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Special Graduation Issue

BİLKENT NEWS

Monday, July 6: Sunny 18°C / 36°C
Tuesday, July 7: Sunny 18°C / 36°C
Wednesday, July 8: Sunny 18°C / 34°C
Thursday, July 9: Sunny 16°C / 30°C

Weekly Newspaper of Bilkent University

Highlights of the 2019–2020 Academic Year



Graduation is a time to look back over the past, with all its cherished memories, and also to look forward to the future, with all its challenges, opportunities and surprises. Above all, graduation is a time to celebrate.

We congratulate the members of the Bilkent University class of 2020 on achieving this milestone, and wish each of our new graduates continued success in the years to come.

Distinguished Teachers Honored

The University is pleased to announce the recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Awards for 2020. Vakur Behçet Ertürk, Halil Altay Güvenir and Seymur Jahangirov were chosen for demonstrating outstanding teaching abilities and for contributing to students' academic and intellectual development. Please see page 2 for the 2020 Distinguished Teaching Award recipients' statements.


Vakur B. Ertürk


H. Altay Güvenir


Seymur Jahangirov

Bilkent Leads World in Open-Access Publications



According to the 2019 CWTS Leiden Rankings, Bilkent University led the world in the percentage of open-access publications.

The Leiden Rankings are reported annually by the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) at Leiden University in the Netherlands. *(Continued on Page 2)*

Bilkent Achieves "Zero Waste" Milestone

Last year, a "Zero Waste" regulation was published in Turkey's Official Gazette, with the aim of reducing the volume of nonrecyclable waste produced in the country. Under the regulation, universities were given until December 31, 2020, to qualify for Zero Waste certification at the basic level. On April 20, Bilkent became the first university in Turkey to attain this certification, which it received from the Ankara Provincial Directorate for the Environment and Urbanization.

The Zero Waste model calls not only for reuse and recycling, but also, crucially, for reducing and preventing the production of waste in the first place.



NEWS & EVENTS OF 2019-2020

Faculty of Law Joins ELFA and ELPIS

As of January 2020, the Faculty of Law was accepted as a full member of the European Law Faculties Association (ELFA). Headquartered in Leuven, Belgium, ELFA was founded in 1995 by more than 80 faculties of law located in universities across Europe.

During the 2019-2020 academic year the Faculty of Law also became a full member of the European Legal Practice Integrated Studies (ELPIS) network. It was officially admitted to the network at the organization's annual meeting, which took place in Hannover, Germany, in December 2019.

COMD Joins CILECT

Last October, the Department of Communication and Design became an accredited member of the International Association of Film and Television Schools (CILECT), which includes more than 180 audiovisual educational institutions in 65 countries. COMD was elected to full membership during the association's 2019 congress, held in Moscow.

New Achievements for THM

In 2020, the Department of Tourism and Hotel Management was awarded national accreditation by the Tourism Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council (TURAK), an accreditation body recognized by Turkey's Higher Education Council. The department received its accreditation, affirming the quality of the education it provides, based on the high standards of its program, its commitment to continuous improvement, its academic faculty, its facilities, its relations with industry and the involvement and achievements of its graduates.

Also in 2020, the department became a member of the Institut Paul Bocuse Worldwide Alliance. The



institute, an international school of culinary arts and hospitality and food service management, established the Alliance in 2004; today, it includes 20 partner schools and universities in 20 countries on four continents. Each year, students of Alliance members have the opportunity to attend a 14-week summer program at the Institut Paul Bocuse in Lyon, France.

QS Names Bilkent One of Turkey's Top Three Universities

The Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings report for 2021, published this June, lists Bilkent among Turkey's three highest-ranked universities. In the report, Bilkent is placed in the group of universities ranked 501–510 worldwide.

To arrive at its rankings, QS evaluates universities on the basis of academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty/student ratio, citations per faculty, international faculty ratio and international student ratio.

QS also recently released its Top 50 Under 50 rankings of "young" universities for 2021. These rankings comprise universities founded less than 50 years ago and were expanded in 2015 to include an additional 100 universities, for a total of 150. In the 2021 rankings, Bilkent appears in the 81–90 group worldwide and is among the top five universities in Turkey.

In addition, during the past year QS named Bilkent one of the Turkey's highest-ranked universities in terms of employment outcomes for its graduates. The 2020 rankings, published online in September 2019, listed Bilkent among the world's top 300 universities in this respect.

Bilkent Leads World in Open-Access Publications

(Continued from Page 1) Specifically, Bilkent digitized a greater percentage of the scientific articles authored by its faculty members, making them available online to readers across the globe free of charge, than any of the other 963 institutions included in the Leiden Rankings. The university was found to have made 96.1 percent of academic staff articles published from 2014 through 2017 available in open digital space, without a paywall.

Most articles by Bilkent researchers are published in journals that require a fee to access their contents. But following the expiration of the embargo periods imposed by the journals, Bilkent makes such articles available to the public online through its institutional repository, the Bilkent University Library. Obviously, this increases the visibility of Bilkent researchers among members of the global scientific community.

Commenting on the rankings, Bilkent University Rector Abdullah Atalar said, "We have pioneered a way to reach out to wider audiences through our scientific studies. This system of providing open access to our published research, which made Bilkent University the leader among 963 institutions on five continents, aims to increase the impact of current knowledge and research in the academic world."

Distinguished Teachers Honored

Vakur Behçet Ertürk (EE)

I am very happy and deeply honored to be one of the recipients of the Bilkent University Distinguished Teaching Awards. First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my past and present students and my colleagues who wrote detailed support letters, without which it would not have been possible for me to receive this award. I would also like to thank our departmental teaching award committee for nominating me and preparing a nomination package. I am in addition grateful to my department and my former and current colleagues as well as some of my former professors who tremendously helped me to shape my teaching philosophy. They have set excellent examples for me, and they still continue to help me become a better teacher. Finally, special thanks to our university for creating such an excellent environment for teaching. I feet quite comfortable during my lectures nowadays, but I remember being extremely nervous when I started to teach at Bilkent. Those first students were patient with me. They helped me to understand that teaching and learning go hand in hand. Over the years I have continuously experienced the fact that while I teach my students, I learn from them; and while they learn, they also teach. Moreover, their constructive comments and continuous support have always been the fundamental inspiration for me to be better. Therefore, I extend my appreciation to all of my past and present undergraduate and graduate students for this precious experience. Because of you, teaching has been a joy and a privilege that I am grateful for every single day.

Halil Altay Güvenir (CS)

I am very happy and deeply honored to be one of the recipients of the 2020 Bilkent University Distinguished Teaching Awards. I would like to express my gratitude to everybody who contributed to my being given this recognition, namely my students, TAs, faculty colleagues and past teachers.

Technology has been transforming our lives at a dramatic pace. Students in the Department of Computer Engineering at Bilkent, being very clever and curious, follow the new technologies very closely. Teaching a course in computer engineering and science requires the instructor to follow these changes even more closely than the students. At the same time, the real value of a teacher in computer science lies in their ability to cultivate prospective computer scientists who can both appreciate the underlying beauty of this discipline and come up with creative new ideas when faced with unprecedented challenges. This mission has been the guiding principle in the pursuit of my academic career.

Many universities in Turkey and around the world educate and graduate computer engineers who can design a computer system, with its hardware and software, that satisfies the given constraints. In fact, with the developments in computer systems, designing such systems is becoming easier every year. A better computer engineer must know people's needs, the effects that the system he/she is designing will have on people, and how the system can solve their problems. So, I always ask my students to be innovative.

I would like to thank my students, my colleagues and especially our departmental teaching award committee for nominating me and supporting my candidacy for this award. I would also like to thank all of my students and colleagues who prepared detailed letters of support, which made it possible for me to receive the award. Last but not least, I thank my family for their continuous love and support.

Seymur Jahangirov (UNAM)

I am humbled and thrilled to be one of the recipients of the Bilkent University Distinguished Teaching Awards. I would like to thank Prof. Hilmi Volkan Demir, Prof. Dönüş Tuncel and the entire Bilkent–UNAM collective for nominating me and supporting me in every way possible. I also thank Prof. Oğuz Gülseren, Dr. Robin Ann Downey and all graduate and undergraduate students who supported my application.

Throughout my graduate studies at Bilkent–UNAM, I was blessed to have had several teachers and researchers who served as role models for me. I am deeply grateful for the knowledge and wisdom they shared with me and honored to take a part in passing it to the next generation.

My greatest treasures in life are my wife Naide, my son Alim and my daughter Yegane. I thank them, from the bottom of my heart, for their love, care and support, and for the meaning that they give to my life.

Finally, I would like to thank my first teacher: my mother, Süreyya. She taught chemistry and biology in Azerbaijan for 35 years until retiring very recently. I remember that once she wrote a few lines of poetry for each element in the periodic table. Her unlimited passion for art and science is inherently present in my teaching in the form of emphasis on the truth–beauty ideal of John Keats:

"Beauty is truth, truth beauty, — that is all

Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know."

AWARDS

National and International Recognition for Bilkent Faculty Achievements

● Three Bilkent University faculty members were among the 2019 recipients of awards from the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK). Erdal Arıkan of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering was presented with a TÜBİTAK Science Award, while Emine Ülkü Sarıtaş Çukur of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Gül Günaydın of the Department of Psychology received TÜBİTAK Incentive Awards.

● Two Bilkent faculty members were among the scientists to have received 2019 Outstanding Young Scientist Awards from the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA). The Bilkent faculty awardees were: Onur Tokel (Department of Physics and Institute of Materials Science and Nanotechnology) and Burak Ülgüt (Department of Chemistry and Institute of Materials Science and Nanotechnology).

● Çağlar Elbüken of UNAM and Selim Hanay of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and UNAM were chosen by the Heroes of Science Association (Bilim Kahramanları Derneği) to receive the organization's 2020 Outstanding Young Scientist Awards.

● Four Bilkent faculty members were recipients of METU Prof. Dr. Mustafa Parlar Foundation Research Incentive Awards. They are: Tolga Çukur (Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering); Ali Javili (Department of Mechanical Engineering); Cem Tekin (Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering); and Onur Tokel (Department of Physics).

● Erdal Arıkan of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering participated in the 2019 IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory as Shannon Lecturer and plenary speaker. The symposium took place July 7–12 at the Maison de la Mutualité in Paris, where Arıkan gave a lecture titled "From Sequential Decoding to Channel Polarization and Back Again."

● Bahar Değirmenci-Uzun of the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics was awarded a European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Installation Grant; she was among nine scientists selected to receive the grant in 2019. The objective of the EMBO Installation Grants is to support young scientists working in the life sciences and allow them to establish their own research groups in European Molecular Biology Conference member states.

● Gülüm Özçelik of the Faculty of Law had her proposal for a Jean Monnet Module accepted by the European Commission. Jean Monnet Modules are educational programs or courses on EU studies; Özçelik's proposal for a program on the topic "European and International Migration Law" was one of 251 projects approved for funding from among 1,315 submissions worldwide, and was the first Bilkent Faculty of Law project to be funded by the EU.

● Serim İlday of UNAM was awarded a European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant to support her research in the field of condensed matter physics. İlday has been granted 1.5 million euros over the next five years to explore the complexity of dynamic adaptive systems. Her grant, awarded in 2019, was Turkey's first ERC grant in condensed matter physics, and the eighth ERC grant to have been received by Bilkent University researchers since the start of the program in 2007.

● Thomas Zimmermann of the Department of Archaeology was appointed a member of the Union Internationale des Sciences Préhistoriques et Protohistoriques (UISPP) Scientific Commission for the Metal Ages in Europe.

● Halil İ. Okur of the Department of Chemistry and UNAM was awarded a Marie Sklodowska-Curie Action (MSCA) Individual Fellowship grant for two years. The MSCA program, an initiative of the European Commission, provides grants for all stages of researchers' careers and encourages transnational, intersectoral and interdisciplinary mobility.

● Six Bilkent faculty members received Distinguished Young Scientist (BAGEP) awards for 2020. The Bilkent awardees were: Ercüment Çiçek (Department of Computer Engineering), Onur Çizmecioğlu (Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics), Banu Demir Pakel (Department of Economics), Berk Esen (Department of International Relations), Nazım Keven (Department of Philosophy), Burak Ülgüt (Department of Chemistry) and Kemal Yıldız (Department of Economics).

● Yıldıray Yıldız of the Department of Mechanical Engineering was appointed to the Board of Governors of the IEEE Control Systems Society for the year 2020. The board currently has 24 members from around the world, with Yıldız being the only one from Turkey.

● Ece Göztepe, dean of the Faculty of Law, was elected a member of the Executive Board of the German–Turkish Law Association (Deutsch–Türkische Juristenvereinigung) by the association's General Assembly.

● Ercüment Çiçek of the Department of Computer Engineering received a Pilot Award from SFARI (the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative, NY, USA) for his project "Speeding Up Autism Gene Discovery via Multitask Learning on Comorbid Neuropsychiatric Disorders."

● Onur Çizmecioğlu of the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics was awarded a Newton Advanced Fellowship by the Royal Society (UK). The Royal Society offers Newton International and Advanced Fellowships to provide early career or established international researchers with an opportunity to develop the research strengths and capabilities of their research group through training, collaboration and reciprocal visits with a partner in the UK.


Erdal Arıkan


Ercüment Çiçek


Onur Çizmecioğlu


Emine Ülkü Sarıtaş Çukur


Tolga Çukur


Bahar Değirmenci-Uzun


Çağlar Elbüken


Berk Esen


Ece Göztepe


Gül Günaydın


Selim Hanay


Serim İlday


Ali Javili


Nazım Keven


Halil İ.. Okur


Gülüm Özçelik


Banu Demir Pakel


Cem Tekin


Onur Tokel


Burak Ülgüt


Kemal Yıldız


Yıldıray Yıldız


Thomas Zimmermann

SPOTLIGHT ON BİLKENT GRADUATES

From Law to Genetics, Bilkent Graduates Make a Name for Themselves



Devrim Pesen Okvur, a 1999 graduate of the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, was named a "Deep Tech Pioneer" in the Hello Tomorrow Challenge competition. She received the title for her work with Initio, a biomedical company she founded in Teknoparkizmir.



Bilkent graduate Sefaattin Tongay (PHYS/MS '04), currently chair of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Arizona State University in the US and the editor of Applied Physics Reviews, was among the recipients of the 2019 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers.



Nurhan Özlü Sıcakkan, a graduate of the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics (MS '01), was among the recipients of the 2019 TÜBİTAK Incentive Awards.

TÜBİTAK presents the awards to scientists under the age of 40 who have demonstrated the potential to make outstanding contributions to science at the international level.



Ahmet Çiçek



Alptekin Küpçü

Every year, the Middle East Technical University Parlar Foundation recognizes the achievements of scientists and scholars from a variety of fields for their exceptional research productivity, in honor of the late METU professor Mustafa Parlar.

The 2019 METU Prof. Dr. Mustafa Parlar Foundation Research Incentive Award recipients included two Bilkent alumni: Ahmet Çiçek (PHYS '17) and Alptekin Küpçü (CS '04).



Fatih Durgun



Ersin Erdoğan

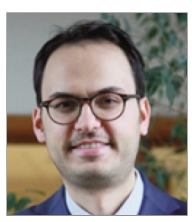


Mehmet Cengiz Onbaşlı

Among the scientists to have received 2019 Outstanding Young Scientist Awards from the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA) were Bilkent alumni Fatih Durgun (HIST/MA '07, PhD '13), Ersin Erdoğan (LAW/BS '10, LLM '11, PhD '15) and Mehmet Cengiz Onbaşlı (EE '10). TÜBA introduced the Program to Award Young Scientists (GEBİP) in 2001 to recognize and support outstanding young researchers working in the natural and social sciences, engineering and medicine.



Elif Nur Fırat-Karalar



Sedat Nizamoğlu

Bilkent graduates Elif Nur Fırat-Karalar (MBG '04) and Sedat Nizamoğlu (PHYS/MS '07 and EE/BS '05, PhD '11) were chosen by the Heroes of Science Association (Bilim Kahramanları Derneği) to receive the organization's 2020 Outstanding Young Scientist Awards.

Bilkent graduates who won awards and are also faculty members are listed in the faculty awards section on Page 3.



Defne Dedeoğlu, a BA graduate of the Department of Archaeology and an MA student in the same department, became a LEED Green Associate. LEED is the acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a green building rating system developed by USGBC (the US Green Building Council).

Defne is at present working on a thesis on the topic of green museums and their possible implementation in Ankara, combining the green building concept with museology.



Materials Science and Nanotechnology PhD graduate Mehmet Kanık, currently pursuing postdoctoral studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with MIT researchers developed artificial muscles that can stretch to remarkable lengths and lift more than 650 times their weight.

The research team's study, "Strain-Programmable Fiber-Based Artificial Muscle," was published in the July 12, 2019, issue of Science and highlighted on the journal's cover.



Faculty of Law 2010 alumna Elif Gökşen received the International Bar Association's Outstanding Young Lawyer Award for 2019. The award is presented annually to a young lawyer "who has shown excellence in their work and demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to professional and ethical standards."

"Through her work," declared the IBA in announcing the award, "Ms. Gökşen aims to improve access to justice and act as a voice for individuals who have been mistreated, marginalized or excluded."



Atakan B. Arı, a graduate of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and currently a PhD candidate at Boston University in the US, was named the recipient of a US Department of Energy (DOE) Science Graduate Student Research Program (SCGSR) award. The SCGSR program provides supplemental awards to outstanding graduate students in STEM fields to conduct part of their thesis research at a host DOE laboratory in collaboration with a DOE scientist.

Mr. Atakan was among the ME department's first undergraduate students; he completed his MS in the same department with the Hanay research group, where he developed novel nanomechanical sensors, before going on to Boston University for his PhD studies.



Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics 2004 graduate Elif Nur Fırat-Karalar received a European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Young Investigator Award.

The aim of the EMBO Young Investigator Awards is to assist "some of the best young researchers in the life sciences."



After heading ING Bank Turkey as its general manager for the last eight years, Department of Economics graduate Pınar Abay moved to Amsterdam to lead the bank's operations in the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. Her official title is ING Head of Market Leaders; she is also a member of the Management Board.

Ms. Abay graduated from Bilkent University in 1998 and went on to obtain an MBA degree from the Harvard Business School. She became the general manager of ING Turkey in 2011 at the age of only 34.



Murat İkinci



Özgür Güleryüz

STM Defense Technologies Engineering and Trade Inc. General Manager Murat İkinci (CS '96, EMBA '11) was appointed president and CEO of ROKETSAN.

Özgür Güleryüz (EE '96, EMBA '12) was appointed the new general manager of STM.



Berna Kaya, a 2013 graduate of the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, received a National Scholar Award from United European Gastroenterology (UEG), a professional organization that brings together European societies concerned with digestive health. The National Scholar Award is given to one early career researcher 35 years of age or younger per country. Ms. Kaya, who is a PhD student at the University of Basel, received the award for Switzerland. She is conducting her doctoral research in the area of intestinal immunity.



A project designed by Bilkent alumni Zeynep Akın (PSYC '17), Mustafa Yazar (MAN '19) and Melike Yüksel (IAED '18) won an Innovation Award at the Digital Transformation for Disabled and Elderly People Symposium organized by the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services.

The award's purpose is to promote practices that can facilitate the lives of disabled people and improve their quality of life in the digital world. The Bilkent graduates' project, a website called PinGOin, helps disabled people participate more actively in social life.



At a ceremony held in İstanbul on December 3, Bilkent graduate Derya Durlu Gürzumar (LAW '10, LLM in Law and Economics '15) received first prize in the "Politics, Law and Public Administration" category of the 2019 Junior Chamber International (JCI) Ten Outstanding Young Persons of Turkey competition.

NEWS & EVENTS OF 2019-2020

CS Students Shine at Competitions



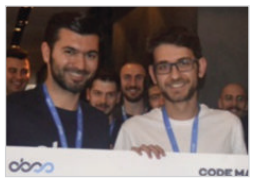
Two teams from the Department of Computer Engineering, Unagi and Redshifted, placed among the top 10 in this year's Turkish Programming Contest. Fifty-four teams from 14 universities participated in the competition, organized by Inzva, a nonprofit hacker community focusing on AI and algorithms; Unagi ended up taking fifth place, while Redshifted came in eighth.



A team of CS students came in sixth in the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest's Southeast Europe Regional Contest (SEERC). Competing as Team Unagi, Muhammed İkbal Kazar, Orhan Uysal and Oğuzhan Özçelik traveled to Romania to participate in the event, which was held at the Politehnica University of Bucharest. A total of 100 teams took part in the competition; the Bilkent students achieved the best performance among the 10 teams from Turkey at SEERC.

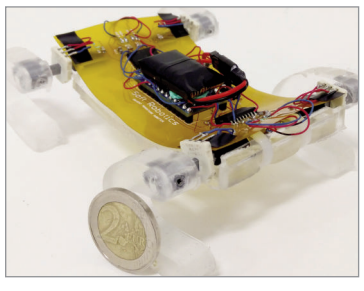


This year's Ankara Startup Summit attracted over 800 attendees. The summit culminated in a competition among 18 startups, selected from more than 100 applicants. The Neverwhere team, consisting of CS students, took first place in the Elevator Pitch category, gaining the team an invitation to participate in the İş Bank Workup entrepreneurship program.



Emin Bahadır Tülüce, a fourth-year CS student, won first prize in the OBSS Codemaster competition. The competition consisted of a series of challenge rounds held at 21 universities across the country, and then a final round held at the OBSS headquarters in İstanbul. As the national winner, Bahadır will be able to attend summer school at Stanford University in the US, with all costs covered by OBSS.

Miniature Robots Get a Boost



Researchers at Bilkent University, led by Onur Özcan of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, have built a miniature robot that demonstrates an enhanced ability to surmount obstacles. They solved the problem by using body compliance – in other words, "softness." Please see **https://w3.bilkent.edu.tr/ bilkent/miniature-soft-four-legged-robot-squad/** for the complete article.

Honorable Mention for Law Student

The Bilkent University Moot Court team was among 249 teams to compete in this year's Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court Competition. The oral argument rounds of the competition took place online in April; at their completion, team member Can Sarp Özcan received an honorable mention in the Martin Domke Best Individual Oralist Award category.



Student, Graduate, Selected to Perform at New Music Festival



Emre Eröz, a sophomore student in the Department of Music's Composition and Theory program, was among eight composers selected to participate in the 2020 Taproot New Music Festival. Another of the eight composers was 2016 Bilkent Composition and Theory graduate Aida Shirazi, currently a PhD student at the University of California, Davis.

Music Student Takes Second Place in International Guitar Competition



Faculty of Music and Performing Arts undergraduate student Özberk Miraç Sarıgül won an award at this year's International Montenegro (Karadağ) Guitar Competition. Held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event took place May 30–June 1.

The competition consisted of seven categories, with six youth levels as well as a "Pro" level. The nine-person international jury awarded second place in the Pro category to the young guitarist from Bilkent.

Bilkent's Synthetic Biology Team Wins Gold Medal



Bilkent was represented at the 2019 iGEM International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition by a team of students competing under the name Bilkent UNAMBG. Bilkent UNAMBG was one of the teams to receive a gold medal for their genetic engineering project, which proposed to build a probiotic bacterium that would be able to secrete molecules of insulin, the natural protein that is insufficient in people suffering from diabetes.

SkyWorks Team Wins Honors in TÜBİTAK UAV Competition



"SkyWorks," a team composed of Department of Mechanical Engineering students, represented Bilkent at the third TÜBİTAK International Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Competition.

The team won an honorable mention award in the fixed wing category with their fully autonomous mission-maker aerial vehicle, which incorporated a long-range wireless communication feature.

IAED Students Gain Recognition at Home and Abroad



Gökberk Tezer



Göksu Erkoç



Selahaddin Topselvi

Three fourth-year Interior Architecture and Environmental Design students were presented with awards in two contexts, one in Turkey and the other international.

Göksu Erkoç and Selahaddin Topselvi won first prize in the Zeki Yurtbay Design Award competition organized by Yurtbay Seramik in collaboration with Yapı Medya İletişim.

Selahaddin was also awarded a travel stipend from the International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) Education Trust, as was fellow IAED student Gökberk Tezer.



A project by Department of Interior Architecture and Environmental Design fourth-year student Beril Kamel was shortlisted as a finalist in a global design competition. Her interior design for the renovation of an old soap factory as a boutique hotel in Urla, İzmir, was one of five projects to be named finalists in the student/recent graduate category of the International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers (IFI) Design Distinction Awards.

HART Student Wins Dilan Sarıkaya Award



Damla İrem Kılınç, a fourth-year student in the Department of Archaeology, received the Dilan Sarıkaya Archaeology Prize from the Şirince Archaeological Society.

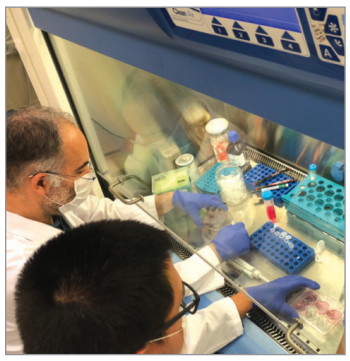
Felsen Award Goes to EEE Student



Polat Göktaş, a PhD candidate in the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, received the 2019 Leopold B. Felsen Excellence in Electromagnetics Award.

NEWS & EVENTS OF 2019-2020

Bilkent Researchers Work to Develop a Next-Generation Drug for Use Against COVID-19



A team of researchers led by Urartu Şeker of the Institute of Materials Science and Nanotechnology (UNAM) at Bilkent University is participating in the national effort to develop drugs that can be used in the treatment of COVID-19. Şeker's project is aimed at developing new proteins able to block the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) from binding to human cells. Please see **https://w3.bilkent.edu.tr/bilkent/next-generation-drug-for-use-against-covid-19/** for the complete article.

Student Documentary Wins Award



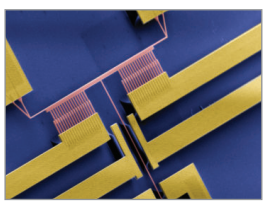
The documentary "İnci Anne" (Mother İnci, 2019), directed by Department of Communication and Design student Yiğit Can Çaylı, received the Hasan Kalyoncu Special Award at the Golden Baklava Film Academy's International Student Film Festival, hosted by Hasan Kalyoncu Üniversitesi in December 2019.

CTIS Students Second in Hackathon



After almost 36 hours of nonstop work, team NineNine (CTIS students Abdurahman Atakishiyev, Ping Cheng and Zeyad Abuamer, and CS student Hikmet Demir) secured second place in the Cybersecurity Hackathon sponsored by Türkiye Siber Güvenlik Kümelenmesi and the Bilkent University Young Entrepreneurs Society.

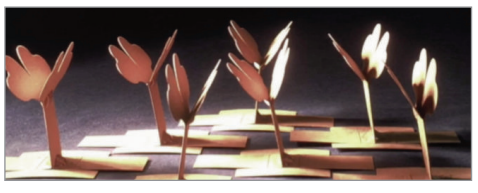
Hybrid Nanomachines Being Developed



A research group led by Selim Hanay of the Department of Mechanical Engineering has developed a nanomechanical system that opens up avenues for exploring the deep connection between thermodynamics and computation. An article reporting their work was published in Physical Review Letters and, in recognition of its potential significance, highlighted by the journal as an editor's selection.

For a more detailed account of Hanay's work, please see **https://w3.bilkent.edu.tr/bilkent/hybrid-nanomachines-being-developed/** on the Bilkent University website.

Self-Regulating Robotic Plant Created



A team of researchers at Bilkent, led by Bilge Baytekin of the Department of Chemistry, has shown that the creation of "soft robots" that act like living organisms is feasible, at least in the case of plant robots. Please see **https://w3.bilkent. edu.tr/bilkent/slider/self-regulating-robotic-plant-created-by-bilkent-researchers/** for the complete article.

THEA Students Take to the Stage Abroad



Two Department of Performing Arts students who did Erasmus semesters in Europe, one in Warsaw and one in Rome, took part in multiple stage productions in their host countries while abroad.

During her semester in Warsaw, Damla Makar not only performed in the plays "West Side Story" and "Scenes From a Marriage" in English, but also took part in a Polish-language production, "Szał Niebieskich Ciał."

Rengim Melis Köse, who studied in Rome, took part in two plays and a dance project, and then gave a solo performance in the 50-minute, one-woman play "La Signorina Else," an Italian-language work based on Arthur Schnitzler's novella "Fräulein Else."

TRIN Student Takes First Place in Young Translators Competition



Yiğit Abbas Yılmaz, a fourth-year student in the Department of Translation and Interpretation, received a first prize in this year's Young Translators Competition. Held annually by Turkey's Directorate for EU Affairs, the event is open to translation and interpretation students from all universities in the country.

Yiğit took first place in French, continuing a tradition of Bilkent students placing among the top three in at least one language every year since the competition began.

Bilkent Students Win Icare4all Competition



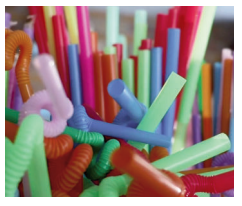
Three Bilkent senior students, Gülce Elif Atabey from the Department of International Relations and Sena Beril Toprak and Şükrü Emre Ertop from the Department of Communication and Design, won first prize in the EU-funded visual content competition "Icare4all" organized by ORSAM (the Center for Middle Eastern Studies).

Bilkent Researchers Participating in International Effort to Investigate the Genetics of COVID-19

Tayfun Özçelik, dean of the Faculty of Science, is serving as a member of the steering committee of the COVID Human Genetic Effort, an international consortium recently established to investigate the genetic basis of COVID-19.

The consortium includes more than 50 institutions from 22 countries. Researchers and clinicians from Bilkent University and the Ministry of Health's Dr. Sadi Konuk Training and Research Hospital are among the scientists from Turkey participating in the effort.

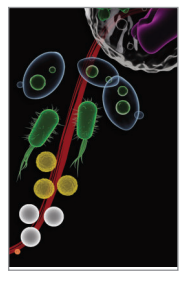
"Wasty Talk" Screened at Bergama



This year's Bergama Environmental Film Festival included the screening of a documentary by Department of Communication and Design students Deniz Yapılcan and Defne Auf.

Their short film "Wasty Talk" is about the excessive use of plastic and its negative effects on the marine environment.

UNAM Scientists Uncover Principles of Universal Self-Assembly



A team of scientists led by Serim İlday of the Bilkent University National Nanotechnology Research Center (UNAM) has demonstrated the fundamental principles of a universal self-assembly process that acts on a range of materials, starting from a few atoms or large quantum dots, up to nearly 100 trillion atoms or large human cells. Please see **https://w3.bilkent.edu.tr/ bilkent/unam-research-team-uncovers-principles-of-universal-self-assembly/** for the complete article.

Radio Bilkent's 25th Anniversary



This academic year, Radio Bilkent celebrated a landmark anniversary. As of 2020, the station has been up and running for 25 years. Operated by Bilkent students, Radio Bilkent not surprisingly targets mainly young listeners, playing contemporary hit music as well as broadcasting special programs focused on genres ranging from classical to jazz to techno.

Farewell to Bilkent's Departed

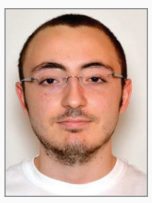
The Bilkent community bids these dearly departed members a fond farewell. May they rest in peace.



İbrahim Abbasov, a fourth-year student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, passed away on July 27, 2019.



Cadoc Leighton, former faculty member of the Department of History, passed away on April 30, 2020.



Mustafa Oğuz Satoğlu, a third-year student in the Department of Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, passed away on April 8, 2020.



Erdinç Sayan, a faculty member in the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities and Letters, passed away on December 25, 2019.



Jazz musician and musicologist Janusz Szprot, an instructor in the Faculty of Music and Performing Arts from 1990 to 2014, passed away on July 2, 2019.



Görkem Şahin, a third-year student in the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, passed away on August 25, 2019.



Mert Şehirlioğlu, a second-year student in the Department of Economics, Faculty of Economics, Administrative, and Social Sciences, passed away on February 16, 2020.



Zeynep Tunçyürek, a second-year student in the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, passed away on December 26, 2019.

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A Sampling of Books Published by Bilkent Faculty During 2019–2020

● A book by Gül Kurtuluş of the Department of English Language and Literature, titled "Stereoscopic London: Plays of Oscar Wilde, Bernard Shaw and Arthur Wing Pinero in the 1890s," was released on January 30 by the Switzerland-based academic publishing house Peter Lang.

● "African American Novels in the Black Lives Matter Era: Transgressive Performativity of Black Vulnerability as Praxis in Everyday Life" by E. Lâle Demirtürk of the Department of American Culture and Literature was released by Lexington Books (an imprint of Rowman & Littlefield) in September 2019.

● A Turkish edition of the book "New Islamist Architecture and Urbanism: Negotiating Nation and Islam Through Built Environment in Turkey" (Routledge) by Bülent Batuman, chair of the Department of Urban Design and Landscape Architecture and associate dean of the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture was published as "Milletin Mimarisi: Yeni İslamcı Ulus İnşasının Kent ve Mekan Siyaseti," by Metis Publishing.

● A book by Onur İşçi of the Department of International Relations, titled "Turkey and the Soviet Union During World War II: Diplomacy, Discord and International Relations," was released by I.B.Tauris.



İşçi also coauthored the book "Rusya İmparatorluğu'nun Çöküşü, 1881–1917" (The Fall of the Russian Empire, 1881–1917), published by Kronik Kitap.

● Department of Communication and Design instructor Müge Mengü Hale published her first book: an illustrated work for children that follows the adventures of two sea turtle hatchlings. "Ay Işığını Arayan Denizkaplumbağaları: Çıtırcık ile Pıtırcık" is an imprint of Yapı Kredi Publications.

● Sandrine Bergès of the Department of Philosophy published two new books: "Sophie de Grouchy's 'Letters on Sympathy': A Critical Engagement with Adam Smith's 'The Theory of Moral Sentiments,'" part of the Oxford University Press "Oxford New Histories of Philosophy" series; and "The Wollstonecraftian Mind," edited by Bergès, Eileen Hunt Botting and Alan Coffee, and published by Routledge.

● Özgür Özdamar of the Department of International Relations coauthored a new book, published by Routledge and titled "Role Theory in the Middle East and North Africa: Politics, Economics and Identity."

● "Doğrusal Optimizasyondan Çıkış: Ders Notları" (An Exit From Linear Programming: Lecture Notes) by Mustafa Ç. Pınar of the Department of Industrial Engineering was published by Seçkin Publishing.

See You Next Semester!



Dear Bilkent News Readers,

For all of us, this past semester has been one like no other, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, time has continued to pass, and we now find ourselves at the end of another academic year. As we say good-bye until next semester, we would like to thank our readers for their support and contributions throughout the past year.

Bilkent News would also like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you and good-bye to Nausherwan Aziz, feature writer and reporter, who is graduating this year.

We thank all students who have contributed to the paper for their hard work and insights, and wish all graduating students much success in the future!

We hope that before too much longer, we will once again be able to meet you, our valued readers, in the usual way via our weekly print edition. Above all, we hope that all Bilkent University students and employees, as well as their family members, will remain safe and in good health.

We wish everyone a wonderful summer!

The Bilkent News Editorial Board

BİLKENT NEWS

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*Bilkent News (**ext. 1487**) welcomes feedback from readers. Please submit your letters to **bilnews@bilkent.edu.tr**. The Editorial Board will review the letters and print them as space permits.*

100% Post Consumer

Bilkent CALENDAR



Undergraduate Recruitment Period for Prospective Students

This year's Undergraduate Recruitment Period will take place in a hybrid format.

Throughout July, a series of online events will be hosted on Zoom to provide information about the university and its various departments, as well as professions and fields of work that students might enter after their time at university.

These Zoom sessions will continue after the Student Placement Examination results are announced on July 28. Starting then, prospective students and their families will also have the opportunity to visit the campus and meet Bilkent volunteer guides to get information on academic departments and all the opportunities available at Bilkent.

Details of all the events will be announced soon.

For more information: **adaybilgi.bilkent.edu.tr**

UNAM Announcement of Openings in Its Industry Doctoral Program

UNAM is welcoming inquiries and applications from prospective PhD students who would like to work in the fields of nanotechnology, materials science and biotechnology.

In collaboration with Şişecam and Nobel İlaç, UNAM's TÜBİTAK 2244 Industry Doctoral Program provides scholarship and employment opportunities to PhD students. The Şişecam collaboration focuses on the development of new-generation coating processes that will increase performance in the glass industry, while the Nobel İlaç partnership has the aim of developing competitive and innovative biotechnological drugs on a global scale.

Together with industry-leading partner institutions, Bilkent UNAM undertakes R&D and product development in advanced technology projects that have potential benefit for both industry and the scientific world, and at the same time provides students with academic instruction and professional training. Thus, through university–industry collaboration, UNAM nurtures the development of future employees who are prepared at the doctoral level, while also conducting research on technologies with potential for commercialization.

For detailed information: **http://unam.bilkent.edu.tr/**



2020–2021 FALL SEMESTER ACADEMIC CALENDAR

6 September 2020, Sunday (09:30)	PAE Exam: 1st stage
6 September 2020, Sunday (18:00)	PAE Exam 1st stage results announced
7 September 2020, Monday (09:00)	PAE Exam: 2nd stage part-A
7 September 2020, Monday (19:00)	PAE Exam 2nd stage part-A results announced
8 September 2020, Tuesday (09:00)	PAE Exam: 2nd stage part-B writing exam
8 September 2020, Tuesday - 10 September 2020, Thursday	PAE Exam: 2nd stage part-B speaking exam (by appointment)
10 September 2020, Thursday - 12 September 2020, Saturday	GE100 Introduction to Academic Life program for all new students
9 September 2020, Wednesday	Tuition due for all continuing students
9 September 2020, Wednesday	Last day for leave-of-absence applications
11 September 2020, Friday (10:00)	PAE Exam 2nd stage exam results announced
14 September 2020, Monday	English Preparatory Program Period 1 begins
14 September 2020, Monday - 15 September 2020, Tuesday	Course registrations
16 September 2020, Wednesday	Classes begin
22 September 2020, Tuesday (13:00)	Course drop deadline
22 September 2020, Tuesday (23:59)	Course add deadline
28 October 2020, Wednesday	No classes
28 October 2020, Wednesday (12:30)	Half day holiday
29 October 2020, Thursday	Republic Day holiday
30 October 2020, Friday	No classes
10 November 2020, Tuesday	Commemoration of Atatürk
16 November 2020, Monday	English Preparatory Program Period 2 begins
20 November 2020, Friday (17:30)	Withdraw deadline
4 December 2020, Friday - 4 January 2021, Monday	Course pre-registration
25 December 2020, Friday	Last day of classes
25 December 2020, Friday (21:00)	Deadline for submitting FZ grades for non-qualifying students
25 December 2020, Friday (21:00)	Students who do not qualify to take final exams (FZ grades) announced
27 December 2020, Sunday - 9 January 2021, Saturday	Final exams
1 January 2021, Friday	New Year's Day holiday
5 January 2021, Tuesday	Internal transfer applications deadline
5 January 2021, Tuesday	New minor program and second major applications deadline
11 January 2021, Monday - 12 January 2021, Tuesday	Registration for new graduate students
13 January 2021, Wednesday	Last day of Fall semester classes for English Preparatory Program
13 January 2021, Wednesday (17:30)	Grade submission deadline for instructors
13 January 2021, Wednesday (17:30)	Grades announced
13 January 2021, Wednesday (09:30)	PAE Exam: 1st stage
13 January 2021, Wednesday (18:00)	PAE Exam 1st stage results announced
14 January 2021, Thursday (09:00)	PAE Exam: 2nd stage part-A
14 January 2021, Thursday (19:00)	PAE Exam 2nd stage part-A results announced
15 January 2021, Friday (09:00)	PAE Exam: 2nd stage part-B writing exam
15 January 2021, Friday - 16 January 2021, Saturday	PAE Exam: 2nd stage part-B speaking exam (by appointment)
18 January 2021, Monday	PAE Exam 2nd stage exam results announced

**** Please check www.bilkent.edu.tr for the latest updates.***