances our community outreach efforts by facilitating participation in school programs, public programs, and networking that includes Oregon International Council, Oregon Multi-Cultural Educational Association and local ethnic communities.
At present, upon invitation of PSU’s President Wiewel, I am working with Vice President Aylmer, Associate Vice Provost Hoffman, Vice Provost Latz, Deans Kaiser and Wallack, and Director of Major Gifts for Strategic Initiatives Alves to outline our university’s strategies and goals for Contemporary Turkish Studies and Center for Turkish Studies. Our center’s faculty members have provided valuable recommendations on these matters and we are excited about the future of Contemporary Turkish Studies at PSU. We are focusing on signing collaboration agreements with prestigious universities in Turkey, promoting student and faculty exchange programs, study abroad program in Turkey, recruiting Turkish students to study at PSU, expanding the reach of the Center for Turkish Studies in scholarship and outreach. Of course, none of these can be achieved without substantial fund raising. With the assistance of PSU’s Office of Major Gifts we will launch a major capital campaign to establish key partnerships with private donors and foundations who are friends of Contemporary Turkish Studies.

Our webpage provides current information on Center’s academic and outreach activities. You can see research and teaching interests of our faculty, their current research, and publications. In addition, we started an online publication of Occasional Papers that can be found under Research. Please visit us at http://www.pdx.edu/Turkish_Studies_Center. We welcome your comments and suggestions. You can also write to us at Turkish@pdx.edu.

Sincerely,

Birol Yeşilada
Professor & Director
Contemporary Turkish Studies Chair
Consul General’s Visit

Portland State University Center for Turkish Studies, in partnership with the Middle East Studies Center and Mark O. Hatfield School of Government, hosted a reception in honor of Consul General Hakan Tekin on October 18, 2010. During his 3 day visit, Consul General met with the members of the Portland business community and Portland Business Alliance at the Portland Business Alliance Center. The meeting was sponsored by Mr. Scott Goddin, Director of Portland U.S. Export Assistance Center. Consul General, Mr. Goddin, Dr. Yesilada and business leaders discussed how Turkish consulate and PSU Center for Turkish Studies could assist Portland businesses in reaching out to the Turkish market and funding opportunities for businesses and joint ventures in Turkey. Consul General Tekin met with PSU’s Turkish Studies faculty as well as President Wiewel, Dean of CUPA Larry Wallack, Dean of CLAS Marvin Kaiser and Director of Hatfield School of Government Ron Tammen.

In these discussions, Consul expressed his office’s willingness to assist PSU in furthering development of Contemporary Turkish Studies program and Center for Turkish Studies at PSU. As a result of these discussions, President Wiewel formed a task force of university leaders to prioritize strategic goals to this end. The task force is chaired by the director of Center and will address the following:

- Collaboration agreement with reputable Turkish Universities for student and faculty exchange and possibly establish a dual undergraduate degree program(s)
- Student recruitment from Turkey
- Placing the Center for Turkish Studies on a solid financial ground so that it can promote scholarly activities and outreach of our faculty and students
- Fundraising by identifying potential donors in the US and Turkey
- Look into grant and endowment opportunities to hire additional faculty
- Summer study abroad program
Visiting Scholars of CTS

One significant function of the Center for Turkish Studies is to facilitate faculty collaboration between PSU and Turkish universities. In this capacity, the Center has been a temporary home for visiting scholars from Turkey who came to PSU for furthering their respective research agenda. Over the years, these visiting faculty included Prof. Dr. Erdinc Telatar and Prof. Dr. Funda Telatar from Department of Economics at Hacettepe University. These two scholars spent their one-year sabbatical leave period at the Center between 2005 and 2006. Zvi Raanan (d. 2010) from World Bank and Haifa University joined us as a scholar in residence from 2000 to 2010. He was a transportation economics expert in the Middle East.

In 2011, the Center has issued invitations to Professors Mehmet Sahin (Department of International Studies, Gazi University), Harun Arikan (Department of International Studies, Cukurova University) and Huseyin Seyhanlioglu (Department of International Relations, Dicle University) to spend up to 9 months at PSU for research collaboration. Our goal is to have annual exchange of this kind to advance scholarship and academic collaboration between PSU and Turkish Universities.
Merhaba! Greetings from the Turkish Language and Literature section in the Department of World Languages and Literatures (WLL). I am pleased to be able to address you through the newsletter of the Turkish Studies Center. The Turkish section in WLL has grown considerably since the time when full-time, two-year instruction began in 1997.

Today, we are able to offer 3 to 4 years of Turkish instruction and a number of literature and culture courses. These include modern Turkish literature and culture, Turkish film, and women and gender in Turkey.

Along with language instruction, these courses enrich the curriculum of the “WLL minor in Turkish”- a minor much like any other, offered in fields like French, German and Spanish. We have graduated several classes now with the Turkish minor.

Turkish is not a cognate language with English. It requires a good deal of investment of time and effort. Several of our program’s students have won special recognition for their hard work and dedication.

These include Mr. Ryan Goodwin, who received the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) scholarship to study advanced Turkish at Boğaziçi University (2009); Mr. Daniel Auger, who was awarded by the federal government the Boren scholarship to conduct research in Turkey (2010-11); Ms. Katherine Krueger and Ms. Michelia Kramer, who were among last year’s (2010 summer) recipients of the US Department of State Critical Languages Scholarships.

Others like Ms. Mija Sanders and Mr. Josef Burton were accepted into prestigious graduate programs—the University of Arizona and the University of Washington in Seattle, respectively. Ms. Sanders had also received an internship at the United States Embassy in Ankara (2009).

As federal grants and student interest increase in various disciplinary areas for the study of Turkish, we look ahead confidently. PSU offers a unique focus on contemporary Turkey and supports the teaching of language and culture through its other programs in political science, history, and international studies.
These assets promote the success and engagement of our students.

Turkish is a significant part of the language, literature and culture offerings in the Middle East area of the Department of World Languages and Literatures (WLL).

The strengths of the program were recognized by reviewers during PSU’s last and successful bid for Title VI funding, in which language programs played a critical role. Thanks to the Foreign Language Area Scholarships (FLAS) that PSU received, qualified intermediate and advanced students of Turkish can now apply for financial support.

In this year’s cycle, a third-year Turkish student, Ms. Michelia Kramer, was awarded a FLAS undergraduate scholarship. Michelia looks ahead to graduating with an anthropology degree, including a WLL minor in Turkish. She is a visual artist, a wonderful photographer, and a student of visual anthropology and gender. Through departmental support and university agreements with Fulbright, the Turkish section in WLL is fortunate to receive Fulbright Language Teaching Assistants (FLTA) every year for nine-month academic cycles. In June we were sad to bid farewell to Mr. Devrim Günay, the Turkish FLTA for 2009-10, who returned to his assistantship and Ph.D. work in Istanbul University.

In September, we were excited to welcome the new Turkish FLTA, Ms. İlçay Tuzcu Tigli. İlçay holds a BA and an MA from Turkish universities and teaches as an instructor in İstanbul’s Kültür University.

Until June 2011, İlçay will contribute to our section as an instructor of the second-year sequence. She also runs a Turkish conversation club for continuing Turkish students and alumni. The club meets weekly (except holidays) in Smith Student Union (2nd floor) of PSU.

For more information on the conversation club you can write to İlçay Tuzcu Tigli at ilkay@pdx.edu. We are fortunate to host a capable young instructor like her.
During Fall 2010, the Turkish section offered first, second and third-year instruction, as well as a class on women and gender in Turkey (TUR 331U). Among our offerings for the 2010-2011 academic year is an exciting film course, TUR 361U, Turkey Through Film, also approved as an elective for the Film Minor in English and the Film Major in Theater Arts. It is scheduled for Spring 2011. Language classes only begin in Fall, but one can be placed into an ongoing sequence.

Get ready to join us to read, write and discuss, for Turkish is hot!

Sevgiler,
Dr. Pelin Basci
Associate Professor of Turkish
Department of World Languages and Literatures

Announcements

Grant Applications—Institute for Turkish Studies—Deadline March 11, 2011

• Dissertation Writing Grant
• Summer Language Study Grant
• Post-doctoral Summer Travel Grant
• Grant for Undergraduate Study
• Matching Seed-Money Grant for New Positions in Turkish Studies for Institutions
• Matching Seed-Money Grant for New Positions in Turkish Language Instruction for Institutions
• Matching Lecture, Conference, and Workshop Grant
• Grant for the Publication of Scholarly Books and Journals
• Teaching Aids Grant
• Library Acquisitions Grant
• Sabbatical Grant

Application materials can be obtained at Institute for Turkish Studies

The Institute of Turkish Studies
Intercultural Center • Box 571033 • Room # 305 R
Georgetown University • Washington, D.C. 20057-1033

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E-Mail: dcc@turkishstudies.org
During January 14-18, 2010, Professor Birol Yesilada (Director, Center for Turkish Studies at PSU) and Professor Harry Anastasiou (Conflict Resolution Program at PSU) led a team of internationally recognized scholars of International Conflict Resolution and organized a Peace Symposium on Cyprus at George Mason University’s ICAR Point of View International Conflict Resolution Center.

The project team included Professor Emeritus George Mitchell (ICAR of George Mason University), Professor Ron Fisher (the International Peace and Conflict Resolution Program of American University), Professor Benjamin Broome (the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication of Arizona State University), and Professor Diana Chigas (the Fletcher School of Diplomacy of Tufts University). Primarily the Jubitz Family Foundation of Portland Oregon funded the project with additional funds provided by American University and George Mason University.

The workshop was a continuation of a planned series of meetings which started in December 2009 with a meeting of Greek and Turkish Cypriot civil society representatives and persons close to policy leaders to discuss a strategy for supporting and promoting the peace process.

One of the clear conclusions of the meeting was that, while public opinion amongst Greek and Turkish Cypriots regarding a settlement has diverged, for once, key non-Cypriot stakeholders appeared to converge around the view that a settlement to the Cyprus problem would be in their interest. The 2009 participants thus stressed that non-Cypriot stakeholders, especially Greece and Turkey, but other key third parties needed to play a key long-term role in maintaining momentum towards an agreement.

Consequently, the January 2011 follow-up workshop focused on mapping out what might be done by important non-Cypriot stakeholders - cautiously and with sensitivity – to: (a) Support the peace process on Cyprus and, (b) Help move public opinion in the Cypriot communities towards agreement and support for a likely final settlement.

The process of participation was on unofficial capacity that enabled individuals to openly share their personal views with an emphasis on diagnosis of the current situation and the generating creative options resulting from the joint wisdom. Individuals thus participated in their individual capacity and not as representatives of any official body.
PARTICIPANTS:

Organizers:
Harry Anastasiou and Birol Yeşilada (Portland State University)
Benjamin J. Broome (Arizona State University)
Christopher Mitchell (George Mason University)
Ronald Fisher (American University)
Diana Chigas (The Fletcher School, Tufts University)
Susan Allen Nan (George Mason University)

Turkish Cypriots
1. Mustafa Ergün Olgun (advisor to President Eroğlu of The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus)
2. Bülent Kanol (NGO director)
3. Hasan Hastürer (Journalist)

Greek Cypriots
1. Andreas Paraschos (Journalist)
2. Michalis Avraam (NGO director)
3. George Loukaides (Member of Central Committee AKEL and close associate of President Christofias of Republic of The Republic of Cyprus)

Greece
1. Paulina Lamps (Member of Greek-Turkish Forum and close associate of PM Papandreou)
2. Philippos Savvides (Member of foreign policy advisors of PM Papendreau)
3. Takis Michas (Journalist)

Turkey
1. Yaşar Yakış (member of the Parliament, Chairman Parliamentary Commission on EU Harmonization and former Foreign Minister)
2. Cüneyt Ulsever (Journalist)

US
1. John McDonald (Chairman and CEO, Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy)
2. Louise Diamond (President, Global Systems Initiatives)

Observers:
Al Jubitz (The Jubitz Family Foundation)
Ray Jubitz (The Jubitz Family Foundation)
Portland State University Center for Turkish Studies

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