

The American Research Institute in
Turkey
and
the Friends of ARIT
remember with affection former
ARIT-Ankara Director
Toni M. Cross



Toni Cross at Kinet Höyük in 2001.

Dr. Toni M. Cross served as ARIT Ankara director from 1979 to 2002. With her guidance, the ARIT-Ankara Friends became a force for the promotion of ARIT in the capitol city, with lecture programs, tours, and trips that helped to define ARIT's mission of public outreach and education. These programs involved Turks, Americans, and other foreigners; college and graduate students, scholars, members of the diplomatic corps, together with many members of the Friends community. She established the annual lecture series on Archaeology in Turkey. She developed the Ankara library, which now bears her name.

In the early 1990s Toni helped establish the Turkey-Greece scholar exchange in collaboration with W. W. D. E. Coulson, then director of the ASCSA. She took pride in the role she played in the establishment of the Aegean Exchange program, an initiative of then First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. That program still thrives today, supported by the U.S. Department of State.

In her unpretentious, straightforward manner, Dr. Toni M. Cross did a great deal for Turkish-American relations over the years. Together with her husband, Ihsan Çetin, she introduced a whole generation of American scholars, teachers, diplomats, and businessmen to the Turkey beyond policy papers and preconceptions. She unselfishly worked for those things that she deemed important: Archaeology and a better American understanding of Turkey were foremost.

ARIT seeks to honor the memory of Toni Cross by developing an endowed fellowship to support the research of a Turkish graduate student of archaeology. Friends of Toni Cross have given generously every year and the fund is growing. It is not yet to the point where we can spend the earnings. ARIT asks your support for this permanent remembrance. ARIT welcomes donations at any level.