

International Success for Bilkent Law Students



Five Faculty of Law students, representing Bilkent University as its Vis Moot team, advanced deep into two of the biggest international commercial arbitration moot court competitions, receiving a number of awards in the process; they also did very well in the pre-moot competitions preceding the two major events. The team's achievements marked a new milestone for Bilkent at the international level.

Coached by attorney Derya Durlu Gürzumar, a graduate of the Bilkent Faculty of Law (LLB '10, LLM '15), the Bilkent University Vis Moot team comprised second-year law student Ahmet Furkan Karagölge, third-year law student Elifsu Gözen and fourth-year law students Emin Tuna Yilmazer, Beyza Nur Adıgüzel and Arslan Faruk Gülsoy.

Named after Willem C. Vis, a renowned expert in international commercial transactions and dispute settlement procedures, the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court competition (Vis) and its sister event, the Vis East International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court competition (Vis East), are held annually to foster the study of international commercial law and arbitration and provide practical training to students in resolving international business disputes.

The Vis moots are considered to be among the premier moot court competitions in the world and attract participants from universities around the globe. While Vis East is usually held in Hong Kong, and Vis in Vienna, both events were held

virtually in 2020 and again in 2021.

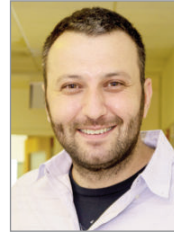
This year's problem involved the application of the Swiss Chambers' Arbitration Institution arbitration rules and the UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods to a dispute over a hybrid contract involving the licensing and sales of viral vectors for a COVID-19 vaccine.

The five students on the Bilkent Vis Moot team began their work in August 2020, and drafted a total of four claimant's and respondents' memoranda upon the publication of the competition problem in October 2020. The culmination of their eight-month journey came in March 2021, when they virtually pleaded their case in the two global competitions.

This year's Vis East competition took place March 14–21, with 147 universities participating. In this, the first time Bilkent students took part in Vis East, the team advanced to the quarterfinal rounds, the only team from Turkey to do so. They received an honorable mention for the Eric E. Bergsten Best Team award, with Elifsu and Tuna also receiving honorable mentions for the Neil Kaplan Best Oralists award.

The Vis competition was held March 27–April 1, with close to 2,500 law students from 382 universities taking part. The Bilkent team, which has been a regular participant in the Vis Moot since 2005, advanced to the top 16 for the first time, becoming the only team from a law school in Turkey to do so in the event's 28-year history to date. Here, too, the team received a Bergsten Best Team honorable mention.

Bilkent Faculty Receive 2021 BAGEP Awards



Serkan Belkaya



Fatih İnci



Serkan Kasırğa



Ayşe Selin Kocaman



Halil Okur

Five Bilkent faculty members have received Distinguished Young Scientist (BAGEP) awards for 2021. The awards are given by the Science Academy Association (Bilim Akademisi Derneği), established in 2011 "to promote, practice and uphold the principles of scientific merit, freedom and integrity." The objective of the BAGEP program is to recognize highly promising young scientists and assist them in furthering their investigations.

The Bilkent awardees are: Asst. Prof. Serkan Belkaya (Department of

Molecular Biology and Genetics); Asst. Prof. Fatih İnci (Institute of Materials Science and Nanotechnology, UNAM); Asst. Prof. Serkan Kasırğa (Institute of Materials Science and Nanotechnology, UNAM); Asst. Prof. Ayşe Selin Kocaman (Department of Industrial Engineering); and Asst. Prof. Halil Okur (Department of Chemistry and Institute of Materials Science and Nanotechnology, UNAM).

A ceremony to honor the awardees was postponed to a later date due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pınar Çağlayan Aksoy's Book on Smart Contracts Published

Asst. Prof. Pınar Çağlayan Aksoy of the Faculty of Law recently published a book titled "Akıllı Sözleşmelerin Kuruluşu ve Geçerlilik Şartları" (The Formation and Validity of Smart Contracts), from On İki Levha Publishing House.

As the author notes, blockchain technology and smart contracts are of interest not only to technology enthusiasts and Bitcoin users, but are also being studied from economic, technical, legal and philosophical perspectives. It is certain that smart contracts concluded on the blockchain will play an active role in the development of international trade by reducing transaction costs and the need for intermediaries, and by accelerating the payment process. Although many areas of law have relevance to smart contracts, it is of particular importance to determine where smart contracts will fall within the scope of contract law.

In this study, the question of whether smart contracts have the legal nature of a contract is tackled, and the

application of the rules of the law of obligations regarding contract formation to smart contracts is discussed. The book also examines the question of whether current contract law rules are sufficient to resolve legal issues arising from smart contracts, or whether new rules specifically designed for smart contracts will have to be introduced.



OPINIONS & FEATURES



AYSEL YALACI (PSYC/III)
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Tell Me More About the Marathon (42.195)

The topic for this week is the marathon, so let me give you some information about the past and present of the race, as well as some of its features.

The marathon race was inspired by the legend of an ancient Greek messenger who in 490 BCE ran from the town of Marathon to Athens, a distance of about 40 kilometers, or nearly 25 miles, with news of an important Greek victory over the invading Persian army. After proclaiming “Niki!” (Victory!), he collapsed and died. At the first modern Olympics, held in Athens in 1896, his dramatic run was commemorated with a race named for its starting point, and set at 40 kilometers.

For the next several Olympics, the length of the marathon was not standardized, but remained around 25 miles until the 1908 Games in London. Although versions of the story vary, one account says that

Queen Alexandra wanted the race to start on the grounds of Windsor Castle (supposedly so that the smallest members of the royal family could watch from the window of their nursery) and finish in front of the royal box in the Olympic stadium. This distance was 26.2 miles (26 miles and 385 yards), or 42.195 kilometers, which became the official standard length of the race in 1921. (A race of 21.1 kilometers is known as a half marathon.)

Soon after the first marathon at the Olympics, cities began to organize their own marathons. In the century and a quarter of the race’s history up to the present, the number of events and runners has increased exponentially, with hundreds of marathons held around the globe.

Today, six important marathons – London, Chicago, Tokyo, Berlin, Boston and New York – make up the biennial World Marathon Majors series. To participate in one of these races, a runner must either win a lottery or qualify by running under a certain time in any marathon they have participated in during the preceding two years. That time is decreasing every year; the qualification time for men to race in Tokyo this year is 2 hours and 45 minutes.

I have talked about the past and present of marathon races, but how does it feel to run in one? Please consider what it must be like to run nonstop for two to five or even six hours. You eat and drink while running. You have to train for months, because it’s really hard to achieve such a goal. During the race, you run with your brain, not just with your feet and legs, because your body will be asking you to stop. But if you’re focused enough, your brain silences your body and takes over. And when you get to the finish line, having succeeded in completing the race and perhaps even winning a medal, all the pain passes, and you start planning for your next marathon.

One more interesting bit of information: The Kenyan long-distance runner Eliud Kipchoge, considered by some the greatest marathoner ever, showed us how important mindset is by running a marathon in 1 hour, 59 minutes and 40 seconds (an average pace of 2:50 min/km, or 4:34.5 min/mile). It was an unofficial world record, and the first time the distance had been run in under two hours. What an effort! Kipchoge also holds the official marathon world record of 2:01:39.

The topic of my next column will be trail running.

Through Your Eyes



If you would like to share photographs you have taken on the Bilkent campus, please send them to us at bilnews@bilkent.edu.tr.

Faces on Campus

BY AYSU YURTER (TRIN/IV)



Name: Nursena Çolak (POLS/II)
What’s your favorite quintuple?
a) Movie: “Sightless”
b) Book: “The Institute” by Stephen King
c) Song: “In Your Eyes” by The Weeknd
d) Food: Ravioli
e) City: Bangkok
What would be your dream job? “Owner of my own business”
If you were a superhero, what super power(s) would you have? “Flying”
What I like most about Bilkent: “The campus and the quality of education”
The place on campus where I feel happiest is... “the Spring Fest area”
My favorite thing about Ankara: “Aspava and Lake Eymir”
If I were an animal, I would be... “a koala”
I have never... “gone skydiving”



Name: Mert Ataol Viran (IE/II)
What’s your favorite quintuple?
a) Movie: “The Shawshank Redemption”
b) Book: “Blindness” by José Saramago
c) Song: “See You Again” by Wiz Khalifa
d) Food: KFC chicken
e) City: Toronto
What would be your dream job? “Having my own finance firm”
If you were a superhero, what super power(s) would you have? “Mentalism”
What I like most about Bilkent: “Its reputation”
The place on campus where I feel happiest is... “the new sports area behind the Dormitories Sports Hall”
My favorite thing about Ankara: “Lokal 71”
If I were an animal, I would be... “a tiger”
I have never... “missed an NBA playoff match that Kevin Durant played in”



Name: Serra Nur Yıldırım (LAW/IV)
What’s your favorite quintuple?
a) Movie: “12 Angry Men”
b) Book: “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee
c) Song: “Wicked Game” by Stone Sour
d) Food: Kumpir
e) City: Amsterdam
What would be your dream job? “Dog behaviorist”
If you were a superhero, what super power(s) would you have? “Time travel”
What I like most about Bilkent: “The feeling of safety while I’m on campus”
The place on campus where I feel happiest is... “the Spring Fest area”
My favorite thing about Ankara: “Walking down Tunus Street with friends in cold weather”
If I were an animal, I would be... “a puppy”
I have never... “eaten baklava”

The Joy of Making Thai Food



On April 6 and 7, in anticipation of Songkran, the Thai New Year, the Embassy of Thailand in Ankara organized a special workshop at the Le Piment Rouge, the Department of Tourism and Hotel Management’s practice restaurant. Minister-Counsellor Charkrienorrathip Sevikul and his wife attended the event.

The workshop provided students taking the Food Production 1 and 2 courses an opportunity to learn the basics of Thai cuisine by preparing popular Thai dishes such as tom yum goong (lemongrass and shrimp soup) and pad thai, along with Thai

desserts, under expert instruction. For the occasion, a new recipe – Foi Thong Delight (golden egg yolk threads served with pistachios) – that combined elements of a Thai dessert with Turkish ingredients was created and made for the first time. This was the second such workshop to take place at Bilkent, following a similar event the previous academic year upon the occasion of the Thai national day. Minister-Counsellor Sevikul expressed his appreciation for the ongoing cooperation between the department and the embassy, and its contribution to fostering Thai–Turkish friendship and cultural exchange.

The Sporting Life

Name: Buğrahan Durukan
Department: CTIS
How often do you exercise?

Three times a week.
How has regular exercise affected your life?

It has helped me overcome the stress of being a Bilkent University student, as well as helping me reach my fitness goals.

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

Archery, karate, fitness training.

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

Before starting to exercise and especially before starting to train with weights, one should get at least a basic knowledge of exercise and definitely a decent training program.

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

Only the Main Sports Hall free weight area.

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



I haven’t had the chance to do any kind of extracurricular activities that can be regarded as sports since I started studying at Bilkent University. However, in the past I was a professional archer with a sponsorship. I represented our country in the Nimes 2015 Archery World Cup (third place). I also competed in karate tournaments in Turkey.

Spring Fitness Challenge Concludes

The Spring 2021 “Sports as a Way of Life” Fitness Challenge held by the Physical Education and Sports Center ended on April 4. During the four weeks of the challenge, 64 participants succeeded in collecting at least 80 points each by exercising on a regular basis and receiving 5 points for each workout session.

Held at the Dormitories and Main Sports Halls, the event was open to all students and academic staff. The goal of the Sports Center’s fitness challenges, which are held each semester, is to encourage students to exercise and stay fit. Students who take part earn points for their Sports as a Way of Life “mountain groups”; in addition, those taking GE250/251

receive points for the course. The top finishers in this year’s Spring Fitness Challenge are listed below.

Men
1- Ahmet Berke Gökmen (CS)
Salih Özçelik (CHEM)
Yashar Beykmohammadi (MAN)
2- Selçuk Dursun (COMD)

3-Muhammad Fahad (ME)
Yusuf Özkan (IE)
Women
1-Begüm Akgüm (IAED)
Deniz Pazarcı (IAED)
Meliha Koç (CTIS)
Rawan Hammoud (IR)
2- Zeynep Yardemir (MAN)
3-Elif Olca Arslantekin (ECON)

The International Chronicles

BY YAREN SAĞLIK (TRIN/IV)
Bilkent News
Name: Zalan Khan
Department: Management
Country of Origin: Pakistan
What do you like best about Turkey?
The best thing about Turkey and Turkish people is the welcoming environment provided for foreigners; of course, not leaving behind the attractive places to visit. Turkey is indeed a great place to visit, and being a student here is just incredible.
Are there any similarities between Turkey and your home country?
Turkey and Pakistan have many similarities, as a majority of the people in both countries practice the same religion. Culturally we have many similarities too, as Urdu, our



national language, is greatly influenced by Turkish, and the family values in particular are quite similar.

What will you miss most about Bilkent/Turkey?
Well, I still have quite a lot of time here, but the things I’ll miss the most are the friends I’ve made here, for sure, and the learning environment Bilkent provides.
What’s your favorite place on campus, and why?
Well, due to the current situation I haven’t gotten to roam around and explore the campus that much, but the hill in front of Dorm 76 that we call the Bilka hill is the place where I sit with my friends and really enjoy the view of the city and the peaceful environment.
What’s your favorite Turkish food and/or favorite part of Turkish culture?
My favorite Turkish food is baklava, as it has a really different taste from most of the common desserts.

Where do you expect to see yourself 10 years from now?
In 10 years, I’ll have completed my MBA and will be looking forward to achieving my career goals.
What’s the hardest challenge you’ve handled in Turkey?
The language barrier was the hardest challenge for me.
What cities have you visited in Turkey, and which one is your favorite?
I’ve been to many places, including İstanbul, Konya, Bursa, Kuşadası and Cappadocia. Without a doubt, İstanbul is my favorite city to visit.
What’s an interesting question or comment you hear frequently about Bilkent/Turkey?
You guys have a lot of fun; Bilkent must be lenient with your schedules.
Describe yourself in three words.
Sporty, curious and ambitious.

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/>.

Soloists Concert

Barno Haknazarova, piano

Bahar Kutay, violin

Adelya Ateşoğlu, violin

İskender Okeev, violin

Marina Agapova, violin

Serdar Rasul, violoncello

J. Haydn | Concerto for Piano No. 11 in D major

A. Vivaldi | Concerto for Two Violins in A minor, Op. 3, No. 8, RV 522

A. Vivaldi | Concerto Grosso in D minor, Op. 3, No. 11, RV 565

Special Concert in Honor of İhsan Doğramacı's Birthday

Gülsin Onay, piano

Almat Zhaylaubayev, oboe

Nusret İspir, clarinet

Ozan Evruk, bassoon

Mustafa Kaplan, horn

W.A. Mozart | Concerto for Piano No. 12, K. 414

W.A. Mozart | Quintet for Piano, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn and Bassoon in E flat major, K. 452

F. Chopin | Polonaise in A-flat major, Op. 53

Department of Music Student Recitals

Wednesday, April 14, 2:30 p.m.

Tambi Cimuk, piano

youtube.com/bilkentmusic

EXHIBITIONS

Until April 20

"Distinguished Works," Projects by Students in the Department of

Interior Architecture and Environmental Design.

SEMINARS

Tuesday, April 13

"Choosing the US Nuclear Umbrella: Counterproductive Consequences of Germany's Love for the Status Quo," by Dr. Ulrich Kühn (Universität Hamburg), at **12:30 p.m.** Organized by IR.

Tuesday, April 13

"Characterization of Model Compartments Based on Aqueous-Phase Coexistence and Lipids," by Fatma Pir Çakmak (MIT), at **5:30 p.m.** Organized by CHEM.

Wednesday, April 14

"Pluricomplex Green Functions on Stein Manifolds: A Functional Analysis Point of View," by Aydın Aytuna, at **1:30 p.m.** Organized by MATH.

Wednesday, April 14

"Development of VLP-Based COVID-19 Vaccine for Human Clinical Trials," by Prof. İhsan Gürsel (Bilkent University), at **3:40 p.m.** Organized by MBG.

Friday, April 16

"Capacity Expansion in Service Platforms: Financing vs. Employment," by Heikki Peura (Imperial College Business School), at **1:40 p.m.** Organized by FBA.

Friday, April 16

"Advancements in Nanosized Zeolites," by Prof. Svetlana Mintova (Normandy University), at **4 p.m.** Organized by UNAM.

Friday, April 16

"A Panorama of Mirror Symmetry,"

Yankı Lekili (Imperial College London), at **12:30 p.m.** Organized by MATH.

Friday, April 16

"Rapid COVID-19 Modeling Support for Regional Health Systems in England," by Feryal Erhun (University of Cambridge), at **4 p.m.** Organized by IE.

Friday, April 16

"Reappraising the Silk Road: Byzantium and Ancient China," by Qiang Li (Northeast Normal University), at **5 p.m.** Organized by HIST.

Saturday, April 17

"Use of Force on Civilians and Human Rights: Use of Police Force in the Light of the European Convention of Human Rights," by Aleksander Krebl (Law Enforcement Specialist, UNDP), at **2 p.m.** Organized by LAW.

TALKS

Tuesday, April 13

"Urban Place-Making in the Hittite Empire," by Asst. Prof. Müge Durusu-Tanrıöver (Bilkent University), at **12:30 p.m.** Organized by LAUD.

Thursday April 15

"Maps, Predication and Alien Structure," by Matti Eklund (Uppsala University), at **2:30 p.m.** Organized by PHIL.

CONFERENCES

Tuesday, April 13

"1951 Mülteci Sözleşmesi- Çekinceler ve Kısıtlamalar," by Metin Çorabatır (İGAM), at **12:30 p.m.** Organized by LAW.

April 17-18

"Doing Things Together: Knowledge, Lies and Responsibility," at **2 p.m.** Organized by PHIL.

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.

BİLKENT NEWS



Bilkent Üniversitesi

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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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