



In Memory of Associate Professor Saadet Bozkurt (1944–2022)

Dr. Bozkurt started her academic career as a Teaching Assistant at Hacettepe University, Department of English Language and Literature in 1966. There, in 1973, she wrote her PhD dissertation, “Freedom and Identity in Henry Miller.” Again at Hacettepe University, she was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1976, and later in 1981, with her dissertation “Love and Hate in James Baldwin’s Fiction: A World of Painful Ambivalence,” she was promoted to Associate Professor at the same institution.

During her time at Hacettepe University between 1966 and 1987, she founded and chaired the Department of American Culture and Literature where she taught undergraduate and graduate courses, such as 20th Century American Novel, Survey of Black American Literature, 19th century American Novel and American Short Story. At Hacettepe, Dr. Bozkurt was also the Founding Chair of the Department of Translation and Interpretation.

Later in 1987, Dr. Saadet Bozkurt decided to continue her career at Bilkent University where she once again founded and chaired a department, the Department of American Culture and Literature.

She was invited to Başkent University in 1995 to establish the Department of American Culture and Literature and worked there as Founding Chair until she chose to retire in 1999.

During her fruitful career just shy of 30 years, Dr. Bozkurt not only was the Founding Chair of four departments where she designed and set up core curricula but also taught courses on American literature and culture, performed the duties of thesis and dissertation advisor and student academic advisor. In addition, Dr. Bozkurt served in administrative positions including Assistant Dean at Bařkent University; furthermore, she was the Faculty Representative at the University Senate at Bařkent University and served on committees, advisory boards and executive boards at the higher education institutions where she worked.

Among being a member of other professional organizations, Dr. Bozkurt was a founding member and later president of the American Studies Association of Turkey between 1992 and 1994.

Dr. Saadet Bozkurt received grants and awards for her academic work from the John F. Kennedy Institute, NATO, the British Council, among others.

She organized, chaired and attended national and international conferences where she often presented papers as well. Her publications in academic journals mainly focused on the African American novel. Her Associate Professorship dissertation on Baldwin marked only the beginning of her extensive publications on this renowned writer. Her research interests also included Black American women writers and Native American culture. In addition, she co-translated with her dear husband Professor Bülent R. Bozkurt *Shakespeare's Sonnets* (Ankara: Dost, 1985; İstanbul: Remzi, 1994).

I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Bozkurt first in the 1971-1972 Academic Year at Hacettepe University, Department of English Language and Literature in my freshman year when, at the time, she was lecturing on Survey of American Literature and American History. She used to give pop-quizzes to keep us on the subject. Once, when she told me that I was the first student to get a 100 on her quizzes, this made me want to study even harder for her exams. It was this warm and kind encouragement that went a long way in my days as an undergraduate student and in the many more years to come.

Our paths later crossed again when I joined the Department of English Language and Literature at Hacettepe. Until last year, for no less than 35 years, I had the cactus plants she had planted herself and gifted me when I first settled in my office. In those days I learned so much from her about carrying out departmental chores. I also remember

enjoying her perceptive humor not only at the office but also during our private chats. With a few other like-minded professors and colleagues, we enjoyed many wonderful times during the American Studies conferences. After she left Hacettepe for Bilkent, I was overjoyed and proud to be asked to move to her office where her warmth lingered.

When I succeeded Dr. Bozkurt as Chair of the Department of Translation and Interpretation at Hacettepe in 1987, I had to work really hard to sustain the system she had so perfectly set up in order to run the department flawlessly.

At the time the American Studies Association of Turkey was founded in 1988, with Professor Necla Aytür its President, Dr. Bozkurt made significant contributions to the Association's projects as the Vice President, and later as its President. During this time, as the other vice president, I once again further benefited from her knowledge and expertise - which she always so generously shared - in the administrative field and in organizing academic events.

When I was teaching part-time at Bilkent University, I was lucky to share an office with Dr. Bozkurt. I would look forward to the breaks when we would exchange notes, and I could once again learn from her extensive experience in varied areas of the academic arena.

Despite her heavy workload, Dr. Bozkurt always made time for herself and her hobbies; she enjoyed gardening, and she always dressed well, keeping up with the fashion. Whenever her younger colleagues neglected dressing nicely and came to work in too casual attire, she was quick to make a warm remark, reminding them of the rules of the office space. There was always something to learn from her...

I am grateful for having known Associate Professor Saadet Bozkurt who was a wonderful teacher, a mentor, and a diligent and energetic administrator. I have no doubt she left a lasting mark on the professional and personal lives of many.

You will be fondly remembered and will always be missed, Hocam.

Prof. Dr. A. Deniz BOZER