



Dear Bilkent FBA Alumni:

As our country and the entire world is struggling to fight the Covid-19 virus, I wish that you and your families are all safe and healthy. I believe staying connected while keeping physically isolated becomes more and more important these days. With this letter I aim to start establishing closer contacts with you and share some news and facts about our faculty.

Some of you may know that I was appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration by the end of 2016 and it has been a great privilege for me to serve in this esteemed capacity. Although I have been a part of Bilkent University for a long time, this position has provided me with great opportunities to become familiar with a new faculty, its valuable members and alumni some of whom I have been able to meet on various occasions. Connecting with all the stakeholders of the faculty has been a priority for me; however it has taken some time to get to a point where I can reach out to you to share with you the recent progression of our faculty and our vision for the coming few years. Let me first mention that we carried out a substantial effort to establish an up-to-date database for our alumni. Although it is not complete, we managed to bring together a comprehensive data which we hope to expand more with your inputs. This message is sent to the list in this database. Please check with your close alumni network if they have received it as well and encourage them to contact us if not. Also, please fill in the form at <https://forms.gle/X3UXboVHDqPYdFzJ6> to assist us establish better informed relationships with you in the coming years and support your affiliation to Bilkent FBA by following our Linked-in page at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/bilkent-university-faculty-of-business-administration>.

Having once known you as our students, we have always been proud of you, and our pride grows every day as we get to observe your achievements on social media and other outlets. In this process we witnessed that apart from those that we know of, we have multiples of more graduates who have the most effective positions in the best local or global companies in all fields from banking and finance to retailing, from production to consulting, from advertising to academia. We would like to thank you all for building the highest reputation for Bilkent FBA in the business and academic world.

There are so many things that I would like to share with you here, but I know that I should keep it short! Attached please find the document with information based on the data composed from different resources up to the end of 2018. It is not exhaustive, but reflects the general trends. Please visit our recently reconstructed page <http://fba.bilkent.edu.tr/> for the most current and detailed information about FBA, regarding Advisory Boards, program specifics, alumni on media and more. Now, I would like to mention briefly some highlights of the attached document:

AACSB Accreditation. Bilkent FBA is proud to be the first business school in Turkey accredited by the AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business)-a global nonprofit association issuing accreditations to ensure worldwide high quality business education. We are now in the fourth round of 5-year lasting accreditation cycles.

Undergraduate Program Improvements and Business Engagement. The FBA student incoming ranks are the highest among other social science departments at Bilkent, except those of the Law School. Recently, we major revisions of our curriculum to include a compulsory summer practice and a capstone project course in senior year curriculum. We also started to sign mentorship agreements with companies, which we would like to extend with the support of our alumni and other business partners.

Research Activities. Our faculty continues to conduct high caliber research and publish in respectable international outlets. I am proud to mention that faculty members Fehmi Tanrısever and Ahmet Şensoy received the GEBIP 2019 and TÜBİTAK 2018 Young Researcher awards respectively, while Kürşat Aydoğan received the Bilkent University Teaching Excellence award in 2018.

Professional Education. Our MBA and Executive MBA programs continue to provide the highest quality executive education. Since 2014, the Executive MBA program has been revised significantly and expanded to include an educational component delivered at Ross School of Business in University of Michigan. A state-funded brand-building program, Turquality, is also carried out as a part of corporate education.

Faculty Losses and Recruitment. We were very saddened as Professor Jacques Couvas unexpectedly passes away last year. In the last years, in parallel to the general economic and social instabilities of the country, we have experienced some problems as well and recruitment of new faculty became a real challenge. Nevertheless new faculty are also joining us.

We are One Bilkent FBA Family. Last but not the least, we organize every year a get together with the families of our students at our faculty. We believe these gatherings help all parties to better understand and support each other.

Before finishing, I would like you invite you to closely collaborate with the FBA in order to collectively raise our faculty to newer heights. Let me reiterate that we will be very happy if you follow our linked-in site and visit our page as given above also below. Also please send your professional views, news and visions Ms. Buket Bıyıklı (buket.biyikli@bilkent.edu.tr) with subject 'Alumni Share' so that we can share them on our pages.

I very much hope that this letter will energize you to help us deepen the relationships among the students, alumni and the faculty. Please do not hesitate to contact me any time at fba.deanoffice@bilkent.edu.tr On behalf of the Bilkent FBA, I am truly looking forward to establishing longstanding relationships with all of you.

With the hope that covid-19 fully terminates in the shortest time, I wish you the best for you and for your families.



Yours Truly,

Professor Ülkü Gürler
Dean, Faculty of Business Administration