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Subject: End-of-Project Report: “Teaching a Collaborative Global Studies Special Topics Class Linked to Four Turkish Universities – Part 2”

Date: October 25, 2015

Summary: I traveled to Turkey from October 5-25, 2015, and I accomplished the following:

A. Met with faculty to set up linked classes between their universities and ASU:
   1. Pamukkale University, Denizli: Dr. Mehmet Celikel (October 10)
   2. Kadir Has University, Istanbul: Mr. Serdar Duman (October 16)
   3. Koç University, Istanbul: Dr. Erik Mortenson (October 16)
   4. Boğaziçi University, Istanbul: Dr. Judy Doyum (October 20)
   5. İpek University, Ankara: Drs. Zeynep Yılmaz and Zekeriya Baskal (October 22-23)
   6. Başkent University, Ankara: Ms. Gül Varli and Dr. Himmet Umunç (October 22)
   7. Middle Eastern Technical University: Dr. Gökknur Kaplan Akilli (October 24)

B. Delivered 3 presentations:
   3. Panel Presentation, “‘Paying Tribute to the Dogs: British Travelers in the Nineteenth-Century Ottoman Empire,” Journeys in the Ottoman World Conference, İpek University, Ankara, October 23.

Note: The Western Cultural and Literary Studies Symposium and the Journeys in the Ottoman World Conference were very helpful for my research on animals in literature and for the videoconferencing class I will teach in Spring 2016. At both of these conferences I also made many contacts.

C. Did research for monograph on street dogs and literature, and talked with the following people:
   1. Filmmakers Yiğit Tahtalioğlu and Gülen Güler, October 19
   2. Street dog activist Özken Oğut, October 20
   3. Animal studies scholars Dr. İbrahim Özdemir, October 22-23; and Dr. Donna Landry, October 19-24
   4. Street dog researchers Kim Fortuny, October 19-20; and Ann Marie Thornburgh, October 24

D. Looked into Fulbright Specialist possibilities:
   1. Boğaziçi University, Istanbul: Dr. Judy Doyum (October 20)
2. Hacettepe University: Dr. Meldan Tanrisal (October 22) and Dr. Sinan Akilli (October 24)
Note: I will be on OCSA in Fall 2016. I hope to set up a Fulbright Specialist at some time after the end of the Spring 2016 semester. See also F. below.

E. Other—class-related research on Turkish history, culture, and politics:
1. traveled to Canakkale and Gelibolu (Gallipoli) with Dr. Robyn Roland, October 11-14. Dr. Roland is an activist and poet, and a specialist on the soldiers on both sides who fought in WWI.
2. traveled to Edirne, October 14-15. Edirne is renowned for its mosques and historic sites.
3. attended a panel presentation at the French Consulate, Istanbul, on the 2009 Evliya Celebi ride and how to promote the work of this famous Turkish writer and traveler. The 400th anniversary of Evliya’s birth was celebrated in 2011.
4. met with Dr. Gerald MacLean, Istanbul and Ankara, October 19-24. Dr. MacLean is a leading expert on Ottoman history.
5. traveled to Yalova, Mudanya, and Tirilye with Ms. Elif Yeşilgül, October 17-18. Ms. Yeşilgül is training to be archaeologist.

F. Received invitations to give talks at the following universities:
1. Dr. Fatma Kalpaklı, Konya University, Konya, Turkey
2. Ms. Natasha Vashisht, University of Delhi, India
3. Dr. İbrahim Özdemiş, Ipek University, Ankara

Results:

Prefatory note: As I compare this report to the previous one I made of my March 2015 trip to Turkey, I can see how much I was able to follow through on the plans I set forth there. Here I will describe the results of my meetings related to the videoconferencing class that I will teach in Spring 2016:

1. Pamukkale University, Denizli: Dr. Mehmet Celikel (October 10): Pamukkale does not have the facilities to set up a class. Given my contacts there, I believe I will continue other forms of collaboration with Pamukkale, but not with this class.

2. Kadir Has University, Istanbul: Mr. Serdar Duman (October 16): Kadir Has does have the facilities. Mr. Duman and I worked out discussion topics, namely those related to student life, career expectations, stereotypes, and so on. The next step is for Darrell Laws to get in touch with Kadir Has’s tech support, and we are working on that.

3. Koç University, Istanbul: Dr. Erik Mortenson (October 16): Koç does not have the technology to do a videoconferencing class. However, Dr. Mortenson and I will have our students engage in online discussion groups through ASULearn. Dr. Mortenson has done this with two other universities in the US. We set up discussion topics—students in both classes will read Jack Kerouac’s On the Road and watch the Turkish film Yol and class dates: April 12-21, 2016.
4. **Boğaziçi** University, Istanbul: Dr. Judy Doyum (October 20). Boğaziçi does have the technology. Dr. Doyum and I discussed topics, and agreed to look at the way multiculturalism is defined in the US and in Turkey. I contacted her as soon as I arrived in the US and we are now in touch.

5. **İpek** University, Ankara: Drs. Zeynep Yılmaz and Zekeriyal Baskal (October 22-23). Drs. Yılmaz and Baskal expressed interest in a videoconferencing class, but I have not heard from them since I emailed them. However, this past week was a holiday. I was told that İpek does have the technology.

6. **Başkent** University, Ankara: Ms. Gül Varlı and Dr. Himmet Umunç (October 22). Ms. Varlı and Dr. Umunç did express interest. We would have students talk about popular representations of their countries’ histories. Ms. Varlı and Dr. Umunç will talk with their technology people and will get in touch with me.

7. **Middle Eastern Technical University**: Dr. Gökşin Kaplan Akilli (October 24). Dr. Akilli is very interested and Middle Eastern Technical University does have the technology. Our classes would discuss the role of technology and gaming in their lives.

It looks as if the most promising universities for the videoconferencing part of the class are Kadir Has, Boğaziçi, and Middle Eastern Technical Universities. It is my hope that I can set up 2 classes with each of these universities for a total of 6 videoconferencing classes over the course of the semester. If İpek and Başkent work out, that would be great, but I would be happy if even two universities will be able to do videoconferencing classes. There is certainly a lot of enthusiasm on the part of all the faculty at all the universities I visited.

Right now I am working on two things: 1. Have Darrell Laws, ASU’s Interactive Video Services Technology Support Analyst, get in touch with his technology counterparts at Kadir Has, Boğaziçi, and Middle Eastern Technical Universities. 2. After that, I can hard schedule Anne Belk 23, the classroom where the videoconferencing sessions will be held. At this point I have reserved this classroom.

**Concluding remarks**: On this trip I was able both to fulfill my original intentions, and other possibilities have opened up as well:

1. Work out the details of the videoconferencing classes.
2. Give 3 presentations.
3. Research my project on street dogs in Western and Eastern literature.
4. Research Turkey.
5. Explore possibilities in Turkey for my Fulbright Specialist position. As I noted on my last report, I am on the Fulbright Specialist roster from 2015-2020.
6. Receive unexpected invitations to speak at and spend time at other universities.

I will also present at this November’s Global Symposium.