



The Light Millennium, in collaboration with the College of Arts and Letters at Stevens Institute of Technology, *jointly presented* the 11th Anniversary Celebration of The Light Millennium – a panel discussion on:

CHALLENGES OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND GLOBALIZATION

Monday, November 28, 2011 ~ 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

228 Kidde Hall, Stevens Institute of Technology
6th & River Streets, Hoboken, New Jersey

PROGRAM

Registration: 6:00-6:30 ~ **Musical Performance:** 6:30-7pm ~ **Program:** 7-9pm

Introduction and Moderator: **Prof. Edward Foster**, College of Arts & Letters, SIT
Welcome Remarks: **Bircan Unver**, The Light Millennium

Confirmed Keynote Speakers:

Ms. Rochelle Roca-Hachem, Programme Specialist for Culture, UNESCO Liaison Office, NY

Dr. Thomas Uthup, Research and Education Manager, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

Musical Performance:

Ahmet Erdogdular (*voice, tanbur*) &
Ali Osman Erdogdular (*ney*)

Confirmed Speakers (in alphabetic order):

Queen Mother Dr. Delois Blakely, Founder and President, The New Future Foundation, Honorary Mayor of Harlem, Goodwill Ambassador for Africa, UNNGO Rep.

***Mr. Douglass C. Freeman**, CEO, Virtcom Consulting; Founder-Organizer, World Diversity Leader Summit ***Janet Salazar**, Chair, WDLS UN-Accredited NGOs and Fellows, delivered her speech on behalf of Mr. Freeman

Mr. Akif Kirecci, Associate Professor, Bilkent University, Ankara

Mr. Cem Zorlular, Youth Representative; Student, Columbia University

The presentations will be followed by a Q & A and networking session.

FREE to general public; first come first seated.

The Light Millennium: www.lightmillennium.org | The College of Arts & Letters at Stevens: www.stevens.edu/cal
Bircan Unver, Founding President and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dept. of Public Information

“Associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations effective on December 12, 2005”

The Light Millennium, is a 501 (c) (3) Tax Exempt and Public Benefit Organization & Associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations effective on December 12, 2005.
Mailing address: 87-R2 115th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418, USA. E-mail: contact@lightmillennium.org

About the Keynote Speakers



Ms. Roshelle Roca Hachem, Officer for Culture in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), NY. *Key Note*
Ms Roca Hachem is the Officer for Culture in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Office attached to the UN in New York. Her liaison position covers a wide scope of cultural issues including cultural diversity, culture and development, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, multilingualism, indigenous peoples, and intercultural dialogue.

An American lawyer, Ms Roca Hachem was based at UNESCO's Paris Headquarters from 1994-2006. Prior to her arrival in New York, she worked in UNESCO's Division of Cultural Heritage, focusing on illicit trafficking in and return and restitution of cultural objects. In this connection, she published several handbooks for UNESCO, as well as independent articles. Before joining UNESCO, Ms Roca-Hachem practiced in a private law firm in Washington, DC.



Dr. Thomas Uthup, Research & Education Manager, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations – *Key Note*

As Research and Education Manager, Dr. Thomas Uthup coordinates research and education activities for the Alliance of Civilizations. Current major projects in the education area of the UNAOC managed directly by Dr. Uthup include an online portal on Education about Religions and Beliefs, a Research Network, and the expansion of exchanges. Dr. Uthup closely follows activities of relevance to religions and interfaith activities for the Alliance. Dr. Uthup's academic focus has been on the complex relationships between culture and society, with special attention to religious factors affecting political behavior. He received a BA in Economics, Politics, and Sociology from Bangalore University (St. Joseph's College) in Bangalore, India; a Master's in International Journalism from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, USA; and a MA and Ph. D. in political science from Binghamton University (SUNY).

Dr. Uthup has taught at Binghamton University-New York, and the College of Wooster-Ohio, and been a guest lecturer in classes at Oberlin College-Ohio, and Cornell University-New York. As a freelance journalist and as an academic professional, Dr. Uthup has published well over 90 newspaper, journal and reference articles. His media experience also includes serving as a panelist on National Public Radio's *Talk of the Nation* and several television interviews.

About the Musicians



Ahmet Erdoğdular is one of the most important musicians of the new generation in Turkish classical music. Studying the Ottoman repertoire and following its style, Ahmet restored from history such vocal classical compositions as *kar*, *beste*, *naat*, and *durak* to present. Analyzing the techniques of old masters of Ottoman music, he learned and preserved many of the classical vocal improvisational forms including *gazel* and *kaside*. Ahmet recorded music and performed in concerts as a lead singer while still a teenager. Starting at an early age with his father, neyzen Ömer Erdoğdular, he continued his musical development with the guidance of the renowned musician Niyazi Sayın. Ahmet graduated from Istanbul Technical University State Conservatory where he completed his master's degree in Turkish classical music. He is

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president and artistic director of **Makam New York, Inc.**, a non-profit organization for Turkish classical music and arts. Ahmet Erdoğdular participated in various festivals in Europe, Asia, and the United States performing both Ottoman classical and Sufi music. He is based in New York and Istanbul. Website: www.ahmeterdogdular.com

Ali Osman Erdoğdular is the youngest in the Erdoğdular family of musicians. Naturally, he started musical training at an early age. Like his father, Ömer Erdoğdular, he plays ney and has been studying and working within the Istanbul Turkish classical music scene. In his music studies and ney style Ali Osman is guided by the renowned neyzen Niyazi Sayın. He participates in concerts and festivals in Turkey and abroad playing classical Ottoman Turkish music, and plays nay or sings in the Mevlevi Ayin ceremonies performed in the Glalata and Yenikapı Mevlevihane in Istanbul. Ali Osman is also a calligrapher and photographer and speaks Persian, Italian, and English. He studied in Turkey and Italy and received his bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering.



About the Panelists:

Queen Mother Dr. Delois Blakely Community Mayor of Harlem Ambassador of Goodwill to Africa, and Founding President, The New Future Foundation. *Panelist.*

A Community Fellow (1981-82) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), an Education Policy Fellow (1982-83) of the International Education Leadership {IEL}, a Fulbright Scholar in Tanzania and Nigeria {1984-85}, Queen Mother Dr. Blakely received two Master of Education Degrees, from Harvard University (1982) and Teachers College, Columbia University {1983} and a Doctorate of Education Degree from Teachers College (1990). She graduated from the Franciscan Handmaids of Mary College in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Religious Studies. She has published scholarly and popular books and articles on self-reliance, education, recreation and culture. In 1995, Queen Mother Dr. Delois Blakely became Community Mayor of Harlem, the first woman to hold this office.

In partnership with the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity to assure a better future for the world's youth, Queen Mother Dr. Blakely expanded New Future Foundation's United Nations Africa House in Harlem (Queen Mother Moore International House) and its Neighborhood Peace University, The City College of New York supported by Former Secretary General Kofi Annan for the youth "World Street Peace Summit."



Douglas C. Freeman (*Panelist*) is the CEO of Virtcom Consulting, a business strategy consultancy focused on impacting the "bottom-line" through corporate diversity initiatives. Based in New York City, with an affiliate office in London UK, the firm's global client roster includes blue chip companies such as Cisco, The New York Times, Lifespan Healthcare, Visa and RIM (maker of the Blackberry). Virtcom offers value based services within three business lines: strategy solutions (Global, Diversity ROI, Infrastructure, Employee Engagement and Connectivity), training and e-learning, and thought leadership (Research reports and Leadership development events). Virtcom most recently authored a breakthrough report for CalPers (the State Pension Fund of California and largest public pension fund in the US) on corporate board diversification and shareholder value.

As CEO of Virtcom Consulting, Mr. Freeman founded the World Diversity Leadership Summit, in Prague, Czech Republic in 2004, one of the leading conferences of Global 1000 business leaders, government officials and community leaders to address global diversity management practices.



(Delivered her presentation on behalf of Dr. Freeman) **Janet C. Salazar** is an Internationally Certified Executive Coach and Advisor, and CEO of Maverick Vision International Advisors, a global team of experts who provide highly specialized coaching, consulting and training on Innovative Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion, Strategic Relations, Diplomacy and Protocol, Wealth Management and Philanthropy. To fulfill her humanitarian call, Janet is the Permanent Representative to the United Nations of an international NGO, the Foundation for the Support of the United Nations (FSUN), and serves as Treasurer and Board Director of the Executive Committee of NGOs Associated with United Nations Department of Public Information. The Executive Committee represents more than 1,300 NGOs from around the world to the UN.

Janet also serves as Chair of the World Diversity Leadership Summit (WDLS) Committee on UN-accredited NGOs for Diversity and Inclusion, under the auspices of the World Diversity Leadership Summit (WDLS) founded by Douglas C. Freeman, CEO of Virtcom Consulting.



Dr. Akif Kirecci, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey - *Panelist*

Dr. Kirecci completed his PhD at the University of Pennsylvania with a dissertation titled *Decline Discourse and Self - Orientalization - Comparative Study of Modernization in Egypt and Turkey*. He also taught at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Kirecci worked at Stevens Institute of Technology between 2004 and 2008, after which he accepted a position at Bilkent University - graduate School of History. He is teaching history and politics of the Middle East at Bilkent University since 2008. Dr. Kirecci's major research interests are study of civilizations and Middle East politics. He is the recipient of Marie Curie award (2009) from the European Research Council REA. Among his recent publications are *American Policies towards Central Asia*, and an edited volume with Prof. Edward Foster, *Istanbul: Metemorphosis in an Imperial City* (Talisman Publishers, 2011).



Cem Zorlular (*Youth Rep. - Panelist*) is currently a student in Columbia College studying Economics and Sociology. He has focused in Non-Profit projects in the areas of Speech, Debate and Education. His projects include various debate workshops around Turkey, High School Admission test prep classes, extracurricular summer camps for children and formation of the Turkey's National Debate Association. He is the Prospective Youth Representative of the LM organization to the UN.

About the Hosts:



Prof. Edward Foster, College of Arts & Letters, Stevens Institute of Technology - *Introduction & Moderator*

Edward Foster is a professor of history and American Studies in the College of Arts and Letters. Former department head, director of humanities, and associate dean, he has also been a visiting professor at Drew University Graduate Faculty and Beykent University (Istanbul) and was a Fulbright lecturer at Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey, and at the University of Istanbul. Foster is the founding editor of *Talisman: A Journal of*

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Contemporary Poetry and Poetics, Talisman House, Publishers, and Jensen/Daniels, Publishers. He is a widely published critic, essayist, and poet, and his poetry 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*, is scheduled for publication this spring.



Ms. Bircan Ünver, Founding President, The Light Millennium-NGO, and Executive Producer & Director, The Light Millennium Television/LMTV - *Welcoming Remarks*

Bircan is a Turkish native, is Originator (1999) and Founding President of The Light Millennium (LM, 2001), which is a public benefit, multi-media and culture organization, 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 50 e-issues and produced over 75 original television programs, garnering several awards. She is also the founder of the ISIKBINYILI.ORG based in Istanbul, Turkey (January 2010), as a sister organization to the LM. Bircan holds a Master’s Degree in Media Studies of the New School University. Her thesis project was a half-hour video documentary titled “ALL IDEAS: Freedom of Expression in Turkey” (1999). In 2011, LMTV has a monthly series along with Special programs at QPTV. And, starting the first week of January 2012, LMTV has secured time slots on channel#57 twice a week that will be moving up to a weekly series at QPTV in 2012.



About The Light Millennium & The Light Millennium TV – LMTV; was built on the first article of the United States Bill of Rights: Freedom of Speech, in conjunction with the Universal Human Rights Article #19, on Freedom of Expression. It 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 its multi-media platforms, also public spheres on the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations and UN-NGO Briefings, UN-Women as well as human interests and culture at large. The organization obtained 501c3 status effective on July 17, 2001, and associated itself with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations on December 12, 2005. The LM’s web profile: <http://www.lightmillennium.org/about/2011.html>

About The College of Arts & Letters at Stevens: www.stevens.edu/cal

For More Information:

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Dated: Nov. 20, 2011 – Updated on December 2, 2011.