

YESGUM ACTIVITIES: 2011-2013 Academic Year

- On March 7th 2012, under the title “Academic Discussions”, presented by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, a general presentation was made to participants on the purpose of YESGUM (Yeni Yuzyil University Social Gerontology Center). The audience was mainly faculty members from various departments, and some students.
- On March 23rd 2012, at the conference on “Respect for the Elderly” presented by the Vocational College of Healthcare Services, the purpose and projects of YESGUM were introduced. The audience consisted of faculty members and students from YYU.
- On March 15th, 2012, a meeting was held between faculty members from Poland who came to YYU as a part of an Erasmus Faculty Exchange program, and the co-directors of YESGUM. At that meeting it was agreed that a joint project would be conducted between YYU, and faculty members at the Rzeszowski campus of University of Poland. YESGUM coordinated efforts with the Vocational College of Healthcare Services as well as our Polish counterparts, and prepared a questionnaire to be distributed among collage students. The title of the questionnaire is “Perceptions of Old Age as seen by Turkish and Polish Students.” This is a joint effort between several departments at University of Poland, department of Anthropology, collage of vocational professionals at YYU, and YESGUM. At this time, we are ready to distribute the questionnaire.
- On May 4th-6th 2012, YESGUM participated in the Science Days Fair, sponsored by YYU. Students who had conducted research on “health services in healthcare organizations” gave a presentation on articles they had reviewed on this subject, and the research they had designed to conduct on this topic. Students presented how they had met community leaders in Zeytinburnu, and interviews they had with them regarding services provided by Family Health Centers. From that experience, students decided to prepare a questionnaire to be applied to these Centers. The questionnaire is intended to measure the satisfaction of “healthcare services” as seen by the workers at the Centers as well as the patients. The approval of this project needed to be given by the Municipal Health Department, an extension of the Ministry of Health in Turkey. This project and the bureaucratic qualifications are ongoing.
- On May 4th-6th, 2012, at the Science Days Fair, sponsored by YYU, YESGUM invited Dr. Grethe Knudsen to be a speaker. She presented a topic titled “Vital Involvement in an Aging Population.” She participated as a speaker on the panel jointly prepared by the Department of Anthropology and YESGUM. The audience, predominantly consisting of university students, was fascinated by Dr. Knudsen’s own vitality, she is 80 years old!
- A compilation of articles, books and other resource materials are being done by students participating in YESGUM activities. These students come from various departments; however, the majority is health sciences students. The goal of this project is to bring together a library on social gerontology. The materials are being gathered in both English and Turkish.