

## IEEE Turkey Section Presents Awards to Bilkent Faculty Member and Graduates

**A**t a ceremony held on October 3 via Zoom, a Bilkent faculty member and two Bilkent graduates received awards from the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) Turkey Section.



Asst. Prof. Ercüment Çiçek, a faculty member in the Department of Computer Engineering, received one of the section's

2019 Research Incentive Awards in recognition of his contributions to the development of machine-learning techniques for the analysis of genetic diseases.

The IEEE Turkey Section gives its Research Incentive Awards to faculty members who reside in Turkey, finished their PhD studies no more than 10 years ago, have gained distinction through their scientific activities and contributions to their field, and have conducted most of their research work in Turkey.

Asst. Prof. Sedat Nizamoglu, a graduate of the Bilkent University departments of Physics (MS) and Electrical and Electronics Engineering (PhD), also received a 2019 Research Incentive Award.

In addition, Dr. Musa Furkan Keskin, a PhD graduate of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, received the section's 2019 PhD Thesis Award for his thesis "Visible Light Positioning Systems: Fundamental Limits, Algorithms and Resource Allocation Approaches," which he defended in August 2018.

## CS Student Wins Graphathon

**Y**usuf Said Canbaz, a master's student in the Department of Computer Engineering, took first place in the TigerGraph 2020 Graphathon. Sponsored by TigerGraph, a California-based software developer that produces enterprise graph database tools, the competition attracted 331 participants.



Yusuf, who is doing his master's work under the supervision of Prof. Uğur Doğrusöz, won the Graphathon's top award with his software project "Davraz." The software can be downloaded at <https://github.com/canbaz/davraz>.

## BSO Opens Season at the Odeon



Photograph by Aydın Ramazanoğlu

**T**he Bilkent Symphony Orchestra opened its season on Sunday, October 11, not in the Bilkent Concert Hall as usual, but in the campus's capacious outdoor pavilion, the Odeon. The BSO also arranged the seating layout for both audience members and musicians to allow for greater

distancing.

The opening concert featured two violin concertos, one by Haydn and one by Bach, along with Piazzolla's "The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires." The violin soloist was Yevgeniy Kostrytsky.

For a schedule of upcoming concerts, please see Page 3.

## Serim İlday Named Young Academy of Europe Fellow

**A**sst. Prof. Serim Kayacan İlday of the National Nanotechnology Research Center (UNAM) and the Institute of Materials Science has been elected a fellow by the Young Academy of Europe (YAE).



The mission of the YAE, which was founded in 2012, includes providing input on scientific exchange and science policy across all member states and associated countries of the European Union. YAE members, who are selected by their peers based on the criteria of scientific achievement and international recognition, seek to

provide a "younger" perspective on the future of science policy and academia in Europe. The YAE also promotes networking among its members to create a pool of information and provide active support to colleagues across Europe.

Dr. İlday's multi- and interdisciplinary research focuses on self-assembly, complexity, far-from-equilibrium systems, and nonlinear and stochastic dynamics. A PhD graduate of Middle East Technical University, she was a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Physics at Bilkent before joining UNAM in December 2017.

## Interview Adventure With Talent Hunters

**T**he Career and Alumni Office is inviting all third- and fourth-year students to participate in its Interview Adventure With Talent Hunters program for the fall semester. In the 2019–2020 academic year, 418 Bilkent students were paired with representatives of 32 companies from various sectors, giving them the opportunity to experience an online interview and take a first step toward life after graduation.

Students who want to participate will need to have visited the <https://stars.bilkent.edu.tr/srs> Other Services/Interview Adventure with Talent Hunters (IATH) menu by September 30, uploaded a CV and made an appointment with the Career and Alumni Office.

After the completion of an initial interview with the Career and Alumni



Office, students will be paired with company representatives for the company interview stage. These interviews with talent hunters will take place between **November 16** and **December 18**, and will be set up by the companies as Skype, Zoom, Teams, Hangout or telephone meetings.

## New Book by Tudor Onea

**A** new book by Asst. Prof. Tudor Onea of the Department of International Relations, titled "The Grand Strategies of Great Powers," was recently published by Routledge.

The book explores what grand strategy is, what grand strategies are available to great powers, and the situations in which they are used. It puts forward a classification of great powers' grand strategies over the past four centuries, examining the strategies of rising, status quo and declining powers. Among the strategies discussed are divide and conquer, bidding one's time, primacy, concert, containment and appeasement.

Dr. Onea first presents the tenets of each grand strategy and then provides a historical illustration, using as examples the experiences of renowned strategists of the past such as Bismarck, Peter the Great, Metternich, Richelieu, Stalin, Truman and Deng Xiaoping. The book concludes by looking at today's grand strategic debates involving powers of the first rank: the US, China and Russia.

"The Grand Strategies of Great Powers" is envisioned as becoming the go-to textbook on the topic for students of international relations and history, diplomats, and military officers as well as anyone interested in contemporary affairs. At Bilkent, the book is expected to constitute the foundation of a future elective course on grand strategy, the first of its kind to be offered in Turkey.



## Share Your Experiences!

**W**e're beginning a new series for Bilkent News featuring the experiences of smokers who've decided to kick the habit. Our hope is that hearing from others who've been in the same position will motivate those who want to quit smoking but, for whatever reason, haven't been able to.

In order to make this series a success, we're asking for your input. But first, congratulations on making the decision to quit smoking! You've made your health a priority, and you should be proud of yourself.

So, whether you're a student or a member of the faculty or administrative staff, please contact us to share your experiences on your journey to a smoke-free life.

The first interview in the series, with Canan Bolatlar, appears in this issue on Page 2.

## Journey Toward a Smoke-Free Life

**H**ere we feature the first interview in this series, with Canan Bolatlar, Head of the Records and Archives Unit. Congratulations on making the decision to quit smoking! **How long did you smoke? How many cigarettes a day?**

I smoked for 28 years, 10 cigarettes a day. Even though I was facing a lot of pressure during that time, I tried to quit; but since I tended to become too irritable and difficult to get along with, I gave up. **When did you decide to quit smoking? What influenced your decision the most?**

For a long time, I never considered quitting. But then I saw some of my close friends quit smoking, and as I watched their efforts, I started to have second thoughts. Just before the pandemic entered our lives, a very close friend of mine from school was diagnosed with advanced COPD. Breathless, silent, and in pain... his helpless eyes caused me to finally make the decision.

**What kind of plan did you follow? Who did you get help from? Was it hard?**

I got help from the 171 Quit Smoking hotline and from a dear friend who had quit smoking. Even though I couldn't go to the hospital due to the pandemic, I took the recommended medications on the basis of preliminary discussions with



my doctors. I didn't experience any side effects from the medication. I never got angry; on the contrary, it was a very calm, quiet process.

**When did you quit smoking?**

I quit smoking on April 15, 2020. On my 50th birthday, I gifted myself a smoke-free life. The reactions I got from other people were always very positive and supportive.

**What kinds of effects - physical, mental and social - has not smoking had on you?**

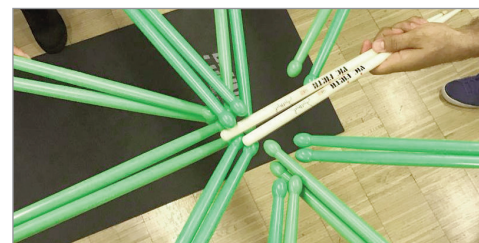
In terms of the physical effects, I started to lead a much more active life. Sports were already part of my life, and now I see that I'm stronger and more enthusiastic about sports I couldn't do before. Mentally, I feel like my soul is calmer. I no longer

have questions like, "Will I become irritable and lash out at people around me if I quit smoking?" Now, I have a more positive perspective than before. I've realized that smoking affected my social life a lot. In the past, I didn't mind being in places where people were smoking, as I was also a smoker. But now I see how disturbed people are by the smoke and the smell, and I experience the same feelings.

As I continue my life breathing more freely, I'm very happy to see that my close friends are going toward the fresh air too....

I thank Dr. Mete Aker and Dr. Başak Soyloğlu for all their support throughout my journey to a smoke-free life.

## Sweat, Sculpt, Rock: POUNDFit



**A**s part of the Sports as a Way of Life program, the Sports Center is holding a POUNDFit workout session **Tuesday, October 27**. This unique form of full-body exercise, designed for all fitness levels, transforms drumming into a workout, using special lightly weighted drumsticks and combining cardio, conditioning and strength training with yoga and Pilates-inspired movements. As POUND's creators say, "Instead of listening to music, you become the music.... POUND provides the perfect atmosphere for letting loose, getting energized, toning up and rockin' out!"

The POUNDFit workout will take place at **4 p.m.** on the mini football field. The session is limited to 30 participants, so registration is required; you can register at any of the sports halls. Students taking GE250/251 will receive 20 points for the course.

For more information: [spor@bilkent.edu.tr](mailto:spor@bilkent.edu.tr)

## Faces on Campus

BY ALEYNA GÜRBÜZ (PSYC/III)



**Name:** Emre Can İlhan (COMD/I)

**What's your favorite quintuple?**

**a) Movie:** "The Boys From Brazil"

**b) Book:** "The Art of Worldly Wisdom" by Baltasar Gracián

**c) Song:** "Git Burdan" by Cemiyette Pişiyorum

**d) Food:** Meat

**e) City:** Oslo

**What would be your dream job?** "Being a famous animator like Walt Disney"

**If you were a superhero, what super power(s) would you have?** "Reading and controlling minds"

**The place on campus where I feel happiest is...** "FF Building"

**My favorite thing about Ankara:** "It's the capital"

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

**I have never...** "shot a gun"



**Name:** Yiğit Pekzeren (HART/MA)

**What's your favorite quintuple?**

**a) Movie:** "The Revenant"

**b) Book:** "Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage" by Haruki Murakami

**c) Song:** "The House of the Rising Sun" by The Animals

**d) Food:** Fish and chips

**e) City:** Chicago

**What would be your dream job?** "Carpenter, so I could build my own log cabin in the woods"

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

**The place on campus where I feel happiest is...** "the wooded area next to G Building"

**My favorite thing about Ankara:** "Aspava"

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

**I have never...** "lost my keys"



**Name:** Ali Taha Övez (POLS/III)

**What's your favorite quintuple?**

**a) Movie:** "Interstellar"

**b) Book:** "The Lord of the Rings" by J.R.R. Tolkien

**c) Song:** "Don't Stop Me Now" by Queen

**d) Food:** Sushi

**e) City:** Osaka

**What would be your dream job?** "Astronaut"

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

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

**My favorite thing about Ankara:** "I can still get lost easily"

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

**I have never...** "watched a horror movie"

# Bilkent CALENDAR



## Outdoor Exercise Program

The Physical Education and Sports Center is continuing to hold outdoor group exercise sessions on campus this semester. The new schedule for the exercise program can be viewed at <https://w3.bilkent.edu.tr/bilkent/physical-education-and-sports-center/sports-courses/>.

## Sports Halls Open by Reservation

Due to huge demand and the need for social distancing, starting from **Friday, October 9**, the Dormitories and Main Sports Halls will be open for use from **8:45 a.m. to 7:45 p.m.** by reservation only. Please note that the facilities will be closed for cleaning at intervals throughout the day. To view the halls' new schedule in detail, please see <https://w3.bilkent.edu.tr/bilkent/physical-education-and-sports-center/sports-facilities/>.

## BİLKENT NEWS



### Bilkent Üniversitesi

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Prof. Dr. Kürşat Aydoğan

#### Sorumlu Yazı İşleri Müdürü:

Hande Seçkin Onat

#### Yayının Türü: Yerel Süreli Yayın

#### Yayın Aralığı: Haftalık

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## LE PIMENT ROUGE RESTAURANT

Le Piment Rouge, the practice restaurant of the Department of Tourism and Hotel Management, will welcome guests (up to a limit of six) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the fall 2020 semester, starting on **October 13**.

Set menu: 50 TL

**Location:** R Building, Department of Tourism and Hotel Management, East Campus

For reservations, please email:

[lpr@bilkent.edu.tr](mailto:lpr@bilkent.edu.tr)

For more information, please visit:

<http://thm.bilkent.edu.tr/practice/>

## CONCERTS

### Sunday, October 18, 3 p.m.

Bilkent Odeon  
"From the Baroque to the Present"  
Elşad Bağirov, conductor  
Irina Nikotina, violin  
Albena Sezer, flute  
Ebru Aykal, flute  
Y. Tura | *Suite for Small Orchestra No. 3*

İ.S. Bach | *Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G major*  
G.F. Handel | *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

### Sunday, October 25, 3 p.m.

Bilkent Odeon  
Republic Day Concert

Elşad Bağirov, conductor  
M. Sun | *"Başlangıç Müziği" from "Cumhuriyet"*  
N.K. Akses | *Scherzo on the "Neva Kar" by Itri for Orchestra*  
M. Sun | *"Sevda Çiçeği" from "Kurtuluş"*  
C.R. Rey | *"Türkiye" Suite*  
A.A. Saygun | *Overture to "Özsoy"*  
U.C. Erkin | *Festival Overture*  
M. Sun | *"Bozkırın Sesi," from "Cumhuriyet"*  
H.F. Alnar | *İki Dans*  
F. Tüzün | *"Çayda Çıra"*

### Sunday, November 1, 3 p.m.

Bilkent Odeon  
Halloween Concert\*  
Bilkent Brass Ensemble  
G. Richards | *"Champagne"*  
D. Elfman | *"The Nightmare Before Christmas"*  
C. Hazell | *"Three Brass Cats"*  
C. Hazell | *"Kraken"*  
J. Parker | *"A Londoner in New York"*  
A. Piazzolla | *Suite from "Maria de Buenos Aires" (Arr. S. Verhelst)*  
G. Richards | *"Fundador"*  
\*This is a concert for children age 6 and up; everyone is encouraged to wear a costume, or at least a funny hat!

## SEMINARS

### Tuesday, October 13

"Gaussian Reproducing Kernels," by Prof. Aurelian Gheondea (Bilkent University), at **3 p.m.** Organized by MATH. Please send a message to [goncha@bilkent.edu.tr](mailto:goncha@bilkent.edu.tr).

### Tuesday, October 13

"Modern Progress, Technology, Architecture," by Clément Blanchet, at **12:30 p.m.** Organized by ARCH. Zoom meeting ID: 925 4973 1848

### Friday, October 16

"Arguing to Defeat: Eristic Argumentation and Irrationality in Resolving Moral Concerns," by Vis. Asst. Prof. Rasim Serdar Kurdoğlu (Bilkent University), at **1:30 p.m.** Organized by FBA. Zoom meeting ID: 337 069 8252  
Passcode: 597678

## Student Clubs for 2020–2021

Students who think they may be interested in joining a student club and would like to learn more about the variety of organizations currently active at Bilkent can access a list of student clubs and societies updated for the 2020–21 academic year via this link:

<http://www.ogrencidekanligi.bilkent.edu.tr/okk/kulupler.html>.

Students can join a club or society through STARS-SRS. In accordance with the Bilkent University Student Clubs and Societies Directive, students have the right to become a member of any club or society they choose, without restriction.