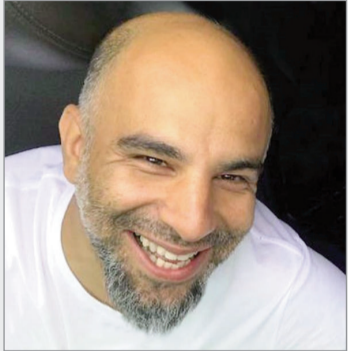


## Distinguished Teachers Honored



Hossein Dabir



Lori Russell Dağ



Seçkin Köstem



Burak Ülgüt

The University is pleased to announce the recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Awards for 2021. They are: Lori Russell Dağ, Seçkin Köstem and Burak Ülgüt, along with Hossein Dabir, who passed away in December and is being presented with the award posthumously. The four awardees were chosen for demonstrating outstanding teaching abilities and for contributing to students' academic and intellectual development. Please see the 2021 Distinguished Teaching Award recipients' statements below. (Mr. Dabir's statement has been excerpted from the statement he wrote for his award nomination file.)

### Hossein Dabir, 1970-2020 (FAE)

To me teaching is not or should not be limited to passing on information and just helping students meet course requirements. It should go beyond that. Teaching well or teaching successfully can be judged by student involvement, student ownership of the learning process and their willingness to carry out further research to extend the content of a particular course. This starts with facilitating the learning of each student regarding his/her particular needs. Students need to understand the learning process and discover the steps that they need to take to stretch their potential. This will help their learning to go beyond a particular course and will contribute to their overall education.

...

The key principles of my teaching and choice of materials have been based on inspiring a sense of discovery in students and letting them feel the pleasure of applying new knowledge to things that they are familiar with and thus enabling them to see a whole new perspective.

...

These principles together with the hard work and passion of my students and the opportunities that Bilkent has provided have led to many hours of fruitful, memorable lessons.

*Hossein Dabir will always be remembered by his students, colleagues and the Bilkent staff.*

### Lori Russell Dağ (CS)

I am incredibly pleased and honored to be one of the recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Awards for 2021. Looking at the recipients in previous years, I feel very privileged to be in such good company. I would like to thank the Department of Computer Engineering and the Faculty of Engineering for the nomination, and for the work that went into the nomination process.

I am thankful to my colleagues past and present who made me an educator, and from whom I have had the opportunity to learn and shape my teaching philosophy and teaching style. I would like to also thank my students

for their participation, feedback and support, which year after year gives me motivation to work hard and to improve. Students make it possible for us to be good teachers, and even in the smallest interactions, they can ask a question or express a basic idea in such a way that it unlocks new ideas and new perspectives on learning.

When I was young, I always wanted to be a teacher; however, at some point I naively decided I wanted more of a challenge and went in a different direction. Becoming an instructor at Bilkent University made me realize that teaching is one of the most challenging careers. There is always something new to learn, and something that can be done better. As a teacher, I do not think you ever finish a semester completely satisfied with the outcome. There is always something you wish you had done in a different way. However, there is always another chance to take what you have learned and use it to improve. I am grateful to have this opportunity.

### Seçkin Köstem (IR)

I am honored and very happy to be one of the recipients of the 2021 Distinguished Teaching Awards. I would like to thank my department chair Özgür Özdamar for nominating me for this award. My heartfelt thanks also to my colleagues and students, who supported my nomination. My past professors at Bilkent University and McGill University have been my sources of inspiration; I can only aspire to be as good and inspiring as them. I have been taught by the best, and I owe my academic journey to them.

Teaching at Bilkent is rewarding. While I am still in the early stages of my academic career, I have already taught dozens of Bilkent graduates who are building careers in academia, the private sector, civil service, international organizations, the media and nongovernmental organizations. Over the years, Bilkent has been more than a university to me. I sympathize with my students and do my best to get to know them better, which is one way of showing my gratitude to this institution. I believe a professor has a lot to learn

from her/his students. When I think about how much I have learned from my students in the past five years, I recognize how lucky I am to be teaching at Bilkent. As a Bilkent graduate and a junior scholar, it is a great pleasure to be a part of this pioneering institution. Last but not least, I am grateful to my family for their love and support.

### Burak Ülgüt (CHEM)

I am deeply honored and humbled to be receiving a 2021 Bilkent University Distinguished Teaching Award. First, I would like to thank my department chair Prof. Emrah Özensoy for nominating me, as well as all my colleagues and current and former students for their support in the nomination process.

As a lifelong student, I have had many great teachers over the years, but a number of them deserve special mention. Mustafa Üstünışık has been an inspiration since high school; Prof. Şefik Süzer showed me that attention to detail and persistent questioning is the only way forward; and Prof. Héctor Abruña made me aware that motivated scientists generate new science and machines are merely tools. I am indebted to all of them for their impact on me.

Teaching is meaningful only if the students develop as a result. This improvement needs to be constantly monitored, and teaching methods have to be modified accordingly. I would like to thank all my students at every level, who continuously teach me how to teach via actionable feedback. It is with their criticisms that I work on improving various aspects of my teaching. I strive to lay the foundations, open things up and challenge them to the best of my ability.

In addition, I would be remiss if I didn't thank my family. I would like to thank my mother Melahat and my father Altan for being my first teachers, and my siblings Mustafa and Merve for being my first peers. Last but not least, I would like to thank my wife Nurten for sharing all the highs and lows life brings, and my son Tekin for never-ending questions that constantly remind me how much more there is to learn.



Happy May 19th,  
Commemoration of Atatürk,  
Youth and Sports Day!

## A New Description of Droplet Motion by ME and UNAM Researchers

A research paper authored by Department of Mechanical Engineering and UNAM researchers appeared as the

cover article for the April 14 issue of Langmuir, a leading journal in the field of the study of surfaces and interfaces. The article introduces a novel approach to describing droplet behavior that substantially enhances understanding of the motion of droplets on surfaces. The research team was led by Asst. Prof. Yegan Erdem Ercan and Asst. Prof. Ali Javili.



(Continued on Page 3)

## Bilkent Receives Best New Law School Honorable Mention in Jessup Competition

Five students from the Faculty of Law represented Bilkent University in the global rounds of the 2021 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, held during March and April. The first team from Bilkent to compete in the event, their performance won the Faculty of Law a "Best New Law School" honorable mention.

Administered by the International Law Students Association, the Jessup is the world's largest and oldest international moot court competition for law students, organized annually since 1960 and hosting more than 600 law schools from more than 100

(Continued on Page 3)

## OPINIONS &amp; FEATURES



ŞEBNEM TÜRE (PSYC/IV)

sebnem.ture@ug.bilkent.edu.tr

## My Last Piece: A Bilkent (News) Journey

I've been writing here since the time when I'd just gotten used to college life. Graduating now, I see that in my columns for Bilkent News, I was making notes about many things that happened during my university years. And so, through the pieces I wrote, I'm able to present you a story lived at Bilkent "in the '20s." Maybe you'll find something of yourself there.

Why am I writing?

The end of this piece will try to give an answer to that.

...

## A Satisficer or a Maximizer: Which One Are You? – October 22, 2018

We pass our college years trying to have fun in between doing assignments and making career plans. My perfectionist efforts to maximize things didn't stop.

However, as I got to know myself and many more people at college, I found more and more to be satisfied about.

## Here's To Getting Older, Plainer, Saner – November 5, 2018

This was one of my first columns here. I was questioning the transition from high school to college. Was I getting old, to be losing the sense of "insanity" I had enjoyed? I see now that maybe the transitions never end. We think we've reached somewhere when we graduate, but we're still just transitioning.

## "Vakıfbank S.K. Win 2018 FIVB Volleyball Women's Club World Championship" – February 5, 2019

We're living through so many events in Turkey that attract our attention, and being young (and educated) can give us more energy to think critically about them. Some may remember İ.M. Gökçek's departure after the 2019 local elections, the imposition of a fee for plastic bags, or the earthquakes we experienced. I had the opportunity to think through all these events by writing. They say creativity comes from outside as well as from within.

## Hello, Uncertainty, My Old Friend – May 12, 2020

One of the most unfortunate events that could have happened during our college years was

undoubtedly the pandemic. The uncertainties we already faced increased. We didn't know if we would actually be able to do the internships we had lined up. The people we had hoped and expected to see dropped out of sight. The occasional articles I wrote about festivals and plays came to an end.

## For Those Who Desire the Unattainable – October 20, 2020

We want a lot during the last year of university. For one thing, we keep trying to plan our "next life," and at the same time ascertain to what extent our plans will mesh with those of others around us. This was a piece I wrote while I was applying to graduate schools in the US. I also felt like most 20-somethings do during a stressful period. Busy, in love, and frustrated.

## Why Do We "Click"? The Psychology of Instant Connection – February 16, 2021

Over the years, I wrote many columns that concerned matters of everyday life. One time I wrote about "Hygge" and another time about "Minimalism," to see whether I fit (or if I should fit) into a particular lifestyle. I gave advice about how to get through a semester; in "How Not to Deal With It," I questioned the value of any type of advice. However, one of the best things I

observed in my personal development was that I was increasingly embracing the field of psychology. This became evident in my pieces, which increasingly referred to the psychology of everyday experiences and dilemmas. Following in the footsteps of many others, it will soon be my turn to jump into a profession. Maybe, just maybe, I am more ready than I think.

...

## The Psychology of Farewell

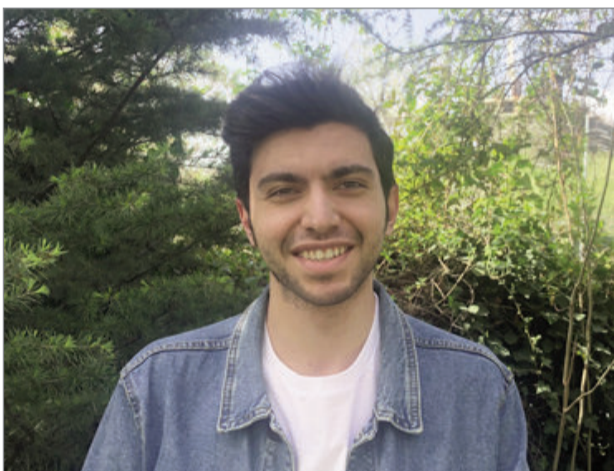
This is the hardest thing to discuss because, unlike the topics mentioned above, I've never written a column about it. I'd planned it to be the subject of this last piece, but then I chose to focus on the journey and not the farewell.

A journey starts when you go after what you love and don't care a lot about the destination. Volunteering, following passions matters when we're young, and I often tried to prioritize that during college. Writing for Bilkent News, for me, meant loving to write without expecting anything in return.

Even though I'm ending this final piece now, whatever was the essence of my work here will continue with me. No matter what stage of university or life you're in, let me wish you endless journeys that have no farewells.

## Faces on Campus

BY AYSU YURTER (TRIN/IV)



**Name:** Alperen Ulus (IR/III)

**What's your favorite quintuple?**

**a) Movie:** "Grave of the Fireflies"

**b) Book:** "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

**c) Song:** "Cold Summer" by Seabear

**d) Food:** Hamburger

**e) City:** Buenos Aires

**What would be your dream job?**

"Oscar-winning actor"

**If you were a superhero, what super power(s) would you have?** "Telepathy"

**What I like most about Bilkent:** "The campus, since it's greener than most of Ankara"

**The place on campus where I feel happiest is...** "A Building, especially at night"

**My favorite thing about Ankara:** "It has good kebab restaurants"

**If I were an animal, I would be...** "a penguin"

**I have never...** "been to Latin America"



**Name:** Zeynep Kutayer (TRIN/IV)

**What's your favorite quintuple?**

**a) Movie:** "Pride and Prejudice"

**b) Book:** "Bizim Büyük Çaresizliğimiz" by Barış Bıçakçı

**c) Song:** "Never Let Me Go" by Florence and the Machine

**d) Food:** Mantı

**e) City:** London

**What would be your dream job?** "Famous writer"

**If you were a superhero, what super power(s) would you have?** "Erasing bad memories"

**What I like most about Bilkent:** "The campus is huge"

**The place on campus where I feel happiest is...** "the library"

**My favorite thing about Ankara:** "It only reveals its beauty to those who truly know how to see"

**If I were an animal, I would be...** "a cat"

**I have never...** "sung out loud around other people"



**Name:** Mehmet Alper Sav (ME/IV)

**What's your favorite quintuple?**

**a) Movie:** "Shutter Island"

**b) Book:** "Poor Folk" by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

**c) Song:** "Hotel California" by the Eagles

**d) Food:** Chickpeas

**e) City:** London

**What would be your dream job?**

"Football player"

**If you were a superhero, what super power(s) would you have?** "Discovering other galaxies"

**What I like most about Bilkent:** "BUSEL"

**The place on campus where I feel happiest is...** "the benches behind the İhsan Doğramacı statue"

**My favorite thing about Ankara:** "Lake Eymir"

**If I were an animal, I would be...** "an owl"

**I have never...** "played squash"

## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

## Bilkent Receives Best New Law School Honorable Mention in Jessup Competition

(Continued from Page 1) countries and jurisdictions each year. It was held virtually this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students taking part in the competition prepare written and oral submissions in defense of two states, which are parties to a fictional dispute before the International Court of Justice. Following successful completion of the written stage, teams compete against each other in the oral stage of the preliminary rounds, with the best teams going on to the advanced rounds.

This year's dispute concerned a global pandemic, "J-VID-18," and the obligations and responses of a state with respect to the outbreak.

Coached by Asst. Prof. Danai Angeli and Asst. Prof. Ayşe Dicle Ergin, the Bilkent team was composed of senior students Ece



Deniz Günel, Zeynep Ceren Şen, Eylül Kabakçı, Sıla Öz and Aysu Gül Yılmaz, as well as junior student Yüksel Söğüt Atilla, who assisted the team throughout the process as a substitute member.

The Bilkent students prepared two written memorials and during the oral rounds competed in 10 matches against teams from various regions of the globe, before panels of judges from all over the world. The only team from Turkey selected to compete in the advanced rounds, their overall performance won Bilkent a "Best New Law School" honorable mention.

## A New Description of Droplet Motion

(Continued from Page 1) Understanding droplet wetting is important in the engineering of water-repellent surfaces for use in both industry and daily life. Droplets can be manipulated on superhydrophobic, textured surfaces by applying asymmetric surface energy gradients.

The modeling of this behavior is complicated, as droplet motion is nonlinear and shows parametric resonance behavior. The Bilkent team demonstrated a new approach for modeling and understanding this motion by using the well-known double pendulum model.

## Bilkent News Seeks Columnists

**B**ilkent News is looking for student columnists for the 2021-2022 academic year. Student columnists write columns about life on campus, opinion pieces and reviews.

If you are interested in writing for Bilkent News, please submit two writing samples to Hande Seçkin Onat ([seckin@bilkent.edu.tr](mailto:seckin@bilkent.edu.tr)) by **June 15**.

## Looking for an Interviewer

**W**e're looking for a friendly interviewer to do the "Faces on Campus,"

"International Chronicles" and "Faculty Q&A" features for the 2021-2022 academic year.

For more information on the positions, please send an email to [seckin@bilkent.edu.tr](mailto:seckin@bilkent.edu.tr).

## The Sporting Life



**Name:** Esra Kaya

**Department:** Management

**How often do you exercise?**

At least three times a week, depending on my school/exam schedule.

**How has regular exercise affected your life?**

I feel more energetic throughout the day. Besides, I feel that exercising really decreases my stress, which is good since I get stressed very easily. Also, my motivation not only to continue to exercise but also to handle my responsibilities has increased.

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

I would highly recommend that they keep exercising as much as possible on a regular basis and not give up after a while, because sports is a way of life. I guarantee that you'll feel better both physically and mentally.

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

Health, motivation, good quality of life.

**Which Bilkent sports facilities (Sports Halls, playing fields, tennis courts, etc.) do you use? Have you taken any courses or participated in any activities (intramural tournaments, swim festivals, Zumba master classes, etc.)?**

Before Covid-19 I used the sports halls' cardio/fitness facilities at least five times a week. Also, my friends and I sometimes played volleyball on the courts. However, due to the pandemic, I started to do my exercises, such as stretching, jogging and Pilates, outside. I usually use the playing fields, but sometimes I just take long walks on the campus.

## The International Chronicles

BY YAREN SAĞLIK (TRIN/IV)

**Bilkent News**

**Name:** Abdullah Junaid

**Department:** Molecular Biology and Genetics

**Country of Origin:** Pakistan

**What do you like best about Turkey?**

I would say the atmosphere. I've only been to Ankara, but the city itself feels beautiful in a different way from any other place I've ever been. It also gives me a sense of being in a city greater than myself, with people from everywhere in the world.

**Are there any similarities between Turkey and your home country?**

A lot, to be fair. I'm pretty sure everyone who reads this part and sees a Pakistani knows what's about to come. I'll try to say something that people might not know: the flags of both Turkey and Pakistan have a crescent and a star. The biggest similarity, however, is that both countries have a Muslim-majority population. Then too my language, Urdu, is basically a product of the amalgamation of Turkish, Persian and a few others, so there's a similarity of language to some extent as well. Pakistan and Turkey also share a love of food (which I'm not complaining about one bit). The thing that I like the most that's similar in both countries is the love of tea. I love



tea, and seeing it available almost everywhere is such a beautiful sight.

**What will you miss most about Bilkent/Turkey?**

I've only been here for four months, so I'm not emotionally attached to a lot of things "Bilkent," but one thing I will miss is living in the dorms. I lived in dorms in high school, but the dorms here are different, and I'll definitely reminisce about just walking out when it's snowing or meeting up with friends to go play random games. As far as Turkey goes, döner. I love it!

**What's your favorite place on campus, and why?**

The lake on East Campus. When I'd been at Bilkent for just a few days, I went to the lake with someone who was showing me around the campus. She told me it would be a long walk, but it was worth it in the end. Since then, whenever I feel overwhelmed with emotions, I go to the lake and just sit

there in silence for a while, and everything starts to make sense and fall into place.

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

It has to be döner. My order history is filled with me ordering döner. It's the closest thing to my favorite food back home, paratha roll, so I just had to try it. And you don't need to try it a second time to develop an addiction.

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

Hopefully as a published author of a book and also doing my own research in genetics.

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

Language; you can't go out and just talk to people or even ask where something is.

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

I've only been to Ankara, so Ankara wins by default.

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

"What's wrong with Bilkent?" (asked by every student I've had a proper conversation with).

**Describe yourself in three words.** Moody, logical, selfish.

## Library Services

**T**he Bilkent University Library has announced that it will be closed to in-person use through **May 16**, in accordance with the nationwide lockdown.

During this period, the Library will continue to provide information services electronically. Users can employ the "Ask Us" online chat service or send an email to [library@bilkent.edu.tr](mailto:library@bilkent.edu.tr) for inquiries about library services and resources.

In addition, no overdue fines will be charged during the period through **May 31**.

# 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*

“Spring”

**Sema Hakioglu**, viola  
**Sergey Margulis**, double bass  
**Adilhoca Aziz**, violin  
**Feruz Abdullayeva**, violin  
**Cavid Cafer**, viola  
**Hayreddin Hoca**, violoncello  
*E. Elgar | Introduction and Allegro, Op. 47*

*K.D. von Dittersdorf | Sinfonia Concertante for Double Bass, Viola and Orchestra in D major*

## SEMINARS

### Tuesday, May 11

“Turkish Foreign Policy Under Regional Geopolitical Anxiety,” by Prof. Murat Yeşiltaş (Social Sciences University of Ankara), at **12:30 p.m.** Organized by IR.

### Tuesday, May 11

“Kripto Varlıklar: Alan da Kaçan mı?,” by Şant Manukyan (İş Yatırım) and Refet S. Gürkaynak (Bilkent University), at **4 p.m.** Organized by ECON.

### Tuesday, May 11

“Aesthetic and/as/against Philosophical Attunement: A Case Study of Literary-Philosophical Entanglements,” by Birgit Breidenbach (University of East Anglia); and “Poetry, Ethics and Life With Others,” by Magdalena Ostas (University of California, Berkeley), at **6:30 p.m.** Organized by ELIT.

See you next semester!



## Get Moving With Sports Center Workout Videos

The Physical Education and Sports Center is offering a series of workout videos, available on YouTube, prepared by its professional trainers. Updated weekly, the series may be viewed at [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=bilkentuniversitysportscenter](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=bilkentuniversitysportscenter).

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

#### Adına Sahibi:

Prof. Dr. Kürşat Aydoğan

#### Sorumlu Yazı İşleri Müdürü:

Hande Seçkin Onat

**Yayının Türü:** Yerel Süreli Yayın

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**Yayın Kurulu:** Kürşat Aydoğan, Reyhan Ayfer, Hande Seçkin Onat, Örsan Öрге, Kamer Rodoplu

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

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