Edward Kohn’s “Heir to the Empire City” Published


As the publisher notes, “Theodore Roosevelt is best remembered as America’s prototypical ‘cowboy’ president—a Rough Rider who derived his political wisdom from a youth spent in the untamed American West. But while the great outdoors certainly shaped Roosevelt’s identity, historian Edward P. Kohn argues that it was...” (Continued on Page 2)

CS Team Wins Second Place in Cybersecurity Competition

Siber Meydan, a cybersecurity competition for university students, was held in November and December 2013 by the TÜBİTAK Cyber Security Institute in conjunction with the National Cyber Security Strategy and Action Plan. The competition took place in two rounds: a qualification and a final round.

A total of 65 teams made up of 256 students participated in the qualification round, which was held online November 19-20. The 10 top-scoring teams were invited to Istanbul for the final round, where they competed head-to-head in an attack-and-defense-style Capture the Flag event on December 16.

At the end of the competition, the top three teams among the finalists received awards. Team Null from Bilkent, consisting of CS students Cihat Öğe (captain), Ali Yeğilyparak, Alper Gündoğdu and Furkan Mustafa Akdemir, took second place. They were presented with their award by TÜBİTAK Acting Vice President Dr. Hasan Palaz.

Further details about the competition can be found at www.sibermeydan.org.

Bilkent Technology Transfer Office Receives TÜBİTAK Support

The Technology Transfer Office of Bilkent University (Bilkent TTO) has been awarded support through the TÜBİTAK 1513 TTO Support Program.

Bilkent TTO was established in order to assist the university’s faculty, students and staff to participate more effectively in national/international projects and benefit from the related support mechanisms; to enhance university-industry collaboration; to protect and manage the intellectual property rights (e.g., ideas, inventions and innovative and value-added knowledge) resulting from R&D efforts of university members; and to create mechanisms for transferring those rights to industry, which will result in the creation of new goods and services for the benefit of society.

Thirty-six universities applied to the TÜBİTAK 1513 program in 2013; 10 of them qualified to receive financial support.

You can follow Bilkent TTO activities and events on social media: Twitter: @BilkentTTO Linkedin: BilkentTTO

SATM Director Kamer Rodoplu Appointed Dean of Students

Kamer Rodoplu, director of the School of Applied Technology and Management, has been appointed as the dean of students, effective January 15. Mr. Rodoplu took over the position from Jale Gürzumar, instructor in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, who had served as the dean of students since 2010. Bilkent extends its gratitude to Ms. Gürzumar and wishes Mr. Rodoplu all the best in his new position.

Mr. Rodoplu, who graduated from the Department of Electrical Engineering of the Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Lyon in 1982, joined Bilkent University at the time of its founding in 1986. He is the founder of the Department of Computer Technology and Programming and the first director of the Vocational Schools and of the School of Applied Technology and Management, positions he continues to hold. In addition to his academic duties, he is also involved in several administrative units in the university. Mr. Rodoplu was awarded France’s Ordre national du Mérite (with the rank of Chevalier) in 1998.

Bilkenters’ Choices for 2013 “Best TV” Awards Announced

Voting for the second annual Bilkent TV Awards (Bilkent Televisyon Ödülleri), organized by Sanatsal Etkinlikler Topluluğu (SET) and the Media Society, ended on January 3. Bilkent students’ choices for the best of television in 2013 were announced and awards presented to the winners.

(Continued on Page 2)
Erkan Uçar Appointed Assistant Director of SATM

Erkan Uçar, chair of the Department of Computer Technology and Information Systems, has been appointed as the assistant director of the School of Applied Technology and Management, effective January 15, 2014. Mr. Uçar took over the position from Asst. Prof. Aykut Pekcan, acting director of the Vocational School of Tourism and Hotel Services. Bilkent extends its gratitude to Mr. Pekcan and wishes Mr. Uçar all the best in his new position.

Edward Kohn’s “Heir to the Empire City” Published

(Continued from Page 1)

his hometown of New York that made him the progressive president we celebrate today. During his early political career, Roosevelt took on local Republican factions and Tammany Hall Democrats alike, proving his commitment to reform at all costs. He combated the city’s rampant corruption, and helped to guide New York through the perils of rabid urbanization and the challenges of accommodating an influx of immigrants—experiences that would serve him well as president of the United States.”

Dr. Kohn’s new book has already received praise from reviewers. Kirkus Reviews called the book “an intriguing portrait of Roosevelt’s ascendance to power.” Pulitzer-prize winning historian Edwin G. Burrows called it “thought-provoking and refreshingly readable.” And Roosevelt biographer Kathleen Dalton said Dr. Kohn “tells a well-crafted and lightning-quick story of TR and his New York, a tale which will reward readers with entertainment and insight into a central phase of the city and the nation’s history.”

Expert Panels Judge GE440 and GE443 Projects

(Continued from Page 1)

Dr. Brown will teach two courses in the department: AMER 492, “Gender Studies for American Culture,” and a new restricted elective, AMER 485, “Civil Rights and Black Power in American Studies.”

GE443 students, who analyzed multiple social challenges in Turkey, had their efforts judged by a panel consisting of Kamer Karakurum (World Bank), Aslıhan Mogulkoç (İşKur), Ömer Fazlıoğlu (European Union Delegation in Turkey), Relet Gürkaynak (Bilkent University) and Muhterem Sarkaya (Habertürk and TOBB ETÜ). A project entitled “Is It Just Garbage, or a Way to Charge Your Smartphone?” was awarded first prize.

In the 2014 spring semester, the interdisciplinary courses GE440 and GE441 will be offered to senior students in the Departments of Economics, International Relations, Political Science and Public Administration.

For more information, visit https://www.facebook.com/FEASSGE4XX.
Ex Libris: News from the Library

Photograph by M. Furkan Akın (LAW/IV)

The Library would like to welcome everyone back from the semester break, and to greet any new students and faculty! During the break, the Library opened a Twitter account to improve communication with our users. Last semester, we administered a short survey about Bilkent students’ use of social media tools, and many said that they use Twitter and would like the Library to do so too. To see our tweets and keep up to date with Library activities and announcements, please go to https://twitter.com/KutphaneBilkent and start following us! Alternatively, go to our website and click on the Twitter icon.

Speaking of surveys, the Library will be running two surveys this semester! Each semester, OISEP holds an orientation program for incoming students. It includes Turkish language classes, campus and city tours, visits to museums and Anıtkabir, workshops and course registration meetings. ESN Bilkent, the Bilkent branch of the Erasmus Student Network, also provides exchange programs last week. This semester Bilkent University is hosting 81 new exchange students from 27 countries.

Spring semester international exchange students were guests at a welcome reception organized by the Bilkent University Office of International Exchange Programs last week. This semester Bilkent University is hosting 81 new exchange students from 27 countries.

Each semester, OISEP holds an orientation program for incoming students. It includes Turkish language classes, campus and city tours, visits to museums and Anıtkabir, workshops and course registration meetings. ESN Bilkent, the Bilkent branch of the Erasmus Student Network, also provides support to new exchange students.

Bilkent Welcomes International Students for the 2013-2014 Academic Year

Bilkent Symphony Orchestra Warms Up February!

Saturday, February 8 at 8 p.m.
Bilkent Concert Hall
İşın Metin, conductor
Borusan Quartet
Esen Kivrak, violin
Olgu Kızılay, violin
Efdal Altun, viola
Çağ Erçağ, violoncello
L. van Beethoven | String Quartet No. 5 in A major, Op. 18
L. van Beethoven | String Quartet No. 2 in E minor, Op. 59, “Rasumovsky”
L. van Beethoven | String Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132

Bilkent Concert Hall
St. Valentine’s Day Concert
İşın Metin, conductor
Behzod Abduraimov, piano
P. Mendelssohn | Concerto for Piano No. 1 in G minor, Op. 25
S. Rachmaninov | Symphonic Dances, Op. 45

Friday, February 14 at 8 p.m.
Bilkent Concert Hall
T. Cooke Edition)
G. Mahler | Symphony No. 10 (D. in B minor, Op. 104
A. Dvorak | Concerto for Violoncello in B minor, Op. 104
G. Mahler | Symphony No. 10 (D. Cooke Edition)

Thursday, February 20 at 8 p.m.
Bilkent Concert Hall
Beethoven Quartet Concert Series–III
Borusan Quartet
Esen Kivrak, violin
Olgu Kızılay, violin
Efdal Altun, viola
Çağ Erçağ, violoncello
L. van Beethoven | String Quartet No. 5 in A major, Op. 18
L. van Beethoven | String Quartet No. 2 in E minor, Op. 59, “Rasumovsky”
L. van Beethoven | String Quartet No. 15 in A minor, Op. 132

Tuesday, February 25 at 8 p.m.
Bilkent Concert Hall
İşın Metin, conductor
Jean-Philippe Collard, piano
S. Rachmaninov | Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30
P. I. Tchaikovsky | Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op. 36

Bilkent Leads Private Universities in News Mentions

According to the Interpress Media Agency’s report for 2013, Bilkent University leads all private universities in Turkey in the number of news items published about it, with a total of 4,246. Interpress’s findings are based on research that involves analyzing approximately 2,000 national, regional and local newspapers and magazines. From this research, the agency compiles statistics on the number of news items about universities in Turkey published in the press.

The Interpress report for 2013 announced a 22 percent increase in university-related news items appearing in the press compared to the previous year. While Bilkent led Turkey’s private universities, Akdeniz University had the highest number of news items among state universities, with 26,324.
Proned to Travel

If I were to summarize my winter break in one word, I’d choose “wanderlust.” Such a beautiful word, right? It basically means “a strong impulse or longing to travel.” Well, unfortunately, traveling around is not what I did during the break, but I kept looking at tickets, thinking of places that I’d love to go here in Turkey and all over the world—and while we’re at it, Ireland is and will be at the top of my list. There is a Susan Sontag quote I really love: “I haven’t been everywhere, but it’s on my list.” That practically sums up the desire of a traveler or a wanderer, whichever you’d like to call such a person. There is something magical about going to a new place, turning your ground and trot off. It might be harder to feel like an explorer here, but you can still hope that we heart—just start hopping around. I’ve been living in Ankara for almost seven years now, and I’m pretty sure there are still surprises waiting right around the corner of a familiar street.

Now, here comes the so-called problem part of all that lovely-dovey travel mode. Even when I was checking those websites or writing whatever, you’ll definitely get lost, probably more than once. Whenever that happens, I first flip out, then start laughing at myself and finally enjoy the discoveries made possible only through that experience. The best part of my Edinburgh trip was when I completely lost track of where I was and ended up in the midst of the most beautiful country scenery I’d ever viewed. So, people, go ahead and get lost!

Another possibility is rediscovering a place you’ve already been to, or one you’ve been living in for a while. That’s how I feel whenever I go to Istanbul, but I can’t be objective about that—Istanbul steals my heart every single time. Even Ankara, a comparatively dull and boring city, can offer you quite a lot once you drop your prejudices on the ground and trot off. It might be harder to feel like an explorer here, but you can still hope that we heart—just start hopping around. I’ve been living in Ankara for almost seven years now, and I’m pretty sure there are still surprises waiting right around the corner of a familiar street.

Now, here comes the so-called problem part of all that lovely-dovey travel mode. Even when I was checking those websites or writing this column, there was a voice at the back of my head saying, “Traveling can cost a lot, and you’re just a student. Stop daydreaming.” The good thing is, I never do stop daydreaming. I may not have a lot of money, but chances are I’ll never win it. It shouldn’t be a reason to stop discovering the world, right? It’s still possible to travel, and I want to seize every single opportunity. It’s easy to accept defeat and tie everything to money, or to the lack of it for that matter. Speaking of which, have I ever told you how much I dislike money? Now seems like a good time to me.

Perhaps dislike is not even the right verb—I’ve just learned not to care about money. I can reluctantly accept that it’s necessary to have it in order to live, but I don’t like money unless it’s used as a tool to bring happiness and real richness into our lives. I detest the idea of living the life that is ruled by money, and it saddens me so much when money becomes the priority of anyone around me. Call me a romantic, an idealist or a dreamer— I’ll be glad to accept any of those titles, but please note that there is far too much more to life once we let go of the worry of owning more.

Down in the land of Japan, Susano’o quickly learns that his rampage is directed to a higher purpose: two elderly land deities ask him to slay an eight-headed snake that ate seven of their daughters and now demands the last one—so mighty is this serpent, say the gods, that its body fills eight valleys and coils around eight hills, and they are powerless before it. Susano’o accepts the quest and in return demands the hand of their daughter in marriage, and the couple is more than happy to oblige (although knowing Susano’o’s track record, I’d just take my chances with the snake). Susano’o then transforms the girl into a comb (tell you, should’ve gone for the snake), places her in his hair (I don’t think Susano’o really understands this “marriage” thing), and rides gallantly to do battle with the eight-headed snake.

We are all made for more, so there is no point in settling for less, right?

P.S.: Welcome back to a new semester, dear Bilkenters! For some reason, winter break is never long enough to rest and get ready for a new battle, but I wish you the best of luck!
The first time I listened to the album, I enjoyed the instrumentation, but as a listener who is very picky about vocals, I couldn’t stand the strange way the vocals were performed. So I put this record aside, and rediscovered it through a coincidence, quite a long time later. That’s why I strongly suggest that you be a little bit patient on your first few listens, until you get familiar with the characteristics of this band.

Stylistically, “An Awesome Wave” offers many new ideas to the genre. In my very early listens, I realized that the drums were very different from what I was used to, as if they were members of studio drum recordings and the drum machine. Later on, I realized that it was all performed by the drummer, but that the band never uses symbols or the hi-hat. For me, this aspect is really interesting to examine, because even though the drumtracks are very mechanical, repetitive and fast, they still sound quite smooth and calm. The second highlight of the album is the vocals. As I mentioned, initially I found this a repelling factor, but as I listened to the album and got more familiar with it, the style grew on me, and I started to appreciate the interesting, narrow-ranged vocals, which are sung with a peculiar accent. Combining these interesting ideas with beautifully composed light guitar riffs and harmonious keyboard parts creates the unique flavor of alt-J.

Besides their personal sound, which may attract the more careful listeners, alt-J offers entertaining, easy-listening qualities, making it a good choice for casual listeners as well. Even though their compositions are repetitive and sometimes merely catchy, the band has created successful song structures that are able to keep listeners’ attention on the music.

**Recommended for:** Pretty much anybody who is looking for some entertaining and easy-listening music, either to simply enjoy it or to examine it more closely.

**Check Out the Songs:** Tesselate, Breezeblocks, Dissolve Me

**Concert Review:** Mauna Kea

Mauna Kea is a Turkish instrumental post-rock band, whom I had the chance to listen to in Istanbul. I had checked out some of their songs before, but my first extensive listen was on this occasion. They played all of the songs on their first and only release, called “Scales,” and also two new songs from their upcoming album.

I was really impressed by their different interpretation of the genre. Their sound was at the crossroads of many different styles. I was able to hear some influences of shoegaze (especially in my favorite numbers, “Sceptic,” and the unreleased track “Pompei”) blending with the atmospheric compositions of slow guitar arpeggios, reverb, light guitar parts and eerie, creative electronic samples, or sometimes only typical, heavier rock riffs.

What I appreciated most was their ability to integrate all these elements in a very harmonious way, with the merging role of the changing drum fills and baselines. It is no wonder that the band includes three sound engineers. Thanks to their imaginative and successful way of using samples, the shifts between the compositions are very smooth and do not disturb the mood the song is creating. Most of their songs are very progressive, starting with light and soothing riffs, which are then built up with the escalating density of the background samples and layering reverbs. As the sound advances, the listener sinks deeper into the mood and atmosphere that have been created.

**Recommended for:** Post-rock fans, atmospheric music lovers, experimental electronic music enthusiasts.

**Check Out the Songs:** Gaia, Sceptic, Surface

See you next time, with some underground hip-hop. The previously announced hip-hop jazz fusion recommendation has been postponed until the release date of a new album by the band in question.
Registration for Sports Programs Underway

The Physical Education and Sports Center has another great semester of healthy and fun activities scheduled for spring 2014. The courses and programs being offered are: aerobics and step, aikido, ballroom dancing, fencing, fit-boxing, fitness and strength training, horseback riding, jiu-jitsu, karate, kendo, squash, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, wing tsun and a whole lot more.

Registration for 2014 spring semester sports courses will take place at the Physical Education and Sports Facilities (Dormitories Sports Hall, Main Sports Hall and East Sports Hall) from February 3 to February 16. Students on East Campus can register during the same time period at East Sports Hall.

To use any of the sports facilities or to participate in a sports course, you need to bring your Bilkent ID card with you each time you enter a facility. You can also reserve the mini football fields (halı saha), tennis courts and squash courts over the phone or in person at the reception desks in the Dormitories Sports Hall and East Sports Hall one day in advance.

For more information, feel free to call the Sports Center at ext. 1325 or 1993. For East Campus sports facilities, please call ext. 5350.

Through Your Eyes: Bilkent News Readers’ Photos

If you would like to share photographs you have taken on the Bilkent campus, please send them to us at bilnews@bilkent.edu.tr. When space permits, we will choose one or two photos to publish here.

“Hugging Tree”
Photograph by Prof. Fazlı Can

Mark Your Calendar for Personal Development Days 2014

February 17 to March 8 will be devoted to the second part of Career Days: the tenth annual Personal Development Program. The program is targeted at giving students practical knowledge about professional life and informing them about how they can develop skills that are required for careers in business. Personal Development Days is a series of workshops and lectures given by well-known and highly successful representatives of a wide variety of sectors and professions.

The full program will be announced in the next issue of Bilkent News.

Classifieds

For Sale: 4-wheel Samsonite suitcase, 275 TL. Lightweight, excellent condition, size 50cmx60cm, 75cmx50cm, blue, red, black and grey.
Contact: tsavaser@bilkent.edu.tr

Bilkent News will print classified ads, space permitting. Ads can be placed only by current Bilkent University faculty, students and staff. Ads should adhere to these general guidelines:
- For Sale items must be secondhand items. Ads of a commercial nature will not be accepted.
- Only one ad per person per week will be printed. A new request must be submitted for each issue.
- Ads are limited to 20 words, including phone, fax and e-mail.
- Deadline is at noon Wednesday, one week prior to the edition in which the ad is to be run.
- Classified ads should be e-mailed to bilnews@bilkent.edu.tr.

Sports Ad... Sports Ad...

Sports Ad is an ad column for all Bilkenters who play sports. If you play tennis, squash, badminton, table tennis or any kind of sport needing two or more players and can’t find a partner whose schedule fits yours, then Sports Ad will help you find a sports partner. All you need to do is send an e-mail containing your schedule and contact information to bilnews@bilkent.edu.tr. We look forward to hearing from you.
PUZZLE... PUZZLE... PUZZLE...

SUDOKU

Here are three puzzles: a Samurai Sudoku, and two Killer Sudokus.

In the Samurai Sudoku puzzle, the dotted lines indicate areas called “cages,” each of which contains a set of non-repeating digits. By adding up the digits in a cage, you get the sum shown in the cage’s clue. A Killer Sudoku also follows the same rules as a classical Sudoku: each row, column and 3x3 grid must contain all of the digits 1 to 9.

Submit the contents of the diagonal going from the top left to bottom right of each puzzle to win a prize. Good luck!

Last Week’s Answers: Samurai Sudoku: 526 621 196 976 625 721 481
Killer 1: 268 173 815
Killer 2: 246 924 349

Work for Bilkent News!

We need eager, energetic, dedicated student reporters, writers and photographers to cover your campus! Report on events, news, arts and culture, music, concerts, sports, campus life, what’s cool, what’s not, what’s happening, what’s being said and what’s being done. Learn to pitch stories, write articles, take photos and edit your work. If it’s going on at Bilkent, we want everyone to be in on it, and we need people like you to write about it!

Available positions:
- Arts & culture reporter
- Sports reporter
- Diplomacy reporter
- Photographer, general assignment

Make Bilkent News YOUR newspaper.

Contact us at: the Communications Unit in the Engineering Building, Room G-22 / Ext. 1487 or 2421 / seckin@bilkent.edu.tr

Bilkent News Is Looking for a Student Columnist

Bilkent News is looking for a student columnist for the spring semester. Student columnists write columns about life on campus, opinion pieces, or reviews. Columnists should be well informed and seek to generate discussion with humor, insight and sensitivity by writing in an authoritative but accessible manner.

Student columnists will be expected to:
- Be deadline-oriented and able to coordinate dates and deadlines with the editors
- Keep abreast of campus activities, news events, etc.
- Set goals to improve journalistic skills and work diligently on improving writing
- Have a strong command of English and the desire to constantly improve
- Write with sensitivity and never employ hate speech
- Write well-reasoned columns

If you are interested in writing for Bilkent News, please submit two writing samples to Hande Seçkin Onat (seckin@bilkent.edu.tr) as soon as possible.
Bilkent CALENDAR

The Bilkent Theater will be staging “Çıkmaz Sokak Çocukları” (Orphans), a three-character play by the American playwright Lyle Kessler.

Directed by the acclaimed American director Jason Hale, currently a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Performing Arts, the play is being produced as the graduation project for senior students majoring in theater at Bilkent.

“Çıkmaz Sokak Çocukları” will be performed in the Bilkent Theater Hall in the Faculty of Music and Performing Arts Building on February 6 and 13, at 8 p.m.

For more information, please see bilkenttiyatrobolumu.weebly.com, or call the department at ext. 1620.

WORKSHOPS

February 5 - 21
Dean of Student’s Office Psychological Counseling and Development Center, Workshop and Seminar Registration, February 5-21. Please see insert.

Thursday, February 6
FEASS Doctoral Workshops: “Getting the Most Out of Conferences and Workshops,” by Assoc. Prof. Relet Gürkaynak, at FEASS, A-130, 12:30 p.m. Organized by FEASS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to requests from students, the Main Campus ring service will depart 10 minutes earlier from block 31 between 8 a.m. and 11:20 a.m. on weekdays. Also, an additional bus will be in service from Main Campus to East Campus at 9:30 a.m. on weekdays. The Main Campus-East Campus ring service weekend schedule will be revised as well.

Submission Guidelines for Bilkent News

Articles or announcements are to be written in English, no longer than 200 words and related to academic, social or cultural events at Bilkent or the activities of Bilkent students, faculty members or administrators.

In order to be considered for inclusion in the following Tuesday’s issue, submissions must be handed in by 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

Short event announcements and Bil-Ad items may be submitted as late as 5 p.m. on Thursday.

The Editorial Board of Bilkent News reserves the right to make changes or to reject any submissions.

Submissions should be e-mailed to bilnews@bilkent.edu.tr. Please do not crop digital photographs; send high-resolution photos with at least 200 dpi. Photographs must be clean and sharp.

For further information, call ext. 1487.

ABBREVIATIONS

BCC: Bilkent Computer Center
BUSEL: Bilkent University School of English Language
FADA: Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture
FEASS: Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences
FHL: Faculty of Humanities and Letters
FS: Faculty of Science
FMPA: Faculty of Music and Performing Arts

Calling All Clubs and Departments!

Please send Bilkent News your schedule of upcoming events, seminars, lectures, meetings, activities, exhibitions and outings. No matter what’s on, if you want people to attend, let us announce it.

Attention Bilkenters:
Check Bilkent News every week for news of upcoming events.

bilnews@bilkent.edu.tr