The Light Millennium
and The College of Arts and Letters
at the Stevens Institute of Technology

PIioneer OF THE MILLENNIUM
DEVELOPMENT GOALS: 
ATATÜRK

19-20 April 2013
Burchard Auditorium
Stevens Institute of Technology,
Corner of 6th & River Streets
Hoboken, New Jersey

Friday, April 19, 2013 - 5:00 pm.

High Level Inaugural Panel
Dedicated to: MDG#8 Global Partnerships and International Peace

WELCOMING REMARKS
Dr. NARIMAN FARVARDIN, President of Stevens Institute of Technology
Dr. LISA A. DOLLING, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and
Associate Professor of Philosophy

CONCEPT
Ms. BİRCAN ÜNVER, Co-Chair, Founding President and Permanent Representative
to the UN DPI/NGO of The Light Millennium

INTRODUCTION
Dr. EDWARD FOSTER, Co-Chair and Professor of American Studies, College of
Arts and Letters, Stevens Institute of Technology

KEYNOTE
“Changing the World: From Atatürk’s ‘Six Arrows’ to the Eight ‘Millennium Development Goals’”
Mr. STEPHEN KINZER, author of Crescent & Star: Turkey Between in Two Worlds and Professor of International Relations, Boston University

OPENING REMARKS
H.E. Mr. HALIT ÇEVİK, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations

H.E. Ms. BYRGANYM AITIMOVA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations – Represented by Mr. AKAN RAKHMETULLIN, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations.

H.E. Mr. PAJO AVIROVIKJ, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. CARLOS E. GARCIA GONZALES, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations

Ms. SUZANNE BILELLO, Senior Communications and Liaison Officer for UNESCO at the United Nations
**Second Day: Saturday, April 20, 2013**

Dedicated to: MDG#3: Women Empowerment and Gender Equality and MDG#2 Universal Education

**MORNING SESSION: 10:15a.m.–1:00p.m.**

**Paper Presentations on MDG#1, 2, 3**

**WELCOMING REMARKS** by the co-chairs EDWARD FOSTER and BİRCAN ÜNVER

**MODERATOR:** DAVID C. CUTHELL, Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia University.

**KEYNOTE:**

SALLY SHATILA KADER, Co-Founder and President of the United States Federation for Middle East Peace (USFMEP, NGO), and Permanent Representative to the United Nations

“Women Empowerment and Gender Equality from Middle East and Global Perspective”

HÜDAI YAVALAR, Founding President, and MIRAT YAVALAR, Founding Member and Treasurer, Ataturk Society of America, Washington DC.

“Ataturk’s Reforms Empowered Turkish Women and Set an Example for the World” – Presented by Ceren Olga Sayan.

JUDY LIGHT AYYILDIZ, Roanoke, Virginia.

“Ataturk, His Incredible Gift to Inspire: a New Nation Built on Equality and Justice—an Enduring Spirit for the Future”

GÜL ÇELKAN, Associate Prof., Dr., Middle Georgia State College

“Turkish Women From Past To Present”

Prof. Dr. E. NEZIH ORHON, and Research Asst. GOZDE EFE, Anatolian University, Eskisehir, Turkey.

“A Different Approach to Education: The Village Institution Experience of Turkey and the UNMDGS” – Presented by Gozde Efe

SEDEN ANLAR, student, Maltepe University, Istanbul, Turkey.

“The Women's Movement in Turkey from Tazminat Towards Atatürk's Reforms”

SEBAHATTIN DEVECIOGLU, Assistant Professor, Firat University, Elazig, Turkey.

“The Birth of the Celebration of Youth and Sports and the U.N.’s Agenda for Youth and the Encouragement of Sports”

ROBERT M. WEIR, Writer, Author, Editor, Speaker

“Educational Paradigms in Earth’s Global Village” - Power-Point

DAVID C. CUTHELL, Adjunct Associate Professor, Dr. Columbia University.

“Against All Odds: Atatürk’s Legacy and Its Impact on Contemporary Turkey”

Q & A Session: 12:30 – 1:00p.m.

LUNCH BREAK: 1:00 - 1:45p.m.

**AFTERNOON SESSION: 1:45–3:15p.m.**

**Paper Presentations on MDG#8: Global Partnerships & International Peace**

**MODERATOR:** GÜL ÇELKAN, Associate Professor, Middle Georgia State College

SEVINÇ ÖZER, Professor, Çanakkale University, Çanakkale, Turkey.

“Peace vs Pact: Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's Concept of Peace”

Presented by Prof. Edward Foster

AUGUSTINE G.JOHNSON, Executive Director

MARTIN T. TUMOE, Chairman

PAULINE TONNELLE, Project Director

LCA-Global Initiative, Liberia.

“Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger Through Universal Education”

Presented by Rev. James Bestman

AGUSTINE G. JOHNSON, Executive Director
HAMID AKIN ÜNVER, Professor, Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey.
“Sovereignty and Legitimacy as the Basis for Peace: Atatürk’s Principles and the future of the Arab Spring”

CHRISTOPHER VASILLOPULOS, Professor of Political Science at Eastern Connecticut State University
“Atatürk: Homeric Hero”

ÖZAY MEHMET, Professor Emeritus, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada.
“The UN Millennium Goals in Gandhian and Ataturkist Perspectives”

Presented by Bircan Ünver

Q & A 2:45 – 3:15 p.m.

Lecture – Concert 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

AYŞEGÜL DURAKOĞLU, Professor of Music, College of Arts and Letters, Stevens Institute of Technology
“Ataturk, Creating a Universal Language in Turkish Musical Culture”

CONCERT:
AYŞEGÜL DURAKOĞLU, pianist
YIGIT KARATAS, violinist

Closing Remarks & Networking: 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.

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H.E. Mr PAJO AVIROVIKJ, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations – Inaugural Session – Panelist.

Ambassador Avirovikj has served as the Permanent Representative to the United Nations from the Macedonia since May, 2011. Until his appointment, he was his country’s Ambassador to Israel beginning in September, 2009. Before that he served as chargé d’affaires at the embassy beginning in June, 2008. From May to June, 2008, he was the head of the embassy’s liaison office. Between June, 2006, and May, 2008, he held the position of State Counselor and Director for Public Diplomacy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, having served as Head of the Sector for Bilateral Relations with European Countries from January to May, 2006. He was Deputy Head of the the Sector for the coordination of the Minister’s Cabinet Affairs between May, 2005, and January, 2006. In addition to serving as the Minister Counselor at his country’s embassies in Paris from February, 2001, to April, 2005, he was the Director of the Department for European Countries between 1998 and 2001, and Head of the Division for Western Europe from 1997 to 1998. An award-winning author and journalist, Mr. Avirovikj studied at the Ecole Nationale d’Administration in Paris, France, and holds a master’s degree in oriental philology from the University of Belgrade in Serbia, having earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ms. SUZANNE BILELLO, Senior Communications and Liaison Officer for UNESCO at the United Nations – Chair & Panelist – Inaugural Session.

Suzanne Bilello is the Senior Communications and Liaison Officer for UNESCO at the United Nations. Prior to joining UNESCO in 2003, she was the acting Director of Communications for U.N. Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean, ECLAC, in Santiago, Chile. Before joining the UN system Ms. Bilello spent 12 years in different postings in Latin America initially as a foreign correspondent and later as a foundation representation supporting press freedom and the role of independent and pluralistic media in good governance. As a journalist, Ms. Bilello covered Mexico and the Central American conflicts. She received an Alicia Patterson fellowship to examine the roots of Mexico’s political and economic crisis, which led to democratization. Bilello has worked for various U.S. media organizations including Newsday and The Dallas Morning News. In 1991 she was part of the Newsday team that was a Pulitzer Prize for breaking news reporting. She is a graduate of Barnard College and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and currently enrolled in a M.A. in a business administration program.
H.E. Ms. BYRGANYM AITIMOVA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations. Represented by Mr. AKAN RAKHMETULLIN, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the U.N. – Inaugural Session.

Ambassador Aitimova has been the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations in New York since February 2007. She heads her country’s delegation in the deliberations of the United Nations on almost all items on the global agenda. With a wide and versatile background and experience, she holds leadership positions on various agencies and entities of the United Nations system and is currently the Vice President of the executive board of UNICEF and a board member of UN Women. She served on behalf of Kazakhstan as the Chair of the Permanent Representatives of the group of Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in New York from 2011-12, and as Chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in 2010. She is presently actively engaged with the group of Landlocked Developing Countries to further their progress and is taking leadership in advance for the United Nations agenda on Sustainable Development. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, peace and security, sustainable energy for all, accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, promoting human rights, humanitarian assistance and effective UN reform are some of the other issues she is deeply committed to as Kazakhstan’s contribution to the overall objectives of the United Nations. She was a Vice President of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly and is currently President of the International Association of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York. Prior to her assignment with the United Nations, she served as Ambassador from her country to Italy and Israel.

H.E. Mr. YAŞAR HALİT ÇEVİK, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations – Opening Remarks – Inaugural Session.

Prior to his latest appointment in fall, 2012, Mr. Çevik was the Undersecretary for Political Affairs at his country’s Ministry for Foreign Affairs, beginning in 2009, having previously served as Ambassador from Turkey to Syria from November, 2004, to August, 2009. In addition to holding several positions in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs from 2000 to 2004, including that of Deputy Director-General of Central Europe and Baltic Region, he worked in the Prime Minister’s Office as Deputy Special Adviser in 1999. In 1997, he served as First Counselor at the Turkish Embassy in Beijing and in 1995 as Consul General of Turkey in Zurich. From December, 1993, to August, 1995, Mr. Çevik was Deputy Special Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, having served as Head of the Section at the Ministry’s Department of Maritime Affairs in 1993. He was Counselor at the Turkish Embassy in Athens in 1991 and Consul at the Turkish Consulate General in Athens in 1989. In 1987, Mr. Çevik was First Secretary at the Department of International Economic Organizations at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Prior to that, he was Consul at the Turkish Consulate General in Stuttgart in 1983 and Second Secretary at the Turkish Embassy in Khartoum in 1981. He joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1979 as Third Secretary at the Department of Bilateral Economic Affairs.

Dr. LISA A. DOLLING, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and Associate Professor of Philosophy – Welcoming Remarks – Inaugural Session.

In addition to serving as Dean, Lisa Dolling is Associate Professor of Philosophy in the College of Arts and Letters at Stevens Institute of Technology. Her areas of expertise include the philosophy of science (specifically quantum theory), aesthetics, and feminist philosophy. She was the founding director of the Women’s Studies program at St John’s University in New York as well as the Gender and Cultural Studies program at Stevens. Dolling has published on such varied topics as the philosophical writings of Niels Bohr, Edith Stein, Simone Weil, and Ayn Rand. She is the co-editor of The Tests of Time Readings on the Development of Physical Theory (Princeton University Press) and has recently edited the volume Science, Technology and the Humanities: A New Synthesis. Dolling is currently working on a book-length project that focuses on the philosophical writings of American conservationist and scholar George Perkins Marsh.

Dr. NARIMAN FARVARDIN, President of Stevens Institute of Technology – Welcoming Remarks – Inaugural Session.

Nariman Farvardin was appointed the seventh president of Steven Institute of Technology in January 2011. He joined Stevens from the University of Maryland, where he was a member of the faculty for twenty-seven years. He served as that institution’s Acting President for two months in 2010, during his tenure as Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, positions he held since 2007. Dr. Farvardin is an accomplished researcher in the areas of information theory and coding, multimedia signal compression at transmission, high-speed networks, and wireless networks. Among his accomplishments as Provost was spearheading the development and implementation of the University’s ambitious strategic plan, Transforming Maryland: Higher Expectations. From 1994 to 2000 Dr. Farvardin served as Chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, where he was Professor. He was appointed Dean of the A. James Clark Schoo of Engineering in 2000. Dr. Farvardin has made significant contributions to a number of communications standards and practical systems in data communication, image and video compression, and voice coding in wireless applications. A fellow of the Institute of Electric and Electronics Engineers, Dr. Farvardin holds seven U.S. patents in data communication, image coding, and wireless communication, and has co-authored more than 150 technical papers in journals and conference proceedings. A passionate advocate of technological innovation, Farvardin has served on the boards of several companies and educational non-profit organizations. He was chosen by the Governor of Maryland to serve on the state’s task forces for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and Nano-biotechnology, and he chaired the University System of Maryland’s Task Force on Cybersecurity. A native of Tehran, Iran, Farvardin earned his bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, in 1979, 1980, and 1983, respectively.
Dr. EDWARD FOSTER, Co-Chair and Professor of American Studies, College of Arts and Letters at Stevens Institute of Technology.

Former Department Head, Director of Humanities, and Associate Dean at Stevens, Edward Foster has also been a Visiting Professor at the Drew University Graduate Faculty and at Beykent University (Istanbul) and was a Fulbright Lecturer at Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey, and at the University of Istanbul. Professor of American Studies and the recipient of numerous awards, he is the founding editor of Talisman: A Journal of Contemporary Poetry and Poetics, Talisman House, Publishers, and Jensen/Daniels, Publishers. He is a widely published critic and essayist with studies of the Black Mountain poets, American landscapes, William Saroyan, Jack Spicer, and many others to his credit. Well known as a poet, his work has been translated into, and published in, many languages, including single-author volumes in Slovenian, Romanian, and Russian. His most recent publications, among more than twenty books and monographs, include his selected poems, What He Ought to Know and The Beginning of Sorrows. A new collection of his poetry, Dire Straits, was published this year. He is currently working on a long poem, Requiem.

H.E. Mr. CARLOS E. GARCIA GONZALES, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations – Inaugural Session - Panelist.

Ambassador Carlos Garcia was appointed as the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations on March 13, 2013. Prior to that he served as the Deputy Permanent Representative beginning in June, 2010. He is a career diplomat who has served his country in the United Nations since July, 1996. He has followed several issues of the United Nations agenda, inter alia, Political & International Security; Decolonization; Economic, Financial and Environmental; Social, Humanitarian & Human Rights; and Peace building issues during his post in New York. In this regard, he has represented El Salvador in the Economic and Social Council and many others subsidiary bodies such as the Commission on Social Development, the former Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development, the Peace Building Commission as well as the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA, the Executive Board of UNICEF, the Executive Board of UN-Women and the former Executive Board of INSTRAW. Ambassador Garcia is currently the Vice-Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-2012-13) and the Vice-Chairman of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD 2013-2014). He also served as the Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNDP-UNFPA-UNOPS in 2011, the Vice-Chairperson of the Second Committee during the 64th UNGA, and the Vice-Chairperson of the Third Committee during the 59th and 56th sessions of the General Assembly.

Mr. STEPHEN KINZER, Author of Crescent & Star: Turkey Between in Two Worlds, and Professor of International Relations at Boston University - Inaugural Session - Keynote.

Stephen Kinzer is an award-winning foreign correspondent who has covered more than 50 countries on five continents. His articles and books led the Washington Post to call him “among the best in popular foreign policy storytelling.” His most recent book, Reset: Iran, Turkey, and America’s Future, traces the modern histories of Turkey and Iran and recommends a new approach to US policy in the Middle East. In 2006 he published Overthrow: America’s Centuries-Long Rivalry with the Middle East. In 2006 he published Overthrow: America’s Centuries-Long Rivalry with the Middle East. Kinzer spent more than 20 years working for the New York Times, most of it as a foreign correspondent. From 1983 to 1989, he was the Times bureau chief in Nicaragua. In that post he covered war and upheaval in Central America. From 1990 to 1996 he was posted in Germany. He was the Chief of the New York Times bureau in Bonn and after German unification became the Chief of the Berlin bureau. From there he covered the emergence of post-Communist Europe, including wars in the former Yugoslavia. In 1996 Kinzer was named the Chief of the newly opened New York Times bureau in Istanbul, Turkey. After completing this assignment, he published Crescent and Star: Turkey Between Two Worlds. Before joining the New York Times, he was a Latin America correspondent for the Boston Globe. http://www.stephenkinzer.com

Ms. BİRCAN ÜNVER, Co-Chair, Founding President and Permanent Representative to the UN DPI/NGO of The Light Millennium – Inaugural Session – Concept.

A native of Turkey, Bircan Ünver is the Originator (1999) and the Founding President of The Light Millennium (LM 2001), a public benefit and multi-media organization. She has been the Executive Producer and Director of the LM, and LMTV programs since its inception and is the Permanent Representative of the organization to the UN DPI since 2006. As an advocate for “freedom of expression and “public benefit media,” she has compiled and e-published over 53 e-issues and produced over 90 original television programs, garnering several awards. Developed, organized/co-organized, presented/co-presented, hosted/co-hosted over 60 open to public events. She is also the founder of the ISIKBINYILLI.ORG based in Istanbul, Turkey (January 2010), a sister organization to the LM. Bircan holds a master’s degree in media studies from the New School University. Her thesis project was a half-hour video documentary titled “All Ideas: Freedom of Expression in Turkey” (1999).
SEDEN ANLAR, student, Maltepe University, Istanbul, Turkey.

Born 18 June 1994 in Gaziantep, the southeastern part of Turkey, Anlar was brought up in a nuclear family of four. During primary and secondary education, she organized several school events such as Turkish Folk Music and Dance ceremonies and school concerts. She graduated in 2012 from Gaziantep Anatolia High School, the leading state school where students with a high score are accepted based on a centralized test. She is currently a scholarship student in law at Maltepe University, a private college in Istanbul. She has been working as the international supervisor at the Alumni Contact and Career Research Department and is in charge of organizing exchange programs, including the Erasmus program and international human and women’s rights projects. Seden is also involved in many Education First seminars in the Global Education Organization, a foundation in Gaziantep focusing primarily on helping students with high potential realizing their goals and providing them with opportunities to study abroad.

JUDY LIGHT AYYILDIZ, Teacher, Author, Poet, Roanoke, Virginia.

Ayildiz has taught creative writing at all education levels for 30 years. She was an instructor and a presenter at literary workshops, international conferences on poetry, writing, and women’s studies. She is internationally published, was an editor of Artemis, Artists and Writers from the Blue Ridge for 13 years and was a Blue Ridge Writers Conference founder. Her books include First Recital, Smuggled Seeds, Mud River, Creative Writing across the Curriculum, Easy Ideas for Busy Teachers, The Writers’ Express, Nothing But Time, and Some of My Ancestors are Ottomans and Turks. Forty Thorns in Turkish translation by Kirk Diken was published in 2011 by Remzi Book House, Istanbul. Forty Thorns was 2012 Literary Fiction winner in International Book Awards. Literary magazine in which her work has appeared include New York Quarterly, Mickle Street Review, the new renaissance, Sou’s Ear, Pig Iron Press, Hawaii Pacific Review, Black Water Review, Northeast Journal, Kaliope, Fjords, and www.editerranean.nu. The international anthology, Women in Dialogue includes her essay, “Weaving This Woman’s Life and Work” with excerpts from her books. The winner of the Nazim Hikmet 2009 Poetry Festival Prize and a 2010 Educator of the Year Award, she is completing a memoir and compiling another book of poems.

Dr. DAVID C. CUTHELL, Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia University – Moderator – Speaker.

Dr. Cuthell is currently an Adjunct Associate Professor at Columbia’ School on International and Public Affairs. Previously he served from September 2005-2011 as the Executive Director of the Institute of Turkish Studies in Washington D.C. and is currently a member of the Board of Governors of the Institute as well as the Board of Directors of the Middle East Institute at Columbia. Raised in Istanbul and Washington D.C., he attended Phillips Academy and Yale, where he majored in art history with a focus on early film comedies, graduating in 1975. He received his M.B.A. from Columbia University in 1979 and worked in the capital markets in New York and London with Citibank and Morgan Stanley was the managing director of mortgage securities at Mabon Securities. After leaving Wall Street, he returned to Columbia, receiving his Ph.D. in history in 2005. His research at Columbia focused on the 19th century immigration of Muslims from the Caucasus and the Crimea as their role in transforming late Ottoman Anatolia. Dr. Cuthell has taught at Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey where he taught in the Turkish, Middle East and Central Asian Studies Program from 2000 through 2005. In addition to the Institute of Turkish Studies, he also was a Visiting Associate Professor at Georgetown University. Dr. Cuthell is a Trustee of Robert College in Istanbul and a board member of the American Friends of Turkey in Washington, DC.

Dr. GÜL ÇELKAN, associate professor, Dr., Middle Georgia State College – Moderator – Speaker.

Dr. Gul Celkan, Associate Professor of English Language and Literature is currently working as an adjunct in the Department of Humanities of Macon State College, in Georgia. She received her elementary, middle and high school education at TED Ankara College and then pursued her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. at Ankara University, Faculty of Language History and Geography, Department of English Language and Literature. Following her graduation from the Department with a B.A. degree, she continued working toward her M.A. and Ph.D. but at the same time taught varied courses in the Department, followed by her employment at the Ankara War Academy, Texas A & M University, Ege University, Near East University and Eastern Mediterranean University, th latter two located in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. She retired in 2009 after almost 28 years serving higher education in different locations but with one motto in mind: our future relies on the youth! She worked in different capacities at N.E.U. and E.M.U. She founded and worked as the director of the English Preparatory School as well as the English Department at N.E.U. Then she transferred to E.M.U. as a faculty member and as the Director of the Center for Women’s Studies, coordinator of the education programs, dean of students, Coordinator for the President's Office, editor of E.M.U. Press, and translator for the President's Office. She also contributed to Promotional Activities by preparing pamphlets as well as appearing on such Turkish TV Channels as CNN-Turk, NTV and MSNBC.
Dr. SEBAHATTIN DEVECIOGLU, assistant professor, Firat University, Elazig, Turkey – Speaker.

Dr. Devecioğlu was born on May 19, 1968 in Elazig. He completed elementary, middle, and high school there followed by graduation from Gazi University, Faculty of Education, Physical Education, and Sports department in 1990. In 1996, he completed his M.A. at Firat University of Health Sciences, Department of Physical Education and Sports Program, and began working there as a research assistant at the department of Physical Education and Sports. After his national service, he started his Ph.D. at Gazi University, Institute of Health Sciences Department of Physical Education and Sports, and started to work as a research assistant in 2002. He was appointed as a lecturer in Firat University upon completion of his Ph.D. He is currently the founder and Head of the Department of Sport Management, Sports Economics there.

Dr. AYŞEGÜL DURAKOĞLU, professor in music, College of Arts and Letters at Stevens Institute of Technology – Lecture-Live Piano Concert.

Juilliard-trained, Ayşegül Durakoglu is a performer with versatile interests and a repertoire that encompasses both the earliest styles and contemporary. Her main expertise in the classical repertoire lies in the scores of Claude Debussy’s piano music. Aside from presenting many performances and lecture-recitals on Debussy’s works, she innovatively focused her Ph. D. dissertation on the contrapuntal and rhythmic organization of his piano etudes; and most recently completed a recording of Debussy’s Twelve Piano Etudes. In the area of world music, she uses her piano technique to bring together a fusion of sounds and cultures in the hopes that her work will inspire others to extend beyond modern-day divisions and strife. She has performed solo and music programs that have brought together the music of different cultures and civilizations, including the Sephardic and Turkish traditions, the Americas, Eastern Europe, France, Greece, and cultures throughout the Mediterranean. Since her highly acclaimed New York Debut Recital at Merkin Concert Hall, where Bernard Holland of the New York Times described her musicality as, “nothing false or artificial but naturally come by,” Durakoglu has concertized widely as a soloist and chamber musician both nationally and internationally. She was the featured soloist at the International Istanbul Music Festival with James Galway; Musical Intersections and International Niagara Chamber Music Festival in Canada; music festivals throughout Russia where her performances with the renowned Russian pianist Gregory Haimovsky were described as “genuinely expressive with intense emotional concentration;” and, recently in the Allen Room of Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York.

Research Asst. GOZDE EFE and Prof. Dr. E. NEZIH ORHON, Anatolian University, Eskisehir, Turkey - Speaker.

Gözde Efe was born in İzmir in 1988 and graduated from the School of Communication Sciences, Department of Cinema&TV, in Anadolu University in 2011. She started her M.A. in film and began work as a research assistant at the same department in 2012. She has been a part of various international academic and artistic projects. Her academic writings on social sciences and her artistic work on social documentary making continues.

Dr. Nezih Orhon is the Dean and a professor in the School of Communication Sciences of Anadolu University, in Eskisehir, Turkey. He completed two master’s degrees in Turkey and in the U.S.A., respectively, followed by a Ph.D. earned in Turkey. Besides his administrative responsibilities, he teaches “Television Journalism,” “Television News Programming,” “Production and Directing,” and “Cultural Diversity and Communication.” At the same time, he has established E.U. projects, currently running. One is called “Digital Bridges” for journalism and communication students.


In 1996, Johnson enrolled at the Masada Vocational School, graduating with a diploma in General Building Construction in 1998. He then emigrated to Ghana to attend Ghana University. Because of financial difficulties, he was not able to complete his study in Project Management at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration. He moved back to Liberia in May, 2001, employed by the Firestone Rubber Plantation Company, where he began working in the Engineering Department as the supervisor of water and sanitation while at the same time enrolling in the Trinity College. Unhappy with young girls getting becoming pregnant at 14, young boys dropping out school because of the lack of support, he established an organization called Global Initiatives, began training drop-out students, in basic computer courses, plumbing, building construction, catering, etc. After graduating from Trinity with an Associate Degree in Information Technology in 2007, he moved to Monrovia and began working with the Ministry of Lands, Mines, & Energy as an IT Assistant while at the same time enrolling in the Jerubaal University of N.G.O.s, where he obtained a B. A. in N.G.O. Management in 2011. The needs for education continue to increase in his community, and Global Initiatives vocational training was extended to Monrovia.
Mrs. SALLY SHATILLA KADER, Co-Founder and President of the United States Federation for Middle East Peace (USFMEP, NGO), and Permanent Representative to the United – Keynote.

Mrs. Sally (Salwa) Kader is the President and the Founder of the United States Federation for Middle East Peace, a non-profit organization promoting the United Nations’ Principle and commitment to Human Rights and to international peace and justice. With USFMEP chapters around the world, Mrs. Kader has led and facilitated peace conferences, seminars, workshops, roundtables and public forums focusing on mutual respect and better understanding of the religious philosophies, cultures, history and affairs of the Middle East and the West. A world renowned public speaker on women’s issues, human rights, children’s rights, human trafficking, and interfaith dialogue, she has spoken before the U.N. headquarters in Geneva, the U.N. Pavilion at the 2010 Shanghai World Expo in China, and the University of Wollongong in Dubai, among others. Mrs. Kader has organized and participated in many events and panels at the U.N. headquarters, throughout the continental U.S., Europe, and the Middle East. Reinforcing one of the USFMEP’s primary objectives, to build bridges of understanding between different groups of people to achieve peace, Mrs. Kader organized and hosted the first and foremost panel for interfaith dialogue at the U.N. Headquarters. Her focus is on increasing the role and participation of women in the peace process. A recipient of the United Nations Millennium Development Goal awards in 2010, she has also received numerous awards from governments and organizations worldwide, including the Senate Award for promoting Peace and Interfaith Understanding, the Empowerment of Women Award, and the Youth empowerment Award, to name a few.

YIGIT KARATAS, Violinist – Guest Performer.

Violinist Yigit Karatas was born in Mersin and started studying violin at the age of 11 at Mersin State Conservatory with Alper Özcan. He was awarded the First Prize of the 4th National Gulden Turali Violin Competition. He participated in the Keshet Eilon Violin Festival and Eilat Festival in Israel. Karatas studied with well-known soloists such as Cihat Askin, Shlomo Mintz, Hagai Shaham, Chloé Hanslip, Haim Taub, Itzhak Rashkovsky, and Albert Markov. He performed Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto with the Presidential Symphony Orchestra in Ankara, and Mendelssohn’s E Minor Violin Concerto three times at the International Belfort Music Festival.

Dr. OZAY MEHMET, Senior Fellow, Modern Turkish Studies & Professor Emeritus International Affairs/Economics, Carleton University, Ottawa – Panelist – Presented by Bircan Ünver.

Ozay Mehmet is of Turkish-Cypriot origin. Married, has three sır and lives in Ottawa with wife Karen. He was educated in Cyprus and was the first Turkish Cypriot to go to the London School of Economics (1959-62). Subsequently he received his M.A. and Ph.D in economics at the University of Toronto (on a Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship). He has taught at various Canadian universities [Windsor, York, Toronto, Ottawa and Carleton]. He is currently a Senior Fellow in charge of a new initiative to launch a Modern Turkish Studies Program at Carleton University. Professionally, Ozay Mehmet is a specialist in economic development, with special reference to Asian Tigers, Turkey, and Cyprus and is consulted extensively for W.B., A.D.B., C.I.D.A., C.F.T.C., U.N. agencies (I.L.O., W.H.O. U.N.D.P.) and others. He is the author of 21 academic books and over 100 articles in top academic journals. Now retired, he has started writing historical novels. His latest books include Westernizing the Third World (1st ed in 1995 Routledge, several editions, hardcover and paperback), Islamic Identity and Development (1st ed in 1990, several editions, translated into other language), Towards a Fair Global Labor Market (1999, Routledge – with Errol Mendes and Robert Sinding); Global Governance, Economy and Law (Routledge, Taylor & Francis, 2003 – with Errol Mendes); Sustainability of Micro States: The Case of North Cyprus (University of Utah Press, 2010).

SEVİNÇ ÖZER, professor, Çanakkale University, Çanakkale, Turkey – Presented by Prof. Edward Foster.

Prof. Öz is a teacher and researcher in American culture and literature, myth and women studies, and comparative literature. She is a theorist and writer of the short stories, the translator of books (to mention one, Howard Zinn’s A People’s History of the United States), and a mother with a daughter. She occasionally writes for newspaper mostly articles on the problems of the university system. An activist for that cause, she is the member of associations working towards freedom and autonomy in the university. She is finishing a short story theory book titled “The Long Casting Power of the Short Tiny Story.” She is also planning a book on the myths and politics of literature.
Dr. Hamid Akın Ünver, Dr., Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey - Speaker.

Dr. Ünver is the Erteğin Lecturer in Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University, Near Eastern Studies department. Previously he was a joint post-doctoral fellow at the University of Michigan’s Center for European Studies and the Center for the Middle East and North African Studies, where he authored several articles on Turkish politics, most notable of which is "Turkey’s deep-state and the Ergenekon conundrum," published by the Middle East Institute. Born and raised in Ankara, Turkey, he graduated from T.E.D. Ankara College in 1999 and earned his B.A. in International Relations from Bilkent University (2003) and M.Sc. in European Studies from the Middle East Technical University (2005). He received his Ph.D. from the Department of Government, University of Essex, where his dissertation, "A Comparative Analysis of the Discourses on the Kurdish question in the European Parliament, U.S. Congress and Turkish National Assembly" won the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) 2010 Malcolm H. Kerr Dissertation Award in Social Sciences. Akın also assumed entry-level policy positions at the European Union Secretariat-General, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Eurasian Center for Strategic Studies, and the Washington Institute for Near East Policy (D.C.), as well as teaching positions at the University of Essex (Theories of International Relations) and Sabancı University (Turkey and the Middle East).

Dr/ Christopher Vassilopoulos, Professor of Political Science at Eastern Connecticut State University – Speaker.

Professor Vassilopoulos received his undergraduate degree in political science from Hobart College and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. For over thirty years Professor Vassilopoulos has taught in several American universities and lectured in universities in Europe and the Middle East. Although he has taught a wide variety of courses, the unifying thread has been political theory, with an emphasis on ancient Greek thought, especially as it relates to tragedy. He has published many articles in journals such as the Journal of Business Ethics, Journal of Philosophy and Education, International Journal of Social Inquiry, Skepsis, Arab Studies Quarterly, Armed Forces and Society, Social Science Journal and many others, and is a regular contributor to Today’s Zaman, a leading Turkish Newspaper, and Celestia, a contemporary Greek journal of ideas. He has written a book, a theoretical study of the Third Reich, entitled the Triumph of Hate: the Political Theology of the Hitler Movement, published in 2012.


Robert M. Weir is a writer, author, speaker, book editor and author’s coach. His subjects are people, peace, social justice, environment, and international travel. A book, mentioned in his talk, about the education of Kolkata’s children, Reclaiming Lives, is authored by Rosalie Giffoniello with his assistance. It is currently a manuscript in the final stages of development while the co-authors seek a publisher. His previous books include Cobble Creek (short stories and poetry), Brain Tumor (medical memoir), Peace, Justice, Care of Earth (biography of John McConnell, founder of the original Earth Day and creator of the Earth Flag), and numerous travel blogs and essays on his web site. He has written more than 150 published articles for magazines and the Internet. As an editor and coach, Weir assists both established and emerging authors; notable among these are Spontaneous Evolution by Bruce Lipton and Steve Bhaerman (Hay House 2009), Power Up Your Brain by Alberto Villoldo and David Perlmutter (Hay House 2011), Spirituality: Finding Joy in the Games by Jeanne Hess (Balboa 2012), and Full Cup, Thirsty Spirit by Karen Hornfeffer-Ginter (Hay House 2012). Because of the nature of his client’s work, Weir considers himself to be “a contributor to the world’s leaders in humanity’s spiritual and metaphysical evolution.” He maintains a physical address in Michigan, USA, and travels extensively. His mantra is “Have laptop, will travel.” His web site is www.robertmweir.com.

Hüdai Yavalar, Founding President, and Mirat Yavalar, Founding Member and Treasurer, Ataturk Society of America, Washington DC. – Presented by Ceren Olga Sayan.

The Ataturk Society of America is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization founded in 1995 in Washington, DC by Turkish Americans to promote the ideals of Ataturk. ASA organizes meetings and scholarly lectures, provides research fellowships, and has become a valuable resource for material regarding Ataturk’s political philosophy. ASA publishes The Voice of Ataturk, a periodical. Members meet around May 19 an November 10 to remember Ataturk and his legacy.

In the past 15 years, ASA programs have featured, among others: Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff William Crowe, Turkey Caucus Co chairs in the US Congress – Virginia Foxx and Steve Cohen, Senator Robert Byrd, Princeton Professor Bernard Lewis, Professor Behram Kursunoglu, Professor Andrew Mango, Professor Turkan Saylan, CHP Parliamentarian Oktay Eksi, and Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Ataturk’s political embraced by ASA includes: sovereignty belongs exclusively to the people secular education is key; secularism is essential; science and reason has priority; freedom and the pursuit of happiness are common aspirations of humanity; representative democracy prevents abuse of power and provides checks and balances through three separation powers - a legislature, executive, and judiciary; and Ataturk’s noble principle, “Peace at home and peace in the world,” is crucial to maintaining the common good of humankind. www.ataturksociety.org
About The Light Millennium (http://www.lightmillennium.org):

The Light Millennium was formed based on the first article of the United States Bill of Rights, Freedom of Speech, in conjunction with the United Nations’ Universal Declaration Article #19, on Freedom of Expression based in Queens, New York. The Light Millennium invites citizens of the world to submit, in an appropriate artistic medium, ideas and experiences that will help foster better understanding between people of different cultures and beliefs. The organization frequently presents ideas on the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations and UN-NGO Briefings and presenting ideas about the “Cultural Diversity” and “Global Peace Culture” as well as ideas from the all walks of life. The Light Millennium was introduced on the web in August 1999 by Bircan Ünver as a global multi-media platform inviting individuals to represent themselves and their communities. In January, 2000, the organization brought in volunteers and was formally incorporated as a not-for-profit organization on July 17, 2001. It obtained 501c3 status at that time and associated itself with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations on December 12, 2005. For the LM Archive, see http://www.lightmillennium.org/archive.html.

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Founded in 1870, Stevens Institute of Technology The Innovation University®, is a premier, private research university situated in Hoboken, New Jersey, overlooking the Manhattan skyline. Technological innovation has been the hallmark and legacy of Stevens’ education and research programs for more than 140 years. Within the university’s three schools and one college, more than 6,100 undergraduate and graduate students collaborate with more than 350 faculty members in an interdisciplinary, student-centric, entrepreneurial environment to advance the frontiers of science and leverage technology to confront global challenges. Stevens is home to three national research centers of excellence, as well as joint research programs focused on critical industries such as healthcare, energy, finance, defense, and STEM education. The university is the fastest-rising college in the U.S. News & World Report ranking of the best national universities, and it is consistently ranked among the nation’s elite for return on investment for students, career services programs, and mid-career salaries of alumni. Stevens is in the midst of a ten-year strategic plan, The Future: Ours to Create, designed to further extend the Stevens legacy to create a forward-looking and far-reaching institution with global impact.

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