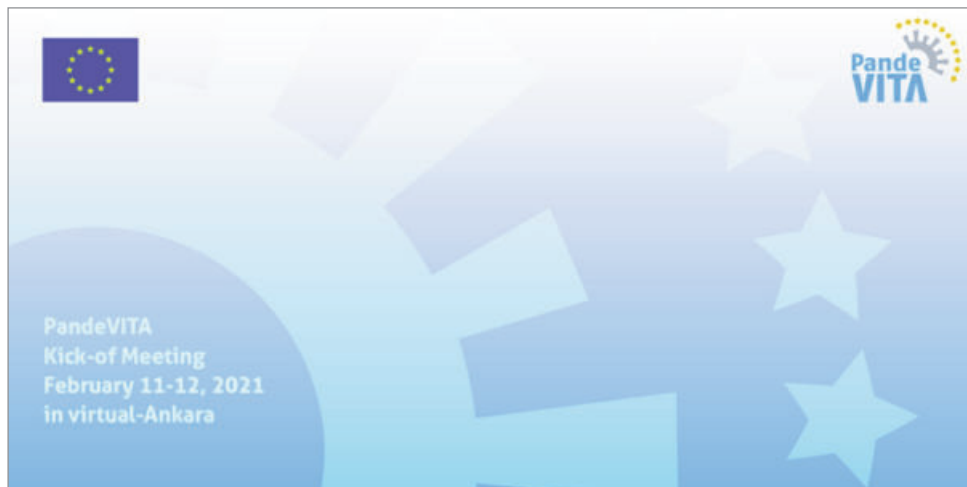


In Remembrance of İhsan Doğramacı



February 25, 2021, marks the 11th year since the loss of our beloved founder, Prof. İhsan Doğramacı. As members of the Bilkent community, we each might wish to take a few moments during the day to stop, look around us at the university campus - which is, itself, a monument to Prof. Doğramacı - and honor his memory in our hearts.

COMD Hosts Launch Meeting for PandeVITA



An EU-funded project to develop a platform and smartphone app that will better connect science, government, the economy and the public during a pandemic is being coordinated at Bilkent University. A virtual meeting to kick off project activities took place on February 11 and 12, hosted by the Department of Communication and Design (COMD).

The international project, dubbed PandeVITA, has received funding from the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program. The PandeVITA consortium consists of seven partners from five countries: Bilkent University and Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University in Ankara, Turkey; VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd. in Oulu, Finland; Open Evidence in Barcelona, Spain; iserundschmidt GmbH in Bonn, Germany; Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, in Spain; and the European Alliance for Medical

and Biological Engineering and Science in Leuven, Belgium.

Approximately 90 guests attended the opening session of the kickoff meeting. After introductory remarks from Bilkent Rector Abdullah Atalar, Vice Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Ömer Fatih Sayan, European Commission Policy Officer Linden Farrer and TÜBİTAK President Hasan Mandal, consortium researchers immediately began work on the six areas designated for investigation.

The researchers' goal is to promote a more efficient transfer of knowledge, at the global level, among scientists, members of the public, government officials and other actors in the political and economic spheres during pandemic-related crises through the development of a platform that will include a smartphone app. The results of the project will be published online at www.pandevita.eu.

Bilkent Grieves the Loss of David Davenport

We announce with great sadness that Dr. David Davenport, a faculty member in the

Department of Computer Engineering, passed away on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. As a long-time and beloved member of the Bilkent family, David will be fondly remembered and greatly missed. We extend heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, students and the entire Bilkent University community.



New Book Edited by Patrick Hart and Valerie Kennedy

Asst. Prof. Patrick Hart and Asst. Prof. Valerie Kennedy of the Department of English Language and Literature are coeditors of a book recently published by Edinburgh University Press. "Henrietta Liston's Travels: The Turkish Journals, 1812-1820," comprising the journal and



associated writings of the wife of a British ambassador to the Sublime Porte, provides a novel perspective on the early 19th-century Ottoman Empire.

The third coeditor of the book, Dora Petherbridge, is curator of North American and Commonwealth Collections at the National Library of
(Continued on Page 2)

TDP Collecting Donations to Help Village Children

The student volunteer organization Social Awareness Projects (TDP/Toplumsal Duyarlılık Projeleri) is currently holding an online aid campaign. The "Big Dreams for Little Hands 4: Our Cities Are Different, Our Hearts are Same" project is collecting donations to help children studying in village schools.

The campaign will continue through February 24. For more information or to contact TDP, please go to tdpbilkent.org/tdpyardimonline.



Photography Competition: "What the Pandemic Brings"

The Bilkent Photography Club is holding a photography competition for members of the Bilkent University community (students, university staff, graduates, etc.) titled "What the Pandemic Brings." The idea is to photograph the effects of the pandemic on our lives in order to highlight the importance of our decision making in terms of self-protection, as well as to leave a record



of what happened during this time for future generations. The deadline for submissions is **March 24**.

Prizes

1st: FeiyuTech Gimbal
2nd: GoPro Camera

3rd: Manfrotto Tripod

Honorable Mentions: Meal/drink tickets from Sun Brothers, Lokal '71 and Bluejay

Information on how to submit your work and rules regarding participation can be found at <https://bit.ly/2KEbevo>.

NEWS & OPINIONS

Alumni Donations Fund Scholarships for Computer Engineering Students



The generosity of Department of Computer Engineering graduates is making it possible for current students to receive financial support for their studies. Donations from alumni living in Turkey and abroad have funded eight scholarships for Computer Engineering students this academic year.

Prof. İbrahim Körpeoğlu, chair of the department, expressed thanks to the graduates for their support and best wishes to the scholarship recipients for their success. He also noted that it is planned to continue the scholarship program in the future if resources permit.

Academic Administrative Changes



Assoc. Prof. Yasemin Afacan has been appointed vice director of the Graduate School of Economics and Social Sciences, effective January 20, 2021.



Prof. Tayfun Özçelik, acting chair of the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Faculty of Science, has been appointed chair of the department, effective February 2, 2021.



Prof. Emrah Özensoy has been appointed chair of the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, effective February 2, 2021. Prof. Özensoy took over the position from the previous chair, Prof. Şefik Süzer.

New Book

(Continued from Page 1) Scotland, where the Liston Papers, which include the journals, are housed. The coeditors were assisted by Bilkent graduate F. Özden Mercan (HIST MA '07) as associate editor.

All three coeditors, along with Dr. Mercan and Asst. Prof. Ken Weisbrode of the Bilkent Department of History, contributed sections to the critical introduction that provides background to Liston's journal.

The book is the first publication of the journal, which, the publisher notes, "is a significant yet virtually unknown work of women's travel writing." The introduction, based on archival research in the Liston Papers, offers additional insights into the events described in the journal and the period in which it was written.

Students taking the ELIT elective "Turkish Travels" with Dr. Hart this semester will be reading Liston's journal alongside writings by other British travelers to the Ottoman Empire such as Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and Lord Byron.

Faces on Campus

BY AYSU YURTER (TRIN/IV)



Name: Aysu Koca (ECON/IV)
What's your favorite quintuple?
a) Movie: "Me Before You"
b) Book: "Angels and Demons" by Dan Brown
c) Song: "Kupa Kızı Ve Sinek Valesi" by Teoman
d) Food: Rice with chickpeas
e) City: Ankara
What would be your dream job? "Owner of a small café"
If you were a superhero, what super power(s) would you have? "Time travel"
The place on campus where I feel happiest is... "EB105"
My favorite thing about Ankara: "It's easy to live in"
If I were an animal, I would be... "a panda"
I have never... "had a friend from another country"



Name: Baturalp Koyun (MBG/II)
What's your favorite quintuple?
a) Movie: "The Green Mile"
b) Book: "Resurrection" by Leo Tolstoy
c) Song: "Eksik Bir Şey Mi Var?" by Ali Atay
d) Food: Bulgur pilaf
e) City: Antananarivo
What would be your dream job? "Nature photographer"
If you were a superhero, what super power(s) would you have? "Shape-shifting"
The place on campus where I feel happiest is... "the road between the East and Main Campuses"
My favorite thing about Ankara: "Its formality and discipline"
If I were an animal, I would be... "a barn owl"
I have never... "loved people as much as I love nature"



Name: Aysu Altuntaş (TRIN/IV)
What's your favorite quintuple?
a) Movie: "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban"
b) Book: "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll
c) Song: "Space Bootz" by Miley Cyrus
d) Food: Mantı
e) City: Colmar
What would be your dream job? "Marine biologist"
If you were a superhero, what super power(s) would you have? "Waterbending and healing"
The place on campus where I feel happiest is... "our secret coffee spot: the bench between MA and G Buildings"
My favorite thing about Ankara: "My lovely home and the places where I spend time with my family and friends"
If I were an animal, I would be... "a killer whale"
I have never... "swum in the ocean"

NEWS & OPINIONS

Spring Fitness Challenge

This semester's "Sports as a Way of Life" Fitness Challenge will kick off on **Monday, March 8** and run through **Sunday, April 4**. It will be held at the Dormitories and Main Sports Halls, and is open to all students.

Participants are to work out at least two times and at most four times per week. They can do, at most, two different activities in one day, and will receive 5 points for each activity each day that it is done. Participants who collect 80 or more points will receive "Sports as a Way of Life" T-shirts.

Students taking GE250–251 who collect points in the challenge will also receive points for the course as

follows: 30 GE points for 30 Fitness Challenge points; 40 GE points for 50 Fitness Challenge points; 50 GE points for 70 Fitness Challenge points; and 60 GE points for 90 Fitness Challenge points.

Activities include:

- Cycling (30 minutes)
- Rowing (30 minutes)
- Stepper (15 minutes) and cycling (15 minutes)
- Cross-training (30 minutes)
- Treadmill running (30 minutes)
- One set of strength training station exercises
- One group exercise session

For more information, please call the Sports Center at **ext. 1993** or email **spor@bilkent.edu.tr**.

The Sporting Life

Name: Aybüke Yaren

Department: Computer Technology and Information Systems

How often do you exercise?

I usually exercise three times a week.

How has regular exercise affected your life?

I've been exercising since I was a child. With the help of exercise, I generally wake up early in the mornings and care about what I eat. So, I feel more alive.

What do you suggest to those who are just taking up a sport or starting to exercise?

Sometimes you may feel down and won't want to exercise. But I highly recommend that you do exercise at that time, as it helps you feel better.

What are the first three things that come to mind when you hear the word "sports"?

Being outside of your comfort zone; no excuses; blood, sweat, tears.

Which Bilkent sports facilities (Sports Halls, playing fields, tennis courts, etc.) do you use?



I use the Dormitories and Main Sports Hall gyms and also the running and walking routes.

Have you taken any courses or participated in any activities (intramural tournaments, swim festivals, Zumba master classes, etc.)?

Yes, I participate in the Republic Run every year and I've received prizes. But because of the coronavirus, the run didn't take place this academic year.

Bilkent in Winter



Main Campus Rectorate Building
Eurasian Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)
Photograph by Bilkent News



Photograph by Negin Froughisaeid (LAED/PhD)

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.

The International Chronicles

BY YAREN SAĞLIK (TRIN/IV)

Bilkent News

Name: Waleed Qutob

Department: Industrial Engineering

Country of Origin: Palestine

Are there any similarities between Turkey and your home country?

The food, the culture, and many other such things are similar in Turkey and Arabic countries in general, not just my country. However, life in general here is totally different.

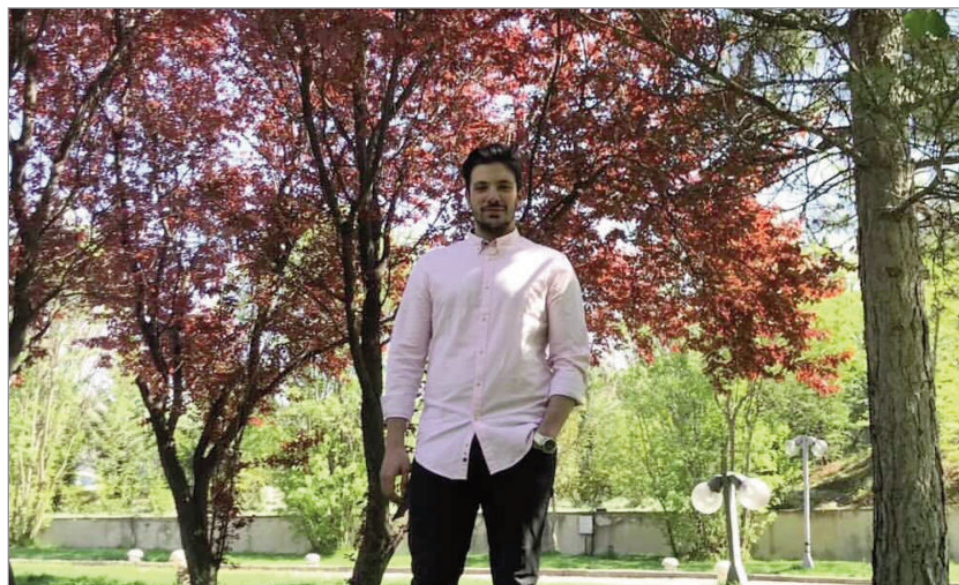
What do you like best about Turkey?

Mainly the people; the friendships I've made here are priceless. Also, the beautiful cities and the hospitality that Turkish people display, which can make anyone feel at home.

What will you miss most about Bilkent/Turkey?

Mainly my friends and my daily life. Living on campus will definitely be missed; living only two minutes away from most of my friends is amazing.

What's your favorite place on



campus, and why?

There are many places on the campus that I love, such as the areas around EA Building and the İhsan Doğramacı statue, where I used to spend most of my time between and after classes. But my favorite place has to be the lawn in front of Dorm 76, as we spent most of our free time and celebrated special occasions

there.

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

My favorite Turkish food has to be the mixed kebab dish that many Turkish restaurants serve.

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

I'm hoping that in 10 years I can be

an executive in a financial services company.

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

Starting a new life in a country where I didn't know anyone and didn't know the language was definitely the hardest challenge; however, I had a blast doing it.

What cities have you visited in Turkey, and which one is your favorite?

Apart from Ankara, I've visited İstanbul, Antalya, Marmaris and Eskişehir. İstanbul will always be my favorite destination by far, as it has a combination of old traditional places, modern urban life and of course the Sea of Marmara.

Describe yourself in three words. Straightforward, ambitious and dedicated.

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

"You've been in Turkey for four years; how come you don't speak Turkish fluently yet?"

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

CONFERENCES

Tuesday, February 23

“Inclusive Design in Urban Environments,” by Prof. Oya Demirebilek (UNSW Built Environment), at **11:30 a.m.**
 Organized by LAUD.

SEMINARS

Thursday, February 25

“Port Cities of the Eastern Mediterranean: Urban Culture in the Late Ottoman Empire,” by Malte Fuhrmann (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient), at **6 p.m.**
 Organized by HIST.

Friday February 26

“Monetary Policy Risk: Rules vs. Discretion,” by Irina Zviadadze (HEC Paris), at **1:40 p.m.** Organized by FBA.

Friday February 26

“Incompatible Elasticity: Theory and Applications,” by Prof. Raz Kupferman (Hebrew University), at **2 p.m.** Organized by ME.

For information about meetings and activities of university departments or student clubs, please see their websites or social media accounts, or contact them directly via telephone or email.

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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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.

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