



**H**appy Teachers' Day to the İ.D.V. Özel Bilkent Schools, Bilkent Laboratory and International School (BLIS), Bilkent Erzurum Laboratory School (BELS) and the Bilkent Music and Ballet Preparatory Primary and High Schools, and to all teachers.

## COMD Faculty Member Receives Facebook Research Grant

**A**sst. Prof Ayşenur Dal of the Department of Communication and Design has been awarded a research grant by Facebook for a project titled "Measuring Privacy Across Cultural, Political and Expressive Contexts." The multidisciplinary project, which received funding amounting to 100,000 USD, aims to examine online privacy and expression in Turkey,



Germany, Russia and the US via a series of panel survey experiments.

Dr. Dal is conducting the project with Dr. Dmitry Epstein of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Dr. Elizabeth Stoycheff of Wayne State University, Dr. Erik Nisbet and Dr. Olga Kamenchuk of Northwestern University and Dr. Thorsten Faas from the Free University of Berlin.

For more information:  
<https://bit.ly/35NDCDI>

## 2020 IBG Science Medal Goes to MBG Graduate



**D**epartment of Molecular Biology and Genetics 2004 graduate Elif Nur Firat-Karalar has received this year's IBG Science Medal.

Each year, IBG (the İzmir Biomedicine and Genome Center) presents a medal and monetary award to a Turkish scientist with a distinguished record of pioneering research in the life sciences. The awardee was announced during IBG's Science Day, which took place on November 10 in an online format.

Dr. Firat-Karalar is currently an assistant professor in the Koç University Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, where she focuses on the biology of centrosomes, cilia and microtubules.

## Bilkent Motorists Required to Use Winter Tires for Safer Driving on Campus



**W**inter is coming, and with it the potential for slippery roads and hazardous driving conditions. As a precautionary measure to avoid weather-related accidents and traffic tie-ups in the Bilkent vicinity, all academic and administrative personnel, students and visitors to the campus area are required to have winter tires on their cars from December 1 through

March 15.

On snowy days, drivers of cars without winter tires will be asked to park either in Lot #3, located just outside the Main Campus entrance; in Lot #1, beside the East Campus entrance; or in the parking lot beside the Beytepe entrance.

All members of the Bilkent community are urged to comply with this request for their own safety as well as that of others.

## 2.5-Meter Social Distance Mandatory in Campus Smoking Areas

**A**s part of the government's efforts to reduce COVID-19 transmission, the Ministry of Interior circular dated November 12 has mandated a ban on smoking in crowded public open spaces throughout Turkey.

Please recall that at Bilkent, the University Senate had decided that a minimum distance of 2.5 meters should be maintained between individuals in the designated smoking areas on campus. It has recently been observed that this 2.5-meter rule is frequently being violated.

Mask-free socializing is the number one cause of everyday virus transmission. When that is coupled with smoking, virus transmission rates increase.

The continued use of smoking areas on campus is contingent upon strict observation of the 2.5-meter rule in those areas.

## PhD Candidate Wins Fulbright Fellowship

**B**engü Cilalı, a PhD candidate in the Graduate School of Education, has been awarded a Fulbright grant and invited to the Motivate Lab at the University of Virginia as a visiting fellow.

The Fulbright program offers competitive, merit-based fellowships for promising students, researchers and academics to study, teach or conduct research in the US, as well as providing similar opportunities for US-based Fulbright fellows to study or teach abroad.

Bengü, who is pursuing her dissertation research under the supervision of Asst. Prof. Aikaterini Michou, aims to make a significant contribution to the literature on teacher mindset and motivation by collaborating with Assoc. Prof. Chris Hulleman and his research team at the University of Virginia.





## NEWS &amp; OPINIONS

## The International Chronicles

BY YAREN SAĞLIK (TRIN/IV)

## Bilkent News

**Name:** Uswah Eeman**Department:** Faculty of Engineering**Country of Origin:** Pakistan**What do you like best about Turkey?**

The thing I find the best about Turkey is that the Turkish culture involves being very sociable. Turkish people love to meet new people and learn about their cultures. They're also really happy to help any strangers that they encounter. And of course the famous Turkish tea, which is served complimentary at some cafés.

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

There aren't many similarities between Turkey and Pakistan, except for the fact that they're both fascinating countries rich in history and culture.

Preservation of history and historic buildings is significant for both of them. Hence, you can find a lot of ancient sites as tourist attractions.

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

I'll definitely miss the weather here, which is mostly pleasant and windy. And also the way that all the cafés at Bilkent, including Starbucks, are easily accessible and available at all times.

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

My favorite place on campus is absolutely the hills in front of Dorm 76. Sitting there with friends jamming on a cold breezy night, with a spectacular view of the city lights, makes it the most amazing place. It's the perfect place to hang out and relax with friends.

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

You can find kebab all over the world, but in Turkey kebabs are on a whole other level. I've eaten kebab in Pakistan, but nothing can beat the kebabs in Turkey.

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

I see myself as a successful engineer working for a renowned company and gaining new abilities that will heighten my skills as an engineer. Along with that, I see myself as a person satisfied with her life.

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

Besides the challenge of moving away from home, the hardest challenge would be the language barrier in Turkey. English isn't commonly spoken here, which made it a bit hard.

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

Apart from Ankara, I haven't visited many places, since I've only been here for two months. I've been to İstanbul, and that's a city that never sleeps. Moreover, a city divided between two continents offers many interesting sights with unique architecture. Aside from shopping, the Grand Bazaar is a fantastic place to just walk about, watch people and immerse yourself in Turkish culture.

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

The comment most frequently heard about Bilkent is that the courses are hard and they demand a lot of your time; otherwise, you won't be able to cope. And that Bilkent has some pretty strict rules.

**Describe yourself in three words.**  
Reliable, friendly, motivated.

## Online Talk by US Ambassador

On November 18, the Department of

International Relations hosted an online event with the US ambassador to Ankara, David M. Satterfield, who gave a talk to an audience that included around two hundred Bilkent students.

University Rector Abdullah Atalar and Provost Adnan Akay also participated in the event.

The talk allowed ample time for questions and discussion; students asked Ambassador Satterfield about



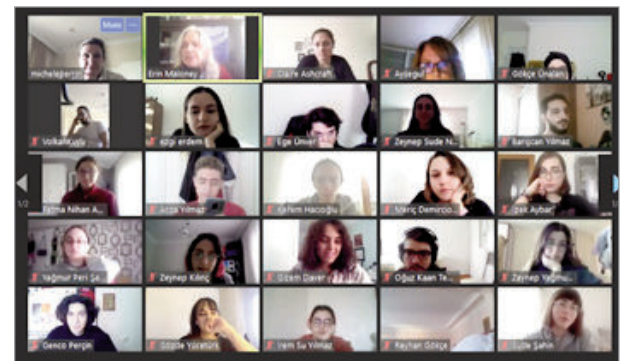
various aspects of US-Turkey relations and global politics. The ambassador and the students also discussed online learning in the age of the COVID-19 pandemic and shared their experiences.

## US Embassy Political Officer Meets With 2nd-Year Translation Students

Much to the delight of both Erin Maloney (Instructor, TRIN) and her students in the TRIN 205

English-American and French Culture course, the US Embassy arranged for Political Officer Claire Ashcraft to speak with students, via Zoom, on November 2 – the day before the US presidential elections.

Ms. Ashcraft spoke about a confusing but important component of US elections: the Electoral College. She explained that it is not the popular vote of the entire nation that determines who is the US president, but rather votes from members of the Electoral College, determined by voters independently in each of the 50



U.S. Political Officer Claire Ashcraft, speaking with TRIN 205 students

states and Washington, DC.

Ms. Ashcraft answered a plethora of questions from students, with topics ranging from primary elections to the validity of polls.

Michelle Perrin and Ayşegül Taşkın from the US Embassy accompanied Ms. Ashcraft to the Zoom meeting.

## Get Ready for the Next “Sports as a Way of Life” Step Challenge

The Sports Center's newest “challenge” event is back for another round! The four-week Step Challenge, held for the first time last month, will kick off for a second time on **Monday, November 30**, and run through **Sunday, December 27**.

Designed to take place outdoors on the Bilkent campus, the event is open to all Bilkenters, and challenges everyone to take at least 12,500 steps on the days they have chosen to make walking or running their exercise activity.

You'll need to record the number of steps you take by using your smartphone's health app, and then, if you've taken at least 12,500 steps that day, send an image of the total to the email address [spor@bilkent.edu.tr](mailto:spor@bilkent.edu.tr). One of the great things about this event is that you can participate on the days and at the times most convenient for your schedule.

Participants are to walk/run at least three times and at most five times per week; they need to take at least 12,500 steps on each day they choose to exercise, and will get 5 points each time this is done.



Students taking GE250/1 who collect points in the challenge will also receive points for the course: 30 points for 75,000 steps, 40 points for 112,500 steps, and 60 points for 150,000 steps.

The first 50 people to indicate (by emailing the image of their step totals) that they are participating in the activity will receive a T-shirt; the second 50 people will receive a mask.

For more information, please call the Sports Center at **ext. 1993** or email [spor@bilkent.edu.tr](mailto:spor@bilkent.edu.tr).

## The Sporting Life

**Name:** İrem Kayacan**Department:** TRIN**How often do you exercise?**

Two days a week.

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

I feel a lot more calm and content with my day-to-day life.

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

I would say that it's a great idea, and that you shouldn't be discouraged if you aren't at the skill or condition level you want, as these things take time to develop and master.

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

Discipline, perseverance, excitement.

**Which Bilkent sports facilities (sports halls, playing fields, tennis courts, etc.) do you use?****Have you taken any courses or participated in any activities?**

I'm taking kendo classes, and I've



started to do fitness activities at the Main Sports Hall.



## NEWS &amp; OPINIONS

## THM Offers Culinary Workshops, Taught by Italian Chefs



In collaboration with the Embassy of Italy, the Department of Tourism and Hotel Management is holding a series of culinary workshops this week as part of the “Italian Culinary Days” event organized by the embassy and the department. The workshops, taught by Italian chefs, are taking place online from İstanbul via Zoom.

The first workshop was presented by Chef Nino Mosca on Monday, November 23. The second workshop,

taught by Chef Stefano Masanti, will take place on **Wednesday, November 25**, and the third, by Chef Gianluca Fusto, on **Friday, November 27**.

All of the workshops, which are being presented in English, begin at **3 p.m.** and run for two hours. Students taking GE 250/1 will receive course points for participating.

For Zoom meeting information for the remaining two sessions, please contact:

**elif.denizci@bilkent.edu.tr**

## Bilkent in Autumn



Photograph by Humayd Azim Burney (MAN/II)

As the leaves change color and frost begins to nip the air, our campus takes on a special beauty. If you would like to share photographs that show Bilkent in the fall, please send them to us at **bilnews@bilkent.edu.tr**.

## Faces on Campus

BY ALEyna GÜRBÜZ (PSYC/III)



**Name:** Gökberk Keskinçilic (CS/II)

**What's your favorite quintuple?**

**a) Movie:** “G.O.R.A.”

**b) Book:** “Think of a Number” by John Verdon

**c) Song:** “Hoje É Dia” by Wesley Safadão

**d) Food:** Rice with chickpeas and chicken

**e) City:** Rio de Janeiro

**What would be your dream job?**

“Digital nomad”

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

“Teleporting and being able to communicate with everything”

**The place on campus where I feel happiest is...** “the sidewalk next to MA”

**My favorite thing about Ankara:**

“Its diversity in everything”

**If I were an animal, I would be...** “an albatross”

**I have never...** “been to southeastern Turkey”



**Name:** Hülya Üngör (COMD/I)

**What's your favorite quintuple?**

**a) Movie:** “Dogville”

**b) Book:** “The Children Act” by Ian McEwan

**c) Song:** “Can't Get You Out of My Head” by Kylie Minogue

**d) Food:** Hamburger

**e) City:** Ankara

**What would be your dream job?** “Being a successful person in the film sector”

**If you were a superhero, what super power(s) would you have?** “Teleportation”

**The place on campus where I feel happiest is...** “the benches next to FBA”

**My favorite thing about Ankara:**

“Even though it's a big city, it's not that crowded and you can reach things easily”

**If I were an animal, I would be...** “a lion”

**I have never...** “watched ‘Bir Başkadır’”



**Name:** Öykü Tufanyazıcı (PSYC/III)

**What's your favorite quintuple?**

**a) Movie:** “The Holiday”

**b) Book:** “The Picture of Dorian Gray” by Oscar Wilde

**c) Song:** “Lovely” by Billie Eilish

**d) Food:** Manti

**e) City:** Paris

**What would be your dream job?** “Painter”

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

“Invisibility and mind reading”

**The place on campus where I feel happiest is...** “my dorm room”

**My favorite thing about Ankara:**

“Tunalı Hilmi”

**If I were an animal, I would be...** “a dolphin”

**I have never...** “sung a song in front of other people”



# Bilkent CALENDAR



## BİLKENT NEWS



### Bilkent Üniversitesi

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Prof. Dr. Kürşat Aydoğan

#### Sorumlu Yazı İşleri Müdürü:

Hande Seçkin Onat

#### Yayının Türü: Yerel Süreli Yayın

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### CONCERTS

#### Friday, November 27, 8 p.m.

Bilkent Concert Hall  
ensemble XX. Jahrhundert  
Peter Burwik, conductor  
*Johannes Maria Staud* | "Lagrein"  
*Atabak Amjadi* | "Parallel Limbo"  
*Mohammed H. Javaheri* | "Unison"  
*Tokzhan Karatai* | "Patterns from the Past"  
*Arda Yurdusev* | "Seyyah" Trio  
*Deniz Aslan* | *Music for Ensemble*  
*Julia Purgina* | *Kammermusik II*  
The Viennese contemporary music group plays Bilkent students' pieces.

#### Sunday, November 29, 3 p.m.

Bilkent Concert Hall  
"Classic Brass"  
*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*

### LECTURE

#### Sunday, November 29

"Byzantine Routes and Frontiers in the Black Sea Region and the Hagiographical Dossier of St. Eugenios," by James Crow, at 6 p.m. Organized by HART. Please email [bilkentarkeo@gmail.com](mailto:bilkentarkeo@gmail.com) for the Zoom information.

### PLAYS

#### Thursday, November 26

"Junky" (based on a novel by William S. Burroughs), directed by Doğu Yaşar Akal (THEA/09) and staged by Department of Performing Arts students as a senior project, at 8 p.m. in the FMPA Theater Hall.

### SEMINAR

#### Tuesday, November 24

"The Practice of Pedagogy," by Jeffrey Roberson, at 4:45 p.m. Organized by ARCH.

#### Wednesday, November 25

"A Discussion on Genre, Narrative and Representation in Modern Turkish Fiction since 1950s," by Dr. Şule Akdoğan, at 1:30 p.m. Organized by the Department of Turkish Literature.

#### Wednesday, November 25

"Perceived Threats from Covid-19 and Political Attitudes: Testing Alternative Theories of Authoritarianism," by Asst. Prof. Gizem Arıkan (Trinity College, Dublin), at 1:30 p.m. Organized by POLS.

#### Friday, November 27

"How Experimental Methods Shaped Views on Human Competence and Rationality," by Prof. Ralph Hertwig (Director of Centre for Adaptive Rationality, Max Planck Institute for

Human Development), at 10 a.m. Organized by MAN.

#### Friday, November 27

"Can Shared Service Delivery Increase Customer Engagement? A Study of Shared Medical Appointments," by Nazlı Sönmez (London Business School), at 1:40 p.m. Organized by IE.

### SPORTS

#### Thursday, November 26

Sports as a Way of Life Yoga Group Class, at the Main Sports Hall, 4:30 p.m. For more information please email to [spor@bilkent.edu.tr](mailto:spor@bilkent.edu.tr).

### MEETINGS

#### Thursday, November 26

"Nano Meeting," to be held online, to discuss advances, exchange ideas and promote scientific collaboration in nanoscience and nanotechnology. For program details and registration: [unam.bilkent.edu.tr/nsn2020/](https://unam.bilkent.edu.tr/nsn2020/)

### Sports Facilities Hours

Opening hours and reservation time slots for Bilkent sports facilities have been changed, effective November 21. The new opening hours and time slots may be viewed at <https://w3.bilkent.edu.tr/bilkent/physical-education-and-sports-center/sports-facilities/>.