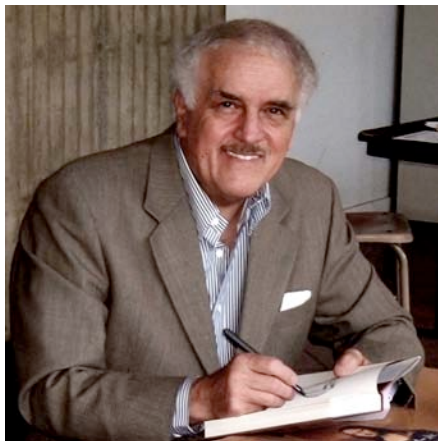


The College of William & Mary
TURKISH CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
Presents

A Lecture by Professor Bulent Atalay
“LEONARDO AND HIS TURKISH CONNECTION”

April 24th, 12:30 P.M. at Tidewater A



Bulent Atalay presents science through art, and art through science, and approaches the larger goal of achieving a synthesis of the two fields. He invokes the model of Leonardo – part-time artist, passionate scientist, consummate inventor. The qualities of timelessness and universality in Leonardo's miraculous works speak eloquently for themselves. With Leonardo's model providing the unifying thread, however, it becomes possible, first, to glimpse Leonardo's restless intellect, that extraordinary psyche; second, to see whence the ideas for his works of art came; and ultimately to appreciate his art at a different level. A highlight of Professor Atalay's talk will be Leonardo's "Turkish Connection." In 1950 a scholar, carrying out inventory of the documents in the archives of the Topkapi Palace, uncovered a letter from Leonardo to the Court of Sultan Beyazit II.

Written five hundred years earlier, Leonardo was seen offering his services as a military engineer in Istanbul, and proposing to build a single-arch bridge spanning the Golden Horn.

Bulent Atalay was born in Ankara, Turkey. After obtaining his early education at Eton (UK) and St. Andrew's School (Delaware), the site of the 1989 Robin Williams film, "Dead Poets Society," he received BS, MS, MA and Ph.D. degrees and completed post-doctoral work in theoretical physics at Georgetown, UC-Berkeley, Princeton and Oxford. He is a professor emeritus of physics at the University of Mary Washington, an adjunct professor at the University of Virginia, and a member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. The Nobel Prize winning physicist William Phillips wrote, "Leonardo is the prototype for the renaissance man-artist, architect, philosopher, scientist, writer. There are few like him today, but Atalay is indeed a modern renaissance man, and he invites us to tap the power of synthesis that is Leonardo's model."

Dr. Atalay lectures around the world on the "A-subjects" — art, archaeology, astrophysics, and atomic physics. He confesses he knows little about the "B-subjects" — business, banking, botany... He is also an accomplished artist who has presented his works in one-man exhibitions in London and Washington. His two books of lithographs, *Lands of Washington* and *Oxford and the English Countryside*, can be found in the permanent collections of Buckingham Palace, the Smithsonian, and the White House.

His highly acclaimed book, *Math and the Mona Lisa*, published in 2004 by Smithsonian Books, has appeared in twelve languages. His most recent book, *Leonardo's Universe*, co-authored with his friend and former student, Keith Wamsley, was released 2009 by National Geographic Books, and selected as one of 'Ten Must-Have Books for the Year' by the Britannica Blog. His website can be seen at <http://www.bulentatalay.com>

For more information about this event please contact tco@wm.edu or stok@email.wm.edu

