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ANNUAL REPORT

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends of TASSA,

Once again, TASSA has completed a busy and a successful year in connecting the scientific communities in the US and Turkey.

Our web site and the newsletter, The Bridge, have been the major channels of communication. Statistics show that both channels receive healthy attention. TASSA web site received close to million hits and each issue of The Bridge was sent to about five-thousand individuals.

TASSA Board was extremely busy with issues that concerned the academic world in both the United States and Turkey. At each case, the Board debated whether to issue statements expressing discontent with pressures on the academic world. However, almost at each case the Board decided not to fuel the situation by issuing statements but instead opted to debate the challenges the academic world faces during our 2018 conference.

One of the activities the TASSA Board undertook, which made all Board members very proud, was to help a very small elementary school in Van, Turkey. We hope to increase such socially responsible projects in the coming years.

Turkish-American scientists and scholars have achieved notable success in 2017. Among these, Nurçin Çelik and Sinan Keten made us all proud by receiving the Presidential Early-Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers in 2017.

Finally, 2017 was the year to get organized for the 2018 TASSA Conference. Selim Ünlü and Neşe Ünlü volunteered to be the co-chairs of the conference, which will be held at Boston University on June 2-3. Under the leadership of Selim and Neşe we all look forward to another superb conference.

I wish everyone many successes in their fields.

Best regards,

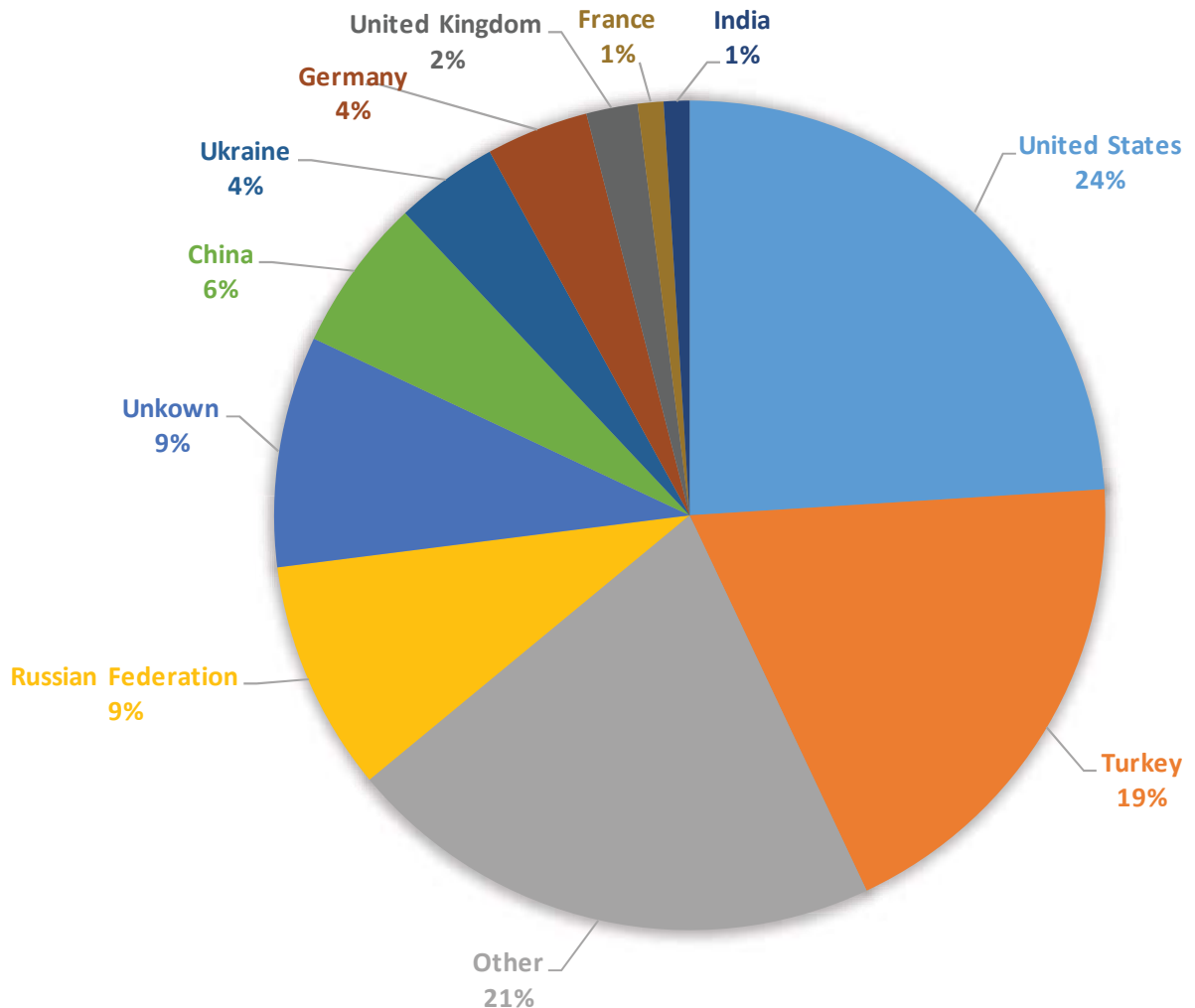
2. Board of Directors, Executive Committee Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Topic</u>
January 6, 2017	Help for Kırıkhan elementary school in Van, Turkey
January 29, 2017	Discussion of the draft statement to object the Muslim ban
March 25, 2017	Participation to the March for Science
May 8	Discussion on Academy of Science of Turkey's statement
May 11	Discussion on Gulmen and Ozaka's hunger strike
May 16	Discussion on Wiki ban
June 17	Discussion of 16 Annual Report and Financials, decision on conference site and date
November 18	Conference date change

3. Membership Activities

- TASSA had 56 paid members, and 18 institutional members during 2017.
- TASSA became active in Facebook as of 2015, currently the number of followers are 882.
- In 2017 TASSA website on average received 2375 hits, 476 visits and 786 page views per day. Maximum page view in one day was 7,403, maximum visit 7,673 and maximum hit 79,227.

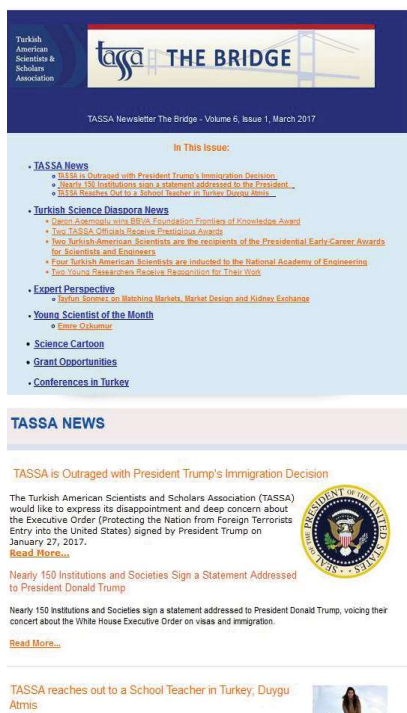
The percentage of visits to our website by countries in 2017 is as follows:



4. Communication with the TASSA community

In line with TASSA's mission of connecting the scientific community in Turkey and the United States, the quarterly newsletter, the Bridge has been published throughout 2017.

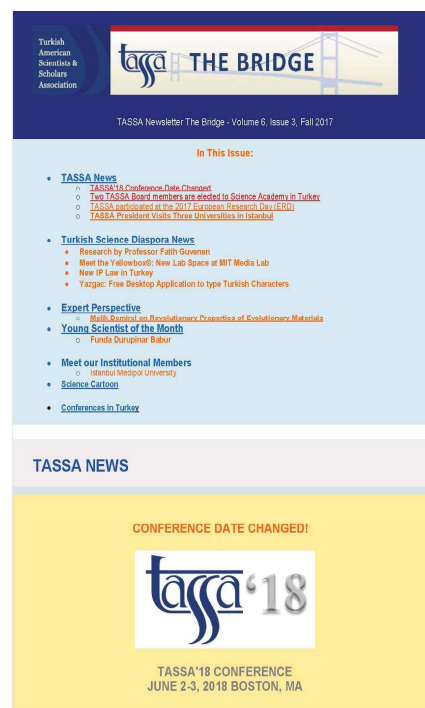
Winter Newsletter



Spring Newsletter



Fall Newsletter



The Bridge aims to serve the community in multiple ways, serving its function as the main channel to reach out to almost 5,000 members within the Turkish-American scientists and scholars.

Primarily, the Bridge highlighted the success stories from the Turkish-American community, functioning both as a news platform as well as a source of motivation for aspiring members of the scientific community. 2017 was a great year for the Turkish-American scientific community.

TASSA will hold its 8th annual conference in Boston, MA. where the Turkish American Academic community will come together.

The Young Scholar profiles were highlighted in each issue of the Bridge, celebrating the dynamism and youth of the Turkish American scientific community.

Some highlights from the email communications are as below:

- The current number of people being reached by the newsletter and announcements is 4,982. The open rate is 37% on mobile devices and 63% on desktop/laptops.
- The announcement that had the highest opening rate was TASSA Membership Reminder that was sent out in May, 2017

TASSA's mission to inform the community has also continued offline.

5.TASSA Activities

TASSA Reaches out to a School in Van, Turkey

A story in Hurriyet on December 30, 2016 touched the hearts of many. A devoted teacher Duygu Atmis commutes to her job, a container elementary school, on a mule every day during Winter months. Cars cannot go up the hill because of snow so the villagers assigned her a mule to help her with the commute!

TASSA Board took note of the news in Hurriyet and decided to help this loyal teacher. A phone call to the teacher revealed more heart breaking news. It was Dugyu Atmis's first appointment as a teacher to an elementary school in Kirikhan, a village of Van, Turkey. There was hardly any school material in the classroom. The school and the children needed everything but most importantly boots, and coats, and the teacher needed laptop, projector, printer etc. There are 22 students ranging from 5 to 15 in ages tucked in one classroom, only 10 houses in the village, 38 adults, and 22 children under the age of 5. According to Ms. Atmis everyone needed boots and coats.

So TASSA got to work. A wish-list was obtained from the teacher and through a school supplies wholesaler the contents of the entire wish list was ordered. Also, boots and coats were purchased for everyone in the village. School supplies arrived at the village and were distributed immediately. Clothing also arrived but couldn't be delivered to the village because of the treacherous weather conditions.



TASSA Marches for Science

TASSA President Prof. Haluk Unal and other representatives joined the March for Science rally in Washington DC, on April 22, 2017.

TASSA representatives joined the March to celebrate the many contributions Turkish Science Diaspora has made to the advancement of knowledge in the United States and also to show solidarity with scientists and scholars in the United States who are against the deep cuts in sciences, humanities, and art in Federal budget.



all

TASSA '18 Conference Date is Announced

TASSA'18 Conference will be held on June 2-3, 2018 in Boston, MA at the Boston University. The conference chair will be Dr. Selim Ünlü, Professor at the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Boston University. TASSA'18 Conference theme is "Disruptive Ideas and Technologies".



TASSA participated in EURAXESS North America's 2nd Annual Meeting of European Scientific Diasporas

In December 2016, TASSA participated in EURAXESS North America's 2nd Annual Meeting of European Scientific Diasporas in Washington, D.C. The meeting's focus was on mentoring, where leaders discussed best practices, and opportunities and challenges of current mentoring programs run by various diaspora groups in North America. Meeting participants further discussed how they could join forces in establishing a Joint European Mentoring Initiative to support European researchers at home and abroad. TASSA's managing director Dr. Tuba Fehr was an invited panelist at the meeting and talked about a vision for how a Joint Mentoring Initiative of this kind could look like under the Euraxess umbrella. The report from this meeting is available through this link: <https://www.joomag.com/magazine/report-of-2nd-european-scientific-diasporas-in-north-america-meeting-2016/0301394001491588718?short>



Some highlights from the meeting include the consensus around increased awareness of the significance of mentoring for young researchers, the need for mentoring programs to be all encompassing to teach younger scientists how to market themselves and their work while promoting their careers, and one-size-fits all is not the right approach in establishing a Joint European Mentoring Initiative. One recommendation suggested by the audience in moving forward in this joint effort was for EURAXESS to hold "Train the Trainer" workshops for interested and committed diasporas in 2017 as a tangible and achievable result. As of January 2017, EURAXESS North America has begun the planning of a series of workshops to follow through on these recommendations. Funded by the European Commission, the objective of the EURAXESS North America initiative is to actively promote Europe as an attractive and open place for researchers and innovators. It provides a great networking platform mainly for European researchers working in North America but also North American researchers/innovators with the potential of moving to Europe. Membership is free. <http://northamerica.euraxess.org>

TASSA Participates in Euraxes North America

TASSA participated at the 2017 European Research Day (ERD) held on 21 September in Washington DC. ERD is an event organized by EURAXESS North America where European and non-European researchers meet, discuss and exchange concepts about their research projects, professional and personal experience in their respective diasporas and overall career paths. It also presents a unique networking opportunity through which they can meet researchers from their current regions to advance in their careers and explore opportunities to collaborate. TASSA was invited to participate in ERD, and share expertise, at the Strategic Planning Workshop on the establishing of a Joint European Mentoring Initiative [JEMI]. National Scientific Diasporas leaders as well as Science and Research Counsellors from European embassies were invited to contribute to invitation-only sessions dedicated to strategically planning the establishment of JEMI. The foundation for JEMI was laid down at the second annual meeting of EURAXESS North America last year, where TASSA was a key contributor to these initial discussions.



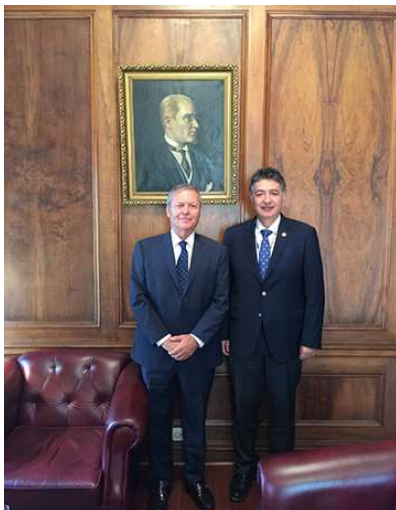
TASSA President Visits Three Universities in Istanbul

TASSA President, Haluk Unal, visited three universities during his visit to Istanbul in October. Unal visited Bogazici university and met with President Mehmed Ozkan, Vice Rector Aysin Ertuzun and Prof. Zafer Yenil.

At Ozyegin University Unal had a tour of the University with President Esra Gencturk.. The robotics lab and the new creativity center were state-of the art.

Unal met with the Chairman of the Board of the Istanbul Aydin University, Dr. Mustafa Aydin.

Major topic of conversation in these meetings was the TASSA 2018 Conference and the possible effects of the US-Turkey visa dispute on the attendance to the 2018 Conference by the Turkish academicians from Turkey.



Expert Opinion

Winter 2017: Tayfun Sonmez on Matching Markets, Market Design and Kidney Exchange

Spring 2017: Kadri Vural on High Performance Infrared Detector Arrays

Fall 2017: Melik Demirel on Revolutionary Properties of Evolutionary Materials

Interviews with Young Scholars

Winter 2017: Emre Ozkumur

Spring 2017: Caglar Girit

Fall 2017: Funda Durupinar Babur

6. Accomplishments of the Diaspora

- Two Turkish-American Scientists Nurcin Celik and Sinan Keten are the recipients of the Presidential Early-Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE)
- One of TASSA Boards Member Mehmet Toner is inducted to the 2016 National Academy of Inventors (NAI).
- TASSA Vice President Canan Dagdeviren is named as a 2017 innovation and technology delegate of Academy of Achievement.
- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) researcher, Onder Albayram, MSci, PhD, has been awarded a Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowship Grant.
- Mustafa Unal PhD, received three prestigious awards; The Coblentz Student Award, The Coblentz William Fateley Student Award and the Society for Applied Spectroscopy Graduate Student Award.
- Four Turkish American Scientists are inducted to the National Academy of Engineering: Birol Dindoruk, Ali Dogru, Selda Gunsul, Mehmet Toner.
- MIT economist Daron Acemoglu has won this year's BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award for Economics, Finance, and Management.
- Dr. Gunduz received 2017 Excellence Award for Assistant Professors
- Dr. Atilla Soran received Honorary fellowship for his significant contributions to breast health related activities.
- Veysel Tahan, MD, FACP is selected as American College of Gastroenterology (ACG)- Mentor on Research Career, Academics, Clinical Career and Education Career topics for Nationwide GI fellows.
- Dr. Ümit Özkan wins the American Chemical Society Energy and Fuels Division Storch Award. She is the first woman to win this award
- Research by Professor Fatih Guvenen (University of Minnesota Department of Economics) on income inequality have been featured frontpage by the business and economics supplement of New York Times on September 18, 2017
- Two members of the TASSA board, Prof. Mehmet Toner of Harvard University and Prof. Aydoğan Özcan of University of California at Los Angeles are elected as full members of the Science Academy in Turkey on December 2nd, 2017

7. TASSA Organizational Chart, Members of th Board and Committees

Board of Directors

President and Chairman of the Board

Haluk Ünal Professor, Finance, Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland

Board Members

Ercan Alp Staff Member, Argonne National Laboratory

Bülent Başol Founder and Chief Technology Officer, EncoreSolar

Ayşe İmrohoroğlu Professor of Finance and Business Economics,
Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California

Aydoğın Özcan Chancellor's Professor and HHMI Professor, Electrical Engineering, UCLA

Fusun Özgüner Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Ohio State University

Candan Tamerler Wesley Cramer Professor,
Mechanical Engineering Department, University of Kansas

Mehmet Toner Helen Andrus Benedict Professor, Biomedical Engineering,
Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School,
and Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology

Selim Ünlü Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Boston University

Board Committees

Nominating Committee

Ayşe İmrohoroğlu University of Southern California

Mehmet Toner Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology

Aydoğan Özcan UCLA

Audit Committee Bulent Basol (Chair), Işıl Erel, Ferhat Fesen

Executive Committee**President and Chairman of the Board**

Haluk Ünal Professor, Department of Finance, University of Maryland

Vice Presidents

Hasan Ayaz Associate Research Professor, School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems, Drexel University; Adjunct Professor, University of Pennsylvania

Kerem Coşar Associate Professor of Economics, University of Virginia

Canan Dağdeviren Assistant Professor at MIT Media Lab

Batuhan Osmanoğlu Physical Research Scientist, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Managing Director

Tuba Fehr AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow

Treasurer

Şenay Ağca George Washington University

Editor

Ergun Akleman Professor at the Department of Visualization, Texas A&M

Communications Director

Bedriye Akson Bentley University

Former Communications Director

Aylin Sagay Drexel University

8. 2017 Institutional Members

Championing Members



Sustaining Members



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

Promoting Members



Sponsor Members





Turkish American Scientists & Scholars Association

1526 18th Street, NW Washington, DC 20036 USA, ed@tassausa.org, 1-855-827-7204

About TASSA

Turkish American Scientists and Scholars Association (TASSA) is an independent, non-profit and non-political organization established in June 2004 in Washington, DC.

*TASSA aims to contribute to the social welfare and the industrial development in the U.S.A. and Turkey through the promotion of education and science.

*TASSA promotes friendship and fellowship among Turkish-American professionals engaged in engineering, natural, life and social sciences, and related fields.

*TASSA enhances the professional and social status of Turkish-American professionals engaged in engineering, natural, life and social sciences, and related fields.

*TASSA promotes and cultivates the next generation of Turkish-American scientists and scholars.

*TASSA has a large community and network of nearly 5,000 Turkish scientists and scholars. TASSA members come from

- Engineering and Applied Sciences
- Health and Biomedical Sciences
- Natural Sciences
- Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities



MISSION

TASSA's mission is to promote educational, scientific and technological cooperation between the U.S.A. and Turkey and to facilitate the advancement of science in Turkey and the USA through scientific exchange, educational programs and increased networking.

VISION

TASSA's vision is to build a sustainable science bridge between the U.S.A. and Turkey. This bridge would facilitate the flow of people (scientists and scholars), knowledge, and technology and help link science and technology institutions in the two countries.



TASSA newsletter: The Bridge

The Bridge is a bimonthly newsletter that informs TASSA members about

- TASSA Board and committee activities
- News and job opportunities from Turkey
- Accomplishments of Turkish scientists and scholars.

The Bridge has more than 1,500 active readers

<http://www.tassausa.org/News-From-TASSA>

TASSA Educational Activities

TASSA Academy: A future project aimed at bringing junior faculty from Turkish universities and distinguished faculty from US together in instructive workshops

Workshops: Regional research seminars in various fields bring together TASSA community members and provide great networking opportunities for the attendees.



TASSA Annual Conferences

TASSA Conferences have the objective to establish a forum and create a dynamic platform for many young and experienced American, Turkish, and Turkish-American scientists and scholars to explore and develop new collaborative initiatives. Past conferences were held at:

2016 – Booth School of Business, University of Chicago
 2014 - Smith School of Business, University of Maryland
 2012 - Smith School of Business, University of Maryland
 2008 - Harvard Medical School
 2007 - Yale University
 2006 - Drexel University
 2005 - George Washington University

<http://www.tassausa.org/Annual-Conferences>

For more information about TASSA visit us at <http://www.tassausa.org>

