

Staff Activities



Dr. Muhammed Sahin from the Department of Civil Engineering and **Dr. Erhan Erkut** from the Department of Industrial Engineering gave speeches on the opening day of MEF University at MEF Schools on September 7, 2015.



Dr. Erhan Erkut from the Department of Industrial Engineering had an interview with Dr. Tolga Akçura, the founder of Ebrandvalue, on Periscope TV on September 10, 2015.

Conferences and Seminars



Dr. Derin Ural from the Department of Civil Engineering has visited Riga, Latvia from September 30- October 2, 2015 to take part in the Annual Seminar of [the European Universities Association Institutional Evaluation Program \(IEP\)](#). Dr. Ural has been serving as a European University Institutional Evaluator for the past 4 years. The IEP evaluators and teams consist of past European University Rectors and Vice Rectors.



The article entitled "Laser-Generated Surface Acoustic Wave-Based Study and Detection of Surface Cracks" was presented by **Dr. Dante Dorantes** from the Department of Mechanical Engineering in the 8th International Scientific and Technical Conference "Beam Technologies and Laser Application" held in Saint Petersburg, Russia, on September 21-24, 2015.



The proceeding entitled "Multi-Stream Long Short-Term Memory Neural Network Language Model" of **Dr. Ebru Ansoy-Saraçlar** from the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering has been published in the proceedings of the [16th Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association \(Interspeech 2015\)](#) which was held on September 6-10, 2015 in Dresden, Germany. Dr. Ansoy-Saraçlar also served as a session chair for the Neural Networks in Language Modeling Session.



The proceeding entitled "A Decade of Discriminative Language Modeling for Automatic Speech Recognition" of **Dr. Ebru Ansoy-Saraçlar** from the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering has been published in the proceedings of the [17th International Conference on Speech and Computer \(SPECOM 2015\)](#) which was held on September 20-24, 2015 in Athens, Greece.



Dr. Hande Küçükaydın from the Department of Industrial Engineering participated the [35th National Operations Research and Industrial Engineering Congress \(ORIE 2015\)](#) which was held at the Middle East Technical University, Ankara on September 9-11, 2015. Dr. Küçükaydın chaired the "Optimization III" session and made a presentation entitled "Zaman Pencereli ve Değişken Başlama Zamanlı Bir Araç Rotalama Problemi İçin Kesin ve Sezgisel Yöntemler" as an invited speaker.

Conferences



Dr. Utku Koç from the Department of Industrial Engineering made a presentation entitled “Karışık Tamsayı Programlara Paralel Çözüm Üretme Algoritmaları” at the [35th National Operations Research and Industrial Engineering Congress \(ORIE 2015\)](#) which was held at the Middle East Technical University, Ankara on September 9-11, 2015.



The invited conference paper entitled "Heuristic Methods for a Capacitated Lot-Sizing Problem with Stochastic Setup Times" by **Dr. Duygu Taş** from the Department of Industrial Engineering was presented at [the 6th International Workshop on Lot Sizing - IWLS 2015](#) in Montréal, Canada on August 24-25, 2015.

Cooperation



Dr. Dante Dorantes from the Department of Mechanical Engineering signed joint research collaboration agreement with Dr. Eduardo Sandoval from the Center for Applied Sciences and Technological Development (CCADET), pertaining to the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). The collaboration will be related to the R&D of scientific opto-electronic instrumentation & information technologies.

Publications



The paper entitled "[The Traveling Salesman Problem with Time-Dependent Service Times](#)" by **Dr. Duygu Taş** from the Department of Industrial Engineering has been accepted for publication in [European Journal of Operational Research](#).

New Faculty Introductions



Dr. Derin Ural joined the faculty of the Department of Civil Engineering in September, 2015 as the Department Chair. Dr. Ural holds a B.Sc. degree from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Florida International University in Miami, US. She completed her Masters and Ph.D. Degrees at Princeton University, Department of Civil Engineering in Princeton, New Jersey, US. Dr. Ural became an Assistant Professor at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, followed by becoming an Associate and Full Professor at the Istanbul Technical University. Dr. Ural served as the Vice President of ITU, in charge of Academic and International Affairs, from 2009-2012.

Dr. Ural is an active evaluator of the European Commission FP7 research projects, and is an Institutional Evaluator for the European Universities Association, Institutional Evaluation Program. Dr. Ural successfully coordinated ITU's accreditation process for 23 engineering programs for ABET. She also initiated the NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering examination in Turkey. Dr. Ural is one of five nationally selected members of the Prime Ministry Earthquake Preparedness Council. She has led numerous national and international committees on civil engineering, earthquake engineering and disaster management.

New Faculty Introductions



Dr. Duygu Taş joined the Department of Industrial Engineering as an Assistant Professor on September 1st, 2015. She holds a B.Sc. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Faculty of Engineering at Boğaziçi University, İstanbul (2006). She received her M.Sc. degree in Industrial Engineering from the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences at Sabancı University, İstanbul in 2008 and carried out her Ph.D. studies at the School of Industrial Engineering and Innovation Sciences at the Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands from 2009 to 2013. She conducted a part of her Ph.D. research as a visiting scholar at CIRRELT, Interuniversity Research Centre on Enterprise Networks, Logistics and Transportation, Montréal, Canada from September 2011 to January 2012. After completing her Ph.D., Dr. Taş has worked as a post-doctoral fellow both at HEC Montréal and at CIRRELT between 2013 and 2015.

Dr. Taş has published her research in leading academic journals including *Computers & Operations Research*, *European Journal of Operational Research*, and *Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies*. She frequently presents her research at academic and professional conferences, and also serves as a reviewer for numerous scientific international journals in operations research. Her research mainly focuses on production and inventory planning under uncertainty, transportation planning under uncertainty, and airline crew scheduling.



Ahmet Aycan Atak joined the Department of Computer Engineering as a Research Assistant. He holds a B.Sc. and a M.Sc. degree from Istanbul Technical University in 2009 and 2011, respectively. His B.Sc. thesis “Analysis of Social Networks” was supported by Turkcell. He participated in several Web and data mining competitions whose results are included in his M.Sc. thesis “Detecting the Quality of Web Objects”. He worked as research and teaching assistant at Computer Engineering Department of Istanbul Technical University from 2009 to 2014. In 2014, he made it to finals in ITU Çekirdek entrepreneurship competition and worked as indie video game developer.

His current research focuses on procedural content generation in video games. His research interests are machine learning, pattern recognition, data mining, web mining and natural language processing. He still designs and develops video games as an independent developer.