



In Memory of Prof. William Jones

Speaking as the Chair of the Department of American Culture and Literature at Hacettepe University in Turkey, and as a person who has lost a mentor and a dear friend, I would like to express my deepest condolences. Prof. Jones, or Jones Hoca as we referred to him, had a special place in our hearts. Having known him since 1979 when I was still an undergraduate student, I can say that he will be missed very much by all his Turkish friends and colleagues here at Hacettepe.

Prof. Jones's first official Turkish connection was through a Fulbright grant in 1975–1976 when he taught in the English Department at Hacettepe University. While working on the curriculum, Prof. Jones pointed out that although there were classes on American literature in the program, American culture was missing. This was the beginning of a journey that would lead to the establishment of the

American Culture and Literature department in its own right. When he was asked to return to Hacettepe University in 1979 as a visiting professor, he did not hesitate. For two semesters, he helped design and launch an undergraduate program in the field of American culture and literature. Prof. Jones also helped plant the seeds of what is today the most prestigious American Studies Department in Turkey. Thus, his contributions to the program are invaluable. Currently, our department offers both undergraduate and graduate programs with approximately 500 students and 15 faculty members.

When Prof. Jones was appointed the US Cultural Affairs Officer to Turkey between 1994 and 1998, he continued to work diligently to establish further connections between Turkish and American academics. With the cooperation of the USIA's Division for the Study of the United States, he was able to contribute to several university libraries, send a number of Turkish academics to US summer institutes for training, and organize American Studies seminars.

Over the ensuing years, we kept in touch and once again, in 2002, we asked him to return to the Department of American Culture and Literature to assist us in updating our curriculum. He graciously accepted and came to Hacettepe for a semester. During this last assignment to Turkey through a Fulbright grant, we literally begged him to stay for a second semester. He said he could not because he wanted to be close to his grandchildren in the US, and that surely Turks would understand since they also have strong family ties. I guess we did not want to let him go, since he had become a member of our family too.

He is remembered as always being very friendly and kind towards faculty members and students. His classes were always thought-provoking and continue to be an inspiration for everyone. He also generously donated most of his personal books to the department library and we continue to enjoy these gifts years later.

Even after he retired, he continued to guide us both professionally and personally. He and Cecilie visited Turkey a few more times and every time they visited, we picked up from where we left off. Prof. Jones won our admiration and our hearts not only with his quick wit, intellectual responses, sense of humor, and accurate pronouncements on social and political matters, but also with his warm personality and understanding nature.

Over the years, I visited him and Cecilie at their home in DC. Each of those visits had a cultural component: a theater performance, or visiting a fair or a museum exhibition, topped with a healthy homecooked meal and Cecilie's cookies for dessert, which I definitely miss. The last time I saw him was in 2014, when he and Cecilie graciously hosted my husband, my daughter and me. I will always remember his warm smile, and how he threw in a Turkish word here and there into his conversation, which always made me smile.

Once again, I offer my condolences to Cecilie, and Prof. Jones's extended family and friends, on behalf of the department. May he rest assured that we are carrying on his legacy, passing on the torch of American Studies to the younger generation of academics on the path he helped pave.

Güle güle hocam (Goodbye my professor).

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bilge Mutluay Çetintaş
Hacettepe University