



ALMA MATER

newsletter

SAĞLIK VE EĞİTİM VAKFI / HEALTH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION

ISSUE : 12

In June our first graduates of the new millenium joined our alumni/ae community of some eleven thousand members! In this issue we are pleased to publish the commencement speeches from the three ABH schools; you will see that the emotions of senior students about to leave their school resemble one another regardless of the year they graduate.

As we begin the 2000-2001 school year, there are some administrative changes occuring: at ACI in İzmir, Dr. Frederick Thompson concluded his service and moved to Cairo, as the headmaster of an American school. Hale Baran, who served as Turkish Vice Principal since 1996 is returning to her real love in the chemistry classroom. Kenneth Frank, who has taught math at ACI since 1984, is serving as interim Superintendent; Güler Erdur (ACI '70) moves from her post as lise dean into the Vice Principalship, and Didem Erpolat (ACI '87), who has been teaching history at her alma mater since 1993 and served as Social Studies Department Head , moves into the Dean's office.

At Üsküdar, Tülin Büyükalkan (ÜAA '65) completes her tenure as Turkish Vice Principal, a post she held since 1993; Nilgün Erdine has been appointed to fill the position for the ensuing year. Tülin Hanım is assuming a new position in the SEV/ABH office as the Education Coordinator for all our educational enterprises. She will be joined in late September by Dr. Robert Keller, former principal at Talas Amerikan Ortaokulu as SEV's Education Advisor to replace John Chalfant. Mr. Chalfant, former headmaster at Robert College and founding head of the Koç Lisesi, worked as the Advisor for the last seven years. Mr. Chalfant had been interim principal at ÜAA during the 1992-1993 school year.

We wish to express our gratitude to all those who are completing their work and extend best wishes to those beginning new ventures. Hayırlı uğurlu olsun!

CALL FOR INTERESTED PARTIES

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A UNIVERSITY STUDENT

SEV as the foundation provided TL 980,000,000,000 for around 500 SEV/ABH Schools students as well as 42 university students for the academic year of 1999-2000. We are proud of supporting needy students but sorry for not being able to meet needs of all the applicants.

Each year over a hundred university students apply to SEV for a scholarship. However, it is not possible within our budget to give scholarship to all the applicants. This year we are providing approximately 50 students with TL 300,000,000 per student for a period of nine months. These students are all from lower income groups and need even this small amount of money desperately.

For this reason, we are inviting our interested graduates and friends to help us in our efforts to help these hardworking students in need. You, individually or as a class, can donate TL 300,000,000 per student in two installments. As a privileged group we believe it is our duty to help the less privileged. For a better Turkey, we need better educated people.

For more information please call Mehlika Yaylalı at (212) 514 15 74.

Alma Mater Newsletter

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S U M M E R 2 0 0 0

COMMENCEMENT SPEECH FROM ERDEN TEMUR, TAC CLASS OF 2000



It is the first time for the past 18 years that I have such a feeling inside my body-making it hard to breathe, making it hard to find a way to really cease the pain I am suffering through. It is the first time in the past 18 years that I really feel "time is the enemy." But we, as the graduates of 2000, always believe that in this game of survival, we have raced head

to head with time. When I look back at my past, I can easily see class of 2000 successfully filling every moment of 7 years with happiness, friendship, unity and unforgettable memories. It was always likely that we succeeded to shape the way time flew in this small community of TAC. If good days are one in a million, then it was actually at least a billion years we spent at TAC - back to back, shoulder to shoulder.

The reason for this feeling inside me is something about the way you look at us today. As I am standing here, looking at every single eye in front of me I just start to feel that the distance growing between us- the distance I should go to reach you all, to grab you all, to touch you all- seems to be far more than the distance between the world and the moon. But it isn't the distance we have been wondering about our lives- wondering how it would be like to love you and keep you as part of my heart even when I am so far away. There will be obstacles blocking your way and our way when we both need each other- but obstacles are made to pass over, that's why they are there for. As someone once said, "Kites arise against



the wind - not with it." I am sure life won't be as cute as the days we spent here at TAC, but I am also sure that a TAC graduate is always capable of taking the wind at his back, no matter what the conditions are.

To me, 2000 has been the rebirth of TAC. We have risen up to a point where the faculty and the students cooperate to make TAC most ideal place for learning. However, it is not the courses we take that make us different from our rivals, it is the way we learn to live our lives in our own way at TAC. We have our own style while passing through the obstacles, we have our style while dealing with problems, having



fun, and we have our own style even while there is something to cry for. And my friends, there is something to cry for today. I am crying because we, as the class of 2000, we believe that we have opened the doors for TAC leading to its golden days again. But the class of 2000 won't be here any more as the leading figures, watching TAC moving smoothly towards the inevitable perfect end. Everything is now up to you, my friends, everything is up to you.

I thank everyone sharing these last moments of Class 2000 here at TAC today. There are certain moments in history that make changes in the direction time flows, and this moment is likely to be one of them. No, we are not afraid of storms any more, since we are taught how to sail our ship. And no, I don't feel that time is the enemy anymore- let time be afraid of us: after we fall into the midst of life, we will probably be making so many changes that it will definitely be hard for time to catch up. 2000 is leaving you " a whole new world and a fantastic point of view." As I watch the final curtain going down, there is one last quote that comes to my mind:

"When I knock on your door someday, remember, remember, remember me without looking at my face my friends. /May the rose rise up to meet you. /May the wind be at your back. For good."

TAC CLASS OF 1963 FINALLY HAD THEIR CAP AND GOWN CEREMONY

“At TAC , we can’t get the students to leave!” jokes the Superintendent, Dr. Mitchell. For the class of 1963, it’s taken 37 years, but finally they have had their graduation ceremony and closed that chapter. Professor Aykut Toros, a member of the SEV Board of Directors, tells the story why his class failed to graduate.



“At our Senior year we had some problems with one of our teachers - the man who supervised our dorm. He took his job very seriously. After ‘lights out’ he continued to check on us with his flashlight throughout the night. He would turn his flashlight on and checked on us the whole night. One night, as a prank, we all collected pebbles from the garden, and after dark began to drop them on the hardwood floor, one by one, throughout the room. The teacher was chasing noises all night long, up and down the dorm, growing more and more furious all the time. He complained



to Dr. Maynard, the Principal, and a disciplinary case was brought against us. All the Senior boarders were expelled from the school. In line with the spirit of TAC, the whole class (49 of us) decided to announce that we would boycott the graduation ceremony. Because 1963 was the 75th anniversary of the school’s founding, we thought the ceremony was an important event for the history of TAC.

“ But things did not happen exactly the way we had planned. The school administration accepted our protest and the commencement ceremony did not happen. (Later we learned that because the school had been closed during the war, the 75th anniversary was celebrated in 1964.) The Junior Class protested on our behalf, and for the first time in Turkish history there was a legal public protest rally: the class marched from the city park to the Central Square and placed a wreath at the Atatürk memorial there.

“So as the class of 1963, we finally have arranged our ‘cap and gown’ ceremony with the Class of 2000, at their invitation. It feels good to be a TAC graduate who has gone through all the required ceremonies.”



S U M M E R 2 0 0 0

ANNOUNCEMENT

**Visible Islam in Modern Turkey* by Kenneth Frank and Adil Özdemir is published. Interested parties can order the book from SEV-Yay. Call Arman Akbay from (212) 520 00 90.

* Our web-site www.sevakfi.org awaits your visits! You can update your personal information and find out about our Foundation, have links to your schools!

VALEDICTORIAN ZEYNEP ALP'S SPEECH AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF CLASS OF 2000 IN ÜSKÜDAR AMERICAN ACADEMY

There are those who say that we are gathered today to celebrate an ending, others say it's a beginning. Both are right. This is an ending for some and a beginning for others.

Today is an ending. It is the end of a seven-year-long process, a race. We spent 7 years of our lives in this school for better or worse, with laughter and with tears. Since each journey begins and ends with a single step, today is the last step in our journey at Üsküdar American Academy. From now on, we will talk about our Alma Mater in the past tense. So June 24, is an ending.

On the other hand, today we are presented with the key to the new lives. It's the first step on our new journeys. Seven years ago our parents turned us over, bewildered and confused, to our teachers at ÜAA. Now, in the same place, the faculty returns us



to our parents, but what changes there have been! Our teachers, our parents, even these buildings which are the silent witnesses to our growth, are all changed. And we, most of all. Everything in this school has grown and developed with us.

So I want to thank our teachers, those who are present today and those who are not. I thank our parents who gave us the opportunity to study here and everybody else who supported us during this journey, on behalf of my classmates and myself.

I personally want to thank one more institution: YÖK (The Council on Higher Education). Not for their



responsibility in causing nightmares we have all suffered during the past academic year, but because it made me realize another side of friendship-the part that suffers and supports together in times of trouble and stress. If we are standing solidly on both feet at this moment, we owe that in part to one another and to our friendship; in this way, YÖK has helped me realize what real friendship is.

Each person has only one life to live. For this reason we should do our best and ask only for the best from others. As I leave the iron gates of this school for the last time as a student, I will keep this as my target. And there is one more thing: to be myself no matter what the others may say. My school has taught me - has taught us all- this during our time we have spent here: happiness in life is in being yourself. One of my friends had told me once that each ending bears new beginnings, new horizons; here we stand tall, at one of those endings, aiming to reach the new horizon.



İSTEMİHAN TALAY VISITS HIS ALMA MATER

İstemihan Talay (TAC '64), Turkish Minister of Culture visited Tarsus and TAC with CBS crew to document important historical sites and historic TAC he attended, on 10 August 2000. This film segment will be part of a CBS production discussing how Turkey must save her historic culture and meet the electrical power expansion.

(From left) Ali Ülger, Subgovernor of Tarsus; Dr. Mitchell (TAC Superintendent); Jale Sever (Principal of Tarsus SEV Elementary School); CBS anchorwoman, İstemihan Talay; Muhteşem Ekenler; Güner Baykal; (Sitting) Ethem Sarı, Director of Ministry of Education of Tarsus



TÜLİN BÜYÜKALKAN SAYS FAREWELL TO ÜAA

AS SHE STARTS HER NEW POST AS THE SEV/ABH EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Dear Teachers, Alumni and Students,

In many of my speeches or writings in newsletters, I have talked about change and how we should cope with change. Today I am also part of that change.

I came to this school at the age of eleven as a Hazırlık student and except for the years at higher education, I spent almost a lifetime here. I worked as a teacher, Lise Dean and principal all in all 32 years at ÜAA. During my principalship with Mr. Heard, we, as the school community have all witnessed big changes we tried to ease the difficulties arising from them. Here is a list of some of these changes:

- *Becoming a co-ed school and graduating the first co-ed class;
- *Establishment of the SEV Elementary School in line with the Elementary Education Law;
- *Sharing the campus with the SEV Elementary School;
- *Building Morgan Hall, Elementary School building; foreign teacher lodging;
- *Renovation of all buildings;
- *Renovation of Kinney Cottage, which is Alumni Center right now;
- *Setting up our present computer center;
- *Starting computer-assisted teaching;
- *Computerizing all offices;
- *Success in TÜBİTAK, ECIS Math Competitions; MUN; Science, Sports and Drama Festivals;
- *Starting the Lise Hazırlık program;
- *The most important of all, success in university exams and placement in foreign universities.
- *In short, changing from a modest school to an outstanding, leading school.

If we share this pride today, it is because we all worked very hard as a team: administrators, teachers, parents and students.

Today I am honored to take this new position as the Education Coordinator of Üsküdar American Academy, American Collegiate Institute at İzmir, Tarsus American College and all the SEV Elementary Schools and I thank the American Board and the SEV Foundation for supporting and entrusting me with this honorable job.

Dear teachers, students and our loyal graduates, I salute you all with love and respect and wish you a very successful year.



At the head office John Chalfant was our “Can Amca”, or “Candyman.” We love him dearly, not just because he provided chocolate and candy, but also because it was an honor to share his wisdom and experience on many subjects. Our educational institutions owe a great deal to him, for he was present to create solutions to many of the institutional problems which arose with the change of the education law in 1997. We thank him for everything. On the left is his “previous job description,” which reflects his personality written by Alan McCain.

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR JOHN CHALFANT

To write with wit
 And sit in committee
 Tees endlessly;

To quip and quote
 From source remote
 Or pithy;

To teach, and research
 With sweetness
 And sincerity;

To cheer; to hear
 Clearly and reflect
 Brightly but not tritely;

To prod and probe
 To clap and goad
 And share the load;

To summarize
 Gently chastise
 And organize

Rarest of gentlemen;
 From one to ten
 You rate 11!



Mr. John Chalfant and some of the SEV employees, at the luncheon to honor Mr. Chalfant's seven years of service at SEV as the Education Adviser. (From Left Standing: Emi Celardin (İzmir SEV Pre-School Director), Gülgün Ballı, Neriman Kırbeyli, Nurten Şengöz, John Chalfant, Sabahat Yenibayrak, Barış Boy, Mehlika Yaylalı, Alina Turtoi (ABH Relief Coordinator), Sitting: Canan Erdoğan, İlgin Sevim)

NEW FOREIGN TEACHERS STARTED THEIR POSTS AFTER FOUR DAYS OF ORIENTATION HOSTED BY ÜAA



This year 52 new foreign teachers joined the SEV/ABH schools. Shortly after their arrival to their locations (11 to İstanbul, 20 to İzmir and 21 to Tarsus), they and their Superintendents were hosted by ÜAA for a short orientation program. They were introduced with the Turkish Education System, Turkish Language and Culture, and had the opportunity to see various sights of İstanbul.



COMMENCEMENT SPEECH OF IRENE FRANK, ACI '00



Irene and Kenneth Frank at the Graduation Ball

Eğer okulunuzu seviyorsanız, onu bir okul olarak görmediğiniz içindir. Kimse ders gördüğü yeri sevmez. İnsanlar doyusuya yaşadıkları yerleri severler. ACI'yı seviyorsanız, orada yedi yıl boyunca güldüğünüz için, ağladığınız için seviyorsunuz. ACI da sizi seviyorsa, binalar sızisiz aynı olmayacaksa, burada yaşadığınız içindir. Adınız okulun her köşesine görünen ya da görünmeyen harflerle yazılıysa, ACI'yı bir okuldan daha yakın bir şey gibi gördüğünüz içindir. Yani - bilindik bir terim kullanalım- ikinci evinizse okulunuz, o zaman yedi yıllık bir ilişkinin bitimi sizi hüznlendirebilir.

Uç bir örnek olduğumu biliyorum, ama ACI benim ikinci değil, düpedüz evim. Popo üstü merdiven inip çıkmayı Bristol merdivenlerinde öğrendim. Yanaklarım ilk defa anfinin önünde sıkıldı, böylece ilk defa "garip Türk adetleri" diye nitelendirdiğim davranışlarla karşılaştım. "Students" dediğim, korkunç insan topluluğundan kaçarak saklambaç oynamayı öğrendim. Kavgalarımı orda ettim, ACI ağaçlarına tırmanıp orada mahsur kaldım. Hayatımda ilk kez bir amaç edindim kendime, ACI'ya girdim, studentlardan biri oldum. ACI benim evim, o yüzden mezun olduğumu hissetmiyorum. Ondan kopamayacağımı biliyorum.

Sizlere evler hakkında başka insanların söylediği, ama benim aklıma okulumun yeşil çamlarını getiren bir kaç söz paylaşmak istiyorum.

Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam,

Be it ever so humble there is no place like home. (John Howard Payne)

Where we love is home,

There is no place more delightful than home. (Marcus Tullius Cicero)

A man travels the world in search of what he needs and returns home to find it. (George Ucere)

This is the nature of home - it is the place of peace; the shelter not only from all injury, but from all terror, doubt and division. (John Ruskin)

You can't appreciate home till you've left it [just as you can't appreciate] money till it's spent. (O. Henry)

It takes a heap of living in a house to make it a home. (Edgar Albert Guest)

(Irene, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Frank's daughter, was born in İzmir in 1983, when Franks started to work in ACI. She is the valedictorian of her class. As a native speaker of English, she gave her speech in Turkish. We have decided to leave the speech as it is.)



The SEV Board of Directors and ABH administration made revisions on our mission statement as there have been institutional changes in our educational enterprises with the addition of SEV Schools. Below is the revised Mission Statement.

MISSION OF SEV/ABH SCHOOLS

The mission of SEV/ABH Schools is to contribute to the growth of individuals who combine self confidence with a firm sense of personal and social responsibility. We aim to enable our students:

- to develop a passion for life long learning and serving humanity;
- to acquire the qualities needed to lead a fulfilling life;
- to accumulate the knowledge and skills for success in higher educational levels.

ATMOSPHERE OF EDUCATION

The SEV/ABH Schools , with over one hundred and twenty years of experience, engage students in enriched academic and extra-curricular programs in a multi-cultural and multi-lingual environment. The activities in our Schools are designed to encourage, challenge, and enable students to reach their potential in mind, body, and spirit. Our method of education is to teach students proper behavior through student centered, interactive participation and scientific inquiry.

VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

While applying our philosophy of education we believe:

- that present and future generations can best be developed and protected by **individuals whose IQ (intellectual quotient) and EQ (emotional quotient) are developed in a balanced way**, who have the intelligence, education and compassion to serve our nation and humanity, **persons of the higher principles, honest in word and in spirit;**
- that the nurturing of such **balanced individuals requires an education of the whole person: the mind, body, and the spirit**, both inside and outside the classroom;
- that **personal attention** builds self-respect and self- confidence and develops the potential of each individual;
- that **sustained personal development** calls for ability to work as part of a team and the humility to learn from the experience of the others;
- that individuals should first develop characteristics of **honesty** but also **altruism, respect for personal rights, tolerance, generosity, integrity, satisfaction from learning, perseverance, self-discipline, and effective use of time;**
- that social awareness, leadership skills, critical thinking, communication abilities, fiscal responsibility, and individual expression are fostered through **active participation in democratic institutions and philanthropic organizations;**
- that we should provide consistent and mature samples of a Turkish-Western **synthesis of culture**, and that the best education is by setting good examples.

The SEV/ABH Schools strive to create an environment to protect and develop these values and behavior patterns as the norm consistently accepted and practiced by all members of the school community.