Community College of Philadelphia Celebrates
Student-Faculty Fellowship Program in Istanbul

Article by Fay Beauchamp, Director, Center for International Understanding

Photographs by Cynthia Giddle, English Department Chair

Community College of Philadelphia is celebrating the sixth year of a Turkey study-abroad program, supported by the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) and other Turkish-American organizations. In May 2012 six students led by two professors, Cynthia Giddle, currently English Department Chair, and John Joyce, Associate Professor in English, engaged in an intensive exploration of the diversity within Istanbul through a twelve-day study-abroad program.

Study within Istanbul extends students' knowledge gained through new courses developed through a U. S. Department of Education Title VI A grant, "The Middle East and Cross-Regional Connections" 2003-2006. For example, students take *Introduction to Middle East Cultures and Civilizations* or *Religions of the Middle East* and then apply for the study-abroad program. Selected students must enroll in an additional one-credit course with readings and assignments focused solely on Turkey. Fundraising coordinated by the College's Center for International Understanding raised scholarships for the students, so selection was based on interest and merit rather than ability to pay.

Picture: Those in in the Ebristan photo taken by Professor Cynthia Giddle, from left to right. CCP Students: Max Wolf, Cat Bergeron, Tonya Pryor; Hikmet and Fusun Barutcugil (the Ebru master and his artist wife): CCP Professor John Joyce. CCP Students: Shane McMahon, Tiara Willis, and Salesheha Sarfraz.