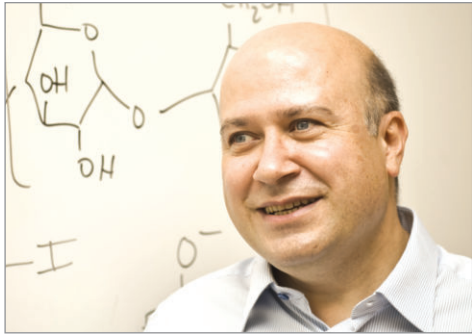


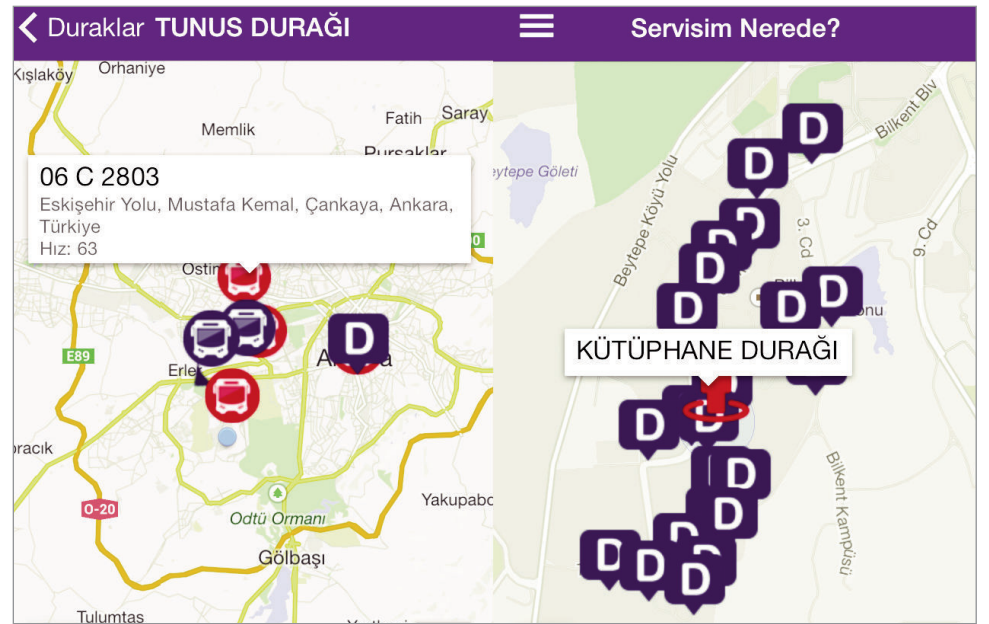
## Prof. Akkaya Named Brain Pool Fellow



**P**rof. Engin Umut Akkaya of the Department of Chemistry and UNAM-National Nanotechnology Research Center, has been selected as a "Brain Pool Fellow" by the Korean Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. The Brain Pool is a prestigious program designed to attract renowned scientists and engineers to develop  
*(Continued on Page 2)*

## "Where's My Bus?" App Lets Riders Track Bilkent Buses Via Smartphone

**B**ilkent is now offering an application (available in both iOS and Android) to help commuters on their way to the university. The free "Servisim Nerede?" (Where's My Bus?) app is ready to use to track Bilkent shuttle buses on their way to campus. Riders can check the service routes, track the buses on those routes and see how far their bus is from the point where they are waiting. The speed of the bus is also indicated. In addition, a map shows the bus stops in the surrounding area. The new application offers a feedback section for sending comments or suggestions directly to Support and Transportation Services. Support and Transportation Services will now post announcements via the application,



as well as on their website and through BAIS announcements. The "Servisim Nerede?" app is available in both English and Turkish. The language will be chosen

automatically according to the main language of the user's phone. Please send any comments and suggestions to [ulasim@bilkent.edu.tr](mailto:ulasim@bilkent.edu.tr).

## Administrative Appointments



Uğur Gündükbay



Michelle Marie Adams

**A**ssoc. Prof. Michelle Marie Adams of the Department of Psychology has been appointed coordinator of the Neuroscience Program of the Graduate School of Engineering and Science. Also, Prof. Uğur Gündükbay of the Department of Computer Engineering has been appointed director of the Summer School. Prof. Gündükbay takes over the position from Assoc. Provost Cevdet Aykanat. *(Continued on Page 2)*

## Hitay Özbay and Tuğrul Dayar Appointed Associate Provosts

**P**rof. Tuğrul Dayar of the Department of Computer Engineering and Prof. Hitay Özbay of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering have been appointed associate provosts for the university. Effective March 15, Prof. Dayar will take over the position currently held by Prof. Nesim Erkip, with Prof. Özbay to assume the post held by Prof. Cemal Yalabık on April 1. Prof. Erkip and Prof. Yalabık have decided to return to their scholarly pursuits on a full-time basis. Provost Adnan Akay expressed his gratitude to the departing associate provosts: "We are grateful to Prof. Yalabık and Prof. Erkip for their devoted service to the Bilkent community. Their administrative contributions have been invaluable to

the university." Prof. Akay also welcomed Prof. Dayar and Prof. Özbay to their new posts: "I congratulate Prof. Dayar and Prof. Özbay and wish them every success in their new administrative responsibilities." Tuğrul Dayar received a BS degree in computer engineering from Middle East Technical University in 1989, and MS and PhD degrees in computer science from North Carolina State University in 1991 and 1994. Since 1995, he has been with the Department of Computer Engineering at Bilkent, where he is now a full professor. While at Bilkent, he has received an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation research



Tuğrul Dayar



Hitay Özbay

fellowship, a Young Scientist Award from the Turkish Academy of Sciences and an Incentive Award from the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey. He has also taken sabbatical leaves of one year each at the Technical University  
*(Continued on Page 2)*

## COMD Alums at İstanbul Film Festival



**F**ilms by two Bilkent COMD alumni has been selected for the prestigious İstanbul Film Festival. Nisan Dağ's ('08) debut feature (co-directed with Esra Saydam) "Deniz Seviyesi" (Things I Cannot Tell) will be among 10 films

competing for the Golden Tulip award in the national competition of the festival. A film by another COMD graduate, Burak Serbest ('10), will be shown in

the documentaries category of the festival's "Turkish Cinema" division. "Negri ile İstanbul'da" (İstanbul Along With Negri) features famous philosopher Antonio Negri

in an experimental take on issues such as modernism, war and movements exploring new forms of democracy. The 33rd İstanbul Film Festival will take place April 5-20.



philosopher Antonio Negri



bir filozof olmak gereklidir.

## NEWS

## Social Network Created by Physics PhD Student Attracts 2 Million Users Worldwide

**C**onnected2.me, a social messaging service that has 2 million registered users and 250,000 visitors a day globally, was founded and developed by Department of Physics PhD student Ozan Yerli.

Explaining what inspired him to create the project, Ozan says: "Connected2.me is a social network that allows anonymous communication. In modern social networks you must have an identity to interact with other people. This sometimes creates pressure on you. In order to solve this problem, we built Connected2.me."

He describes how the network operates: "When you create an account on Connected2.me, you are given a profile address. Connected2.me allows you to chat with whoever visits your profile. You share your profile address with your friends using other social networks. When they visit your profile, they're given anonymous nicknames, and therefore you don't know who you're chatting with."

"Since they're anonymous, your friends can ask you things they normally wouldn't. You can relate your problems to an expert—for instance, a



psychologist—without revealing your identity, and get an instant answer. Businesses also use Connected2.me in order to get anonymous feedback about their products and give support to their customers in real time."

Connected2.me is used globally, with most users from Turkey, Argentina and other countries in Europe and South America, and is continually expanding. The Connected2.me team plans to develop the program in various languages and is working on a mobile website and mobile applications.

For more information or to connect with the network, you can visit <http://connected2.me>.

## Administrative Appointments

(Continued from Page 1)

Rector Abdullah Atalar thanked Prof. Aykanat for his exemplary efforts and services as the Summer School's director and wished Prof. Gündükbay and Dr. Adams every success in their new positions.

Uğur Gündükbay received a PhD degree in computer engineering and information science from Bilkent University in 1994. He then conducted research as a postdoctoral fellow at the Human Modeling and Simulation Laboratory at the University of

Pennsylvania. Prof. Gündükbay is doing research in the fields of computer graphics and multimedia databases and has research contributions in these areas.

Michelle Adams received a PhD in neuroscience from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine of New York University. Dr. Adams has an excellent publication record with 29 peer-reviewed journal articles, as well as numerous conferences presentations, and her work has been cited over 1,500 times.

## Hitay Özbay and Tuğrul Dayar Appointed Associate Provosts

(Continued from Page 1)

of Dresden and Saarland University in Germany. His research interests are in the areas of performance modeling/analysis and scientific computing with applications to bioinformatics and computer networks. His book entitled "Analyzing Markov Chains Using Kronecker Products: Theory and Applications" was published by Springer in 2012. He is a member of Upsilon Pi Epsilon, AMS and SIAM (Activity Group on Linear Algebra), and a senior member of ACM (Special Interest Group on Measurement and Evaluation) and IEEE (Computer Society). During the last three years, he has served as the university's associate dean of engineering responsible for student affairs.

Hitay Özbay received a BSc degree from Middle East Technical University in 1985, an MEng degree from McGill University in 1987 and a PhD degree from the University of Minnesota in

1989. Prof. Özbay was with the University of Rhode Island (1989-1990) and The Ohio State University (1991-2006), where he was a professor of electrical and computer engineering, prior to joining Bilkent University in 2002, on leave from OSU. His research interests are in robust control; he has published two books and over 200 refereed papers in edited books, journals and conference proceedings. Prof. Özbay has served as an associate editor for IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control (1997-1999) and Automatica (2001-2007). He was a member of the Board of Governors of the IEEE Control Systems Society (1999 and 2013) and a vice-chair of the IFAC Technical Committee on Networked Control Systems (2005-2011). Currently, he is on the editorial board of Automatica (since 2012), the SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization (since 2011) and the Springer book series "Advances in Delays and Dynamics" (since 2013).

## Prof. Akkaya Named Brain Pool Fellow

(Continued from Page 1)

innovative technologies in Korea. It was first introduced in 1996 to provide financial and logistical support to foreign scientists and engineers to collaborate with researchers at universities and research and development institutes in the Republic of Korea.

Each year, the ministry invites a group of scientists and engineers from key areas such as physics, chemistry, mechanics, aerospace, information technology, bioscience and atomic energy to conduct research within Korea. The ministry hopes the Brain Pool program can fortify Korea's competitiveness in an increasingly globalized and informatized world.

"The Brain Pool program is a prime window of globalization of Korean science and technology, and serves to enhance scientific and technological exchange among scientists and engineers in Korea and abroad. Korea is a country that is still young, but dynamically advancing in R&D. This program is designed to accelerate global networking in R&D," says Chae Yung-bog, president of the Korean Federation of Science and Technology Societies.

Prof. Akkaya, an expert in supramolecular chemistry, organic materials and molecular logic, will spend four months starting in April working at Ewha University in Seoul to advance autonomous activation of photodynamic therapy agents.

## Career Center's "Corporate Introduction Days 2014" Is On!

**T**he Career Center's Corporate Introduction Days event is held annually to enable businesses and institutions to introduce themselves more effectively in an interactive environment. This year's sessions are starting this week and will continue through **May 2**.

All students are encouraged to attend the introduction sessions and to visit the company stands set up as part of the event. This is an excellent opportunity to initiate contacts with representatives of many business and professional sectors.

The schedule for the upcoming week:

### March 13

TÜBİTAK BİLGEM and TÜBİTAK UZAY Teknolojileri Araştırma Enstitüsü Company Presentation: **12:30 p.m.**, FADA, FFB-22

Company Stand: **11 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

FADA, Conference Halls Foyer  
Come and visit the TÜBİTAK Stand, fill out an internship/job application form and be the lucky one to get an iPad or a TÜBİTAK mug.

### March 13

TSKB - Türkiye Sınai Kalkınma Bankası Company Presentation "TSKB Proje Değerlendirme Dinamikleri": **5:30 p.m.**, FADA, FFB-22

Company Stand: **10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**  
FADA Building Entrance

## "Moon Tales" Opens at Library Art Gallery



BY ÖZGE TÜRKÖĞLU (EEE/III)

*Bilkent News*

**A**n exhibition entitled "Moon Tales," by Francesco Borzani, opened at the Library Art Gallery on Friday, March 7. The exhibition will remain open through **March 29**, from **10 a.m. to 6 p.m.** daily (except Sundays).

Mr. Borzani was born in Udine, Italy, in 1959. He works in a figurative style, and his paintings are imbued with a sense of peace and serenity, reflecting a deep love of nature.

His works have been shown widely, in both solo and group exhibitions, in Europe and Australia. Mr. Borzani's appearance on the art scene in Turkey has been quite recent, at the TÜYAP Art Fair and at a symposium held last August at the Datça International Knidos Academy. In December, his paintings were exhibited at the Galeri Diani in İstanbul.

In the "Moon Tales" paintings, various natural figures are depicted in the light of a full moon. Another constant presence in these works is a darkly hued sea, with midnight blue being the predominant color.

# How & Where They Write: Sübidey Togan

BY ALP RODOPLU (HIST/MA)

*Bilkent News*

**Alp Rodoplu: Do you enjoy writing? Do you ever find it difficult?**

Sübidey Togan: Writing is very difficult unless you enjoy it. But first, you have to find a topic you enjoy studying, and you need to have something to say. My father was a professor of history, and what I had seen at home growing up was my father studying most of the



time. Growing up in such an environment is probably why I find writing enjoyable. But you can't enjoy writing all the time; it's frustrating at times, because you have to do the homework and do the reading, and you should have a fair idea about what is going on in the world. This requires more than a bit of effort!

**AR: One thing that interests me is whether and how family members relate to each other when it comes to writing, and such a question is appropriate in your case because not only your father, but your entire family seems to work in academia. Do you ever talk about writing with them?**

ST: Well, if my father had been a shopkeeper, probably I would also have become a shopkeeper. You do what you are exposed to, and the family is the closest thing you see. My son, Emre, also does the same kind of thing, though he doesn't write books but articles. So it must affect the children. My father was a historian; I'm in

economics; and Emre does applied physics. There are similarities, but because of the disciplinary deviations, it's difficult to discuss issues in detail.

**AR: Let's talk a bit about the process of writing. When you sit down to write, do you know exactly what you are going to say? Or does it evolve as you write?**

ST: The main issue is the question you are trying to attack. For example, I learned a lot while writing "Turkey: Economic Reform and Accession to the European Union." This book covers a large range of issues relating to Turkey's accession negotiations with the EU, and I didn't know it would be such a complicated task. So, when you finish writing a book such as this one, you probably know more than you did before you started writing it.

**AR: Do you ever get stuck while writing? If so, what do you do?**

ST: Well, the key is doing your homework. There is a large literature on any question that you may have, which you have to go through and try to understand. Perhaps this is frustrating at times, because going over all the issues is a time-consuming process, but it's very important. In addition to this, you then have to say something new, and that is also challenging in itself. But as long as you enjoy it, it's fun.

**AR: So, if you do your homework well enough, then writing is easy?**

ST: Well, it's easier; because as a result you more or less know what you're going to say. The problem then is how to say it, and writing has its own problems; but overall, it's easier once you do the preparation. However, when you start writing the book, you usually realize you still don't know the issues well enough, and then you have to go back and learn more about them, especially in order to be able to add something to the existing discussion. In the end, writing is challenging.

Once you do the homework, you know what to write, but you need to develop the ideas to be saying something new.

**AR: Where do you write? Here, in your office?**

ST: Usually at home in my study, where I have my library. The computer makes it is easier for those in my field



to work from home. Writing in the office is more difficult, because of the distractions. I can concentrate better at home, so it's a better place for me to write.

**AR: Do you use the computer? Pen and paper? You have been in this business—as it were—for a long time, and must have seen the evolution of the technology available.**

ST: When I was working on my PhD, I would take notes and then type them on the electric typewriter. Then came computers. Once you get used to the computer, things become really easy. For one thing, you can erase what you write, which was not possible with the typewriter.

**AR: Do you have any rituals before or after, perhaps while you write? Listening to music? Coffee or tea?**

ST: Coffee and tea during the day, and I usually work during the day. Music is also nice, so long as it doesn't become a distraction. Around 6 o'clock, I usually stop—by that time, one gets tired, and it's time to relax.

**AR: Walks?**

ST: Oh yes, walks are nice; but not during the time you are at home working on an issue. And doing sports is also a very good way to keep the mind fit.

**AR: You write both in English and in Turkish. Are the processes of writing in English and in Turkish different?**

ST: You get used to one language. For me it is simple to write in English, and I enjoy having command over the terminology. The same could be said for Turkish, but sometimes finding the

terms poses difficulties. Publishing in English allows you to reach a larger audience, which is another reason to prefer English.

**AR: You have published books, articles and other kinds of academic writing. How does the writing of these differ?**

ST: When you are young—at least in the case of economics—you most often concentrate on particular aspects of the discipline and write articles on specific issues, in the case of which, the challenge is to produce something publishable. Writing a book is quite different, because you cover a more general subject in a book. This requires more work than is the case with an article, and often a different kind of research. You are also trying to reach a larger audience with a book.

**AR: Do you like writing book reviews?**

ST: Writing book reviews is also difficult, because you have to know the topic, and even when you disagree with the contents of the book, you have to write it in a nice way so that the author doesn't get embarrassed.

**AR: In some of your books, you collaborate with others. How does writing with a colleague or colleagues work?**

ST: That was the case with "Turkey: Economic Reform and Accession to the European Union." There are many important economic aspects of the accession process, and it is impossible for just one person to properly cover them all. If you succeed in persuading people [to work with you], then you bring in those who are more knowledgeable on various aspects and produce a publication together. However, you also have to know about the problems to be addressed in order to know the people to approach. This adds to the overall work to be done for the book.

**AR: And lastly, is there any further advice you would like to share with aspiring writers at Bilkent?**

ST: When you are young, attempting a book could prove too ambitious. I would advise you to concentrate on certain issues and write articles at the beginning of your career. Get published first. Concentrating on articles should then be switched to writing books at some point; because, for example, in most American universities, when academics go for a promotion, they are asked to have had a book published.

## IEEE Graduate Research Conference 2014

The IEEE Graduate Research Conference, organized by the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and the Bilkent IEEE Student Branch, will take place on March 14. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the event, which will be held in the lecture halls on the ground floor of the EE building. During this day-long activity, Bilkent EEE students will present their state-of-the-art research projects through oral and poster presentations.

This year's schedule includes 66 oral presentations, to be run in three parallel sessions throughout the day. Graduate students will share their research projects and results, and answer questions from the audience. A total of 12 sessions will cover various areas of

electrical and electronics engineering, including signal processing, communications, electromagnetics, biomedical engineering, electronics, photonics, control, robotics, networks and nanotechnology. In addition to the oral sessions, there will be two poster sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with more than 50 presentations. During these sessions, the audience will have a chance to interact face-to-face with the researchers and learn about the research being conducted in the Bilkent EEE Department. This year's conference also includes poster/demo presentations by four EEE undergraduate students, who were the recipients of the "best EEE102 project" award for the fall 2013 semester.

At the end of the day, to celebrate the

25th anniversary of the conference, the best presenters will be recognized by the Bilkent IEEE Student Branch: three "best oral presentation" awards and a "best poster" award will be given out.

The event will be not only a day of knowledge sharing, but also a unique opportunity for undergraduate students to take a journey to the world of research in engineering and science. In addition, the participants will have a chance to interact with researchers from other universities, as well as professionals from the top engineering companies in Turkey.

The Bilkent IEEE Student Branch and the EEE Department welcome all to this magnificent engineering festival! The detailed program for the conference can be found at <http://ieee.bilkent.edu.tr/grc2014>.

## OPINIONS



BY SENA KAYASÜ (ARCH/II)

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I realized this week that my first two opinion pieces this term were both about movies. I love watching movies very much, and some are quite thought provoking, but I know there are people out there who don't like them, or like them but don't have the time or patience for them, so this week I thought we could change tunes.

Let's talk about languages instead. This is a topic that is quite close to films, since it's all about expression, and the way that you experience a movie is very closely related to whether or not you are watching it in a language that is foreign to you. In fact, this is because a movie is also a form of expression, much like architecture or writing (the latter being a more direct method). All forms of expression have a language. These vary considerably; the language of drawing is lines (or blots, or dots...art is a very progressive field). The language of architecture can also be lines, or construction materials. An example is brick. She who can make a brick look purposeful and aesthetic in a wall full of other, identical bricks is

making architecture.

Most fields, though, utilize words: written, spoken or sung. This means of expression is what first comes to mind when we think "language," so there is always greater emphasis on it. How else would you ask for a cup of tea at Coffee Break? How else could you say "hi" to your friends, or prevent someone from bumping into you? Well, I suppose you could grunt and point, but that wouldn't be too polite. Most of us here express ourselves in Turkish, or try to. But what about other languages? What about English, Portuguese or Latin? We don't stop to consider these tongues in our daily lives; amid the pace of modern life, language is only a tool, and not a thing of value in itself.

I love learning new languages. More correctly, whatever I hear, I want to learn. In the words of the wise, "The limits of my language are the limits of my world." I'm not fluent in any foreign language other than English, but I've started learning a few more, and it's amazing to see how much difference in expression a language can provide, even in the first few months. There are the obvious differences in the sounds, sure, but *what* you say also changes. In French and Italian, for example, you don't say, "I am hungry"; you say, "I have hunger." This is a fairly simple example of how languages can change expression. An example on a much larger scale would be ancient languages. You can't speak Latin: you can learn the language, form sentences and compose essays, but you can't

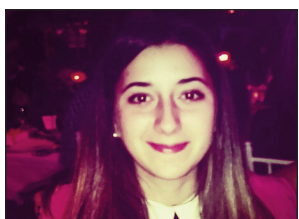
actually go up to someone who speaks Latin and have a full conversation, because what you can talk about is so limited. So many things that are part of our daily topics of conversation are inventions of the last century or two, and Latin and ancient Greek were halted in the Middle Ages. Of course, if you ask my instructor, even this phase of the language had no value, because it was a rediscovered, self-learned and therefore warped Latin. Unfortunately, classical Latin does not have words for computer, telephone, sandwich or tea. That is why it's called a "dead" language: it's not progressing anymore. Still, it's rather a sad word to assign to the mode of communication that dominated the ancient world through the rule of the Roman Empire.

A language shouldn't die, it should adapt. That is why different languages are so changeable in *what* they say. They adapt to the culture they are used in, they meet the specific needs that arise. If there is an abundance of something in a geography, there will probably be an abundance of names or words for it. There is that famous case, for example, of how Eskimos have 20-plus different names for snow. I don't know if this is true (I don't speak the language, nor have I met anyone who does, unfortunately), but it certainly illustrates the point. You can tell a lot about a people by the language they speak. Alternately, "Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own."

Using a foreign language is, of course, difficult. Being in a school that

teaches in what is at least a second tongue for most students (even the ones on exchange from abroad), I'm guessing we all know this. Mostly, the student body of this school functions very well in English, and would do better than all right abroad. I'm also guessing, however, that deep down we all know that no matter how well you learn any foreign language, it will never feel the same as your mother tongue, the language of your heart. Its words are those you associate with emotions, with instincts, with concepts of life, because they are what you first learned to call them. When you learn a new language, you only learn other words to associate with those words. But it's still valuable to "get inside the head" of a speaker of this language and make it your own as much as possible. It may not be your mother tongue, but it is a new world of possibilities and knowledge. "Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run and out of which they grow," so the more languages we learn, and the more of a language we learn, the more we think. (Not to mention being able to show off to people when you know a phrase in another language, which, obviously, is my only goal.)

Whatever language you choose (or don't choose) to learn, there is something I'm asking everyone to remember: a warm smile is the universal language of kindness. By smiling at me, or anyone, on the bus instead of irritably looking away after accidental eye contact, you can change my day. I'm just saying.



BY SERA ULUSOY (MAN/III)

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“All right, all right, all right.” Yes, the very famous Matthew McConaughey lines. And yes, I know some of you still feel like Leonardo DiCaprio deserved an Oscar for his wonderful acting in the “Wolf of Wall Street.” Maybe in another world, where he was competing in a category in which McConaughey hadn't been nominated for his role in “Dallas Buyers Club,” he would have won, and I would have been wildly amazed if he hadn't. But in reality, McConaughey was so good in “Dallas Buyers Club” that I don't really think calling it “so good” will do. I'll get back to how great both he and Jared Leto were, but let me first explain the reason behind my current movie fever.

I wanted to talk about the Oscars in general this week, how the ceremony was by far one of the greatest—in fact, among the ones that I've watched, it really was the greatest—how Ellen DeGeneres was the perfect host, how that group selfie—with Jared Leto, Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts, Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, Brad Pitt, Kevin Spacey and Ellen—was the best selfie ever, how fun it was to watch the most well-groomed people eating pizza with great appetite, how fantastic it was

to see Pharrell perform “Happy,” and finally how Emma Watson and Joseph Gordon-Levitt together onstage as presenters created an Internet and Twitter craze that night.

However, two things—well, actually three things, but two *movies*—exhilarated me so much that I just want to talk about them now: “Her” and “Dallas Buyers Club.” Don't worry, I'm not going to give details about the plots and spoil the endings or the films as a whole for you. I just want to talk about how brilliant these two movies are in terms of, well, everything, from screenwriting to acting to directing.

When I saw the official trailer for “Her” a couple of months ago in a movie theater, I got this overwhelming feeling—I don't recall ever getting that interested in a movie before just by watching the trailer. And it wasn't solely the originality of the theme that attracted me; Joaquin Phoenix's presence alone was enough to convince me that the film was worth seeing. For me, Phoenix is one of the most talented yet most underrated actors of our time, and it really isn't fair that he hasn't received Oscar nominations for many of his films. But it felt like it had been a long time since we had gotten to see him, with all his quiriness (which is what makes him such a brilliant actor).

Now, as for the movie itself, it really is one of a kind. I mean, this is a science-fiction romantic drama: how often do you get to watch a man fall deeply in love with an OS with artificial intelligence, and find this reasonable (yes, reasonable, as unreasonable as it

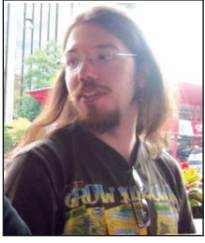
may sound) to a certain extent? The story of the love between Theodore and Samantha, the OS, is set approximately 10 years from now, and honestly, it is not that hard to comprehend this *love*, given the speed of current technological advances, and, despite their countless benefits, the alienation they create. You may find it disturbing, the love between an OS and a man, and I do too, believe me. But after watching “Her,” it really doesn't feel right to call this love unsettling; not because it is true love or anything, but because the movie depicts it so well that it seems more touching, though weird, than disturbing and unsettling. I mean, I was about to jump for joy when I heard that Spike Jonze won, no, earned, the Academy Award for the best original screenplay—not that this was a surprise, though, as it was a favorite of many critics.

Moving on to another, or two other award presentations that caused me to jump for joy and grin as widely as I could, we saw Matthew McConaughey receiving this year's award for best actor and Jared Leto receiving the award for best supporting actor for their roles in “Dallas Buyers Club.” I don't know if you have seen the movie yet, but you really should, not just for the sake of watching those two amazing performances, but also to get a greater understanding of the issues faced by people struggling with AIDS, especially during that era, around 1985, when AIDS was considered a disease of homosexuals, and when things were even tougher than they are now for people with different sexual

orientations, and people with AIDS in general. Tom Hanks's portrayal of a homosexual man with AIDS in “Philadelphia” was amazing, and it made me cry for sure, but at least it was comforting to know that despite having to deal with this incredibly horrible disease as well as a vicious lawsuit that had been brought against him, he had immense support from his family, his lover and his lawyer. In “Dallas Buyers Club,” you have no such comforts. You have a man, a man who is told he has 30 days left to live, fighting for his life and managing to survive for more than seven years after his diagnosis despite all the abandonment he experiences and the hatred he receives during some very difficult times. And then you have another character, Rayon, an HIV-positive transgender woman portrayed heartbreakingly well by Jared Leto. It was not a surprise that the humanitarian, multifaceted, multitalented, amazing Jared Leto performed so well, but it was a rather different experience for many to see Matthew McConaughey acting this superbly and rebranding himself, given the earlier part of his journey from appearing in commercial movies to performing in great independent films.

For those of you who haven't seen “Her” and “Dallas Buyers Club,” reward yourselves this weekend and watch “Dallas Buyers Club”—“Her” hasn't yet been released in Turkey but will be later this month. As for those who have a list of must-see-before-you-die movies, let me say that you have to add two more.

## OPINIONS



Ege Özgün (PHYS/PhD)

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**E** NEMIES OF ART

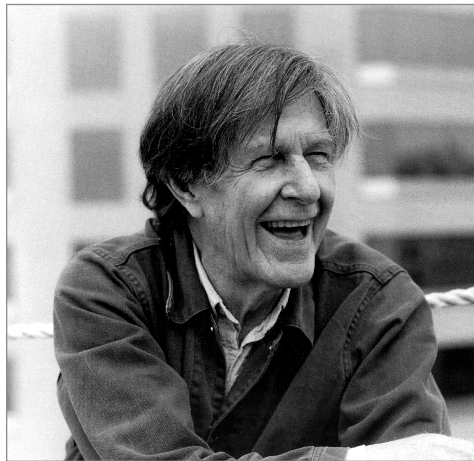
According to many, John Cage was one of the most influential composers of the 20th century. I am not going to talk about his music career or his style, but instead concentrate on his controversial 1952 work, 4'33".

I should start by explaining what 4'33" really is. Well, in the first place, it is a musical work. Maybe referring to it as a "musical" work is a little bit deceptive. It is indeed an avant-garde piece. I had better jump right into it: 4'33" also read as "four thirty-three"—is a piece composed by John Cage, which consists of four minutes and thirty-three seconds of silence! Sorry for the exclamation mark, but I wanted to get your attention, which may have been distracted due to the boring introduction I've written.

4'33" is divided into three movements. Since none of the movements contain any sound, in performances of the piece, the

musician(s) make(s) some gestures, or find other ways to designate the start of a new movement.

Let me stop talking about the details of the piece and give some brief background information about the idea behind it, and then I will present my humble criticism. Cage was already thinking about composing a "silent" piece, and his visit to the anechoic chamber at Harvard University in 1951—a year before he wrote 4'33"—sharpened this idea. An anechoic chamber is a room that does not allow the formation of echoes and is also soundproof to external noise, so Cage expected to hear no sound at



all when he was inside. But he noticed two distinct sounds, one of which was high and the other low. Asking the engineer in charge, he was told that

the low one was produced by his blood circulating, and the high one by his nervous system. Hearing that, Cage realized, as he later wrote: "Until I die there will be sounds. And they will continue following my death. One need not fear about the future of music." There is an interesting interpretation of the title of the piece in connection with this quotation. 4'33" gives the number 273 when converted to seconds.

And -273 °Celsius (or 0 kelvin) is the definition of absolute zero, where technically all life ends. So the interpretation suggests that the title comes from this fact, which in my opinion may well be true. Another influence on Cage was Robert Rauschenberg's series of white paintings, again in 1951.

Now it is time for some—or a lot of—criticism. I must admit that the idea behind the piece is clever, but it is not my cup of tea. My criticism is not about 4'33" in particular, but rather all of those artworks sharing the same absurdity. Ask yourselves what the reaction would be if this piece had been composed and/or performed by an average person. My answer is, surely its first presentation would have been its last, and most probably searching for it in Google today would be a futile effort. What I want to point out is that, in my

opinion, a work of art must be evaluated independently of its creator. Otherwise artists' previous works can influence the impact of their later ones, a situation I find wrong and misleading. Moreover, the same (by the same, I mean 100% identical) work of art by two different artists would be differently evaluated in that scenario, which would be a disaster! Such a situation leads to the following problems: First of all, new artists will always have a more difficult time than established ones in presenting their work to the public. And secondly, established artists will have the luxury of presenting sloppy work just because they have created something notable in the past! I strongly believe that this will only distort the quality of the artistic productions appearing. Also, please don't forget that we are living in quite a capitalistic world, and record companies, movie production companies, art galleries etc. contribute to the above-mentioned situation.

To conclude, I want to say that 4'33" (and all similarly absurd works) are extremely overrated, and in my opinion their huge dependence—in terms of how they are evaluated—on the reputation of their creators damages the concept of art itself. Stay connected to true and sincere art and, of course, music.

## Faces on Campus

Ömer Karaduman (ECON/IV) & Hazal Koptagel (CS/IV)



**Name:** Derin Akşit (ECON/III)

**What's your favorite triple?**

**a) Movie:** "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl"

**b) Book:** "Freakonomics" by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner

**c) Song:** "Si Tu Me Amas" by Il Divo

**Can you describe yourself in three words?** "Articulate, convivial, thoughtful"

**If you could be anyone from the past, who would that be?** "Giordano Bruno"

**Who is your favorite cartoon character?** "Bugs Bunny"

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

**The place on campus where I feel happiest is...** "Coffee Break"

**I have never...** "been to North Korea"

**What would be your last message on earth?** "Enjoy the ride"



**Name:** Derya Gürsoy (ECON/III)

**What's your favorite triple?**

**a) Movie:** "Life Is Beautiful"

**b) Book:** "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" by Richard Bach

**c) Song:** "Wish You Were Here" by Pink Floyd

**Can you describe yourself in three words?** "Talkative, curious, confused"

**If you could be anyone from the past, who would that be?** "Virginia Woolf"

**Who is your favorite cartoon character?** "Fred Flintstone"

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

**The place on campus where I feel happiest is...** "Café Inn"

**I have never...** "taken a selfie in front of the mirror"

**What would be your last message on earth?** "Never postpone life"



**Name:** Tekin Meriç Güzelant (ECON/III)

**What's your favorite triple?**

**a) Movie:** "Stay"

**b) Book:** "Puslu Kırallar Atlası" by İhsan Oktay Anar

**c) Song:** "Rites of Spring" by The Cinematic Orchestra

**Can you describe yourself in three words?** "Careless, apathetic, curious"

**If you could be anyone from the past, who would that be?** "Orson Welles"

**Who is your favorite cartoon character?** "Louie in 'Life with Louie'"

**If you were a superhero, what super power(s) would you have?** "Omnilingualism and time travel"

**The place on campus where I feel happiest is...** "Café Inn"

**I have never...** "been sure whether the idea of existence is an illusion or not"

**What would be your last message on earth?** "Question anything and everything"

## Bilkent Jaws Looking Forward to Championship Meet, New Pool

BY BARIŞ SEVİ (PSYC/III)

*Bilkent News*

**T**he construction of the Bilkent University pool, which started in May 2013, is going very well, with plans to finish in time for the 2014 fall semester.

The swimming pool will be 25 meters in length and 15 meters wide, and enclosed for year-round use. The total enclosed area will be approximately 2,000 square meters. The plans also include a terrace for sunning during the summer months. The pool will be located behind the Dormitories Sports Hall, and a covered walkway will connect the two facilities. The entire building is planned to be energy-efficient and environmentally friendly.

With a new, high-technology pool in the works, it seemed a good time to interview Kağan Erbay (EE/II), a member of our university swim team, the Bilkent Jaws. We talked about being a swimmer, the Bilkent Jaws and the new pool.

**B.N.: Tell us a little bit about yourself and your background in swimming.**



**K.E.:** I'm from Denizli, and I'm studying in the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering. I started swimming at age 11 and became a licensed swimmer when I was 14. I swim the butterfly stroke. I was a swimmer for Denizlispor and also the captain of the team. I won a gold medal at the 2010 national championship meet. I stopped swimming for a while to prepare for the university examination.

**B.N.: How much did you train to be a swimmer?**

**K.E.:** I swam four hours a day, five days a week: two hours in the morning before school and two hours after school.

**B.N.: What do you think about our swim team, the Bilkent Jaws?**

**K.E.:** The team was established last year, but I didn't join it until this year because I hadn't heard about it. I think the team should get more publicity so it becomes better known. We have 10 women and 10 men. The members include two licensed swimmers, one of whom is on the national team. The other members have had swimming experience as teenagers. I think we have a great team and will see good results at the championship meet in Kayseri this May.

**B.N.: What do you think about the new pool?**

**K.E.:** I really want it to be finished as soon as possible. I live in Dorm 77 beside the pool, and I can't wait to start to swimming there. Right now, we have practice at another school's pool,

which is difficult and time consuming. After the pool is finished, I believe our team will do even better. Speaking more generally, swimming is a great sport for people who want to improve their health and fitness, and I believe the pool will help Bilkent to be a healthier community.

We thank Kaan for the interview and wish him and the Jaws good luck in their upcoming meets.

**Team Members:** Ömer Burak Kınay, Doğukan Oğuz Sert, İmegeşu Çetin, Cem Obuz, Sinem Savaşer, Zeynep Ertüz, Ece Türk, Ali Baran Bayraktar, İleriş Karakuş, Kağan Erbay, İlayda Eliş, Melis Atalar, Mesut Halıcıoğlu, Duygu Ekin Güneş, Ece Şahi, Elif Nisa Polat, Kadir Ata Dönmez, Mert Aslaner, Öykü Özçelik.

## Bilkent Students Dance Their Way to Fitness at Zumba Master Class



**O**rganized by the Physical Education and Sports Center as part of the "Sports as a Way of Life" program, a Zumba master class took place on Tuesday, March 4 at the Sports Center (Dormitories Sports Hall).

The class featured choreography by Ahsen Bilen and Fatma Öztürk Ceylan, and attracted about 355

participants, who had fun exercising to the accompaniment of a special light and sound system. Students who took part in the event earned points for their mountain groups.

In addition, students taking GE250/251 who participated in the event received 100 points. Everyone enjoyed the exercises and the Latin music!

## BELS Plays Basketball in Georgia



**T**he Bilkent Erzurum Laboratory School (BELS) has just participated in its first international sports tournament.

With their coach, the senior boys' and girls' basketball teams traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia, to be part of the Silk Road Athletic Association's annual basketball tournament. There, they competed against teams from international schools in Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The teams playing in the tournament were made up of students from all over the world, giving BELS students a great opportunity to meet all different types of people. The members of both the boys' and girls' teams had an amazing experience, with some of the athletes leaving the country for the first time. The students were able to enjoy the city of Tbilisi as well as play a lot of basketball.

The girls' team played very hard, going all the way to the championship game and finishing in second place after losing this matchup. The boys' team did even better, winning their

championship. For all those watching the tournament, the BELS boys were the highlight, with everyone cheering their excellent style of play. Coach Uriah Goldfinger expressed himself as being very proud of the effort that both teams put forth and, more importantly, the sportsmanship and friendliness they showed toward their opponents.

For the BELS students, one of the memories to take home was hearing people from other schools, like the Baku International School, cheering for them (plus, they learned a few new Turkish cheers!). All of the international interaction was an especially outstanding aspect of the tournament. Since some students from other schools spoke Azeri Turkish, the BELS athletes were able to converse with them in Turkish.

Having become friends with other athletes from all the different nationalities represented at the tournament, the BELS students are staying in touch with them. BELS is looking forward to next year's event, as well as to one day hosting a tournament in Erzurum.





# Bilkent CALENDAR



Photograph by M. Furkan Akinci (LAW/IV)

The deadline for the the Library's student photography competition "My Library in One Shot" is March 17.

## CONFERENCES

### Wednesday, March 12

"Siber Güvenlik," by Barkın Kılıç, at FEASS, C-Block Auditorium, **12:30 p.m.** Organized by Özgür Yazılım ve İnternet Teknolojileri Kulübü.

### Wednesday, March 12

"What Is the Equation of Motion of a Brownian Particle?," by Jan Wehr (Arizona University), at EE-01, **3:40 p.m.** Organized by PHYS.

### Thursday, March 13

"Tasarım ve Grafik için Bilgisayar Programlarının Önemi," by Volkan Tarhan (İndigo Bilişim), at FADA, FFB-05 **5:30 p.m.** Organized by Tasarım ve Mimarlık Topluluğu.

### Friday, March 14

"Sektör Günlüğü," by Mert Kokullu (Eczacıbaşı HR), at

FEASS, C-Block Auditorium, **12:20 p.m.** Organized by Operational Research Kulübü.

### Thursday, March 20

"Oynadığımız Roller," by Asst. Prof. John Woods (Bilkent University), at FADA, FFB-22, **8 p.m.** Organized by Felsefe Topluluğu.

## SEMINARS

### Tuesday, March 11

"Organ Donation," by Prof. Gökhan Moray (Başkent University), at Mithat Çoruh Auditorium, **12:30 p.m.** Organized by the Bilkent University Health Center and TDP.

### Wednesday, March 12

"Proje Yönetimi," by Ata Haluk Enacar, at Mithat Çoruh Auditorium, **9 a.m.** Organized by CTIS.

### Wednesday, March 12

"Endogenous Contractual Externalities," by Emre Özdenören (London Business School), at FEASS, A-228, **2 p.m.** Organized by ECON.

### Thursday, March 13

"Organ Donation," by Prof. Gökhan Moray (Başkent University), at East Campus Banquet Room, **12:30 p.m.** Organized by the Bilkent University Health Center and TDP.

### Friday, March 14

"Integrated Supply Chain Network Design with Grain Blending," by Koray Doğan (Solvoyo), at EA-409, **1:40 p.m.** Organized by IE.

### Friday, March 14

"Emergence and the Brain," by Dr. Seymour Cahangirov (University of the Basque Country), at FS, SA-240, **3:40 p.m.** Organized by UNAM.

## LECTURES

### Wednesday, March 12

"Practice in Italy," by Asst. Prof. Giorgio Gasco, at FADA, FFB-22, **2 p.m.** Organized by ARCH.

## EXHIBITIONS

### Until March 29

Exhibition of Paintings by Francesco Borzani, at the Library Art Gallery. Every day (except Sundays) from **10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

### Until March 14

Exhibition of Student Projects and Selected Works on the Dormitory Project, at FADA Exhibition Hall. Organized by IAED.

## PLAYS

### Thursday, March 13

"Orphans," at the Bilkent Theater Hall, **8 p.m.** Organized by THEA.

## Le Piment Rouge Restaurant Menu

### March 11 -14 Mexican Menu

#### Appetizers

Sopa de Papas con Chile Verde Gusto  
Potato soup with green chili peppers and cheese  
Chile Salad with Red Beans Served with vinaigrette dressing

#### Main Courses

Beef Quesadillas Served with guacamole, sour cream and tomato salsa  
Cheesy Chicken Burritos Served with mashed red beans and jalapeños

#### Desserts

Wet Coconut Cake Served with grilled pineapple  
Chocolate Mousse

Chef de Cuisine: Elif Denizci  
Maître de Table: Ali Ünal  
Set Menu Price is 20.00 TL  
For reservations: **ext. 5029**

## CONCERTS

### Thursday, March 13

Recital by Yener Gökbudak, at Admed Adnan Saygun Music Research and Education Center, **7 p.m.** Organized by FMMPA.

### Friday, March 14

Class of Muhammedjan Turdiev, at Admed Adnan Saygun Music Research and Education Center, **7:30 p.m.** Organized by FMMPA.

### Sunday, March 16

Ankara Youth Symphony Orchestra, Conductor: Artun Hoinic, Piano: Gülsin Onay, Gordion Choir, Choirmasters: Atilla Çağdaş Değer and Çiğdem Aytepe, at the Bilkent Concert Hall, **8 p.m.**  
*W.A. Mozart | Piano Concerto No. 20, in D minor, KV. 466*  
*D. Shostakovich | Festive Overture, Op. 96*  
*B. Hoinic | Gordion Cantata*

## PANELS

### Monday, March 17

"Türkiye Ekonomisinde Neler Oluyor?," by Prof. Fatih Özatay (TOBB University), Assoc. Prof. Selin Sayek Böke (Bilkent University), Assoc. Prof. Refet Gürkaynak (Bilkent University), at FEASS, C-Block Auditorium, **12:40 p.m.** Organized by the Innovative Development and Economics Club.

## Classifieds

**Looking For:** Spanish tutor is needed for a middle school girl. Phone: 290 1489 or 290 3400, [altintas@ee.bilkent.edu.tr](mailto:altintas@ee.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](mailto:bilnews@bilkent.edu.tr)

## 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  
**FMPPA:** Faculty of Music and Performing Arts