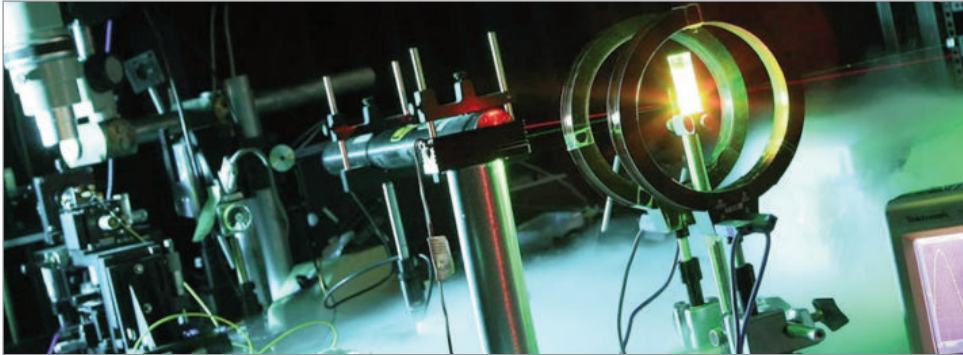


Şermin Savaşçı Scholarships Presented to Engineering Students



Last year, the Şermin Savaşçı Education Fund was established at Bilkent to provide support for students in the Faculty of Engineering. During a ceremony held online on Friday, February 5, nine students were presented with scholarships for the spring semester of the 2020–2021 academic year.



Şermin Savaşçı, the daughter of Bilkent University's founder İhsan Doğramacı, attended the online ceremony via Zoom, as did Rector Abdullah Atalar, Faculty of Engineering Dean Ezhan Karaşan, members of the Scholarship Selection Committee and other members of the university administration.

IAED Graduate Student Chosen to Receive CIRE Grant

Beysa Yazıcı, a PhD student in the Department of Interior Architecture and Environmental Design, has received a grant from the Committee on International Research and Education (CIRE) of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA). She was selected to receive the grant on the basis of her academic record, activities and achievements as a graduate student.

As part of its mission to enhance the role of the ASA in international research and education in acoustics, the committee provide grants to students enrolled in acoustic



research programs at universities or technical institutes, in particular those in developing countries. The purpose of the CIRE award is to encourage students to continue their graduate studies in acoustics in their home countries.

Fatih İnci Named One of Turkey's 10 Outstanding Young Persons

Asst. Prof. Fatih İnci of the National Nanotechnology Research Center (UNAM) and the Institute of Materials Science and Nanotechnology at Bilkent University has been named one of this year's "Ten Outstanding Young Persons" by Junior Chamber International (JCI) Turkey. He was selected for the honor based on his achievements in the area of medical diagnostics.

TOYP Turkey is part of JCI's "Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World" (TOYP) program, which serves to recognize individuals who excel in their chosen fields and exemplify the best attributes of the world's young people.

An international nonprofit organization, JCI has more than 200,000 members worldwide. Each year, at both the national and international levels, the organization



nominates individuals age 18 to 40 "who are engaged and committed to creating an impact in their communities" for the TOYP award, which is given to 10 recipients, one in each of 10 categories ranging from scientific leadership to

forwarding human rights and world peace.

Dr. İnci received his award in the category of medical innovation. His research is concentrated in the emergent fields of biosensing, micro/nanoscale technology, lab-on-a-chip and biomedical engineering, where he works to develop ultrasensitive sensors and microfluidic platforms that are able to diagnose maladies such as infectious diseases and cancer and thus also have the potential, by means of their advanced technology, to minimize health disparities even in resource-constrained settings.

Müge Durusu-Tanrıöver Receives Archaeological Institute of America Grant

Asst. Prof. Müge Durusu-Tanrıöver of the Department of Urban Design and Landscape Architecture has won this year's Richard C. MacDonald Iliad Endowment for Archaeological Research, offered by the Archaeological Institute of America, for her project titled "Conflict, Domination and Resistance in Late Bronze Age Anatolia."

The MacDonald Iliad Endowment is awarded annually to an archaeological project that contributes to the understanding of



the Trojan War and its influence on the ancient Mediterranean civilizations. Dr. Durusu-Tanrıöver's project explores the Late Bronze Age (17th–12th centuries BCE), when the Hittite Empire politically controlled

most of the Anatolian peninsula.

Texts from the Hittite central archives attest to long-term conflict between the Hittites and mainland Greece, which may have eventually boiled down to a constructed collective memory of the Trojan War.

(Continued on Page 2)

Exploit Studio Team Takes Second Place in Cybersecurity Competition



Last fall, Savunma Teknolojileri Mühendislik ve Ticaret A.Ş. held a 24-hour cybersecurity capture-the-flag competition for university students, in which 161 teams from all over Turkey took part. A team from Exploit Studio, a hacking society based at Bilkent University, took second place in the event. The team consisted of Yaman Yağız Taşbağ and Muhammad Saboor, students in the Bilkent Department of Computer Science, as well as Mustafa Kemal Can, a Computer Science student at Bahçeşehir University, and Arslan Masood, a Mathematics student at İstanbul University.

In the cybersecurity field, capture-the-flag competitions require participants to solve security-related problems and exploit vulnerable systems. The problems involve various areas such as cryptography, web application hacking, mobile application hacking, forensics, reverse engineering and malware analysis.

While Exploit Studio is based at Bilkent, individuals active in the society range from high school students to cybersecurity professionals and include university students from other schools as well as Bilkent. Studio members meet regularly and share their knowledge about different information security topics.

Research Grant to Fund Cihan Okay's Work on the Topology of Quantum Resources

Asst. Prof. Cihan Okay of the Department of Mathematics has been awarded a research grant by the US Air Force Office of Scientific Research for a project titled "Topology of Quantum Resources: Homotopical Methods in Resource Theories for



Quantum Information and Quantum Computing."

The project is interdisciplinary and, says Dr. Okay, aims for an understanding of the role of quantum resources, such as Bell non-locality and quantum contextuality, in quantum computation

(Continued on Page 2)

NEWS & OPINIONS

The Sporting Life

Name: Ali Mertcan Kılıç
Department: Law
How often do you exercise?
I try to go to the gym three times a week, but I stay active throughout the week. I play pickup basketball, and before the pandemic I played soccer with friends every two weeks.
How has regular exercise affected your life?
It simply elevates all parts of my life. I feel better, my mood is better. I've made good friends and met a lot of good people thanks to sports and exercising.
What do you suggest to those who are just taking up a sport or starting to exercise?
I would say don't rush into things. An injury demotivates you and makes it harder to work out consistently. Do your research from credible sources and don't be afraid to ask for help.
What are the first three things that come to mind when you hear the word "sports"?
Health, confidence and gainz.
Which Bilkent sports facilities (Sports Halls, playing fields, tennis courts, etc.) do you use?
I mainly use the fitness area nowadays because of the pandemic. I used to play American football with our school's team, the Judges. Even



though I never started any games, during the time I played American football I felt more fit and fulfilled than at any other point in my exercise "journey." I've taken part in volleyball tournaments and table tennis competitions as well.

Research Grant to Fund Cihan Okay's Work on the Topology of Quantum Resources

(Continued from Page 1)
and quantum information theory using methods from topology.
Quantum resources, note the researchers, "are responsible both for computational speed-up (e.g., the famous Shor's algorithm), and for securing cryptographic schemes based on quantum correlations. Key distribution and randomness generation are among the applications of contextuality that can be applied to enhance the security of communication systems."
"The new paradigm is to see physical theories as computational resources that can be utilized for building powerful devices. Our approach brings in the abstract and effective tools of algebraic topology, a branch of mathematics studying algebraic approximations of spaces, to better characterize the quantum features responsible for information-theoretic advantages."
The team's topological approach was developed in collaboration with Assoc. Prof. Robert Raussendorf of the University of British Columbia and further refined by the introduction of homotopical concepts that emerged during Dr. Okay's PhD thesis work.

Müge Durusu-Tanrıöver Receives Archaeological Institute of America Grant

(Continued from Page 1)
However, the Hittite texts shed a secondary light only on the regional kingdoms occupying the western Anatolian coast and leave the intervening geography in the dark.
As a sample of this area between the Hittite core region within the bend of the Kızılırmak River and the Aegean coast, the proposed project aims to intensively explore Polatlı (in the western part of Ankara province) through archaeological field survey and archaeometric analyses to offer a bottom-up narrative of the local communities in this region. The fieldwork component of the project will be conducted under the aegis of the Polatlı Landscape Archaeology and Survey Project, directed by Dr. Durusu-Tanrıöver since 2019.

Faces on Campus

BY AYSU YURTER (TRIN/IV)



Name: Elif Çınar (MAN/III)
What's your favorite quintuple?
a) **Movie:** "The Imitation Game"
b) **Book:** "Momo" by Michael Ende
c) **Song:** "Tough Love" by Avicii
d) **Food:** Börek
e) **City:** Utrecht
What would be your dream job? "Model"
If you were a superhero, what super power(s) would you have? "Flying and invisibility"
The place on campus where I feel happiest is... "the Starbucks in MA Building"
My favorite thing about Ankara: "The cafés in Bahçeli"
If I were an animal, I would be... "a rabbit"
I have never... "bungee-jumped"



Name: Efe Kahramaner (IR/II)
What's your favorite quintuple?
a) **Movie:** "Scarface"
b) **Book:** "The Prince" by Niccolò Machiavelli
c) **Song:** "Ambitionz Az a Ridah" by 2Pac
d) **Food:** Everything
e) **City:** Gothenburg
What would be your dream job? "Football player"
If you were a superhero, what super power(s) would you have? "Flying"
The place on campus where I feel happiest is... "the football pitch on Sunday mornings"
My favorite thing about Ankara: "Its local restaurants"
If I were an animal, I would be... "a shark"
I have never... "played 'League of Legends'"



Name: Aleyna Öğretmenoğlu (IE/I)
What's your favorite quintuple?
a) **Movie:** "10 Things I Hate About You"
b) **Book:** "The Stranger" by Albert Camus
c) **Song:** "Lover, You Should've Come Over" by Jeff Buckley
d) **Food:** Pasta
e) **City:** New York
What would be your dream job? "Author"
If you were a superhero, what super power(s) would you have? "Telepathy"
The place on campus where I feel happiest is... "the area between the library and EA Building"
My favorite thing about Ankara: "That it's a cosmopolitan city"
If I were an animal, I would be... "a panda"
I have never... "bungee-jumped"

NEWS & OPINIONS



ŞEBNEM TÜRE (PSYC/III)

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Why Do We “Click”? The Psychology of Instant Connection

Sometimes you meet someone, and you just know that you can communicate. It happens that you say hello to a new coworker or share small talk with a security officer, and you have an instant sense of connectedness. Most probably, you had that feeling with the closest of your friends or your romantic partners from the very first time you met. Here, I’ve gathered some possible reasons for that phenomenon from psychological research on interpersonal relationships.

Language Style Matching

Language style matching (LSM) refers to the idea that people are inclined to match conversation partners in linguistic style. Therefore, people with similar language use tend to have a greater sense of connection at their first interactions. They also tend to stay in contact because they enjoy each other’s way of talking. LSM is a measurable construct, and the rate of matching is determined through the similar usage of function words (like the underlined words in “He placed it on the table”), irrespective of context. So, although two people might have different backgrounds

and might use other content words to talk about themselves, research shows that their function words will tend to be similar if they have that instant “click.”

Neural Synchrony

Neurobiological factors may also play a role. In a 2018 study conducted at Dartmouth College, 42 volunteers watched short video clips while scientists measured their brain activity using fMRI. It turns out that people in close social relationships showed similar brain activity, including in the areas involved in emotion processing and selective attention, and even in regions in the inferior parietal lobe that have been linked to discerning others’ mental states. According to Thalia Wheatley of Dartmouth College, people in the same social network also show

finding may also be related to previous research that suggests people who use the same gestures tend to “click.” The rate of their neural synchrony as well as their behavioral synchrony also may increase the longer they stay in contact with each other.

Birds of a Feather Flock Together

They do. Feathers are essential cues for birds to recognize each other from afar, and they tend to come closer to each other if they sense that they have similar feather patterns. Humans also tend to use “feathers,” meaning that they use various cues to detect each other’s demographic characteristics, such as age, ethnicity, class or education level. There is a greater chance that will they instantly enjoy being with people who have the same such



similar neural activity when processing the narrative content of stories and generally making sense of the world. Neural synchrony found in strangers can predict a desire for future contact in both parties. This

characteristics, since they tend to feel that they connect more with them.

Shared Vulnerability

Sometimes we meet a stranger at a vulnerable point in our lives, or our

paths cross as we work toward a goal or solve a problem together.

Psychological research has shown that sharing such situations creates a shared sense of vulnerability, and makes us tend to feel understood, more secure, and connected. In “Click: The Magic of Instant Connections,” author Ori Brafman also suggests that we can arbitrarily create such “vulnerable environments” through asking meaning-making questions, like “What’s something meaningful that’s happened to you in the last week?” in order to increase the sense of authenticity and appropriateness.

Shared Sense of Humor

Laughing together can create an illusion for people that they get on well together, but sharing a sense of humor can initially make us feel connected as well. Research by Robin Dunbar of Oxford University reports significant effects of a similar sense of humor on later altruism. Looking at the subject from a different perspective, a study from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, involved having strangers watch videos and recording how much they laughed, or whether they just smiled or stayed neutral. Results showed that across the different videos, the amount of shared laughter had consistent effects with respect to the participants’ sense of similarity to the video partner and tended to make them desire future contact. “For people who are laughing together, shared laughter signals that they see the world in the same way, and it momentarily boosts their sense of connection,” says Sara Algoe, the social psychologist who authored the study.

The International Chronicles

BY YAREN SAĞLIK (TRIN/IV)

Bilkent News

Name: Sara Alqatarnah**Department:** Psychology**Country of Origin:** Jordan**Are there any similarities between Turkey and your home country?**

We have similar cuisines and similar cultures.

What do you like best about Turkey?

I love Turkey’s natural landscape. It’s so diverse, and there are so many places to explore here and so many things to do, from swimming and sunbathing to hiking, camping and skiing!

What will you miss most about Bilkent/Turkey?

Campus life for sure; it’s a home away from home. After all, I’ll have spent three or four years of my life here, and as excited as I am about the next

phase of my life, saying goodbye will be bittersweet.

What’s your favorite place on campus, and why?

That’s a difficult one! I love the Bilka hill – I think we all have so many memories there. I also love that tiny abandoned house near the lake on the way to East Campus – well, its roof, to be specific. It’s one of my go-to places when I need to disconnect and have some alone time.

What’s your favorite Turkish food and/or favorite part**of Turkish culture?**

I’m obsessed with midye and dolma, I just can’t get enough of them! Also, nothing beats Turkish kebabs.

Where do you expect to see yourself 10 years from now?

Ah! Such a difficult question. I’ve answered it multiple times in the past few years, and each time I have a different answer! Well, I’ll be done with my master’s by then, and hopefully I’ll have secured a fulfilling job abroad and started ticking off all the places I want to visit on my bucket list.

What’s the hardest challenge you’ve handled in Turkey?

Oh boy, I’ve handled so many in such a short time here that I don’t know where to start. I would say completely depending on myself, letting go of people I’ve held very dear to me and accepting that not everyone has the same intentions as I do.

Describe yourself in three words.

Passionate. Resilient. Neophilic.

What’s an interesting question or comment you hear frequently about Bilkent/Turkey?

“Why and how does Bilkent leave such an imprint on most of its graduates?” I would say it’s because during your undergrad years you go through so many new and mostly harsh experiences that help you discover yourself, and that’s the beauty and the curse of Bilkent.



Bilkent in Winter



Even in the cold of winter our campus can be a magical place, when frost and snow transform the familiar landscape. If you would like to share photographs that show Bilkent in the winter, please send them to us at bilnews@bilkent.edu.tr. When space permits, we will choose one to publish in Bilkent News.

Bilkent CALENDAR



CONCERTS

Recent Bilkent Symphony Orchestra concerts are now being broadcast online on the Bilkent Symphony Digital platform. They may be accessed at <https://ticket.bilkent.edu.tr/>.

“Classic Brass”

Bilkent Brass Ensemble
P. Dukas | Fanfare to precede “La Péri”
R. Premru | Five Movements from Divertimento
G. Gershwin | “An American in Paris”
G. Rossini | “Largo al factotum”
G. Gershwin | “Rhapsody in Blue”
G. Bizet | “Carmen” Suite
 Recording: November 29, 2020, Bilkent Concert Hall

“Vestiges of the Past”

Bilkent Symphony Orchestra
 Ayrton Desimpelaere, conductor
 Dritan Gani, double bass
C.P.E. Bach | Symphony in D major, H. 663 (Wq. 183/1)
C.D. von Dittersdorf | Concerto for Double Bass in E major
P.I. Tchaikovsky | “Souvenir de Florence,” Op. 70
 Recording: December 10, 2020, Bilkent Concert Hall

“Horn, Horn”

Ayrton Desimpelaere, conductor
 Mustafa Kaplan, horn

Hasan Erim Hacat, horn
G.F. Handel | “Messiah” Overture
A. Rosetti | Concerto for Two Horns and Orchestra, RWV C60
I. Stravinsky | “Pulcinella” Suite
 Recording: December 17, 2020, Bilkent Concert Hall

SEMINARS

Wednesday, February 17

“Adaptability, a Call to Action,” by Dr. Davis Calas, at **12:30 p.m.**
 Organized by IAED.

Friday, February 19

“The Debt Payment Puzzle: An Experimental Investigation,” by Hakan Özyılmaz (University of California), at **5 p.m.** Organized by FBA.

Friday, February 19

“The Rich Marine and Coastal Biodiversity of Turkish Seas,” by Cem Orkun Kırac, at **6 p.m.**
 Organized by LAUD.

CONFERENCES

Wednesday, February 17

Tasarım Bilkent '20 Webinar Series: “Gözlükule Kazı ve Araştırma Merkezi Projesi,” by Saadet Sayın, at **5:30 p.m.** Organized by Tasarım ve Mimarlık Topluluğu.

Tuesday, February 23

“Inclusive Design in Urban

Environments,” by Prof. Oya Demirbilek (UNSW Built Environment), at **11:30 a.m.**
 Organized by LAUD.

Classifieds

Bilkent News will print classified ads, space permitting. Ads may be placed only by students, faculty, staff and family members present on the Bilkent campus.

- Ads are limited to 20 words.
- Deadline is at noon Wednesday, one week prior to the edition in which the ad is to be run.
- Classified ads should be emailed to bilnews@bilkent.edu.tr.

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