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The scientific heritage of Koç University has been built with contributions from its students, faculty, employees, and alumni. We leave behind 25 years, filled with proud moments and achievements and now look forward to a brighter future. It is the will, enthusiasm, and excitement of particularly the founders and of those who have followed, which have enabled us to achieve our present level of success. The depth and breadth of the resources provided by the Vehbi Koç Foundation have allowed us to charge ahead with utmost confidence as we realize numerous breakthroughs.

Center of attraction
The fact that our relatively small and young university is now one of the top choices in the country of academics and students is the best indication that we have created the right environment for success. We focus solely on merit when recruiting, evaluating, and promoting faculty members for our growing institution. For many of our new recruits, from South Korea to the Netherlands, Koç University is their primary choice. Every year we seek the best candidates

From the President...

PROF. UMRAN S. İNAN
PRESIDENT

As Koç University leaves behind a quarter century full of proudly remembered moments and outstanding achievements, we look forward to a future when we shall all be the closest witnesses and architects of its continued rise to excellence as a world-class institution in education and research.
to recruit into our academic community.
This year, we searched for candidates in 24
areas with five-person selection committees
assigned in their respective fields. Among
nearly 50 very highly qualified applicants
for each vacant position, nearly 33 academicians
from around the world have been selected
to join our faculty this year, of which about
one-third are non-Turkish. In addition,
approximately 30 percent of our new PhD
students come from other countries. They
also go through a rigorous selection process
as we aim to keep our student quality high.

Free environment for education and
research
At Koç University, we do not direct our
students or faculty to walk down any one
given path or restrict the things that they
can or want to do. Our motto is that
people produce the best and the most
when they are freest, so we strive to “Let
the rivers flow with enthusiasm, ambition
and drive, so we can help our faculty and
students to carve their course,” meaning:
“You are free to choose your own way
and the university is here to stay out
of your way and to support you when
you need us.” We believe that the best
research environment can be created
only when researchers are free to follow
their instincts; therefore, we strive to
build an environment of freedom open to
innovation. We support scholars through
a variety of means such as the Visiting
Scholar Program and the Koç University
Seed Research Fund. The objective of
the Visiting Scholar Program is to support
the participation of our faculty members
in international programs that help their
professional development. The Koç
University Seed Research Fund Program,
on the other hand, designed to support
innovative early-stage research projects
from all disciplines, aims to encourage
creativity, freedom of thought, and
curiosity-driven research in its dedication
to scientific development and innovation.
As we strive to provide this optimal
environment, we are pleased to see our
faculty excel in their work.

Furthermore, the tenure system, a first
among foundation universities in Turkey,
is now introduced at Koç University
starting with the next academic year. This
system, instituted for all Professoriate,
allows tenured faculty to focus on long
term teaching and research goals while
strengthening their sense of ownership of
and allegiance to the university. With the
tenure system, Koç University embraces
its faculty like no other foundation
university in Turkey.

Broad-based education
In addition to providing a free research
environment, we also focus on
educating world citizens by offering a
multidisciplinary and even interdisciplinary
program to students. With the Core
Program, we strengthen relationships
between our Schools and Colleges,
each one a star in its respective field.
The Core Program inspires students to
search beyond their disciplines, cultures
and times. We provide every opportunity
and encourage students in multiplicity
of ways so that they can satisfy their
intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm.
Thanks to these efforts, the number of
our students pursuing double majors
has recently increased; almost one-third
of our students will graduate with two
diplomas in 2018. With an education built
on this broad base, our students graduate
as individuals who have mastered multiple
subjects, who are willing to continue
learning and are able to adapt to change.

Technological infrastructure
This approach of a broad-based education
for all of our students is supported by
a technological infrastructure under
continuous improvement and expansion.
The construction of the Semahat and Dr.
Nusret Arsel Science and Technology
Building on the Rumelihisarı Campus,
providing 36,000 square meters of usable
space, started two years ago and is slated
for completion in time for the upcoming
academic year. With these new state-of
the-art buildings, which include important
research centers such as the Koç University
Research Center for Translational Medicine
(KUTTAM), the amount of space dedicated
to education on our campus grows by no
less than 30 percent.

2023 goals
In line with our goal for 2023, we are
enhancing the research capabilities of
our faculty members with new research
centers and laboratories, doubling the
existent research capacity. We currently
have eight European ERC Megaprojects,
which we plan to increase to 20. Through
these prestigious European Research Council (ERC) projects, we support the
development of academia in Turkey by
producing scholars and professionals with
PhD degrees who can serve the needs of
the country.

Last year, with 87 high caliber students
from around the country, we made a
great leap toward the recognition of
our Anatolian Scholarship Program, a
program that provides funding for brilliant
students from around the country with
limited financial means. This turnout gives
us renewed hope that we can realize our
target of 120 new students in 2018, as
we celebrate our 25th anniversary. At the
same time, we are engaging our 13,000+
alumni, urging them to raise support
for our Anatolian Scholarship student per
graduating class, hoping that all our
graduating classes can thus muster
enough support among themselves for 25
new bright students in 2018...

With the Anatolian Scholarship Program
embraced by the entire university
community, I believe that we are making a
significant contribution to development of
impactful philanthropy in Turkey.

25th anniversary celebrations
To celebrate the 25th year of the founding
of our university by the visionary Vehbi
Koç, a variety of exciting events have been
organized by different units for the entire
university community. These events allow
us to proudly celebrate the last quarter
of a century together with our students,
faculty, staff and alumni.

The charge given to us by our founder 25
years ago was to protect and preserve
this institution as a beacon of excellence
and a symbol of progress in education
and science, and to always work hard to
raise it to new heights. As we continue
on our path to realize this charge, we
are proud of our achievements so far
and look forward to the future with great
enthusiasm.
Koç University was founded in 1993 as a non-profit research university in İstanbul, Turkey. Its beautiful campus sprawls over a sixty-two acre estate that succeeds in balancing accessibility to all of İstanbul with retreat from the distractions of city life. Since its establishment, Koç University has become one of the leading universities in Turkey, distinguished by notable contributions to the elevation of education, knowledge and service both domestically and beyond.

The University is supported by the resources of the Vehbi Koç Foundation. Guided by its mission to address the fundamental needs of life for a modern and developing Turkey through the promotion of education, health and culture, the foundation’s achievements include the creation of a world-class hospital, museums that preserve and highlight Turkish culture and elite academic institutions at all levels.

Koç University strives to be a center of excellence, one that succeeds in providing a world-class education to its students, creating new knowledge via the research of its faculty, applying the acquired knowledge for the benefit of society, and equipping its students with the highest sense of ethics, social responsibility and good citizenship.
29
master’s programs

36%
of undergraduate students received scholarship support

30
PhD programs

132
research laboratories

761
externally-funded research projects*

15.4
Student-faculty ratio:

7
colleges

157,000
electronic books

13,000
alumni

64,000+
electronic journals

4
graduate schools

80+
student clubs

20 research centers,
5 research and education forums
1 support center

81%
of graduate students received scholarship support

Exchange programs with more than 250 partner universities in over 60 countries

* January 2004-December 2017
Proudly celebrating 25 years

It has been 25 years since the late Vehbi Koç, founder of Koç University, delivered the ‘First Lecture’. In this short span of time, Koç University has become one of the leading universities in Turkey, distinguished by its contributions to the elevation of education, knowledge, and service, both domestically and beyond. To celebrate this journey, a campaign was launched to reflect the University’s focus on science, research, and excellence in education. Through a series of events organized by different units, the campaign rightfully honors this past quarter of a century.
The story of Koç University began in 1969 when Vehbi Koç, one of the pioneers in the economic development of modern Turkey, established the Vehbi Koç Foundation to operate in the fields of education, healthcare, and culture. As the procedures to establish the foundation gained momentum, Vehbi Koç conceived the idea of starting a university. After consulting with people whose opinions he valued, he took action to launch an exemplary international university.

The Koç University project, conceived by Vehbi Koç and continued by the Koç Family and the Vehbi Koç Foundation, is shaped by the belief that prestigious educational institutions are the most valuable investment that can be made for the future of a country. The original feasibility report notes “scientific teaching, research and production in universal qualities” and “evolving toward excellence” as the fundamental prerequisites of a prestigious university. The objective of the “small in scale, but high in quality” university project was to establish “a center of excellence” that would bring together highly talented young people and a distinguished academic faculty to graduate well-equipped individuals who would go on to contribute to their country and community.

After the feasibility report was presented to the Vehbi Koç Foundation’s management on December 20, 1989 for deliberation,

The principle mission of Koç University is to cultivate Turkey’s most competent graduates, well-rounded adults who can think creatively, independently, and objectively, and who are confident leaders.
a resolution was passed to establish a university teaching in English under the name of Koç University. Legal procedures to establish the University were completed in 1992.

The Koç University Board of Trustees, elected by the Foundation Board of Directors on March 9, 1992, convened for its first meeting on the same day. Suna Kıraç, Can Kıraç, M. Fahirikel, Ömer M. Koç, Yavuz Alangoya, Bülent Gültekin, and Tamer Şahinbaş formed the Board of Trustees under Chairman Rahmi M. Koç. The board appointed Tamer Şahinbaş as the Founding President of Koç University.

Inauguration
With the resolution to open the University as quickly as possible, the abandoned Türkay Match Plant in İstinye, owned by the Vehbi Koç Foundation, was selected as the site for a temporary campus. In just nine months, the existing structures were converted into a campus. In June 1993, Prof. Seha Tiniç was appointed as the President with the approval of the Board of Trustees and the Council of Higher Education (YÖK). By September of the same year, the Koç University İstinye Campus was ready to open its doors, with classrooms, laboratories, library, a gym, cafeteria and dining hall. Education at Koç University started on October 4, 1993, with the first lecture given by Vehbi Koç.

First graduates
The University, which started with only two colleges, graduated its first master degree students in 1995 and first undergraduate degree students in 1997. Construction of the Rumelifeneri Campus began in 1996 and would continue for the next four years. In 1998, while the University was still in İstinye, the College of Engineering, the College of Health Sciences, and the Graduate School of Sciences were established. The University moved to the

“This university will produce such treasures, such values that it will surpass my earnings a hundred times over.”

Vehbi Koç

1993
Opening of the Suna Kıraç Library.

1995
First graduation of Koç University graduate students.

1996
Construction of the Rumelifeneri Campus begins.

1997
First graduation of Koç University undergraduate students.

1998
International exchange programs begin.

College of Engineering and College of Health are established.
Intending to reflect Koç University’s aim of instilling an appreciation of research and education with its schools and research centers through graphic design, a series of artworks were created to celebrate the University’s 25th Anniversary. Each image is an evocation of a universal academic theme, depicted in the form of a quote by a great thinker or scientist, or a text of historic prominence.

Twenty-five years have elapsed since 1993’s “first lesson” in İstinye Campus. Today, Koç University feels rightfully proud of its elite graduates with leadership qualities who have reached respected positions everywhere in the country, its universal education and its illustrious academic staff who has earned respect through their scientific output.

**Celebrating a quarter century**

As Koç University reaches its 25th year in 2018, the Communications Office has coordinated activities to celebrate its journey toward becoming a leading research university. The program spans a year and a half, filled with a rich calendar
of events tailored for the Koç University community, including students, faculty, staff and alumni, prospective students and their families, national and international academia, and the public in general. In line with the University’s mission and vision, 25 events of different scales and types have been organized with contributions from the university units. The colleges have joined in on the planning for the celebratory activities, each presenting at least one project of its own. Each of the schools has chosen a topic for the 25th anniversary and designed an event to reflect the special occasion. The colleges and schools will share their knowledge and experience through a broad range of events, from panel sessions, colloquiums, and conferences to concerts, sports activities and exhibitions. Celebrations will come to an end on October 4, 2018, marking the 25th anniversary of the day that Vehbi Koç gave the University’s first lecture.

In order to communicate the 25th anniversary of the University, six key visual images have been created for the campaign. To highlight the University’s focus on science and research, these visuals are displayed at different locations across the campuses.

Furthermore, an anniversary film incorporating innovative technological features has been produced. The film reflects on scientific discoveries throughout history, as well as highlighting Koç University’s achievements in science and research. Also a 25th Anniversary website was launched, presenting a brief history of the University with quotes from members of the Koç Family and former presidents. The milestones section of the web page takes the visitor on a journey through Koç University’s 25-year history with photos and a list of its milestones. The website allows the Koç University community to share their valuable memories, stories, and photos for the future generations to have a glimpse of the first quarter of a “center of excellence.”

For more information: 25.ku.edu.tr

2003

The first students graduate from the Graduate School of Sciences and College of Health.

Graduate School of Social Sciences begins academic activities.

The first students graduate from the College of Engineering.

Center for Research on Globalization, Peace, and Democratic Governance (GLODEM) is founded.

Semahat Arsel Nursing Education and Research Center (SANERC) joins Koç University.

Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED) is founded.

2004
EVENTS OF THE
25TH YEAR
CELEBRATION

Time Capsule
September 10, 2017
To commemorate Koç University’s 25th anniversary, a new tradition was initiated that embraces all of the alumni, past, present and future. Commemorative ‘Time Capsules’ have been prepared for each graduating class and placed on the concrete ledge surrounding the ‘College Green’ grass area, thus establishing the ‘alumni pathway’, now extending from the bottom of the Administration building to the Henry Ford buildings. During the alumni homecoming event on September 10th, members of each class got together and placed mementos reminiscent of their time at Koç University inside the Time Capsules. All of the objects, including floppy disks, pajamas, photos, messages for future and all kinds of other memorabilia, were photographed and exhibited on the project web page.

College of Sciences Colloquium Series
November 7, 2017 - May 17, 2018
The Science Seminars, organized by the College of Sciences since the early days of Koç University, have been revised as part of the 25th anniversary events. The seminar series, renamed Science Colloquiums, are designed to appeal to a general audience and enable faculty members and students of different disciplines to interact with one another. The aim of Science Colloquiums is to increase interdisciplinary interaction and synergy, expand perspectives, and stimulate intellectual curiosity.

Milestones
2006
Koç University’s first PhD students graduate from the Graduate School of Sciences.

2007
Dr. Nusret-Semahat Arsel International Trade Law Application and Research Center (NASAMER) is founded.

2009
Professor Umran İnan is appointed President (2009-present).

2010
Koç University Office of Learning and Teaching (KOLT) is established.

Koç University Press is launched.
The Koç University Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science

November 22, 2017

The Koç University Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science, recognizing outstanding achievement in the fields of Administrative Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities and Law, was presented for the second time on November 22, 2017. The esteemed recipient, Prof. Daron Acemoğlu, was awarded for his groundbreaking contributions to labor and political economics as well as the macroeconomics of growth and development. Prof. Acemoğlu is Elizabeth and James Killian Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Prof. Daron Acemoğlu Seminar on ‘Robots and Jobs: Evidence from US Labor Markets’

November 22, 2017

The Koç University Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science recipient Prof. Daron Acemoğlu, regarded as one of the most influential economists around the world, has opened up new horizons with his arguments at the very intersection of technology, social and natural sciences, as well as with his theories about the roots of inequality, which is one of the most important issues in the 21st century. His timely and enlightening seminar “Robots and Jobs: Evidence from US Labor Markets,” which he gave at Sevgi Gönül Cultural Center, could not have been more fitting as one of the 25th anniversary events.

25 As a Pattern, Celebrating Koç University’s 25th Year with Typography

December 1, 2017 - April 2, 2018

Multimedia and Visual Arts (MAVA) 327 Typography students designed a series of patterns and graphics using the numeral 25, and applied them to products such as t-shirts, coasters, and tabletops. In December, the coasters were hung on a New Year’s tree in the Winter Garden. In January, the tables in the Winter Garden were decorated with the same designs. As a final step of the project, the designs were turned into limited edition t-shirts available for purchase at the KU Store.

2010

Koç University Gender Studies Center (KOC-KAM) is established.

Admissions to the School of Medicine begin.

2011

Anatolian Scholarship Program is launched.

Graduate School of Health Sciences is established.

2012

Surface Technologies Research Center (KUYTAM) is founded.

March 8, 2018

The retrospective exhibition, originally hosted at VEKAM, Ankara, was brought to Koç University Rumelifeneri Campus as part of the events in celebration of Koç University’s 25th Anniversary. The exhibition tells the life story of Vehbi Koç, the founder of Koç University, born and raised in Ankara, and documents how he was a pioneering entrepreneur and an influential figure in the development of modern Turkey. The exhibition is located on the ground floor of the ELC Building.

Prof. Yavuz Alangoya Memorial Conference

March 12, 2018

The Koç University Law School organized a conference in memory of Prof. Yavuz Alangoya (1938-2016), who was also a member of Koç University’s Board of Trustees during the founding of the University. The conference, titled “The Law of Procedure from Perspectives of Different Legal Disciplines: The Purpose and Effect of Adjudication,” was held in Founders’ Hall. Bertil Emrah Oder, Ali Cem Budak, Billur Yaltı, Nevhis Deren Yıldırım and Nur Centel discussed the purpose and effect of adjudication in constitutional complaint procedure, tax disputes, criminal law and civil procedure law.

‘Koç University 25th Year Traveling Lecturer’ Seminar Series

March 20 & 22, 2018

Neil Brodie’s talk, “Heritage on the Move: The Trafficking of Iraqi and Syrian Cultural Objects,” was held at ANAMED on March 20, and at VEKAM on March 22. The lecture presented an historical overview of the looting and trafficking of Iraqi and Syrian cultural objects from the time of the 1991 Gulf War to the present day. Dr. Brodie is a Senior Research Fellow on the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa project at the University of Oxford, School of Archaeology.

Milestones

2013

- TÜPRAŞ Energy Center (KUTEM) opens.
- Koç University Entrepreneurship Research Center (KWORKS) is established.

2014

- KURIOS, the popular science portal, launches.
- The Vehbi Koç and Ankara Studies Research Center (VEKAM) joins Koç University.

2015

- Koç University Center for Global Public Law (KÜREMER) established.
- Koç University Arçelik Research Center for Creative Industries (KUAR) is founded.
- Koç University & Stavros Niarchos Center for Late Antique and Byzantine Studies (GABAM) opens.
Sustainable Development Conference
March 26, 2018
In celebration of Koç University’s 25th Anniversary, the Sustainable Development Conference, held on March 26, was jointly hosted by the Koç University College of Administrative Sciences and Economics and the Graduate School of Business with support from the Corporate Governance Forum. Panelists, comprised of Koç University alumni and business leaders, discussed the United Nations’ sustainable development principles including economic inequality, innovation and sustainable consumption.

The 25th Anniversary Soccer Tournament
April 17-26, 2018
The 25th Anniversary Soccer Tournament welcomed students, staff and faculty members as well as Koç University alumni. Twenty-eight teams competed in the University Common for two weeks as fans cheered for their favorite teams throughout the tournament. After a fierce match between Turnuva Bros and Haddini Bilbao FC, the former won the cup, becoming the champion of the event.

Koç University 25th Anniversary Classical Turkish Music and Turkish Folk Music Performances
April 24 & 25, 2018
The choirs of the Koç University Classical Turkish Music and Turkish Folk Music Clubs performed at the Sevgi Gönül Cultural Center as part of Koç University’s 25th Anniversary celebrations. Both choirs included in their repertoires a selection of founder Vehbi Koç’s favorite songs. Both performances drew crowds and were greatly enjoyed by the audience.
‘The Child State of Mind: What We Learned from Early Years’ Panel Discussion

May 3, 2018

A panel discussion, “The Child State of Mind: What We Learned from Early Years”, was hosted by the College of Social Sciences and Humanities on May 3rd. The discussion was moderated by Professor Yankı Yazgan and covered topics such as language development, spatial skills, mathematics, and technology use. Key speakers of the panel were Prof. Aylin Künday, Dean of the Koç University College of Social Sciences and Humanities; Assoc. Prof. Tilbe Gökşun; Asst. Prof. Özlem Ece Demir Lira, from the University of Iowa, Department of Psychology; Gökçe Elif Baykal and Cansu Oranç, PhD students from the Koç University Graduate School of Social Sciences and Humanities.

‘The Intelligent Future’ Talks and Panels

May 4, 2018

The College of Engineering held a full-day conference, “The Intelligent Future,” including sessions on the future of cloud computing, human robot interaction, artificial intelligence, the rise of artificial emotional intelligence, and the digital age in the life sciences. Among the speakers were Koç University faculty members and prominent names from other universities in Turkey, the US, and Europe, making it a very fulfilling experience for the attendees.

Nurses Week Symposium

May 14-15, 2018

During Nurses Week, the School of Nursing held a symposium attended by highly recognized and influential names, both national and international, in their respective fields. The symposium was organized in collaboration with the Semahat Arsel Nursing Education & Research Center (SANERC) and Vehbi Koç Foundation healthcare institutions. The event, which focused on equal access to healthcare services, was broadcast live and watched in more than 20 cities in Turkey as well as reaching participants abroad in the US and Australia. Prof. Ayişe Karadağ, Dean of the School of Nursing, and Prof. Umran İnan, President of Koç University, presented Semahat Arsel, founder of SANERC, with a silver tray engraved with the names of all of the nursing associations in Turkey as a token of gratitude for her immense contributions to the nursing profession.

Concert by KUOrchestra featuring Kerem Görsev

May 15, 2018

To celebrate the University’s 25th Anniversary, Koç University Orchestra gave a special concert at Sevgi Gönül Cultural Center. The concert featured a wide repertoire of beautiful pieces of music and a special guest, Kerem Görsev, a world renowned Turkish jazz pianist and composer.
1st Science Fair on Campus

May 17, 2018

The College of Sciences and the College of Engineering in collaboration with the Communications Office hosted the first Koç University Science Fair on May 17th. The fair was a full day of different science exhibitions and hands-on activities which engaged visitors with experiments, demonstrations, and lab tours. Student volunteers and clubs also participated in the fair. High school students from Istanbul and Turkey visiting the campus had a chance to participate and enjoy themselves.

1st International Symposium on Cardiovascular Research

May 18, 2018

The School of Medicine, the College of Engineering, and the Koç University Research Center for Translational Medicine (KUTTAM) hosted the 1st International Symposium of Koç University on Cardiovascular Research, “Biodegradable Materials and Stem Cells In Cardiac Surgery”. The event gathered a host of names ranging from the Turkish government to researchers from Turkey and all around the world.

Upcoming Events

25 Years, 25 Memories Videos

April-October 2018

25 videos featuring inspiring anecdotes and memories by prominent figures who were present at the founding of Koç University, employees who have served the school since the early days, and academics who were once students of the university are produced. They will be posted on social media and the 25th Anniversary website.

The Commencement Ceremony

Koç University’s 24th commencement ceremony will be held on June 23. Prof. Andrew Hamilton, the President of New York University and Member of the Koç University Board of Overseers, will address the students as the commencement speaker of the ceremony.

İstinye Campus Reunion

Students, faculty members, employees, and alumni will come together at a reunion on the İstinye Campus, where Koç University was born in 1993. The gathering will be a good opportunity to reconnect, to remember the old days and share thoughts and feelings about the future.

Classical Music Concert

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary, a classical music concert will be held on the Rumelifeneri Campus.

Musical Club 25th Anniversary Special Performance

One of Koç University’s most prolific clubs, the Musical Club, will present a special performance to celebrate the University’s 25th Anniversary.

Kule Magazine 25th Anniversary Special Edition

Kule, Koç University’s official magazine, was born in 2002 and published until 2014. Marking the 25th anniversary, a special edition will be published, featuring highlights from all editions of Kule to shed light on the university’s history.

Koç University 25th Anniversary Celebration

The grand celebration for the 25th Anniversary of the founding of Koç University will take place on October 4, the day accepted as the birthday of the University when the founder Vehbi Koç delivered the “First Lecture”.

25th Anniversary Book: The Way of Science

The 25th Anniversary book, The Way of Science, will be published as part of the celebrations. The Way of Science is examining the five pillars, Curiosity, Passion, Change, Connection, and Legacy, that make up the core values Koç University has upheld since its founding.
Daron Acemoğlu is the Elizabeth and James Killian Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He received a BA in economics at the University of York, 1989, an MSc in mathematical economics and econometrics at the London School of Economics, 1990, and PhD in economics at the London School of Economics in 1992. He is fellow of the Science Academy of Turkey, the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the European Economic Association, the Econometric Society, and the Society of Labor Economists.

He has received numerous awards and fellowships, including the inaugural T. W. Shultz Prize from the University of Chicago in 2004, the inaugural Sherwin Rosen Award for outstanding contribution to labor economics in 2004, as well as the Distinguished Science Award from the Turkish Sciences Association in 2005, and the John von Neumann Award by the Rajk László College for Advanced Studies in Budapest, Hungary, in 2007. He was the recipient of the John Bates Clark Medal by the American Economic Association in 2005, awarded every two years to the best economist in the United States under the age of 40 by the American Economic Association; and the Erwin Plein Nemmers Prize in Economics, awarded every two years for works of lasting significance. He holds honorary doctorates from Boğaziçi University, the University of Utrecht, and the University of Athens.

In addition to scholarly articles, Daron Acemoğlu has published four books: Introduction to Modern Economic Growth; The Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, with James A. Robinson; Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty, with James A. Robinson; and The Principles of Economics, with David Laibson and John List.
Recognition for hard work and passion

The Koç University Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science award program was inaugurated in 2016 to recognize the achievements of the most promising minds of our nation, exceptional individuals of Turkish origin under the age of 50 who have achieved outstanding success and significant progress in the fields of Science, Engineering, and Health Sciences; and Administrative Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities and Law. The award of 2017 was presented to Professor Daron Acemoglu, in recognition of his groundbreaking contributions to labor and political economics as well as the macroeconomics of growth and development.
In 2016, Koç University inaugurated a new science award program in the name of Rahmi M. Koç, Chair of Koç University’s Board of Trustees for over two decades and now its Honorary Chairman, who created and nurtured a supportive environment for the University’s scientific endeavor across all disciplines. The Koç University Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science recognizes the achievements of the most promising minds of our nation, and exceptional individuals of Turkish origin under the age of 50 who have achieved outstanding success and significant progress in their field. The medal is awarded one year in the fields of Science, Engineering, and Health Sciences, and the subsequent year in Administrative Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities and Law. The academic work and studies of the nominees, determined by a selection committee of acclaimed academicians chaired by Koç University President Professor Umran İnan, are presented to the Koç University Board of Trustees, which makes the final decision.

The inaugural medal
The first Koç University Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science was presented to Professor Aydoğan Özcan in recognition of his outstanding fundamental scientific contributions in computational imaging, microscopy and photonics, and for the development of innovative mobile technologies for medical sensing and diagnosis.

The medal in its second year
In 2017, the recipient of the second Koç University Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science was Professor Daron Acemoğlu for his groundbreaking contributions to labor and political economics as well as the macroeconomics of growth and development.

Daron Acemoğlu, born in 1967 in Istanbul, attended school in the city, first at Private Aramyan Uncuyan Armenian Elementary School, and then at the prestigious Galatasaray High School. While still in high school, he became interested in economics and its relationship with politics. Acemoğlu says that his parents, although he lost both of them at a young age, had great influence in the formation of his personality and shaping his career. He initially considered attending university in Turkey at the time when his interest in economics and social sciences began to take form, but then decided to study in the UK. He studied economics and political science at York University, earning a BA in economics. After receiving an MSc in mathematical economics and econometrics at the London School of Economics, he completed his PhD studies at the same university. He is the Elizabeth and James Killian Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and lives in Newton just outside of Boston, USA with his wife and two sons. One of the biggest reasons for Acemoğlu’s interest in economics has been his desire to understand the key determining factors of society, development, and wealth. Since his youth, he has sought to understand such fundamental issues as why some countries are poor, fail to grow, or are unable to become democracies.
Professor Daron Acemoğlu: “Koç University is among the leading institutions that strive to preserve freedom and autonomy while remaining loyal to academic truth. It is very meaningful for me that an institution committed to research and knowledge finds me worthy of this distinguished award.”

Acemoğlu’s areas of research include political economy, economic development and growth, human capital theory, growth theory, innovation, search theory, network economics and learning. His recent research has focused on the political, economic, and social causes of differences in economic development across societies; the factors affecting the institutional and political evolution of nations; and how technology impacts growth and the distribution of resources and is itself determined by economic and social incentives.

Professor Acemoğlu is also the author of bestselling and award winning books. For his Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, written together with James A. Robinson, he received both the Woodrow Wilson and the William Riker prizes. Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty, also co-authored with James A. Robinson, was a New York Times bestseller in 2012.

In a ceremony on November 22, 2017, Acemoğlu was presented the medal by Rahmi M. Koç himself. In his acceptance speech, Professor Acemoğlu said, “I am delighted and honored to be awarded the Koç University Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science. Koç University is among the leading institutions that strive to preserve freedom and autonomy while remaining loyal to academic truth. It is very meaningful for me that an institution committed to research and knowledge finds me worthy of this distinguished award.”

Koç University Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science 2017
Jury Members

Prof. Umran İnan
President
Koç University

Prof. Dani Rodrik
Ford Foundation Professor of International Political Economy
Harvard University

Prof. Yasemin Soysal
Professor, Department of Sociology
Essex University

Prof. Seyla Benhabib
Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science and Philosophy
Yale University

Prof. Gülrü Necipoğlu Kafadar
Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art
Director of the Aga Khan Program of Islamic Architecture
Harvard University
Fatoş Gökşen is a Professor of Sociology at Koç University. She received her BA and MA degrees in Psychology from Boğaziçi University, and her PhD degree in Communications from The Annenberg School for Communications, University of Pennsylvania. Her areas of interest are sociology of education, social policy, and gender studies. Dr. Gökşen conducted several national and international research projects on women’s education and employment, labor market and education policies, and youth unemployment. She serves as the Director of the Koç University Core Program. She is the Founder and the Director of the Social Policy Center.
The Core: an exciting experience

The Core Program at Koç University provides an interdisciplinary foundation for all undergraduates, irrespective of their choice in major. Launched at the founding of the University, the Program initially focused on the history of civilizations. The year-long course was made compulsory for all students. In 2011, considering that the exam-based educational system applied in most institutions of secondary education in the country place insufficient emphasis on critical and analytical thinking skills, the program was expanded to provide a strong foundation of critical thought and cultural understanding. In 2017, major revisions were made to the Core Program. One of the key objectives of the change was to better explain to students why taking courses in the social and natural sciences and learning ethical and quantitative reasoning, interpretive understanding, and economic and strategic analysis are essential regardless of their major. Professor Fatos Göksen, Director of the Core Program, explains…
Because of the increased focus on careers, universities today are compelled to emphasize professional identities and skills at the expense of free inquiry, creativity, and exploration. The Core Program allows students to pursue their interests beyond the requirements of their majors. Courses taken in the Core Program give students the opportunity to expand their knowledge, explore new ideas, and learn skills that will help them become problem solvers in their civic and professional lives. The Program shows students that their individual actions have consequences on the local, national, and global levels. It invites them to evaluate the ethical implications of their actions. This education prepares them for civic engagement and enables them to respond critically and constructively to changes in social, cultural, scientific, technological, and other spheres. They are encouraged to question their duties and obligations, as well as the privileges, rights, and responsibilities of civic and ethical agency in the rapidly changing world.

Existing in a trans-disciplinary world
University curricula have been unable to escape the pressures of vocationalisation. In today’s world, over-specialization has become all too common as students expect to graduate with careers.

The core of the program
The Core Program took its present form in 2011 with the addition of seven knowledge areas:

- **Humanities (HUMS)** examines how different units of time, cultures, and issues are approached.
- **Social Sciences (SOSC)** addresses topics such as inequalities, the state, society, gender and culture.
- **Ethical Reasoning (ETHR)** focuses on legal philosophy, with the belief that “what we do, what we say, anything we do, anything we say has ethical implications.”
- **Empirical and Quantitative Reasoning (EQUR)** courses help students learn how to make decisions and draw inferences that matter in the evaluation of empirical data.
- **Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding (ASIU)** aims to provide skills in understanding and appreciating different art forms.
- **Economic and Strategic Analysis (ECSA)** focuses on economic concepts.
- **Natural Sciences (SCIE)** enhances the conceptual perception of the physical universe and the living systems pertaining to scales of space, time, and energy.
The lines between the academic and business worlds have become blurred and interdisciplinary and even transdisciplinary careers have become the norm. Students feel pressured to learn a profession when the lines between professions are becoming less distinct; This phenomenon is also happening between disciplines in academia.

With the Core Program, students learn to engage in an interdisciplinary dialogue and are able to observe how other disciplines approach their areas of study. Dialogue using the methods, instruments, and language of different areas of study is critical because at the root of the most contemporary problems we see this lack of understanding the value of dialogue.

Globalization has further complicated the situation, leading to both an unprecedented level of interdependence and a fragmentation of moral, political, economic, and social questions. Today’s graduates have to negotiate this difficult landscape.

The Core Program provides students with skills to navigate in this difficult terrain. They learn how to approach issues critically, and develop a deeper level of cultural and scientific understanding. Such perspective enables them to transcend vocational concerns and expand their intellectual curiosity.

**Examples from the world and Turkey**
The Core Program originated in the

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**The Core Program envisions a Koç University graduate who:**

- understands historical, cultural, and philosophical complexity of the world in which we live;
- understands the ethical dimensions of what they do and what they say;
- understands global interdependence, including economic, political, psychological, socio-cultural, historical, and scientific forces;
- is able to conduct research-based inquiry, including the articulation of complex disciplinary and interdisciplinary problems; effective evaluation and analysis of primary and secondary sources, and integration of relevant information;
- recognizes and democratically participates in processes which improve the civic life of communities;
- effectively communicates complex knowledge and ideas through written, oral, visual, and technological media.
United States in the wake of the First World War, when the near total loss of civilization led to a greater appreciation of its value. Institutions such as Columbia University began to create programs featuring courses on Western civilization, largely based on canonical texts in an approach known as Foundational Courses. These programs have evolved overtime to meet the challenges of modern society.

Other Turkish universities implement similar programs, to various degrees of success. However, as far as I know Koç University offers one of the most detailed and comprehensive formats.

Is it a must?
Every student at Koç University is required to take one course from each of the seven knowledge areas of the Core Program. With more than ten courses in each of the seven different areas, the program offers diversity. Ideally, students should complete these courses in the first two years of study and then take other courses to build on this foundation. However, Koç University follows a flexible policy in this respect; students are free to complete their courses during their entire university education without any limitation in terms of time. It is common for students take elective courses from the Core Program beyond the requisite number.

An extensive program
The Core program is rather an extensive program, with 130 sections, 70 full-time academics, 70 instructors serving 8,000 students. Our Core Committee, made up of 16 members representing all of the Colleges and seven knowledge areas of the program, oversees the interdisciplinary, integrated, and synoptic content of the courses.

Explaining change
Many students enter institutions of higher education to acquire vocations. For this reason, the Core Program faces resistance from students who have difficulty understanding its importance. For example, a student studying Mechanical Engineering may not comprehend why she/he is required to take a course on Egyptian History. Or a student who wants to be a financial analyst may resist taking a course on Legal Philosophy. They may have difficulty comprehending that in our global world, social, economic, cultural, scientific and political issues are increasingly interdependent.
The Koç University Core Program enables students to create their own educational paths. Focusing on one area of study can create multiple benefits for an individual when supplemented with other courses.

It takes some time for them to see that the Core Program is a means to develop their intellectual, moral, artistic, and civic capacities as independent thinkers.

In 2017, our efforts to explain the Core Program included a new website and a series of posters. We invited students from the Departments of Media and Visual Arts and Computer Science, and especially from those who had already completed the Core Program, to get involved.

**Evaluating the effect**

It is too early to see the effects of the changes made to the Program in 2017 on both students and the faculty. We have comparison data from the earlier years that will allow us to assess the difference that the new understanding of the Core Program has made in the perceptions of our students. We will continue to collect data regularly in our effort to create a curriculum that offers the best possible education to our students.

For more information: core.ku.edu.tr
Dr. İhsan Solaroğlu is currently working as a neurosurgeon and a faculty member at the Koç University, Department of Neurosurgery. His secondary appointment is Adjunct Professor of Basic Science Research at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, California. With a clinical interest in neurovascular surgery and neuro-oncology, Dr. Solaroğlu’s research focuses on hematopoietic growth factors in neuro-protection and neuro-oncology. Dr. Solaroğlu has received numerous awards (including the Prof. Raja Award for Young Neurosurgeon 2007, and the AACNS Young Neurosurgeon Award 2007) by different societies. He serves as a member on advisory boards and as a reviewer of several scientific journals, including Stroke, Translational Stroke Research, Experimental Neurology, and Neurological Research. Currently, he is the Associate Dean for Research at the School of Medicine and the Director of the Koç University Research Center for Translational Medicine. Dr. Solaroğlu is the founder and former President of the International Basic Neurosurgery Courses and the President of SeENS Neurosurgery Courses. He is a member of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies Neuro-Oncology Committee and Neurovascular Disorders Committee and served as the Scientific Chairman of the 2017 WFNS World Congress.
Breaking down the barriers between disciplines

Koç University aims to create a research ecosystem in which translational medical studies can be carried out with a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach in order to develop biomedical devices and other innovative products. KUTTAM, the Koç University Research Center for Translational Medicine, established with a budget of TL 33.5 million, the largest funded project in the University’s history, is poised to play a leadership role in that ecosystem. With the support of the Ministry of Development, the Center contributes to the commercialization of innovative biomedical products by bringing researchers together with potential investors. KUTTAM Director Professor İhsan Solaroğlu tells us how the Center plans to do that and more...
With today’s improved access to healthcare services and rising levels of prosperity, together with an aging population, the need for medicines as well as biomedical devices is also increasing. Biomedical devices include everything from heart systems implanted into the body to the scanning and imaging devices used for diagnostic purposes, as well as patient monitors and anesthetic instruments. Some nano-scale materials, such as smart systems that carry medicine in amounts invisible to the eye, also are considered within this scope. Turkey, as a user, is among the top 20 countries in the global biomedical device industry. Between 2010 and 2015, the amount spent on these devices rose from USD1.9 billion to USD2.7 billion. However, Turkey, as a market of this scale, imports 85% of its biomedical devices and produces only 15%. The materials produced are mostly non-innovative products with low added value, such as serum hangers, patient monitors and beds.

Turkey lags behind in the biomedical field and has been unable to make products with higher added value for a number of reasons, from the lack of qualified people trained in this field to insufficient levels of cooperation between universities and industry, and the absence of an interdisciplinary tradition of research. The 10th Development Plan Report (2014-2018) by the Ministry of Development as well as the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBITAK) reports on national science and technology emphasize Turkey’s absolute desire and need to produce its own biomedical devices. It became clear that in order for Turkey to reach these goals, a center like KUTTAM, where translational medical studies are pursued, was essential.

Seeing this gap, KUTTAM was established to create a research ecosystem to develop biomedical devices and innovative products with the support of the Ministry of Development and a budget of TL 33.5 million, the largest fund in Koç University’s 25-year history. The center will not only contribute, even if indirectly, to Turkey economically, but it will also help increase the prosperity of the world through research and the production of innovative biomedical devices.

**Interdisciplinary collaborations**

Today, the ability to create innovative products for the healthcare field requires not only medicinal professionals, but also engineers, life and social scientists, and even economists and business people to collaborate and carry out joint studies. A research center like KUTTAM provides the environment for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research in the field of biomedicine, removing the barriers between disciplines to create an ecosystem of synergistic potential. At this point, as we train the qualified human resource of the future, we take into
consideration the necessity of equipping our students with different perspectives, not just their department's point of view. KUTTAM brings doctors and scientists from different disciplines together to create a more effective and efficient environment that will enable the design and production of biomedical devices to help with the diagnosis, monitoring, and treatment of diseases.

University-industry cooperation
The growth potential of the biomedical field in Turkey attracts the interest of investors in Turkey. First, the defense industry of the country is advanced. Countries with strong defense industries attain prominent positions in the biomedical field when an ecosystem is created. Countless medical devices have been developed within the defense industry and the medical aspect integrated later. The second advantage is that as a country with a growing population, Turkey’s levels of healthcare consumption is ever on the increase; healthcare spending no longer is considered a luxury. Encouraged by these facts, investors know innovative products will be developed to meet the growing demand.

Bringing together investors with scientists is only one of the services that KUTTAM offers. By establishing cooperation between the university and industry, the Center aims to develop improved, or much more innovative, versions of already commercialized products, thereby creating for the global market. Naturally, Koç University Hospital greatly empowers KUTTAM, and in return, this collaborative environment that complements the clinical study part of the research will propel Koç University to the lead in Turkey and to a significant position in the international arena.

Ongoing discussions
Still in its first year, KUTTAM has already seen important cooperation between the university and industry. Within the scope

KUTTAM at a Glance

| TL 33,500,000 | 39 |
| Founding Capital | Faculty Members |
| 6,500 m² | 53 |
| 3,500 m² | PhD Students |
| 3,000 m² | Post Doctoral Students |
| within the Rumelifeneri Campus | As of June 2018 |
| within Koç University Hospital |

Laboratories
- Molecular Medicine
- Cellular and Molecular Imaging
- Omics
- Biomechanics & Endurance
- Motion Analysis and Cognition
- Nano-scale Prototype
- Animal Research
As of summer 2018, the Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Laboratory at Boğaziçi University, which the Suna and İnan Kıraç Foundation supported for many years, also will join KUTTAM. The inclusion of an athematic specimen laboratory established with the support of a foundation in a state university within the KUTTAM organization is an important example of the transformation of a long-term collaborative project into a concrete unification.

of such cooperation, in 2017 clinical studies of a mobile EKG monitoring system device, Arçelik’s first product in the healthcare industry, were conducted at the Center. Inventram, a high technology investment firm cofounded by Koç Group and Mitsui&Co, chose KUTTAM as the site for clinical tests of some of its biomedical devices. Another achievement of KUTTAM is the initiation of a cooperation with Max Planck Institute, a leading research institute in Europe and Germany.

The journey of an invention
The commercialization of an innovative biomedical product developed at KUTTAM starts at Koç University’s Technology Transfer Office. The Office provides the support needed for the incubation and establishment of a business for commercialization from start-up to spin-off. Our next goal is to create an industrial advisory board
involving all stakeholders, including the Social Security Administration, the Ministry of Health, the Medical Devices Agency, and ASELSAN. We intend to bring together our researchers in a consortium with both the representatives of the major national or international players of the medical device industry and investors before new products reach the prototype phase. Thus, some of the funds for the research will be obtained from investors and once a product is patented, it will be possible to commercialize it rapidly.

Interactive, transparent workspaces
KUTTAM was conceived as a center that will keep its doors open 24/7 to researchers within the organization as well as those from other universities and public institutions. The laboratories and meeting rooms on the Rumelifeneri Campus, which will be opened in June, are designed with completely transparent walls to allow the efficient use of resources while maximizing interaction and sparking interest.

The Center has seven laboratories. Some of these have facilities on both campuses, depending on the needs of projects. As of summer 2018, the Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Laboratory at Boğaziçi University, which the Suna and İnan Kıraç Foundation has supported for many years, also will join KUTTAM. The inclusion of a thematic specimen laboratory established with the support of a foundation in a state university within the KUTTAM organization is an important example of transforming a collaboration launched and developed to date into a concrete unification.

For more information: kuttam.ku.edu.tr

Benefits of KUTTAM

- As a first in Turkey, important research groups in the fields of medicine, science, and engineering will come together under one roof, allowing integrated research from product to patient.
- Advanced research will provide significant contributions to building national and universal knowledge.
- Highly effective scientific publications will be made available as well as national and international patents obtained.
- Turkey will be supported in its move toward a system that will enable the production of high value-added products, offer products and services to the global market, and meet a larger portion of the domestic demand for medical devices, subsequently helping to reduce the current deficit in this field.
- Maximizing university-industry cooperation for the production of biomedical devices will pave the way to the development of innovative biomedical devices with high added value in Turkey.
- Effective cooperation will result in the transfer of technology to industry and increase the international competitiveness of Turkish companies.
- In the medium and longer term, Turkey’s position will rise in the international biomedical products market while the introduction of new solutions to healthcare problems in our country will be possible.
- Well-trained undergraduate and graduate students will contribute to improving Turkey’s global knowledge-based competitiveness. This will serve to ensure the development and sustainability of the healthcare industry in Turkey.
- All these activities will contribute to national technology know-how, economy and social life.
M. İrşadi Aksun is a Professor of Electrical and Electronics Engineering at Koç University. He received his BS and MS degrees in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Middle East Technical University in 1981 and 1983, respectively, and his PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1990. His research interests include numerical methods for electromagnetics and optics, printed circuits and antennas, and photonics. From 1990 to 1992, Dr. Aksun worked as a postdoctoral fellow in the Electromagnetic Communication Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. From 1992 to 2001, he was on the faculty of Electrical and Electronics Engineering at Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey. In 2001, he joined the faculty of Electrical and Electronics Engineering at Koç University as professor and served as the Dean of the College of Engineering from 2004 to 2009. Since September 2009, he has served as the Vice President for Research and Development at Koç University. Dr. Aksun is the recipient of the TÜBİTAK Encouragement Award in 1994, TÜBİTAK Science Award in 2007, and the principle member of the Turkish Academy of Sciences since 2012.
Focus on Turkey: Synergy in Research

A true research university in 21st century has to be built on three pillars: human resources, infrastructure, and network. Since its foundation, Koç University has aspired to be one of the world class research universities with all its programs and centers. Towards this goal, the contributions of the Suna and İnan Kıraç Research Center for Mediterranean Civilizations (AKMED) and the Vehbi Koç Ankara Studies Research Center (VEKAM), together with the Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED), the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for Late Antique and Byzantine Studies (GABAM), and the Mustafa V. Koç Maritime Archaeology Research Center (KUDAR), have been instrumental in realizing excellence in the fields of archaeology, history and art history. Koç University’s investment into the cultural heritage of Turkey enriches both the university itself and Turkey as a whole. Professor İrşadi Aksun, Vice President for Research and Development, speaks about these endeavors.
We see that universities today can be roughly divided into two categories: those that primarily teach and those that place the emphasis on research and innovation, even in teaching. While almost all universities consider themselves in the latter category, being a true research university requires three key ingredients: qualified human resources, in the form of faculty, researchers, students (both undergraduate and graduate); infrastructure, in the form of laboratories, Internet services, and library with materials available in both print and digital formats; and the network of universities, research centers, and companies. In the 21st century, impactful research is mostly done on interdisciplinary topics with a diverse group of collaborators. Therefore, all of the stakeholders of a university need to be a part of a network. Koç University, with these three elements in place, takes its place among those universities that use their resources effectively, engaging and inspiring everyone on campus, from students to faculty members.

A long journey
This year Koç University celebrates its 25th anniversary. For the last decade, we have made a name for ourselves by pursuing the realization of our vision of becoming a full-fledged research university. With the Suna and İnan Kıraç Research Center for Mediterranean Civilizations (AKMED) and the Koç University Ankara Studies Research Center (VEKAM), both of which joined Koç University in the recent years, the Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED), the Koç University Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for Late Antique and Byzantine Studies (GABAM), and the Koç University Mustafa V. Koç Maritime Archaeology Research Center (KUDAR), we have become a world-class university in the fields of archeology, history, and art history.

Lasting impact
The resolution to unite AKMED and VEKAM under one roof with Koç University has improved their visibility and sustainability, paved the way for higher impact research, and created a lasting synergy. As a result of the merger, Koç University gained five very important research centers in the fields of archeology, history, and art history. These centers provide ample resources that help attract prominent researchers in the field to Koç University, and in turn, help extend the research network, which is vital for a research university.

Hosting conferences with speakers invited from abroad, participating in international speaking engagements, and providing training to governmental ministries and the community at large in subjects ranging from museum studies to numismatics, Koç University makes an important contribution to society.

Contributions
Under normal conditions, it takes at least 30 years to build a reputation and improve the recognition of research centers to see their true impact in the international arena. However, ANAMED has already gained worldwide recognition. Fellows and researchers from the world’s major universities are invited and accommodated within Koç University during their stay and are supported with access to funds and infrastructure. As they get to know the
The youthful dynamism of the university influences AKMED and VEKAM as it does our other research centers. This energy will be carried forward for decades to come.

University, İstanbul, and Turkey through their studies, they also draw attention to Turkey. VEKAM in Ankara and AKMED in Antalya carry out similar activities. The long-term impact of these institutions is clear already. They represent a profound investment in Turkey, its infrastructure, and history.

**From East to West**

By positioning these research centers within the University, we are able to encompass Turkey as a whole and increase its visibility in the international arena. ANAMED focuses on Anatolian civilizations while VEKAM deals with Ankara, GABAM covers the Byzantine era, AKMED the Mediterranean, and KUDAR our seas. There is no aspect that we don’t address in Turkey and the surrounding waters. With this strategy, Koç University will be the leading university in the world in these areas.

**University equals youth**

University equals youth. Young people are creative and entrepreneurial, able to take risks... The driving force of a university is not its faculty, but its students. We steer students with our knowledge, but they take the excitement further. Unless the students are excited and engaged, universities are not able to produce anything. The important thing is this unity. The dynamism of the Koç University’s youth reflects on AKMED and VEKAM, as it does on our other research centers. With the passion of youth, VEKAM and AKMED will continue to inspire for decades to come.

**Enhanced communication**

The main objective of a true research center is to create a synergy within the university between researchers and academics in order to establish a network with other centers around the world. Bringing together faculty members is no easy task. They are “kings” in their respective fields; they generally do not seek to establish networks with anyone. A research center forms a platform for the establishment of networks with its infrastructure, provides prestige with its reputation, and creates a sense of belonging. Through its students, meetings, and seminars, it brings people together. More dialogue creates more communication channels, allowing scientists from different disciplines to collaborate. By supporting research centers, universities promote interdisciplinary research.

**The birth of a research center**

I would also like to give an example of how a research center is established. We are in the process of founding a center for research in the field of artificial intelligence. Nearly 30 academics from different departments of our university are working independently in this area. Normally, it would be quite difficult to bring them together. I gathered them together, drew their attention to a grant application offered by the Ministry of Development, and guided them toward submitting a proposal. I assured them that whether the grant came through or not, we as the University would support them. They joined forces to come up with a topic that would create synergy. The new center will be engaged in interdisciplinary and international studies...

**Strategic centers**

Strategic centers, as a way of conveying the knowledge of universities to the community and educating society, can also serve as research centers. The Center for Gender Studies at Koç University (KOÇ-KAM) and the Economic Research Forum (EAF), supported by the Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD), are such examples. KOÇ-KAM seeks to have an impact on gender studies through research while the EAF aims to raise economic awareness and to disseminate the university’s knowledge by offering easy-to-understand publications to the public.
Vehbi Koç founded the Koç University Vehbi Koç Ankara Studies Research Center (VEKAM) in 1994, in his family summer home in Keçiören, Ankara. In 2007, the Ankara Orchard House was renovated and opened as a museum. As part of the Vehbi Koç Foundation, it functioned as a cultural center and non-governmental institution. In 2014, it was transferred to Koç University as a research center. Scientific research and academic scholarship became the main focus of all activities.

Since its establishment, VEKAM’s primary objective has been to engage in and support interdisciplinary research and academic studies on social, economic and urban history, culture, and the cultural heritage of Ankara and its environs. The Center also provides coordination and collaboration with national and international entities, and the resources and environment needed for studies on the city and surrounding area. It contributes to the development of a national and international academic dialogue about Ankara and the region and ensures that research and applied projects reach wider audiences.

Activities organized by VEKAM are versatile, ranging from national and international symposiums, panels, and conferences to workshops, public lectures and exhibitions. The Center also publishes books that are of reference standard on Ankara. Through its award program, every year five researchers receive grants for projects that are evaluated by a panel of referees. Ankara Studies, a blind peer review journal published by the Center, provides a platform for research and opinion articles about Ankara and its environs.

2017 was a busy year. VEKAM organized one national and two international symposia, five panels, six exhibitions, and six monthly public lectures. It distributed six research and three library awards, published one book in Turkish and one international conference proceedings and two issues of Ankara Studies.

VEKAM’s achievements were recognized with the 2017 Outstanding Service Award given by Koç University, the Golden Award by the Turkish Federation of Philatelic Associations, and the Special Jury Award by the Turkish Chamber of Architects.

Looking forward, in Fall 2018, VEKAM will collaborate with the Ankara Social Sciences University, CETOBAC/EHESS (Paris), and IFBO (Beirut) on a summer school program on the analysis of Ottoman documents. There will be an International Symposium on the cultural and social life in Anatolia during the Ottoman period as a continuing project with the Cambridge University Skilliter Center for Ottoman Studies, Newnham College.

Prof. Filiz Yenisehirlioglu
Director, VEKAM

“VEKAM is the front page of Koç University in Ankara, a representative that has acquired academic credibility and a sound reference point for all activities concerning Ankara.”
The affiliation of AKMED with Koç University has enhanced the appeal and influence of the Center. The efforts to open up internationally have gained momentum as the number of events and visibility of the center has increased.

The vision of the Koç University Suna and İnan Kıraç Research Center for Mediterranean Civilizations (AKMED), which was founded in 1996 and joined Koç University in 2016, is to become a leading research center working on the Mediterranean World with a special focus on history, archaeology, art history, ancient languages, architectural history, cultural heritage and respective sciences. AKMED operates with the mission of pioneering and supporting national and international academic research and studies in these disciplines.

The Center organizes regular annual conferences and seminars with the participation of expert speakers as well as symposiums, colloquiisms, and workshops attended by scholars and researchers. Adalya, the center’s annual journal, is an international periodical indexed by Arts and Humanities. Anmed, which provides information on the archaeological excavations, field surveys and museum studies carried out in the Mediterranean Turkey, is also published annually, although only in digital format. The Center offers scholarships and supports library research for undergraduate and graduate students and researchers to assist their studies. This support has been extended to post-doc research this year. As a strong reference point in its field, AKMED also aims to raise awareness among its target audience and stakeholders through social responsibility projects, and to maintain its impact at the highest level possible by collaborating with them.

Adding Koç University’s name to its identity has contributed positively to AKMED’s reputation. As a center affiliated with Koç University, AKMED’s efforts to establish itself as an internationally-recognized research center have gained momentum. We have signed a memorandum of understanding with the German Archaeological Institute, one of Germany’s most prestigious institutions. The number of events and our visibility has increased. We are holding events with academic content in particular, as well as symposiums, colloquiisms, and workshops more frequently. Our summer school and certificate programs also enhance the appeal and influence of our Center.

For AKMED, 2017 was a productive year with many firsts. We organized the History of Money and Numismatics Summer School and offered the first certificate programs on the culture, history, and archaeology of Antalya. We also launched The Mediterranean Studies Series, a series of scientific monographs that will fill an important gap in the fields of archaeology and history. Last, the bookstore at the entrance of the Kaleiçi Museum opened in June 2017.

Our goal is to make 2018 a year of more firsts for AKMED. We aim to increase recognition of the center not only in Turkey, but internationally in the next few years...

Prof. Öğuz Tekin
Director, AKMED
Bertil Emrah Oder, the Dean and Professor of Constitutional Law at Koç University Law School, received her PhD in both public and private law from the University of Cologne. She holds the UNESCO Chair for Gender Equality and Sustainable Development. Prof. Oder’s research focuses on gender studies, comparative constitutional law, European Union law, and international human rights law. She is also the President of the Law Schools Global League. She was selected as the Henry Morris Lecturer of International and Comparative Law in 2012 by the Chicago Kent College of Law. She is a full member of the Science Academy. She has served as international consultant of the UN Women and Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and published four books, dozens of articles, editorials, and book chapters on various subjects in public law with a focus on constitutionalism, human rights, and judicial review. Fluent in English, German, and Turkish, Prof. Oder also holds LLB and MA/LLM degrees from İstanbul University and Marmara University.
Combating gender-based stereotypes

The Center for Gender Studies at Koç University (KOÇ-KAM) is an interdisciplinary research and application center established with the aim of combating gender-based stereotypes in line with Koç University’s approach focused on people and human development. Through KOÇ-KAM, which focuses on women studies and women’s empowerment as well as all gender-based inequalities, several projects, research, and awareness-raising activities are conducted both at and outside Koç University. Prof. Bertil Emrah Oder, KOÇ-KAM Director, talks about the Center...
Even though economic development seems to be more important in the world, civilization will advance only if human development is achieved. It would be out of the question for an institution with a progressive approach like Koç University to ignore women’s studies and gender-based inequalities. In 2009, following a study conducted with the participation of faculty members and stakeholders involved in women studies at the university, it was resolved that establishing a center would enable structure and organization. A consensus was reached regarding visibility and effectiveness. The Center for Gender Studies at Koç University (KOÇ-KAM) was established in 2010 to conduct research on gender-based inequalities in Turkey and to create public impact. The late Prof. Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı exerted great effort to transform this organization into a center. Her academic excellence and all the outcomes of her contributions to society both reflected on the activities and determined the vision of KOÇ-KAM.

**Focusing on representation and participation**

In addition to being a research center, KOÇ-KAM is an application center with respect to transforming research outputs into social impact. The main fields of study include in-depth analyses of the issues of women’s representation and participation. Rather than focusing on representation or participation alone, we believe in the co-existence of both at KOÇ-KAM. We try to prioritize participation more in combating gender-based stereotypes. For this purpose a research program focused on the social, political, and economic aspects of gender-based stereotypes has been established.

**Three-pronged study**

Studies on social aspects concentrate on equality within the family, address the issues of preventing violence against women, creating equality between spouses, and building parent-child relationships based on equality. Research is conducted on political parties and other political participation tools in terms of equality and participation issues. We generally perceive participation in this respect as participating in decision-making processes. Employment is another issue that receives scrutiny. In international reports, these three issues are indicated among priority areas in terms of gender equality in Turkey. Therefore, we believed that devoting particular attention to the priority areas, which the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) stated in its observations regarding Turkey, would be the right choice and focused our work accordingly.

**Cooperation with UNESCO**

The Koç University UNESCO Chair on Gender Equality and Sustainable Development, founded in 2016 within KOÇ-KAM in the name of Prof. Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı, creates a driving force for sustainable development through gender equality and provides an environment that brings international stakeholders together. Within the scope of research...
grant programs with significant public impact carried out in cooperation with the UNESCO Chair, and as part of a fund open to all in Turkey established with the support of Vehbi Koç Foundation, research is conducted on women studies and gender equality. We also introduced an award program, the outputs of which were published as a project.

At KOÇ-KAM, in addition to conducting research, other meaningful studies are carried out on influencing, shaping, and steering decision-making processes, and policies that address women and gender equality. One of those was a legislation survey by UN Women, which Prof. Kağıtçıbaşı strongly supported. The Commission on Gender Equality (KEFEK), established in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey to draft legislation on women studies, was the main beneficiary of our three-year survey.

The legacy of Prof. Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı
The Koç University Human Development Research Award, conceived by Prof. Kağıtçıbaşı, celebrates her dedication to women and gender equality. The award program supports young researchers in the field of human development through promotion and recognition of their work.

Koç University has redefined this award within the UNESCO chair to include women’s studies, gender studies, and human development studies in general. To date, the award has been presented twice, to four researchers.

Awareness-raising activities at the university
The focus on gender equality extends to events organized at the Center as well as on campus. Activities at Koç University include an online training program designed to prevent sexual harassment on campuses and raise awareness of this issue. We share this training, which is mandatory for all students, faculty and staff, with other universities as well. We draw attention to this issue through panel sessions and events we organize at universities on critically important days.

Who is Prof. Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı?
Prof. Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı (1940-2017), Founder and Director (2010-2017) of KOÇ-KAM, was a highly accomplished scientist and a true humanist. After completing her studies at Wellesley College and the University of California, Berkeley, Prof. Kağıtçıbaşı began her academic career at the Middle East Technical University Department of Psychology, and continued at Boğaziçi University. In 1995, she joined Koç University, where she carried out her exemplary research. She was the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1998 to 2001. As a member of the Mother Child Education Foundation (AÇEV), Prof. Kağıtçıbaşı’s work with early childhood education and mother support programs are among her most commendable services.
such as March 8th, International Women’s Day, or November 25th, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. We carry out activities not only at the Center, but also in student clubs to emphasize women studies and gender equality issues.

With the Koç University Gender Studies Certificate Program, we provide an opportunity for the students to build on their knowledge and expertise by taking courses on gender equality. Our aim with the program is to offer critical reflections in the humanities and social sciences on gender issues. The program has been available for seven years and it is currently open to all students from different disciplines. Students also have the chance to view gender equality issue from a scientific and objective perspective and to see that science can create solutions by participating in different research projects carried out at KOÇ-KAM. Projects include faculty member-led reading groups focused on gender equality and one-to-one activities with students.

**Four of seven deans are women**

In 2017, the number of women deans at Koç University rose to four. Even though gender equality seems to have been achieved universally in academia in Turkey in line with the Republic’s modernization philosophy, there are still few women in management positions at higher education institutions. The fact that four of the seven deans are women and the representation of women in the university committees and boards is significant shows that representation at the level of administration is in favor of women at Koç University.

The commitment to women in leadership extends to the fields of science and engineering. KOÇ-KAM also promotes Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), an issue that UNESCO emphasizes to increase the presence of women in these areas. At Koç University, the achievements of women in engineering and basic sciences are indisputable in terms of quality while their presence has been ensured quantitatively at the university in terms of both representation and participation in decision-making processes. The KOÇ-KAM Executive Board also has a female member from the engineering faculty.

We have attained a prestigious position in the field of international women studies through effective publications of individual and collective research results. The training program that KOÇ-KAM developed with Koç Holding for the HeForShe campaign to promote gender equality in companies continued last...
year. The program was implemented together with AÇEV using the training the trainer model, reaching a wide audience from senior and middle management to dealers’ employees. This training program, which is available only in online format at UNESCO, was enriched with a communication model that included different and flexible elements such as face-to-face sessions, case studies, discussions, and meetings.

**Equal Vocabulary**

Last year, we also partnered with Arçelik to raise awareness about the effects of discrimination and sexism on our language and to create an equal vocabulary for an equal society. Arçelik’s creative and innovative app called “Eşit Sözlük” (Equal Vocabulary) consists of a dictionary and a keyboard. Once the “Eşit Sözlük” app is installed in the mobile device, any sexist, demeaning words used against men and women while messaging are caught by the app and corrected by the keyboard. KOÇ-KAM provided consultancy for this project. Furthermore, we have supported a short film by a Media and Visual Arts student that addresses the issues in the television sector that will be shown soon.

**Women: Leaders of the future**

Launched last year, Women Leaders of the Future as Role Models, brings together women leaders in their respective industries from agriculture and banking to finance and education with women who aspire to be or are fit to become leaders in these fields. The project, within the scope of the Dutch fund Matra Program, aims at combating gender-based stereotypes by focusing on occupations such as taxi driver and electrical and electronics technician, sectors in which women are traditionally less represented, and seeks to empower women in these fields. Sharing leadership and women’s experiences is key for this project, the motto of which is “What is leadership about? Leadership is raising new leaders.” Participants who are trained in leadership receive a certificate when they complete the program. Once the project has been completed, we will follow the impact of the project with monitoring activities and reporting. We plan to maintain our relationship with both mentors and mentees in the longer term and test the effects of this change.

**Supporting all gender studies**

Our activities go beyond women’s studies and women’s empowerment and encompass all gender-based inequalities with programs that support research on gender identity and sexual orientation. KOÇ-KAM also conducts studies on discrimination issues caused by gender identity and sexual orientation. The activities in this area are usually in the form of providing funding.

**Future plans**

KOÇ-KAM has a busy schedule ahead. One of our future plans is to organize an event next December in partnership with UN Women and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law to launch an initiative with public impact.

As our activities will continue nonstop we will keep on working hard on combating gender-based stereotype-types.

**For more information:** kockam.ku.edu.tr
A. Levent Demirel earned his BSc degree in Electrical Engineering and Physics at Boğaziçi University in 1989, and PhD degree in Physics at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in 1996. He was a post-doctoral researcher at the FOM Institute AMOLF in Amsterdam in 1996-1997. He joined the Koç University Chemistry Department as faculty member in 1997 and was promoted to full professor in 2008. Currently, he is the Dean of the College of Sciences and Director of Graduate School of Sciences & Engineering. He received the TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) Young Scientist Award in 1999, the TÜBA (Turkish Academy of Sciences) Young Scientist Award in 2001, and Werner von Siemens Excellence Award in 2003. His current research interests are in the field of surface and polymer physical chemistry.
Stimulating intellectual curiosity

The Science Colloquia date back to Koç University’s early years, when they were known as Science Seminars. Last year, as part of Koç University’s 25th anniversary events, they were expanded to increase the synergy between disciplines. The Science Colloquia demonstrate that seeking answers to key questions with major impact is possible only through an interdisciplinary approach. Professor Levent Demirel, Dean of the College of Sciences and Director of Graduate School of Sciences and Engineering, discusses the Colloquia...
Until 2008, the College of Sciences and the College of Social Sciences and Humanities operated as the College of Arts and Sciences. The Science Seminars, which we now call Science Colloquiums, organized in the early years appealed only to faculty members and students interested in the disciplines on which they focused. For instance, mathematicians would most likely not attend a seminar if it was about chemistry. People would comment that the seminar topics were too specific and that participants from other disciplines had difficulty understanding the content. There was also demand for distinguished local and international speakers. As the university grew and the College of Sciences and Humanities was split, the feedback from participants revealed a need to redefine the Science Seminar concept. Exchanging ideas with faculty members indicated that the general opinion was that the events should be organized in the form of exciting discussions and talks that would increase interdisciplinary synergy, expand perspectives, and stimulate intellectual curiosity.

**Series of seminars**

Seminars on respective topics of all departments had already become established and routine at the College of Sciences. The Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Molecular Biology and Genetics, and Mathematics had held regular seminars on specific topics in their field with great success. But we were lacking seminars that would appeal to a general audience and enable faculty members and students of different disciplines to interact with one another. With this idea in mind, we decided to turn the Science Seminars into a series of seminars by bringing them together as Science Colloquiums. We started working to invite speakers who were experts in their respective fields, well-known, and able to appeal to a general audience. In February 2017, we organized our first Colloquium. This was followed by a second seminar in May, third and fourth seminars in November, and fifth and sixth in February and May of this year.

**Engaging topics and speakers**

When choosing a topic and a speaker, we focus on subjects and individuals that will appeal to and engage faculty members, students, researchers, and employees at the university, from the science and engineering departments to the schools of medicine, administrative sciences and social sciences. All the colloquiums organized so far have demonstrated that seeking answers to key questions with major impact is possible only through an interdisciplinary approach.

The speaker of the first Colloquium was Professor Peter Hore from the Department of Chemistry at Oxford University. The topic of the seminar was quite interesting: “How do birds find their way using the earth's magnetic field?” The discussion included physics, chemistry, biology, and mathematics. The guest of the next seminar was Professor Ali Alpar from Sabanci University, who is also the Director of the Science Academy and he spoke about popular science.

The third colloquium featured Mehmet Özdoğan, Professor of Archaeology at
İstanbul University. He focused on the paradigm-shattering finds at the recent excavations at Göbeklitepe. This seminar saw great interest from the field of social sciences and outside the university.

For the fourth colloquium, which was also quite impressive, we hosted Professor Steve Granick, a material scientist and a member of both the US National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. We received excellent feedback from the participants. The speaker of the fifth colloquium was Professor Kamil Uğurbil, the recipient of the 2016 Vehbi Koç Award by the Vehbi Koç Foundation in the field of health sciences. Like the others, this seminar also brought together different disciplines. All faculty members interested in understanding the brain, from the School of Medicine to the departments of Social Sciences and Psychology, attended the seminar. We chose one of our own graduates as speaker for the sixth colloquium, organized as part of the Science Fair for students, Tuba Oytac Balci, Chemistry, 2000. Our alumnus, who works at a pharmaceutical company, spoke about her career journey and her future plans.

Who attends the Colloquiums?
The main target audience of the Science Colloquiums is faculty members, students, researchers, and employees at the university, although groups from outside are welcome, depending on the topic. For instance, a faculty member from another college asked permission to bring his entire class to a seminar related to their subject. Another group of attendees was made up of university students on a scholarship from a foundation which organized their attendance with the aim of inspiring them.

The future
In the coming months, we would like to invite one or two more alumni to speak at Science Colloquiums to celebrate 25th Anniversary of the University. We believe that the participation of successful alumni as speakers will attract more students to these events.

Our goal for future Science Colloquiums is to present them to a wider audience, as we believe the subject matter will appeal to members of the general public as well.

When choosing a topic and a speaker, we focus on subjects and people that would appeal to all faculty members, students, researchers and employees in the university and we strive to engage them.
SCIENCE COLLOQUIUMS

Avian Magnetoreception: A Quantum Compass Needle
by Prof. Peter J. Hore
Department of Chemistry / University of Oxford
February 16, 2017

Some Thoughts in Communicating Science with the Public and on the Development of Popular Science
by Prof. M. Ali Alpar
Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences / Sabancı University
May 4, 2017

Göbeklitepe Culture and the Prospects of Scientific Outlook
by Prof. Mehmet Özdoğan
College of Literature, Department of Archaeology / Istanbul University
November 7, 2017
Active Materials: Surprises and Research Opportunities
by Prof. Steve Garnick
Center for Soft and Living Matter / Institute for Basic Science (IBS), South Korea
November 28, 2017

Harnessing Physics and Neuroscience towards Meeting a Central Scientific Challenge in the 21st Century: Understanding Human Brain Function
by Prof. Kamil Uğurbil
Center for Magnetic Resonance, Medical School / Research University of Minnesota
February 22, 2018

How to Determine Career Goals?
by Tuba Oytaç Balcı
National Sales Director of Pronokal, Graduate of College of Science, Department of Chemistry / Koç University
May 17, 2018
Cem Akaş graduated from Robert College, İstanbul, in 1986. He holds a BS in Chemical Engineering (Bogazici University), an MA in Political Science (Columbia University), and a PhD in History (The Atatürk Institute, Bogazici University). Cem Akaş is currently the Editor-in-Chief of Can Yayınları, İstanbul. His previous position was Executive Director of Koç University Press. Akaş founded G Yayın Grubu, a publishing services company, in 2005 and directed it until 2014. Prior to this, he worked for 12 years at Yapı Kredi Publications, serving as its Editor-in-Chief and Publishing Advisor. Akaş is also the author of numerous novels (most recently of “Y”, published in March 2018), short story and essay collections, and a study in Turkish political history. His works have appeared in Germany, Austria, Australia, Canada, the US, Argentina, Albania, Spain, and Greece. He has co-written the screenplay of the critically acclaimed feature film “Silsile” (Consequences, 2014) with Ozan Açıktaş, the director of the film. He has translated numerous titles to and from English.
For literary fans and those curious about the world...

Koç University Press, which began as a publisher of academic books in 2010, has undergone significant change since 2014. In addition to academic publications, the Press started to produce a number of series to appeal more to those who are curious about the world. Turning to literature more in 2017, two additional series were launched: Tuhaf Etki (Strange Effect) and Tefrika (Serialized Fiction). This move helped to raise awareness and recognition of Koç University Press, assuring it a place among the best academic publishers in Turkey. Cem Akaş talks about the process...
When I joined Koç University Press in September 2014, the company consisted of one small room with two people in it, publishing around 10-15 academic titles annually. It had been founded in 2010 and had a list of approximately 45 titles. Taken individually, each title was a good one, some naturally more interesting than the others, but all of them were definitely publishable. What struck me most about the list was the lack of framework – good titles brought together do not necessarily make a good publishing company. There were other problems as well, from a business point of view – the print runs were too high for most titles, distribution was weak, sales were low, and production costs were exorbitantly high. These became our priorities.

A new approach
With the help of my small but effective team and the editorial board and backed by the university administration, I worked out a new publishing program that would continue to include the best academic research concerning the region (Burasının Bilgisi / Knowledge of This Place) while also bringing in new books on the natural and social sciences as well as the humanities (Uçbeyleri). A little later, we started another series, Maddiyat (Materiality), for books on political economy, finance, and economics.

The Burasının Bilgisi series consists of books that are written about this geography (the Middle East, in the broadest sense) and/or by researchers from this geography. These are works that contribute significantly to the

When you target a larger audience for your books, you help the creation of new knowledge further down the road.

Tuhaf Etki Series

Tuhaf Etki (Strange Effect) is a new “semi-academic” series that aims to collect eccentric works of Turkish fiction that leave the reader with a “strange effect.” Featuring works published for the first time as well as previously published but long-forgotten books, Strange Effect is edited by Cem Akşaş and aims to offer readers a very different perspective of Turkish literature. Books published in the series include:

- Hayal-i Celal (The Dream of Celal) by Reçaizade Mehmet Celal
- Leopold’un Sabunu (Leopold’s Soap) by Berkan M. Şimşek
- Geceleyin Gâkyüzü (Night Sky) by Erhan Memiş
- Boşboğaz Bir Adem (A Blab of a Man) by Hovsep Vartanyan
- Postu Modern Kızıl Tilki (Red Fox with Modern Fur) by Hakan Toker
- Viyana Nokta (Vienna Point) by Süreyyya Evren

Tefrika Series

The Tefrika (Serialized Fiction) series has brought forgotten works of Turkish literature back to life. The idea behind the Tefrika series emerged from a project supported by The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), “The History of Serialized Fiction in Turkish Literature”. The series consists of fictional works that have been published in periodicals but never as books. These literature pieces were collected from 150 newspapers and magazines published in the Ottoman Turkish alphabet between 1831 and 1928. The series also covers the works of writers previously not recognized in Turkish literature. So far the following books have been published in the series:

- Aşkımı Öldürdüm (I Killed My Love) by Belkıs Sami Boyar
- Orta Malı (Loose Woman) by Selahattin Enis
- Dilharap (Broken Hearted) by Fatma Fahrünnis
- Kâbus (Nightmare) by Mehmet Rauf
I believe that publishing is a core concern for every university; universities are there to create and disseminate knowledge, and books help you do that in a very effective way.

In 2017, two more new series were launched, Tuhaf Etki (Strange Effect) for avant-garde books in Turkish literature, and Tefrika (Serialized Fiction) for novels that were once published in serial form in Ottoman and early Republican daily newspapers and then promptly forgotten.

In 2017, 57 new titles reached readers.

**Upgrading the physical quality**
As for the business side, we radically brought down production costs while also upgrading the physical quality of the books; we began building a sales and marketing team, increasing our unit sales more than fourfold in four years; and we better controlled print runs, using print-on-demand when necessary.

Design was a major concern. We worked with some of the most talented graphic designers in Turkey as well as some of the best abroad; our books looked different in terms of materials used as well. Thus, Koç University Press books stood apart from books by other publishers, while each title was also unique because we were able to choose the designer that would provide the best fit.

**Public recognition**
Taken together, these measures has made Koç University Press one of the best academic publishing houses in Turkey. Its titles are always relevant, chosen from a wide scope, and reach an audience that goes beyond academic circles. Koç University Press also supports high schools and universities by donating books to their libraries. Even though it has a very limited budget for publicity, it receives a great “bang for the buck” in the national press as well as social media.

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**Koç University Press recognized with award**

In 2017, the Platin Business Books Awards (Platin İş Kitapları Ödülleri) selected Peter Fleming’s *The Mythology of Work*, published by Koç University Press in translation by Ebru Kılıç with the title *Çalışmanın Mitolojisi* (*the Mythology of Work*), as Best Reference Business Book of the Year. The book examines how neoliberal societies use the ritual of work for the continuation of the capitalist order and the potential dangers of work rejection.
Chess on the field

Koç Rams, the East Block Champion of the European American Football Tournament, left a very successful year behind. In addition to bringing in numerous national and international titles, last year also saw the launch of the women’s team. The Head Coach, Saygun Ofluoğlu, Koç University Class of 2007, tells the story of dedication, friendship, and hard work...
I would like to start telling the story of how Koç Rams, the American football club of Koç University, was founded back in 2003. I entered Koç University in 2002. In my first year, we went on a skiing holiday at Uludağ mountain. It was Winterfest time and the place was vibrant with university students. A group of friends from Gazi University, including American football players and coaches, suggested that we start an American football team at Koç University. I had always been involved with sports and I was the captain of the basketball team at the time. The suggestion of our friends really intrigued us. So when we were back in Istanbul we rolled up our sleeves and started our club in late 2003. We participated in our first tournament in 2004.

In high demand
During the first week of training, it snowed heavily every single day, but still we managed to gather 200 candidates for the team. At first, we didn’t have a coach, so the friends from Gazi University helped us during those first training sessions and taught us how to play the game. They camped with us for a week. We split the responsibilities among us and then we started looking for a coach. Koray Şahmalı, who had been a team captain at Bilkent University, joined us as our first head coach. There need to be at least eight coaches in American football. Apart from the head coach, there are also defensive, offensive, and special team coordinators, who carry out the head coach’s orders. These four are a must for every team. If there are at least three position coaches under defensive and offensive coaches, then the team can train in the best manner. Coach Koray was doing all of these positions on his own and we tried to give him all the support we could. That’s how we completed the founding phase and set to go to become a good team.

Dedication is essential
American football is a sport that almost anyone can play, but it requires a high level of sacrifice and dedication. Five days of heavy physical training and three days of field practice a week might be too intense for one’s professional schedule. For this reason, it doesn’t matter how skillful or physically strong you are, being a good player requires hard work.

Discipline is key
After graduating in 2008, I went to Spain for my master’s degree. There, I played
on a team called the Barcelona Dragons for a year. The football I saw there was surprising because it was played almost like chess. Tactics were very important. The practices were recorded by two cameras. The recordings were watched to identify the areas in which each player needed to develop.

**The secret to success**
The rules of American football are definite and clear. Physical competence, following the rules with discipline, and tactical success are essential for becoming a good player. In the game we recently played with the Russians, their physical superiority was not enough to beat our tactics. This is why tactics are so important.

It takes about three full years to turn a new team member into a real athlete. We teach about football for the first two years and we concentrate on weight training in the third year. We organize all the players’ monthly schedules, nutrition plans, and practices. Players who follow those plans and apply the tactics given by their coaches become successful.

For more information: kocfootball.com

## Turkey’s top team

Players who join the Koç Rams choose to do that because they know they will get the best training and education in Turkey. Our university’s team attracts so much attention from prospective players simply due to the reason that our team provides the opportunity to play at the next international competition. As the champions of Turkey the Koç Rams we are the only team with a win in a European tie. We are thankful to our university for all its support.
I first became aware of American football, or flag football for women, in high school at Robert College. It was 4-5 years ago. We were watching the games of the men’s team and wondering if we as girls could play, too. So, we decided to form the flag football team of Robert College. Flag football first started in Turkey at İstanbul Technical University and Yeditepe University and spread to other universities, reaching 20 teams in total. When I started Koç University I wanted to continue playing, but there was no women’s team. I decided to take the matter into my own hands and initiate the effort to form a women’s team. In May 2017, we got the permission from the school to start a new club. Finding players proved to be quite a challenge. Most of the girls were distant to the idea because the sport was not quite known, but we still managed to register more people than we had anticipated. There were about 50-60 people at our first practice meeting. We did not expect such a turnout.

In a short period of time since our founding, we have become quite successful. In our second month as a team, we participated in the Izmir Championship and won! We were also the runners up in the Istanbul league, which lasts 6-7 months. So far, we have only lost two of the 13 games we have played. Next up is the Turkish Championship. We are getting ready for it with the intention of becoming the champion.

Playing for the Koç Rams brings great changes to one’s life. Now I’m a part of a wonderful community and I feel as if I have a new family. So I consider myself very fortunate. Playing in rain and muddy fields, training three days a week for a common goal… Sports somehow unite people.

I am a sophomore, so it’s too soon to talk about my future plans, but I will continue to play flag football as long as I’m at this school. One-fourth of our team consists of people who have a job and come to practices after office hours. They are able to maintain this pace, I don’t know if I will be able to when I graduate and start working. If the office conditions in law business where I plan to work in the future allow me to keep up with that pace, I would definitely continue to play flag football.

Ecenur Etiler
Koç Rams Women’s Flag Football Team, Offensive Captain
2nd Year Student, Law School
On the field your teammates are ready to sacrifice themselves for you

When I started university, I, like many other people, only knew American football from what I saw on TV. I had no idea what the rules of the game were, what it involved, or which position I could play.

When I started Koç University, I was introduced to Koç Rams and American football on orientation day through the brother of a high school friend who was a player on the team. That’s how my commitment to Koç Rams began...

Our team is a very strong community: My roommates are from the team, the friends I see outside the school are on the team. As team members, you spend day and night together, you share everything, and you build strong emotional bonds.

I play quarterback. In American football, quarterbacks are protected by five players called the offensive line, who play on the field at the same time. Having people on the field ready to sacrifice themselves for you creates a very different and deep bond. There really is an atmosphere where you can call your teammates brothers.

The Koç Rams team is currently an important part of my life. When I graduate, I will definitely continue playing American football if I stay and live in İstanbul. I am originally from Diyarbakır, where my family still lives. So if I return to my hometown, I don’t know if I can carry on playing there or not. As I mentioned, this sport makes up a significant part of our lives. It’s not about just trainings or competitions. There is more to it than that.

Ahmet Cem İnan
Koç Rams Men’s American Football Team, Rams A and Rams B Team Player
Koç Rams Women’s Flag Football Team Quarterback Coach
3rd Year Student, Koç University Mathematics & Industrial Engineering Double Major
It has been quite a while since I graduated from Koç University. I'm currently working in the marketing department of a family business. The Koç Rams men's team was already very successful when I was a student. At the time, Saygun was my friend, so I followed the activities of the men's team. Now that we are married, I am still very much involved. I had never heard of flag football in my life and I recently found out that women could play this game, too! With Saygun starting to work at Koç University as the head coach, we moved closer to the school and a new life began for me. Around that time, I met Ecenur and found out about the women's team. When she asked me if I would like to join them, at first I hesitated because I had never tried a team sport before, but I decided to join the team anyway and I'm really happy that I did. Frankly, it is a very different feeling being a part of such a team even though I am not a student at this school...

We all know that team friendship is very valuable in sports, but there is a different kind of depth in American football and flag football. Because of the dynamics on the field, flag football connects teammates more strongly compared with other sports. Individual success doesn't mean much in flag football. On the field, I can defend a teammate or a teammate can sacrifice herself to protect me. Such dynamics strengthen the emotional bond between teammates.

I have graduated, drawn my career path, and successfully incorporated sports into my life. I would like to continue playing flag football as long as I can. I believe Koç Rams will always be a part of my life.

Hanzade Ofluoğlu
Koç Rams Women’s Flag Football Team, Defensive Captain
Koç University Business Administration Class of 2010
Facts about Koç Rams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rams A Team</th>
<th>Rams B Team</th>
<th>Flag Football Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75 players</td>
<td>50 players</td>
<td>25 players</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Timeline

Founded in 2003
2004 first tournament
2008 Koç Rams split into Rams A Team and Rams B Team
2017 Koç Rams Flag Football Team established

2017-2018 achievements

- 2016-2017 Turkish American Football League (TALF) - Champion
- 2017 Aegean Women’s Flag Football Tournament - Champion
- 2017-2018 Istanbul Women’s Flag Football Championship (IFFL) - 2nd runner up
- 2018 CEFL Central European Football League (CEFL) - 2nd runner up
- 2018 CEFL Central European Football League (CEFL) - East Block Champion
2017/18 SCIENCE & RESEARCH AWARDS

Faculty at Koç University received 18 awards for research projects in 2017/18 academic year. These consist of 10 Science Academy (BAGEP) Awards, 3 Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) Awards, 2 Turkish Academy of Sciences Young Scientist Awards (TÜBA GEBİP), and 3 national research awards.
Science Academy Young Scientist Award (BAGEP) - 2018

- Assoc. Prof. Metin Sezgin (Computer Engineering)
- Asst. Prof. Elif Nur Fırat Karalar (Molecular Biology and Genetics)
- Asst. Prof. Ceyda Açılan Ayhan (Molecular Biology and Genetics)
- Asst. Prof. Emir Salih Magden (Electrical and Electronics Engineering)
- Asst. Prof. Sedat Nizamoğlu (Electrical and Electronics Engineering)
- Asst. Prof. Umut Aydemir (Chemistry)
- Assoc. Prof. Demircan Canadıç (Mechanical Engineering)
- Assoc. Prof. Cem Demiroğlu (Business Administration)
- Assoc. Prof. Zeynep Derya Tarman Pekbey (Law)
- Asst. Prof. Barış Büyükokutan (Sociology)

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) Awards - 2017

- Prof. Sumru Altuğ (Economics)
- Assoc. Prof. Seda Ertaç Güler (Economics)
- Assoc. Prof. Reşat Bayer (International Relations)

Turkish Academy of Sciences Young Scientist Awards (TÜBA GEBİP) - 2018

- Asst. Prof. Alptekin Küpçü (Computer Engineering)
- Asst. Prof. Ayşe Koca Çaydaşı (Molecular Biology and Genetics)

Mustafa Parlar Foundation Research Award - 2017

- Assoc. Prof. Sinem Çöleri Ergen (Electrical and Electronics Engineering)

Elginkan Foundation Research and Technology Award - 2017

- Assoc. Prof. Erdem Alaca (Mechanical Engineering)

Sakıp Sabancı International Research Award - 2018

- Asst. Prof. Selim Erdem Aytaç (International Relations)
ERC GRANTEES AT KOÇ UNIVERSITY

SEDAL KESKIN AVCI
ERDEM YORUK
ERDEM KABADAYI
ALP ENVER ATAKAN
ELIF NUR FIRAT KARALAR
SEDAT NIZAMOGLU
HAKAN UREY
KEBEM PEKKAAN
Towards new frontiers in research

The ERC Grant is considered one of the most prestigious grants awarded by the European Union. Established in 2007 the European Research Council (ERC) aims to support, “frontier research, cross-disciplinary proposals and pioneering ideas in new and emerging fields which introduce unconventional and innovative approaches.”

The ERC grants are provided to individual researchers on the basis of scientific excellence and a meticulous selection process. So far, only 17 ERC grants have been granted to faculty at Turkish universities. According to the European Commission’s database as of April 2018, nearly half of these are hosted by Koç University, and in fact, three out of four ERC grants for social science projects in Turkey went to Koç University.

The most recent ERC grantee is Associate Professor Seda Keskin Avcı of Koç University’s Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering. Seda Keskin Avcı is the first female researcher from Turkey in the field of engineering to be awarded this grant and is the first ERC Grantee in the field of Chemical Engineering in Turkey. Her research proposal, “COSMOS (Computational Simulations of Metal Organic Frameworks for Gas Separations)” won a 5-year, 1.5 million euro ERC Starting Grant.
Launched on October 1, 2017, COSMOS is the fourth active ERC project at the Koç University College of Engineering. The main goal of the project is to use innovative computation techniques to help find materials which capture carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas contributing to global warming. The project will study thousands of materials known as Metal Organic Frameworks (MOF) whose physical, chemical and structural properties mean they perform well in certain chemical applications. These materials will be analyzed using molecular simulations and the results used to design new MOFs with extraordinary carbon dioxide separation performance.

**Types of ERC Grants**

- **ERC Starting Grant** for young, early-career top researchers (2-7 years after PhD)-up to 1.5 million euro for a period of 5 years.

- **ERC Consolidator Grant** for already independent excellent researchers (7-12 years after PhD)-up to 2 million euro for a period of 5 years.

- **ERC Advanced Grant** for senior research leaders with significant research achievements in the last 10 years -up to 2.5 million euro for a period of 5 years.

- **ERC Proof of Concept Grants** for ERC grant holders who want to test the market and/or innovation potential of research results from ERC projects -up to 150,000 euro for a period of 12 months.
ERC GRANTEES AT KOÇ UNIVERSITY

SEDA KESKİN AVCI  
Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering  
ERC Starting Grant 2017  
COSMOS (Computational Simulations of MOFs for Gas Separations)

ERDEM YÖRÜK  
Department of Sociology  
ERC Starting Grant 2017  

ERDEM KABADAYI  
Department of History  
ERC Starting Grant 2016  
Industrialisation and Urban Growth from the Mid-nineteenth Century Ottoman Empire to Contemporary Turkey in a Comparative Perspective, 1850-2000

ALP ENVER ATAKAN  
Department of Economics  
ERC Consolidator Grant 2016  
Informative Prices: Market Selection, Frictions and the Information Content of Prices

ELİF NUR FIRAT KARALAR  
Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics  
ERC Starting Grant 2016  
CentSatRegFunc: Dissecting the Function and Regulation of Centriolar Satellites: Key Regulators of the Centrosome/Cilium Complex

SEDAT NİZAMOĞLU  
Department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering  
ERC Starting Grant 2014  
NOVELNOBI: Novel Nanoengineered Optoelectronic Biointerfaces

Hakan Ürey  
Department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering  
ERC Advanced Grant 2014  
WEAR3D: Wearable Augmented Reality 3D Displays

ERC Proof of Concept Grant 2015  
WEAR3D-POC: Commercialization of Wear3D Wearable and 3D Display Technology

ERC Proof of Concept Grant 2017  
MIRAGE: Augmented Reality Wearable Platform and Screen: Proof of Concept and Commercialization

KEREM PEKKAN  
Department of Mechanical Engineering  
ERC Starting Grant 2013  
Vascular Growth: Bioengineering Prediction of Three-Dimensional Vascular Growth and Remodeling in Embryonic

ERC Proof of Concept Grant 2015  
Kids Surgical Plan: An Internet Enterprise for Sketch-based Cardiovascular Pre-surgical Planning
Year in Review

June 2017

Exhibition at ANAMED: ‘The Curious Case of Çatalhöyük’

Koç University marked the 25th excavation season of the Çatalhöyük Research Project with an exhibition titled, “The Curious Case of Çatalhöyük.” Known for its fascinating cutting-edge archaeological research methods and laboratory collaborations, the project at Çatalhöyük was presented through experiment-based display features including 3D prints of finds, laser-scanned overviews of excavation areas, and immersive Virtual Reality (VR) opportunities that brought the 9000-year-old Çatalhöyük settlement to life. “The Curious Case of Çatalhöyük” was developed under the supervision of Ian Hodder, Director of the Excavation, and curated by Duygu Tarkan, with the contributions of researchers from the Çatalhöyük Research Project.

23rd Commencement Ceremony

Koç University celebrated its 23rd Commencement on June 17, 2017. The class of 2017 was feted by the university community, family and friends during the commencement ceremonies that featured an inspiring speech by Professor Steven Chu, recipient of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1997 and the 12th US Secretary of Energy. Ömer M. Koç, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees; and Professor Umran İnan, President, were also present at the ceremony at which 1,024 students received their diplomas.

July 2017

Highest Grant for the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility

Koç University received the highest funding in Turkey for Erasmus+ KA107: International Credit Mobility (ICM). The project enabled Koç University to exchange students and staff members with 23 prestigious partner institutions in 18 countries. The ICM funds mobility between a European/Turkish partner and non-European partners based on their submitted project.
August 2017

The Most Successful Koç Employees Award for KUSIF

The Koç University Social Impact Forum (KUSIF), with its “Change with Business” Program, was awarded in the “Collaborative Development” category at the Most Successful Koç Employees Awards. Change with Business, Social Entrepreneurship Development Program in Turkey was launched by KUSIF in May 2016 in partnership with the UniCredit Foundation and the Vehbi Koç Foundation, aiming to increase the social impact of social entrepreneurs by helping them achieve sustainability.

September 2017

Social Impact and Social Finance Conference

The Koç University Social Impact Forum hosted the Social Impact and Social Finance Conference on September 22, 2017 to create a space for organizations supporting social enterprises and to engage with relevant stakeholders. The event, organized in association with the Mikado Sustainable Development Consultancy and Ashoka Turkey, with the support of the European Union Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships Program, the UniCredit Foundation, and the Vehbi Koç Foundation, gathered groups working on social impact as well as experts and professionals from the finance and social finance sectors.

Emphasizing that social entrepreneurs need support with social impact management, setting up business models and accessing social financing for social initiatives, this year’s conference gave participants two important guidebooks, the Social Impact Management Guidebook, and the Social Financing Guidebook. A Social Entrepreneurship Fair was held following the sessions.

Freshman Orientation

The Koç University Orientation Program welcomes freshman students, offering them friendly guidance in their preparations for their first semester. The Orientation Program introduces new students to the campus community and its resources to make their transition easier.

Symposium on Trade and Production in Ottoman Anatolia at VEKAM

The “Trade and Production in Ottoman Anatolia” Symposium was hosted by VEKAM, the Koç University Vehbi Koç Ankara Studies Research Center, on September 28-29, 2017 in Ankara. Academics attending the conference from Turkey and around the world shared their research on explored trade and production throughout the period with history enthusiasts.
September 2017

**Talk on Engineering Safety in Nuclear Energy**

On September 28, 2017, Koç University hosted a talk on campus by Dr. Robin Grimes, Chief Scientific Adviser for the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Professor of Materials Physics at Imperial College London. As a specialist in the behavior of materials for energy applications, Dr. Grimes shared his knowledge on nuclear fission and fusion, fuel cells, batteries, and solar cells. He is also a member of the UK’s Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), which provides official advice during national and transnational emergencies.

October 2017

**David R. Tillinghast International Law Conference**

The David R. Tillinghast International Law Conference on Cross-border Tax Challenges in the 21st Century, organized jointly by the Koç University Law School and the International Fiscal Association, was held on October 5 and 6 at the Koç University Rumelifeneri Campus. The conference brought together more than 200 outstanding scholars, professionals, and academics of various disciplines and provided opportunities for networking and future collaborations in international tax law.

November 2017

**Koç University ran İstanbul Eurasia Marathon**

The Koç University faculty, staff and students ran the 39th İstanbul Eurasia Marathon, which was organized with participation of tens of thousands of people, walking or running for different worthy causes. Nearly 120 runners from Koç University crossed continents to raise funds for the Anatolian Scholarship Program.
Award Ceremony for the Koç University Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science

The Koç University Rahmi M. Koç Medal of Science, in its second year, was awarded in the fields of Administrative Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities and Law to Professor Daron Acemoglu on November 22, 2017. Prof. Acemoglu received the award for his groundbreaking contributions to labor and political economics as well as macroeconomics of growth and development. Prof. Acemoglu is Elizabeth and James Killian Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Golden Book Award to VEKAM

The exhibition catalog titled *The Ottoman Empire from the 19th to the 20th Century: Struggle*, edited by Mehtap Türkyılmaz and A. Beril Kırcı and published by the Koç University Vehbi Koç Ankara Studies Research Center (VEKAM) in cooperation with the Collectors' Society, received the Golden Book Award of the Federation of Turkish Philatelic Associations. The catalogue was prepared in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the victory at Gallipoli. It presents a full picture of the struggle of the Ottoman Empire on both the administrative and the military fronts from the Tanzimat to the War of Independence (1839-1923).

The Professor Yavuz Abadan and Professor Nermin Abadan Unat Paper Competition

The winners of the Professor Yavuz Abadan and Professor Nermin Abadan Unat Paper Competition were announced at a ceremony on November 14, 2017. Held for the first time for Koç University students, the theme of the competition was “the relationship between gender equality and political parties and constitutions.” The winners of the competition were Gizem Türkaslan, PhD student, Department of Political Science and International Relations, with her article, “The Women’s Movement and Political Parties: Turkey and Tunisia”; and Duygu Tan, Koç University Law School, with her article, “Women’s Representation in Politics and Quotas: An Assessment of the Internal Dynamics of the Policy and Suggestions.”

Media Installation by Refik Anadol as part of ANAMED’s exhibition, ‘The Curious Case of Çatalhöyük’

Commissioned as part of “The Curious Case of Çatalhöyük” exhibition at ANAMED, artist Refik Anadol’s media installation utilized the archives of the Çatalhöyük Research Project, which currently holds 2.8 million data records of 250,000 finds. By employing machine learning algorithms to sort relations among the records, Anadol transformed this knowledge into an immersive media installation transcending research, archaeology, art, and technology. The installations were on display from November 14, 2017 to February 18, 2018.
December 2017

**CEMS Class of 2017 chosen ‘Best CEMS Club of the Year’**

CEMS Club İstanbul was selected “Best CEMS Club of the Year” among 30 business schools at the CEMS MIM graduation ceremony in Australia. CEMS Club İstanbul consists of students from CEMS Master’s in International Management (CEMS MIM) Program at the Koç University Graduate School of Business.

January 2018

**KOÇ-KAM supports Women’s Leadership through Female Role Models**

“Enhancing Women’s Leadership through Female Role Models” Project of Koç University Center for Gender Studies (KOÇ-KAM) is launched to support close to 100 young professional women aspiring to be future role models. The selected candidates will participate in a training program that includes mentorship from eight prominent women leaders. The project is funded by the MATRA Human Rights Program by the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

February 2018

**Professor Çiğdem Kağıtçıbaşı Human Development Research Award**

The 2018 Human Development Research Award ceremony was held on February 26 at Koç University. The recipients of this year’s awards were Dr. Elif Gül Yılmazlar, from Erasmus University, Rotterdam and Dr. Mustafa Öztürk, Hacettepe University. Following the presentation of the awards by Prof. Zeynep Aycan and Elif Kağıtçıbaşı, Dr. Ype H. Poortinga of Tilburg University delivered a memorial lecture for Professor Kağıtçıbaşı, who passed away in 2016. Dr. Yılmazlar received the award for her project, “The Evaluation of the Judges’ Ruling Processes regarding the Establishment of Unjust Provocation from the Perspective of Gender Discrimination,” and Dr. Öztürk for his project, “Providing and Spreading Competence for Sustainable Development Focused Teaching in Primary Education.”
Frontier Magazine’s 12th Issue published

One of the most important channels that communicates the research conducted at Koç University is Frontier magazine, which features the work of faculty members. The magazine, also published in Turkish titled Fener, is distributed to all faculty members, students, business partners, and stakeholders as well as other universities and institutes. In Frontier’s 12th issue, Koç University academics share their articles explaining and interpreting the concept of inequality from the viewpoint of their own disciplines.

Available from the Communications Office or by request via pr@ku.edu.tr

March 2018

White Coat Ceremony

The White Coat Ceremony at Koç University School of Medicine marks the transition of medical students from the study of preclinical to clinical health sciences. The ceremony is held each year on March 14, Turkish Medicine Day, itself marking the advent of modern medical education in Turkey in 1827. This year, the ceremony honored 44 students.

Assoc. Professor Seda Keskin Avcı elected to the Global Young Academy

Assoc. Prof. Seda Keskin Avcı of Chemical and Biological Engineering Department, became the first Turkish female scholar in the field of engineering to be elected to the Global Young Academy. Assoc. Prof. Avcı, who was awarded a €1.5 million grant by the European Research Council for her COSMOS project last year, aims to take active part in the Women in Science group at the Global Young Academy and contribute to the solution of the problems encountered by young female scientists worldwide.

The Global Young Academy, an umbrella organization of science academies around the world, has 200 distinguished members from more than 70 countries. The Academy is open to researchers under 40 from various science disciplines, including medicine, engineering, the natural and social sciences, literature and the humanities, bringing young scholars together to promote dialogue.
April 2018

Koç University 25th Year Anniversary Library

As part of the “No School without a Library” project, members of the KU Volunteers Club went to Aydın province in Southern Anatolia to build a library in Bozdoğan Mürşide Akçay Elementary School in 25 hours, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Koç University. It was a huge feat as they did not sleep for more than 24 hours, but worked incessantly to complete the project in time. “No School without a Library” project of the KU Volunteers Club was launched in 2007, so far a total of 18 libraries were built in different provinces of Turkey.

Panel Session, ‘Women in Leadership Positions: Overcoming Barriers’

The “Women in Leadership Positions: Overcoming Barriers” panel took place on April 18 as part of the “Female Role Model Leaders of the Future” project of the Koc University Center for Gender Studies (KOÇ-KAM). Prof. Bertil Oder, KOÇ-KAM Director and Dean of Koç University Law School, gave the opening speech of the event, hosted at the Founders’ Hall on the Rumelifeneri Campus. Moderated by Dr. Aslı E. Mert, the Coordinator of the project, the panelists were Prof. Esra Gençtürk, President of Özyeğin University; Emine Pervis Erdem, Vice President of KAGİDER and Social Impact Strategy Group Head; Burcu Geriş, Vice President and CFO at TAV Havalimanları Holding; and Demet Özdemir, Partner and Private Equity Leader at EY (Ernst Young) Turkey.

The Traditional Koç University - Kadir Has University Rowing Race

The annual 8-man rowing race between Koç University and Kadir Has University took place on April 14. The competition was initiated 7 years ago by former Kadir Has President Mustafa Aydın and Koç University President Umran İnan to emulate the traditional Boat Race between Oxford and Cambridge Universities that was started back in 1829. Since then the race became a great tradition and an opportunity to celebrate sportsmanship. This year, the event even attracted the attention of the British Consul General Judith Slater, a former rower herself, who honored the event with her presence.

Seminar on the Syrian Crisis, Euro-Turkish and Greek-Turkish Relations

The Graduate School of Social Sciences and Humanities’ Distinguished Scholar Seminar Series hosted another prominent name, former Minister of Foreign Affairs (Greece), and Member of the Hellenic Parliament Dora Bakoyannis as the keynote speaker. A panel discussion on “Peace and Stability in Southeastern Europe and the Middle East” chaired by Associate Professor Şuhnaz Yılmaz with Dora Bakoyannis, Ambassador-Retired Mithat Rende and Professor Ziya Öniş took place after the seminar.
May 2018

Nelson Mandela Memorial Lecture

A memorial lecture on the late Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa, was organized by the Graduate School of Social Sciences and Humanities and the Graduate School of Administrative Sciences and Economics of Koç University, on April 24. The lecture was hosted by President of Koç University, Prof. Umran İnan, with Kgalema Motlanthe, former President of South Africa (2008-2009); Pule Isaac Malefane, Ambassador of South Africa to Turkey, and Puleng Chaba, Political and Economic Affairs Counselor of the South African Embassy in Turkey in attendance.

The Adrian Saunders Greek/Latin Recitation Competition

In memory of the late Adrian Saunders, former instructor of Latin and Classical Greek at the Department of Archaeology and History of Art held a competition on May 13. Participating undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled in a Turkish university were required to submit in advance a Classical Greek or Latin excerpt of their choice, either in verse or prose, and recite it from memory before a panel of judges. The panel evaluated the participants on the basis of pronunciation and delivery.

Ottoman Arcadia: The Hamidian Expedition to the Land of Tribal Roots

“Ottoman Arcadia: The Hamidian Expedition to the Land of Tribal Roots (1886),” exhibition at the Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED), showcased for the first time a three-volume set of albums of photographs prepared following a decree by Sultan Abdülhamid II. The albums were later gifted to Otto von Bismarck, the chancellor of Germany, in commemoration of the political rapprochement between the two empires at the end of the nineteenth century. The albums were acquired by the Ömer M. Koç Collection in 2017. Bahattin Öztuncay, Ahmet Ersoy, and Deniz Türker curated the exhibition.
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Umran S. İNAN
REPORTS FROM THE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
The Vice Presidency for Academic Affairs (VPAA) at Koç University is responsible for the development of academic policies and strategy, academic planning and development, institutional analysis, academic projects, coordinating Academic and Executive Council meetings, overseeing academic regulatory issues, and program quality and assurance. The VPAA works closely with the deans in all academic and faculty-related processes.

The directors of the Academic Planning and Development Directorate, the Core Program, the Office of Learning and Teaching, the Suna Kıraç Library, the Registrar’s and Student Affairs Directorate, the English Language Center (ELC), and Koç University Press units report to the VPAA.

The main priorities of the VPAA and the associated units in recent years include:

- improving the institutional analysis capability to support the long-term strategic planning process of the University;
- undertaking a major revision of the inter-disciplinary Core Program;
- establishing an independent external review commission appointed by YÖK’s Quality Council and initiating the periodic program reviews for 22 programs;
- improving faculty recruitment, evaluation, and support processes, student advising, and international student recruitment;
- leading the initiatives to support academic processes with technology: Oracle Peoplesoft, Blackboard, Moodle implementations, and the development of a new Faculty Information and Evaluation System;
- expanding the Visiting Scholar Program for incoming and outgoing faculty;
- launching the Professional Development Program for instructors;
- establishing various summer school programs for high school students, which attracted 250 high school students in the summer of 2017;
- participating in the Coursera network as the only member from Turkey and starting online open courseware offerings;
- leading the transformation of Koç University Press, which has become the leading university press in Turkey;
- developing the Office for Learning and Teaching, which has become a model and inspired the establishment of similar offices in Turkey.

The detailed reviews, highlights, and issues of Academic Planning and Development Directorate, the Core Program, Koç University Office of Learning and Teaching, Suna Kıraç Library, the Registrar’s and Student Affairs Directorate, the English Language Center, and Koç University Press are given in separate reports below.

**THE ACADEMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE**

The main activities of the Academic Planning and Development Directorate (APDD) are in the areas of academic planning and development, institutional analysis, regulatory issues, and academic projects.

**Highlights of the Year**

As a result of the faculty search activities of the Colleges, 40 new faculty members, including those for the English Language Center (ELC), joined or made a commitment to join the Koç University 2017-2018 academic year. Twelve faculty members were promoted to the rank of professor and five faculty members were promoted to the rank of associate professor.

We work closely with IT and the Registrar’s and Student Affairs Directorate in Student Academic Information system-related (KUSIS) projects, such as initiating Graduate Research Tracking to oversee graduate student milestones (such as thesis, advisor assignments, and comprehensive exams) systematically, improving student course enrollment self-service pages, and conducting relevant academic business processes from within the KUSIS system.
In 2017, the placement results were successful, with more than 50 percent of students coming from the top 20,000, and 94 percent of students coming from the top 100,000, which approximately corresponds to the top five percent of students entering the national exams.

Our Office collaborated with the Comptroller’s Office in developing a student-income forecasting methodology on Hyperion, Oracle’s online platform. This project significantly reduced the calculation time required to produce new future scenarios for the long-term financial plan and increased the accessibility of the budget.

The Business Intelligence project was initiated in coordination with IT, which aims at producing and sharing key student analytics reports with the relevant academic and administrative units. This project also comprises the initial efforts to define Koç University’s data dictionary and build the University’s data warehouse.

A strategic plan document based on the University’s pre-defined goals was put together internally for discussion by the upper management.

**Reviews and Surveys**

In November 2017, Koç University went through an external review conducted by the Higher Education Council’s (YÖK) External Review Commission. The review was concluded with the submission of the final report to Koç University.

Five departments went through academic program review: Media and Visual Arts, History, English Language and Comparative Literature (CSSH), Physics (CS) and Law. In 2018, the following academic units and programs are currently being reviewed: English Language Center, Chemistry (CS), Psychology, Sociology, Archaeology and History of Art and Philosophy (CSSH), and Economics (CASE). It is planned that all academic programs will go through this process every three years.

We are also coordinating a student satisfaction survey, which was conducted for the first time in 2017. This survey will be repeated in Spring semester each academic year. The results of the survey will provide valuable feedback and actionable items for the administrative and academic units.

**Academic Projects**

Our Office offers three summer programs. The Summer Academy and the Summer English Camp program courses are taught by our faculty members and instructors based on Koç University’s current undergraduate and ELC courses. The Pre-College Program gives high school students the opportunity to take undergraduate courses in the same classrooms as full-time Koç University students.

In 2017, the Summer Academy attracted 168 students and included 18 courses from our undergraduate curriculum. In 2018, 22 courses will be offered within the Summer Academy. The program is expected to have more than 200 students.

The Visiting Scholar Program has provided support to five instructors for the Summer Professional Development Program, one faculty member for the Koç–Harvard Visiting Scholar Program, and 18 outgoing faculty members for research visits to universities abroad, including Harvard, UC Davis, UC Berkeley, the Johns Hopkins University, the University of Waterloo, the Max Planck Institute, Trinity College, Heidelberg University, and Erasmus University, Rotterdam School of Business. We also have accepted seven applications for incoming visiting scholars.

Visiting Scholar applications for the upcoming year are expected to be accepted online in order to produce better support for applicants, minimize the use of paper, and support accurate recordkeeping.

**THE CORE PROGRAM**

The Core Program at Koç University aims to promote a deeper scientific literacy and develop students’ intellectual, moral, artistic, and civic capacities as independent thinkers. The core curriculum, which was established in 1993 and extensively revised in 2011, encompasses seven knowledge areas: Humanities, Artistic and Interpretive Understanding, Ethical Reasoning, Social Sciences, Empirical and Quantitative Reasoning, Sciences, and Economic and Strategic Analysis.

**The Core Program in Numbers**

In the 2017-2018 academic year close to 72 different courses (with 131 sections) were offered in the Core Program. The courses were taught by 73 faculty members and 70 full/part-time instructors. 2,200 students were enrolled in these courses.

**Highlights of the Year**

The rising numbers pointed at a need for a more structural coordination and a revision of the core curriculum. In September 2017 in order to coordinate the revision, evaluation and execution of the Core Program the position of the Director of the Core Program reporting to the Vice President for Academic Affairs was established.

In the last seven months since its inception, the Core Program Committee has taken several steps to evaluate the current status of the program and to diagnose the pressing limitations. Based on these evaluations a new document revising the philosophy of the Core Program was drafted. This new document strived to be concrete and operational in defining the principles of the core education. More
concrete and operational definitions for the seven knowledge areas were drafted and criteria for all knowledge areas were developed. This was intended to provide a guideline in designing new core courses and evaluating the existing courses for their suitability for the Core Program. Based on these guidelines, syllabi of all the core courses were evaluated and a series of courses were either cancelled or extensively revised. A core curriculum webpage was designed (core.ku.edu.tr) by students who had already gone through the Core Program. This was a conscious effort to involve students in the revision process and to better communicate with them regarding the philosophy of the program.

For a more representative dataset new questions measuring the awareness about the Core Program were incorporated to the university-wide Quality Survey. For a more detailed monitoring of the program a new teaching evaluation form particular to the core courses were developed. Data from these new sources will provide an extensive baseline information with which we will be able to monitor the change in the quality of the program in the coming years.

The next steps in the revision of the Core Program involve:
- elimination of a significant number of core courses which do not meet the core criteria,
- designing of new courses with selected faculty,
- an alternative course format with large classes complemented with small discussion groups led by doctoral students aiming at a more critical engagement with the material, productive discussions in class, and writing exercises,
- and a comprehensive core orientation both for faculty and students at the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER (ELC)

The English Language Center (ELC) prepares students for academic success at the university level. Since Koç University is an English-medium university, ELC offer courses designed to enhance students’ ability to use English in the areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

The ELC in Numbers
The ELC began the 2017-18 academic year with 691 incoming students, and 69 second-year students. By the beginning of spring semester, 48% of these students had graduated from the ELC.

Highlights of the Year
The ELC continues to focus on improving its curriculum, assessment, and instructional methods. We are doing so by:
- Undertaking an internal program review overseen by the university administration,
- Transitioning to a new Online Learning Management System (Blackboard),
- Developing a new placement exam for incoming students,
- Incorporating instructor and student feedback on an ongoing basis in the development and refinement of our courses.

The ELC also offers a broader range of instructional programs and services to Koç University stakeholders beyond the traditional constituency of English preparatory students. These programs and services include:
- Koç Executive English Program (KEEP): A program designed with the Graduate School of Business to instruct high-potential managerial and technical professionals who work within units of Koç Holding Company.
- High School Summer English Camp for Kids: A summer program coordinated by the Academic Planning and Development Directorate.
- School of Nursing Instruction: English instruction offered at Topkapı campus, geared towards Nursing students. Program to be phased out beginning next Fall as all Nursing students receive English Preparatory education at the main campus.
- School of Medicine Instruction: five part-time ELC instructors assist in the diagnostic simulations program in six different subject blocks, such as internal medicine, pediatrics, and so forth.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF LEARNING AND TEACHING (KOLT)

The mission of Koç University Office of Learning and Teaching (KOLT) is to establish a “learner-centered” learning and teaching environment at Koç University by providing various services in line with the mission and vision of the university. KOLT activities consist of support for the faculty, students, graduate teaching assistants (TAs); support for course and curriculum development, and support for the integration of educational technologies at KU.

Highlights of the Year
In the 2017-2018 academic year, KOLT provided support for the faculty by:
• Designing new faculty orientation program on effective teaching and providing continuous individualized support to the new faculty to facilitate their adaptation to the student-centered learning and teaching environment at KU;

• Assisting faculty in the use of educational technologies (the Blackboard learning management system, lecture capturing, clickers, etc.) for improving student engagement and interaction;

• Offering teaching innovation grants for the integration of educational technologies, learning-centered teaching and course redesign, and experimenting with new teaching methods;

• Providing workshops and full-day training programs to groups of faculty with shared interests and concerns;

• Inviting experts to familiarize faculty members with recent trends and developments in the area of teaching and learning in higher education;

• Assisting faculty in video recording their lectures and sharing them with students online via Blackboard;

• Conducting online mid-semester course evaluations to provide feedback to instructors;

• Providing individual consultations to faculty on request to discuss and resolve areas of concern;

• Providing new teaching tools and resources such as Metalog training tools to help faculty design activities in line with the premises of experiential learning;

• Assisting faculty while experimenting with new teaching methods and strategies;

• Promoting Coursera to increase the number of KU courses to be offered on the MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) platform;

• Addressing the ad hoc requests of faculty and academic departments in teaching issues and educational technologies.

KOLT’s services to undergraduate students in the reporting period:

• A tutoring center employing tutors for providing peer assistance in courses for weekly tutoring hours and additional review sessions mainly for large courses;

• Weekly conversation circles to promote fluency in spoken English, French, German and Spanish for ELC, undergraduate and graduate students;

• Online UNIV101 workshops to help students adjust to university life and increase their awareness about plagiarism and its detrimental effects on academic life;

• Specialized reading and exam-taking workshops for students who consult with KOLT individually;

• Designing and delivering one-credit KOLT 101 Academic Skills Development course for a specific group of students who need development in self-regulation (time-management, procrastination, etc.) and academic skills (effective reading, note-taking and presentation);

• Small group or individual support to promote basic academic skills such as effective reading, note-taking, exam preparation, taking an exam, project development, and preparing and delivering effective presentations;

• Individual consultation and follow-up with students who have severe academic problems;

• Provide help for the ad hoc requests of students.

Workshops, Courses, and Surveys

In Fall 2017, KOLT provided a series of workshops focusing on tips and good practices on effective teaching methods and techniques and microteaching sessions for graduate students who are teaching assistants or who are considering an academic career.

In Spring 2018, KOLT opened a new non-credit course KOLT 500 TA Training Program to run the grading and evaluation procedures of TA training more efficiently.

In order to support course development, KOLT continued to conduct online mid-semester evaluations of courses in Fall 2017 and Spring 2018. In addition to mid-semester course evaluations, KOLT provided help to the Colleges and Schools in their program review and accreditation processes by providing program-based consultations and conducting focus group interviews and follow-up surveys.

KOLT’s rigorous work to institutionalize educational technologies continued in Fall 2017 and Spring 2018. KOLT has assumed a key role in wide-spread use of Blackboard. KOLT continues to work on the improvement of educational technologies that are available in use in the newly designed active learning classroom.

In order to support KU with the best possible teaching and learning services, KOLT director and staff have continued to engage in scholarship of learning and teaching (SoTL) and to take care of their own professional development. One of KOLT’s studies was published in SSCI index journal,
Innovations in Learning and Teaching International. KOLT also became a testing partner for European Forum for Enhanced Collaboration in Teaching (EFFECT) project that is coordinated with the European University Association.

KOÇ UNIVERSITY PRESS (KUP)

Koç University Press (KUP) aims to contribute to science and scholarship through the publication of new research and to publish state-of-the-art books in all fields of science that are accessible for a wider audience, thus contributing to Turkey’s cultural life. KUP is in the process of becoming the leading academic press in Turkey.

KUP in Numbers
In 2017 KUP published 56 titles (including reprints), adding to the previous 120 titles published between 2010 and 2016. In 2018, KUP will be publishing 60 titles in humanities, arts, literature, social sciences, natural sciences, medicine, business, and technology.

Highlights of the Year
KUP is collaborating with Imprint, a not-for-profit publishing house in the US, headed by Professor Cemal Kafadar, in making the best titles of modern Turkish literature available in excellent translations in English. These books will be sold in the US as well as in Turkey.

KUP began making its English titles available on Amazon in 2015; most of which are now available throughout the world.

KUP has also brought a new approach to academic publishing in terms of book design. Working with leading book designers from around the globe, KUP is proud to produce books that are also beautiful collectibles.

KUP renewed its website at the end of 2015, added a blog to it, and began to use social media actively. In 2017, KUP’s Facebook page received 9,187 page likes (up from 4,400 in 2016); its Twitter account had 2,916 followers (up from 1,540). Its Instagram account has been activated recently and up to the present it has 604 followers.

KUP balanced its budget in 2017 and aims to end 2018 with a profit. KUP pledges to donate its profits to Koç University in the form of student scholarships.

KUP is a part of UNVEST A.Ş. Company. It operates with 6 personnel including one representative for sales who joined the KUP team in 2017. KUP headoffice, located in the ANAMED building in Beyoğlu district of Istanbul, was moved to Rumelifeneri campus in order to collaborate better with the academic staff in September 2017.

REGISTRAR’S & STUDENT AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE

As part of the organizational assessment process for the year 2017 and in order to adopt a more compatible administrative structure with other universities within the Council of Higher Education (YÖK), all procedures were carefully reevaluated. Consequently, the Office’s name was changed to Registrar’s & Student Affairs Directorate while personnel roles and responsibilities were meticulously redefined.

Highlights of the Year
The main activities in 2017 included;
• Improvement of user experience in Koç University Student Information System (KÜSIS),
• Successful completion of a digital archiving project in order to process and deliver document requests more efficiently,
• Successful completion of essential infrastructure work in order for newly-admitted students to register on-line via e-Devlet,
• Development of a user friendly on-line application page for international and transfer students and provision of a feasible platform to help upload the required documents,
• The renewal of diplomas and honors degree certificates with suggestions from faculties and graduate schools as well as appropriate preparatory support from the Corporate Communications Office,
• Continuation of the transition to an updated version of Scientia which enables proper scheduling of courses and exams,
• Providing document and information requests (13,151 track-it requests, 7,044 information requests, 10,613 enrolment verification and 5,993 transcript requests in 2017) on a timely basis.

SUNA KIRAC LIBRARY AND ITS BRANCHES (ANAMED, AKMED, KUH & VEKAM)

The Suna Kirac Library continues to be at the heart of the academic life on the campuses. It provides access to knowledge as an academic library. It also provides a place and atmosphere
The Library serves library users in three cities and at five locations. These locations are the Main Library at Rumelifeneri Campus, the ANAMED Library in Taksim, the AKMED Library in Antalya, the KUH Library at Koç University Hospital, and the VEKAM Archive and Library in Ankara. Each branch library is actively engaged with its community and prioritizes the provision of high-quality service.

The Koç University Institutional Repository (KU IR) as a centralized location for digitized research and scholarship continues to grow. It provides access to 1,052 articles. The KU Theses and Dissertations list contains 1,323 items.

Highlighted of the Year
In 2017, the Library undertook several renovation projects to meet different needs: the ANAMED Library doubled its current size to accommodate the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) and the Turkish Archaeological Institute (TEBE) collections. Also in the Main Library, nearly 1,000 square meters were repurposed.

The Library could not have achieved these digital initiatives without the continued support of the Vehbi Koç Foundation and the University administration. We are moving to the next level of service with growing inventory, rising usage statistics, and scholarly use requests for exhibitions and publications. The items in the Digital Collections platform have been viewed 208,843 times.

In 2017, The Library sustained its efforts to expand its digital collections and its digital cultural heritage initiatives. Projects that started and completed in 2017 include:

• The Byzantine Monuments Photographs Archive in partnership with GABAM and the Collection of Ankara Civil Architecture 1930-1980 Inventory in partnership with Başkent University, supported by Koç University, VEKAM and TÜBİTAK.

• Another project, KU-CIM (Koç University, Collection of Institutional Memory), which houses the institutional memory of Koç University, coincides with the 25th anniversary of the foundation of Koç University.

Ongoing projects that started in 2017 to be finished in 2018 are the Sedad Hakkı Eldem Collection of Architecture and Urban Design, a private collection owned by Rahmi Koç; Collection of İsmail Hami Danışmend Correspondences; and the Oral History project in collaboration with ARHA Department.
The Office of Vice President for Research and Development (VPRD) oversees the operations of and provides necessary guidance to the Graduate Schools, the Office of Research, Project Development and Technology Transfer (RPDTT) Directorate and Research Centers. In addition, Online Programs, Global Recruitment Office and Researchers Development Office have been recently established under the VPRD Office. The VPRD is also involved in other faculty related activities, such as hiring and promotion of the faculty and in the decisions of the extension of the contracts of the faculty.

**Graduate Schools**

For the financing of the graduate students at Koç University, approximately 17% of the MS/A students (excluding MBA students) and 50% of the PhD students are supported by Koç University and the rest are covered by the outside sources. These numbers demonstrate that our strategic goal of reducing the number of MS/A students and increasing the PhD students have been achieved.

**Research, Project Development and Technology Transfer**

The Research, Project Development and Technology Transfer Directorate works closely with the faculty to provide full range of administrative services in their pursuit of externally funded research projects while reducing the administrative burden on researchers. I would like to note that, from its first inception in the 2009-2010 academic year, this office has kept improving the number of sponsored projects from external sources and their financial contribution to the research in the University.

There were 71 externally funded projects in 2017 with a total budget of TL 50.3 million, comprised mainly of TÜBİTAK projects (about TL 20 million), Horizon 2020 projects including ERC grants (TL 23 million), and Industry projects (about TL 5 million). Between January and April 2018, 14 new projects were funded with a present value of TL 5 million.

As of early 2018, Koç University continues to be the leading institution in Turkey in ERC grants, hosting 8 out of the 17 ERC grants active in Turkey. In addition, one consolidator grant application by Assoc. Prof. Sinem Çöleri Ergen, from the Electrical and Electronics Engineering Program, has been retained for the second round for an interview with a panel.

**Research Centers**

The purpose of research programs at Koç University is to make qualified and genuine contributions to universal science and to positively influence the intellectual, technological, economic and social development of Turkey. The academic members recognize the value of interdisciplinary collaboration and work as a team while also sustaining their independent research. Because of that, research centers play a crucial role in the creation of interdisciplinary research environment and operation at Koç University.

Koç University has established a variety of research centers for the purpose of conducting scientific and application studies in specific fields, to propose policies, and to convey academic knowledge to society in social, economic and legal fields. In the academic year 2017-2018, Koç University prepared three proposals to establish three new research centers for the call by Ministry of Development: the Koç University Artificial Intelligence Center, the Koç University Neuro-Engineering and Neuro-Technology Research Center, and the Koç University Fuel Cell Research Center.

**Online Programs**

Due to the increasing popularity and importance of online education, Koç University has established an Office of Online Programs in September 2016 and piloted its first online certificate program in September 2017. The Office works closely with all the faculties of the University in offering online courses, certificate and degree programs, in addition to close collaboration with the Office of Learning and Teaching (KOLT) and with the Audio/Visual department on technical issues.

In its first operational term, Fall 2017, the Office piloted its 1st Online Certificate program, a one-year program on Data Science, where attendees from the industry took courses in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Deep Learning as well as attending bi-monthly labs and working on a term project to utilize the knowledge and the tools they have learned. 21 students are expected to graduate from this Program in June 2018.

During the same term, seven individual undergraduate courses were recorded through lecture capture methodology and made available to students to help them in their studies. In this Spring 2018 term alone, more than 300 lectures were recorded and made available to the students.
Global Recruitment Office
The Global Recruitment Team works closely with Colleges and Graduate Schools at Koç University in all matters related to developing promotional and marketing activities for international student recruitment, improving the application and admissions processes at the undergraduate and graduate level for international students and supporting the strategic internationalization plan of the university with the Office of International Programs, the Communications Directorate, and other administrative units.

Researcher Development Office
The Researcher Development Office has been recently established to (i) understand the challenges and opportunities for developing KU researchers (mainly PhD students); (ii) provide appropriate resources and support for researchers for their academic, professional, and personal skills development; and (iii) prepare KU researchers for diverse future career directions; such as transitions to other sectors, self-employment and entrepreneurship, combining practice and scholarship.

THE RESEARCH PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER DIRECTORATE (RPDTT)

The Research Project Development and Technology Transfer Directorate is positioned under the Vice Presidency for Research and Development. The Directorate provides intellectual property rights management-licensing and entrepreneurship-new venture development services in addition to project development, management, and university-industry research collaboration services.

Highlights of the Year
In the 2017-2018 academic year, the Research Project Development and Technology Transfer Directorate continued to provide support for grant applications and actively pursued project development opportunities. These efforts led to solid performance in terms of growth in the number of projects as well as the granted amount from these projects.

In 2017-2018, 71 externally funded projects in 2017 attracted a record total budget of TL 50.3 million. The most significant additions to the external funding portfolio were 1003 large-budget TÜBİTAK (TL 3.4 million) projects, and two new European Research Council contracts (TL 14 million). Between January and April 2018, 14 projects were funded with a present value of TL 5 million.

In 2017, the university’s success with the prestigious European Research Council (ERC) awards continued. Dr. Hakan Ürey (Electrical and Electronics Engineering) signed a second ERC Proof of Concept Grant, with a value of TL 600,000. Dr. Erdem Yörük (Sociology) began research funded by an ERC Starting Grant (TL 7.4 million, approved in 2016). Approval was granted for Dr. Seda Keskin’s (Chemical and Biological Engineering) ERC Starting Grant (budget value TL 7.4 million). As of early 2018, Koç University continues to be the leading institution in Turkey in ERC grants, with eight of the 17 ERC grants active in Turkey.

Concerning the European Commission’s Horizon 2020 Program, Koç University continued to be the most successful university in Turkey in terms of the number of contracts and budget received.

In 2017, patent applications for three new international PCT patent applications were filed, and 12 national entries were realized. Overall, 12 patents were granted in 2017, three Turkish patents, five European patents, three US patents, and one Japanese patent.

Current Externally-Funded Projects
As of April 2018, the total number of ongoing projects is 164, with a present value of TL 200.6 million. Also amplified by the devaluation of Turkish Lira, active European funding (mainly Horizon 2020 projects, worth TL 84.6 million) is, for the first time, ahead of national funding (mainly TÜBİTAK grants and Ministry of Development support for the Koç University Translational Medical Research Center, worth TL 74 million). Faculty efforts to participate in individual and cooperative calls under Horizon 2020 increased in 2017. ERC projects comprise the bulk of the Koç University’s active European funding (78 percent). Koç University was also included in the group of universities that began to receive 50 percent overheads (an increase from the previous 10 percent) from TÜBİTAK grants in 2015. The third main source of external research funding is industry, supporting 22 active projects with a total budget of TL 18 million. Other sources, such as non-governmental organizations, universities abroad, and umbrella organization, comprise the rest of the project portfolio of the university with 24 running projects with a total budget of about TL 24 million.

Share of the Colleges and Units in Currently Active Projects
The College of Engineering has 52 active projects with a current worth of TL 58.8 million. Most of this active funding, TL 39.6 million, comes from its European projects, mainly ERC grants. Projects by the School of Medicine are on the increase (TL 47.2 million worth), but this high amount is due to the Ministry of Development grant (TL 33 million) to the new Translational
Medical Research Center. The College of Social Sciences and Humanities follows with 13 active projects, with a value of TL 43 million. Significant grants for the College are its two ERC projects (TL 15 million), the Stavros Niarchos Foundation support (TL 12 million) for the new Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for Late Antique and Byzantine Studies, and Arçelik’s grant for the Koç University Arçelik Center for Creative Studies. The College of Science has TL 26.7 million worth of grants for 45 active projects, mostly granted by TÜBİTAK, but also including an active ERC grant. The College of Administrative Sciences and Economics holds TL 10.9 million of grants, with 13 projects. The Law School has one active project, worth TL 0.4 million, and the School of Nursing runs three projects worth TL 0.2 million.

As for administrative units, the Office of International Programs increased its Erasmus+ Programme activities and now has a portfolio worth TL 9.1 million. The Social Impact Forum continues its rising profile, with six projects worth TL 1.5 million. RPDTT expects to run its 1513 project with a 2018 budget worth TL 1.7 million. ALIS, the Women Studies Center, and KWORS are also running one project each.

**Development of Research Grants (by years and funding institutions)**

The total number of externally funded projects, starting from January 2004 until April 2018, is 780 and the total amount granted is around TL 329 million (present value). Nearly half of the funds have been received from the public sector with 48 percent of the total granted budget, which amounts to around TL 159 million. The second major source of funding is the European Funding Institutions, with TL 100 million (30 percent). The third source of funding is industry, with TL 48 million (14 percent). Other funding institutions (for example, NGOs, non-EU organizations, and embassies) comprise the rest of external funding.

**Project Development at Koç University**

Since 2014, the Research Project Development and Technology Transfer Directorate especially has increased its efforts in the areas of University-Industry collaboration and entrepreneurship supports. The Directorate further has improved its support and evaluation services provided to researchers for licensing, patent applications, and commercialization. Following the 2014 initiation of the new research and innovation support program of the European Commission, namely Horizon 2020, the Directorate helped Koç University researchers prepare applications for various collaboration calls. Awareness-raising and information distribution activities continued for the second year of the new seven-year research and innovation support program of Horizon 2020. The Directorate continued to support the strengthening of Koç University researchers’ networks with European research organizations.

In 2017, the University’s success at attracting Istanbul Development Agency funding continued, with two additional projects with a total budget of around TL 2.1 million.

TÜBİTAK continues to be the main source of national research funding, especially following the national decision to increase Koç University’s (among other successful universities) overhead share from supported projects to 50 percent. Large scale TÜBİTAK grants continue to be very important for the University, and University researchers are successful in this program.

The interest of researchers in the EC’s Horizon 2020 program continued to increase, though success, especially in cooperative projects, continues to prove difficult because of strong Europe-wide competition. Throughout 2017, the Research Project Development and Technology Transfer Directorate Office supported 13 cooperation proposals and 23 individual applications under this program, across all disciplines represented at the University. Two new European Research Council grants began in 2017. Erdem Yörük’s (Sociology) Starting Grant project was approved in 2016 and the grant agreement began in 2017. Seda Keskin (Chemical and Biological Engineering) was awarded a new Starting Grant and her agreement was signed in late 2017. Koç University is still the leading university nationally in ERC grants, now with eight of the 17 active grants. With new approved cooperation and Marie Curie projects as of April 2018, the University is the most successful university in Turkey under the Horizon 2020 Program.

Directorate team members attended several key events in 2017, such as EU Industry Day, the ECSEL Forum, Open EUREKA Innovation Week, ITEA3 Project Outline Preparation Days, and the USIMP Patent Fair. Faculty members attended several brokerage events with the support of the Directorate’s coordination. These events aim to match project proposals for European Commission and other cooperative calls. The Directorate also organized several workshops and training sessions on topics such as technology transfer, and new venture development.

In 2017, the Directorate completed the tasks under its two approved projects for Capacity Development for Technology Transfer Offices: PROGRESS-TT is supported by Horizon 2020, and TTA Turkey is co-financed by the EU and the Republic of Turkey under the Regional Development Component of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) funds and managed by the EIF.
Overview
Several major issues have dominated our administrative efforts in the 2017-2018 academic year. One area concerned the recruitment of new faculty. Another major effort was the five-year re-accreditation, for the second time, from EQUIS. We also worked on our other accreditation by the AACSB, submitting our Initial Self-Evaluation Report (iSER) in June 2017. The iSER was accepted and approved. We are in the process of first year iSER Update submission. As always, we were also busy working through our yearly cycle of administrative duties concerning faculty evaluations and promotions.

As part of the Koç University 25th anniversary celebrations, CASE and the Graduate School of Business organized a full-day conference on sustainable development, mainly focusing on United Nations sustainable development goals. The conference brought together our alumni who have been working in various areas of sustainability and presented their work to our faculty, student body, and to audiences from the private sector, academia, and NGOs.

Review of the Current State of the College
As of April 2018, CASE has 65 full-time faculty and 1569 active undergraduate students in its three programs: Business Administration, Economics, and International Relations, including students in the English Learning Center (ELC) program. As such, the student body of CASE is one of the largest at Koç University.

Faculty
CASE has internationally recognized faculty. Ninety-seven percent of the faculty members received their PhDs abroad and many of them worked at international institutions before joining Koç University (46 percent women; five percent international). The distribution of hierarchical positions in CASE is quite healthily bottom heavy, with approximately 41 percent at entry level, 34 percent at associate level, and 25 percent at the professorial level.

Research Activities
The CASE faculty continues to have the highest number of publications in top international journals, the highest number of citations, and the highest number of awards received from the Turkish Academy of Sciences and Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey among their peers at other schools in Turkey. Despite fluctuations, our faculty’s academic productivity remains high and competitive compared to not only our Turkish competitors, but also with topnotch institutions worldwide.

Our publications (23 articles) during the 2015-2018 YTD (year to date) period in the leading business journals place us again as the top research institution in Turkey, according to the University of Texas World Rankings for Business Schools. Our international relations program also was ranked among the top 200 institutions worldwide in this year’s QS World University Rankings. Similarly, our economics program ranks at the very top of research institutions in economics in Turkey based on the QS World University Rankings (the only university from Turkey placed in the 251-300 band). Our International Relations group is ranked first in Turkey and in the 151-175 band globally in the Times Higher Education Social Sciences rankings.

There are currently 13 active research projects funded by the European Union, TÜBİTAK, and other sources at CASE, with a total budget of TL 11 million. In 2017, six new projects were funded, with a total budget of TL 1.8 million.

Students
As a consequence of the reduction in the number of students with scholarships in 2017, median levels increased compared to the previous three years. With respect to the minimum entrance scores, CASE undergraduate programs with full scholarship are at the top among all the universities in terms of student selectivity. Our non-scholarship programs also rank at the top among all foundation universities.

Another major point to note is the extent to which our students undertake double major programs. Of our 1,569 CASE students, 333 (22 percent) undertake a double major program. Typically, most of these are within our faculty (185). However, a significant number of students (148) pursue a double major in engineering (35), social sciences and humanities (84), sciences (five), and law (24). Similarly, we receive students from other faculties doing double majors in our departments (204). Most of these are from engineering, social sciences and humanities, and the law faculty. As such, we experienced a significant increase in student numbers in the classes we teach at the undergraduate level. All in all, these students from double major programs create approximately 20 percent additional students for the courses offered by our faculty.
Internationalization
CASE has achieved international recognition, especially for its faculty, research, and education programs. Our faculty continues to take a leading position in all initiatives for the continued internationalization in our university.

Our faculty is currently the only EQUIS-accredited business school in Turkey. We are the Turkish partner in the CEMS Global Alliance in Management Education. The Financial Times lists Koç University among the best European Business Schools. We are a member not only of the AACSB and EFMD, but also of CFA Partner institutions, the Global Business School Network, and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Academic Network. Koç University is also a signatory of the United Nations Principles of Responsible Management Education.

We started our accreditation within the AACSB. Our eligibility application was accepted by that organization in 2015. Our Initial Self-Evaluation Report (iSER) was accepted and approved in June 2017. We are in the process of preparing the submission of the first year of our iSER Update.

Distinguished Research Fellows and Visiting Professors
In the capacity of our Distinguished Research Fellows or Visiting Professors Programs, we invited researchers based outside Turkey to contribute to our research programs by conducting collaborative research with our faculty members, supervising graduate students, and organizing research seminars and workshops.

Promotions
• Assoc. Prof. Selva Demiralp was promoted to the rank of Professor of Economics;
• Dr. Özgür Yılmaz was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Economics;
• Dr. Sinan Sarpça was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Economics.

Sabbaticals
During the 2017-2018 academic year, seven faculty members took sabbatical leaves.

Awards and Achievements
• Sumru Altuğ, Professor, Economics, 2018 TÜBİTAK Science Award;
• Seda Ertaç, Associate Professor, Economics, 2018 TÜBİTAK Encouragement Award;
• Reşat Bayer, Associate Professor, International Relations, 2018 TÜBİTAK Encouragement Award;
• Cem Demiroğlu, Associate Professor, Finance, 2018 BAGEP (Science Academy’s Young Scientist Awards Program);
• Selim Erdem Aytaç, Assistant Professor, International Relations, April 2018, Sakıp Sabancı International Research Award.
Overview
With excellent faculty and facilities, The Koç University College of Engineering is in a unique position to be recognized as the leading engineering college in Turkey and a world-class institution. One of our main distinguishing features is our insistence on high impact, interdisciplinary research.

Review of the Current State of the College
This year, the new Data Analytics track program had a successful start. We also initiated a professional program with some of the courses that were offered in the track, which also received considerable interest. We expect these programs to grow in the coming years.

Our engineering accreditation (MÜDEK-ENAE) renewal visit in our Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Industrial Engineering programs took place in March 2017 and the results will be announced in June 2018. The renewal processes for the other three programs are ongoing and the campus visits are expected to take place in March 2019. We need to maintain a focus of our internal quality assurance processes, obtaining systematic feedback from students, alumni, and employers to provide a cutting-edge engineering education.

Faculty
The College of Engineering currently has 56 full-time faculty members (excluding Professor Umran İnan and Vice President İrşadi Aksun). Three new faculty members with very high research potential joined our College in 2017 and we are targeting to grow by another ten faculty members in the coming years.

Research Output and Grants
The quantity and quality of our scholarly research output is maintained. The new facilities of our university, to be completed very soon, and our new faculty members should give a boost to our output in a few years. In terms external funding, 2017-18 was a successful academic year despite the slowdown in national funding agencies.

Students
The number of new students admitted through the central university entrance exam in 2017 increased by 12 percent over 2016. Along with this increase, the significant reduction in scholarship rates led to a decrease in the rankings of our bottom students. The total number of active undergraduate engineering students is around 1500, and with the hire of five new faculty members, our undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio within the college is relatively high, allowing individual advising and project supervision.

Promotions
Dr. Yücel Yemez (Computer Engineering) was promoted to Professor, and Dr. Alper Uzun (Chemical and Biological Engineering) was promoted to Associate Professor in 2017-2018. We anticipate several promotions in 2018-19.

Major Awards and Achievements
In the 2017-2018 academic year, the Engineering Faculty received several awards. A summary of the highlights is as follows:
- Seda Keskin, Assoc. Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering, received an ERC starting grant;
- Can Erkey, Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering, received the 2017 Koç University Outstanding Faculty Award;
- Seda Keskin, Assoc. Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering, received the 2017 Koç University Outstanding Faculty Award;
- Erdem Alaca, Assoc. Professor of Mechanical Engineering, 2017 College of Engineering Outstanding Faculty Award;
- Emre Kütköprü, Instructor in Computer Engineering, 2017 College of Engineering Outstanding Teaching Award;
- Alptekin Küpçü, Asst. Professor of Computer Engineering, 2016 Turkish Academy of Sciences Encouragement Award (TÜBA-GEBİP);
- Demircan Canadinç, Assoc. Professor of Mechanical Engineering, 2017 Science Academy Encouragement Award (BAGEP);
- Metin Sezgin, Assoc. Professor of Computer Engineering, 2017 Science Academy Encouragement Award (BAGEP);
- Sedat Nizamoğlu, Asst. Professor of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, 2017 Science Academy Encouragement Award (BAGEP);
- Emir Salih Mağden, Asst. Professor of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, 2017 Mustafa Parlar Foundation Encouragement Award;
- Erdem Alaca, Assoc. Professor of Mechanical Engineering, received the 2017 Elginkan Foundation Research Award.
Overview
The mission of the College of Sciences (CS) is to educate future leaders who can design strategies based on scientific principles and to conduct cutting-edge research with high impact. Our criteria of success are not only to attract the best students, but also to create opportunities for our students to improve themselves so that our graduates are the top choice of both industry and academia. For this, we include our students starting from their first year as researchers on our ongoing projects that find answers to important scientific questions and combine fundamental science and applications implementing interdisciplinary approaches. The College has four departments, Chemistry, Mathematics, Molecular Biology and Genetics, and Physics.

Review of the Current State of the College
In the 2017-2018 academic year, the faculty of the CS offered core and required courses to more than 7,250 students in a total of 152 sections of 104 different courses, corresponding to 48 students per section.

Students
The rankings of full scholarship students enrolled in CS continued to improve in 2017 compared to previous years.

Currently, there is a total of 55 double-major students in CS. Of the 55 double-major students, 42 are from other Colleges.

Faculty
As of Spring 2018, CS comprises 42 full-time research faculty, 10 full-time instructors, and 4 part-time instructors in four disciplines (Chemistry, Mathematics, Molecular Biology and Genetics, and Physics).

Research Activities
The College continues to produce high-impact research output in leading scientific journals. As of April 2018, the total number of CS publications since 1993 has reached over 1500. Based on the total research output of the university as documented in the ISI Web of Science (as of April 2018), the top three highest cited Koç University publications have come out of the College of Sciences. In 2017, the CS faculty published 94 research articles (including proceedings) as listed in the ISI Web of Science, corresponding to 2,2 papers per faculty member.

In 2017, a total of 19 new external projects led by CS faculty were funded with a total budget of TL 7,647,511.32. Currently, there are 53 active, externally funded projects led by CS faculty with a total budget of approximately TL 26.9 million. The total amount of external project funding received by the CS faculty since 2004 has reached TL 64,432,473.51.

The College currently houses 21 research laboratories in chemistry, molecular biology and genetics, and physics.

Promotion and Appointment
Three faculty members were promoted to the rank of Professor, and one faculty member was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in 2017. 7 new faculty members joined CS in Fall 2017. As of April 2018, four new faculty members accepted our offer to join CS for Fall 2018. Four more offers are pending. In addition, three outside faculty members continued as Distinguished Research Fellows.

Awards
In 2017 and up to April 2018, three awards were received by the CS Faculty members from external organizations. Of the 42 full-time research faculty members, seven have received the prestigious TÜBİTAK (Turkish Scientific and Technical Research Council) Science Award; 11 have received TÜBİTAK Young Scientist Award; 21 have received TÜBA (Turkish Academy of Sciences) Young Scientist Award and 13 have received the Science Academy Young Scientist Award.
Overview
The College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH) is a challenging and inspiring unit of Koç University committed to the advancement of knowledge and creative activity through the pursuit of teaching, learning, research, and arts. Our departments and support programs encourage students to build their capacity to think freely, critically, and incisively about ideas, people, communities, and societies in the past and contemporary world. CSSH offers a vibrant, multi-disciplinary research environment revolving around several innovative, high-quality research groups. The faculty members are internationally recognized for research that is relevant to the needs of the students and stakeholders so as to meet local and global challenges faced by individuals, communities, and societies.

Review of the Current State of the College
CSSH is composed of seven degree-granting departments and three supporting programs. The departments are Archeology and History of Art, English Language and Comparative Literature, History, Media and Visual Arts, Philosophy, Psychology, and Sociology. The supporting programs are Academic Writing, Foreign Languages, and Turkish Communication Skills. We recently have added a Writing Center to this list of supporting programs.

CSSH offered 282 course sections in Fall 2017, and 290 in Spring 2018. These correspond to the largest proportion of courses taught by a college in the University. In addition, ten research centers are associated the College, making a major contribution to the research as well as to our teaching activities.

Faculty
Currently there are 68 faculty members in seven departments (15 full professors, 14 associate professors, and 39 assistant professors). With the full-time and part-time instructors as well as adjunct professors, the number of faculty reaches 134. In the next academic year, we expect the number of total number of full-time faculty members to increase at all levels (for example, seven more) through new hires and promotions.

Appointments and Promotions
Seven new faculty members joined CSSH in the 2017-2018 academic year, one of them at the level of full professor, one at the level of associate professor, and five as assistant professors. In addition, one faculty member became a full-time assistant professor after having served the College as a full-time instructor. There will be three full professors, two associate professors, and four assistant professors joining us in the next academic year.

Research Activities
The upward trend in total active amount of external research funding continued in the 2017-2018 academic year, rising from TL 25 million to over TL 40 million. This year, a considerable proportion of funding received from EU funding institutions was again from the two European Research Council (ERC) grants. This underlines an important success for the College in terms of securing funds from a highly competitive funding scheme.

This year, our faculty members have been successful in producing research funding in most cases, but we also need to be more effective in supporting certain types of non-conventional academic and artistic activities such as exhibitions, archaeological excavations, policy research, and civil society activities. These form well-defined target challenges for us to address in coming years.

Research productivity is increasing. However, what is needed more is to encourage and facilitate the faculty to disseminate and publish their research findings in high impact venues, such as well-respected interdisciplinary journals.

Students
The College continues to focus on attracting the best students to its programs. We are on track to selecting students only from those who score above 50,000 on the national university entrance exam.
The Koç University Law School aims to nurture responsible, creative, and critical-minded lawyers with its content-rich courses in public law, private law, and its core program. The curriculum combines the liberal arts approach with legal knowledge and professional skills. It puts emphasis on ethical principles of law as well as international and comparative law perspectives. The courses with international and comparative content are taught in English. The Law School provides a high level of proficiency in national law topics, with courses taught in Turkish. It targets to contribute to the molding of a lawyer profile with an understanding based on reliable academic research as well as practical experience. The exchange programs, in partnership with outstanding universities around the globe and institutional or international internship opportunities, are designed to support the learning-by-doing experience.

Students
The total number of the students at the Law School is 446 (288 female and 158 male). There were 11 full-scholarship students in 2017 admitted from among the highest ranking students (2-111th students in the ranking). The number of non-scholarship students was 95. The bottom ranking of admitted non-scholarship students was 24,271. The highest ranking of admitted non-scholarship student was 819. There were nine Anatolian Scholarship students in the ELC.

Five students participated in international exchange programs in 2017-2018. The Erasmus+ exchange is preferred since the law curriculums of EU member states are comparable with the Turkish law curriculum. The Erasmus+ Programme provides an affordable international experience for Koç University students. Five of our students went abroad with the Programme, and the School hosted nine incoming exchange students.

Every year the Law School organizes an intensive legal research methodology workshop for LLM and PhD students to assist them as regards their thesis research questions, literature review, description, and justification of the chosen methods.

The Advanced Legal Research Colloquia was held on April 16, 2018 by the inclusion of LLM and PhD students and research assistants. Furthermore, another workshop on research methodology was organized with the title “Pursuing a PhD and an Academic Career in International Law” for public law graduate students.

Faculty
The Law School has 16 full-time faculty members. Additionally, the number of adjunct professors is four. There are 12 research assistants at the Law School. Guest professors (eight) lectured intensive courses in the field of jurisdiction in global competition law, international contract law, comparative constitutional law, intellectual property law, and international trade law. Full-time and adjunct professors hold PhDs in law. The total number of full faculty members who served in the 2017-2018 academic year was 20, excluding research assistants, post-doctoral fellows, and guest professors. There is an ongoing process as regards to the recruitment of new faculty members. The recruitment committee voted in favor of new and qualified faculty members after examining their academic records. The final decision is made after attending seminars or lectures presented by them.
New faculty members are:

- Nevhis Deren Yıldırım as Full Professor of Civil Procedure and Bankruptcy-Enforcement Law—LL.B (İstanbul University), LL.M and PhD (Marmara University);
- Zeynep Elibol as Assistant Professor of International Law—LL.B (Koç University), LL.M (Michigan University), PhD (İstanbul University);
- Kerem Gûlay as Assistant Professor of International Law—LL.B and LL.M ( Bilgi University), JS.D (Cornell University) – in process;
- Lorenzo Sasso as Associate Professor of International Business Law—BA and MA (University of Bologna), PhD (London School of Economics) – in process.

The post-graduate researchers are:

- Valentina Rita Scotti (PhD in Comparative Public Law, University of Sienna) – affiliated also to a Turkish National Science Foundation project;
- Valentina Azarova (PhD in Human Rights, National University of Ireland) – affiliated also with KÜREMER.

Law School appointed new research assistants:

- Betül Durmuş – Research Assistant for Public International Law (PhD candidate);
- Hüseyin Bahadır Çolak - Research Assistant for Civil Law (PhD candidate).

The distinguished experts from different fields of law who contributed LLM programs in the academic year 2017-2018 are as follows:

- Prof. Dr. Pierre de Vos (Professor of Constitutional Law University of Cape Town);
- Prof. Dr. Ghent Zyberi (Professor of Public International Law, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo);
- Prof. Dr. Francisco de Elizalde Ibarbia (Professor in International Contracts and Property Law in IE Madrid Law School);
- Dr. Marios Iacovides (Professor of Competition Law, Swedish Competition Authority);
- Dr. Amrita Bahri (Assistant Professor and Director of Global Legal Skills and Common Law Program, ITAM University, Mexico);
- Dr. Adam Shinar (Assistant Professor of Constitutional Law, IDC, Israel);
- Can Yeğinsu (Barrister, 4 Newsquare, London);
- Salona Lutchman (Senior Lecturer in the Department of Public Law, University of Cape Town);
- Giovanna Carugno (Adjunct Professor at Foro Italico University, Italy);
- Dr. Kaya Köklü (Attorney at law at SGP Legal, Alumni of the MPI for Innovation and Competition, Visiting lecturer at LMU Munich, Bucerius Law School Hamburg).

The total number of students assigned to a full-time professor in the courses (Fall and Spring semesters) ranges from approximately five to 120 in each semester. In terms of students assigned to courses, there is no uniform application or pattern. Due to the increase in the number of admitted students, teaching in sections is preferred for some of the courses.

The following data as to academic activities of full-time faculty members are based on Faculty Information System data in 2016-2017. The number of research faculty publications for 2016-2017 (including technical reports) was 97. Faculty members participated as invited speakers in 72 major conferences (invited lectures and similar activities are not included).

Research Conferences

Research conferences organized by the Law School during this academic period include:

- The IFA David R. Tillinghast Research Program International Tax Conference, October 5-7, 2017;
- The Junior Labor Law Scholars Conference III, March 21, 2018;
- Causation in Insurance, March 28, 2018;
- The 7th International Student Symposium on Law and Global Issues, April 27-29, 2018;
- The Private International Law Young Academics Symposium, June 1, 2018.

In this period, the Law School also organized four workshops and panel meetings and 18 seminars and certificate programs on a wide range of topics of law with the participation of eminent speakers from Turkey and abroad.

Competitions and Legal Awards

- The Prof. Dr. Yavuz Abadan- Prof. Dr. Nermin Abadan-Unat Article Competition, November 14, 2017;

Books, Proceedings and Reports

Overview
In its eighth year, with outstanding results by its limited number of graduates, the Koç University School of Medicine (KUSOM) continues to attract the best and brightest high school graduates who want to pursue careers in medicine. This result is achieved with our high-quality faculty and innovative teaching and assessment methodology coupled with a continuously improved curriculum, active student participation in research, spiral integration of basic and clinical sciences, and close monitoring and advising of students, spread mostly by word of mouth among prospective med students and their families. This remarkable progress should be continued in clinical teaching, research, and service. We have been able to expand our educational spectrum to post-graduate education, including residency and subspecialty training in some disciplines. Our current search and recruitment process for new faculty shows that KUSOM has become the most desirable academic institution in Turkey for scientists, academics, and physicians.

Review of the Current State of the School
It has been nine years since KUSOM was established, and eight years since the admission of our first 40 students in Fall 2010. The KUSOM continues to attract the most successful high school graduates in Turkey.

The curriculum at KUSOM is continuously monitored and revised by the Curriculum Development Coordination Committee (CDCC). A new committee has been formed with a mandate to prepare a revision for the freshman curriculum.

The Koç University Health Sciences Campus and Koç University Hospital steadily increased their case load, by an average 60 percent over the last year. In 2017, the School of Nursing moved in, the Academy of Interventional Medical Education and Simulation Center became operational, and the research facilities were united under the umbrella of the recently founded Koç University Translational Medicine Research Center (KUTTAM). Also, the Rahmi M. Koç Academy of Interventional Medicine, Education, and Simulation (RMK-AIMES) Center was launched. The largest activity thus far has been the standardized patient program.

KUSOM passed its first accreditation visit by the National Accreditation Body for Medical Education in February 2018. Also this year, KUSOM applied for accreditation and licensure for residency training for the first time and ten programs were licensed for residency training.

Research
Early exposure of medical students to research is one of our founding principles. This system is now fully in place and functional. Our goal to provide KUSOM students with the necessary clinical exposure and adequate bedside teaching and role modeling continues to be largely met.

Students
KUSOM continues to attract some of the best students in Turkey. I believe we can take pride in our educational output so far. The USMLE results so far are very promising. Our average students consistently perform better than 90 percent of their US-trained counterparts.

In 2017-2018, until January 1, 2018 (the deadline to the early applications), 63 international students applied for KUSOM. Twelve applicants with high international test scores were interviewed, and ten were accepted. The deadline for applications is 1 July 2018.

Our graduates' performance in residency entrance, either in the US or through the Turkish Medical Specialty Training entrance exam (TUS), is outstanding. KUSOM has outperformed all other medical schools in TUS by any measure.

Faculty Members
Since July 2017, one instructor, two assistant professors, five associate professors, eight professors, and two visiting professors have been appointed.

Seminars and Events
Since July 2017, four workshops, courses, symposia, and 36 research seminars have been organized.

Awards and Research Grants
The KUSOM faculty has received 34 grants and seven prestigious awards from national and international organizations.
Overview
The Koç University School of Nursing (KUSON) was founded in 1998 in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing to provide a four-year undergraduate nursing program. KUSON aims to continue to be a leading institution that put forward the impact of nursing in the improvement and development of health at national and global levels by attaining excellence in nursing care, education, research, and practice. The academic year 2017-2018 marked the completion of the 18th year of KUSON.

Review of the Current State of the School of Nursing
Effective from the academic year 2016-2017, KUSON started to admit students with regard to LYS (Undergraduate Placement Exam) MF-3 (Maths and Science) scores. In the 2017-2018 academic year, following the ELC Program, 25 students were promoted to freshmen in the nursing program. They started to take basic medicine courses and core program courses in the new nursing curriculum. Compared to the previous year, the number of the funded projects and the number of the faculty who attended a project-writing seminar increased. As part of international exchange programs, new agreements were established and the exchange of academic and administrative staff was initiated.

Semahat Arsel Nursing Education and Research Center (SANERC)
SANERC, which is accredited by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), continues to offer courses and certification programs to nurses and other healthcare providers. SANERC organized six continuing education programs between May 2017 and May 2018. In total, 131 nurses and four other healthcare providers were trained. Two nursing certificate programs, the Stoma & Wound Care Nursing Certificate Training Program and the Critical Care Nursing Certificate Training Program, were offered in Spring 2018.


Four nursing research projects were funded by the VKV Nursing Research Fund in 2017.

Koç University First Aid Education Center (KÜYEM)
The Koç University First Aid Education Center (KÜYEM) was founded in 2010 and has been providing first aid training for companies and their employees. There are currently three different training sessions, Basic First Aid Training, Refresher First Aid Training, and First Aid Information Seminar.

KÜYEM organized 14 Basic First Aid Training sessions, 14 Refresher First Aid Training sessions, and 11 information seminars between May 2017 and March 2018. 1002 people attended these activities.
The Koç University Graduate School of Business (GSB) continues to be the leading graduate school of business not only in Turkey, but also in the region as evidenced by its accreditations (EQUIS and AMBA) and international partnership and networking programs (CFA, CEMS, GNAM, PIM, and EMBA Council).

Following up on our long-term objective to join the select group of triple-crown accredited business schools worldwide, we have successfully been reaccredited by EQUIS and received accreditation for our MBA and EMBA programs by the Association of MBAs (AMBA), representing the highest standard of achievement in postgraduate business education. We are in the process of AACSB accreditation.

Despite the economic and geopolitical uncertainty in Turkey and the constraints these pose to incoming international students and incoming study trips, the GSB has upheld, and in various ways improved, the quality of its academic and executive education programs.

Currently, we have 227 students in the academic programs of the GSB. All of our programs are reviewed to ensure they reflect the latest trends in business education. The GSB is uniquely positioned in Turkey and the surrounding region by its global connectivity, a unique selling point that we intend to use consistently in our communications to various stakeholders.

The GSB Executive Education Program has shown significant growth in the portfolio of strategic partners, firms, customers, and Exec Ed participants, leading to an increase in revenue and income. The total number of participants in both customized and open-enrollment programs reached 5,964 annually and 2017 revenues reached USD 3,013,000. In addition to our existing programs like Change Management, the Arçelik Technical Academy, and the Merck Group Leadership Academy, we also started new initiatives in 2017-2018, such as a Lead Digital certificate with Koç Holding and the BISTEP Certificate Program with Borsa İstanbul, to institutionalize family businesses and improve SMEs in Turkey in the way of corporate governance.
The Graduate School of Health Sciences (GSHS) was established in 2011 to offer multidisciplinary graduate programs to students with undergraduate degrees from different disciplines, including such fields as science (chemistry, physics, biology, and molecular biology), engineering (chemical and biological, mechanical, electrical), pharmacology, medicine, and nursing.

Some of the objectives for 2018 include:

- The conclusion of the application/admission process of the students in the most efficient way and managing a successful student placement process;
- The promotion of GSHS programs in Turkey and abroad;
- The preparation of a Student Guideline Handbook;
- The follow-up of graduate students’ education, research, and scholarships;
- The improvement of communication with the faculty members and informing them through regular meetings and legislative changes.

In 2017, 527 students applied to our programs (268 students to the MS programs and 259 students to the PhD programs). Currently, the GSHS has 26 students in the Cellular and Molecular Medicine PhD program, 15 students in the Neuroscience PhD program, one student in the Reproductive Medicine PhD program, two students in the Reproductive Biology MS program, one student in the Medical Microbiology MS program, 78 students in the Nursing MS program, 13 students in the Nursing PhD program, 11 students in the Molecular Biology and Genetics Engineering Program (a joint program with the Graduate School of Sciences and Engineering), and six students in the Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Program (a joint program with the Graduate School of Sciences and Engineering). Two students graduated from the Reproductive Biology and 11 students from the Nursing programs. Overall, 13 students graduated from GSHS programs in 2017.

The Graduate School of Health Sciences has close relations and integration with KUTTAM (the Research Center for Translational Medicine) as it provides the necessary infrastructure. In order to expand research activities, the School applied to the Ministry of Development fund for the KUNNAM project (Koç University Advanced Neuroengineering and Neurotechnology Research Center) in March 2018. The aim of this project is to provide interdisciplinary infrastructure for understanding the physiology of the nervous system and their implications in neurological diseases. The data that will be collected from this center will provide cutting-edge knowledge about technology, robotics, artificial intelligence, and the defense industry.

A regular shuttle between Koç University Hospital and the Rumelifeneri Campus was organized in order to make transportation between the two locations easier for both the students and faculty members.

In 2017, the Graduate School prioritized advertising efforts to attract more qualified students from Turkey and abroad. A delegation attended the TRUCAS 11th Turkish Universities Fair in Rotterdam, Brussels and Cologne between May 4-6, 2018.

A seminar series was initiated in 2017 in order to broaden the vision and increase the knowledge of researchers and graduate program students about innovations in health. The titles of the seminars were “Innovation in Medicine and R&D: The Situation in Our Country,” “Experimental Neuroscience Methods Course,” “GSHS Seminars,” and “International Meeting of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Research Group.”
The Graduate School of Sciences and Engineering (GSSE) offers 38 programs (13 MS with Thesis, 13 MS without Thesis, 12 PhD) with a current student population of 478 (163 MS, 315 PhD) supervised by 116 faculty members. The total number of degrees given in 2017 was 78 (43 MS, 35 PhD).

We received a total of 1,143 applications in 2017 (Fall 2017 and Spring 2018). The total number of graduate students admitted in 2017 was 110 (63 MS and 47 PhD), with an acceptance rate of 9.6 percent.

With the addition of new research laboratories, infrastructure, and faculty members in 2018, our challenge in the coming years will be to increase the number of admitted students while maintaining student quality.

This year, we continue our recruitment efforts to attract the best foreign students. At the moment we have 149 foreign students (31 percent of registered students) and we plan to increase this number by attracting more externally-funded students.

We encourage both our faculty and the prospective students to follow the direct PhD path without an MS degree. At the same time, we view those students registering for MS programs as potential PhD students in our programs. As of today, out of 133 PhD students with MS degrees, 36 percent of them earned their MS degrees at Koç University.

A new interdisciplinary graduate program in Data Sciences (Non-Thesis MS, MS with Thesis) is planned to start in Fall 2018. The process for approval by the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) is pending.

The non-thesis option for all our MS programs is active. The basic requirement for a non-thesis MS degree is a minimum of 10 courses and a graduation project. We hope to attract students directly from the industry by offering various specialization areas in different programs where they can complement their expertise. Providing on-line education opportunities for non-thesis MS programs has also been ongoing.

The Graduate (English) Language Program (GLP) within the ELC provides an opportunity to attract bright graduate students who cannot satisfy the English requirements for admission. The program supports exceptional candidates to learn English for a year. This will certainly help to enlarge our pool of graduate student admissions and we plan to announce it more effectively.

Only 32 percent of our graduate students receive support directly from the University. The current proportion of students who receive scholarships from external sources is 66.5 percent. External support comes mainly from TÜBİTAK, which is the primary funding agency in the country. For other projects, including ERC-funded projects, GSSE aims to increase the proportion of graduate students supported by external agencies.

Approximately 100 students are expected to graduate with an increasing proportion of PhD degrees in 2018. The quality of both the students who are admitted and of those who have graduated from Koç University has improved by all standards during recent years.
The Graduate School of Social Sciences and Humanities (GSSSH) completed its 15th year with 28 graduate programs, a current student population of 332, and an alumni population exceeding 510.

This year, the first Erasmus Mundus Joint Master’s Program in psychology in Turkey with €2.6 million funding, received the approval of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK). The program is jointly managed by four international universities: University Institute Lisbon (ISCTE); the University of Social Sciences and Humanities (SWPS), Warsaw; the University of Oslo (UiO), Norway; and the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Limerick.

A new maritime archaeology track within the Archaeology and History of Art Program was launched. As there are very few maritime archaeology programs in Turkey and Europe, we believe this new track will be a pre-eminent source of education and training in the discipline within the Mediterranean and European regions and help us attract local and international graduate students.

Short-term certificate/training programs were promoted in the departments throughout the year. Another work undertaken was the design of our Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality (AR/VR) Certificate Program, which is expected to be launched in February 2019. To make the non-thesis degree more appealing, the Design Technology and Society Program has added a language training semester. A joint non-thesis program on public policy is in the process of being formed with the University of Strathclyde. We believe this will be a highly distinct program offering policy evaluation and implementation and giving students hands on experience in policy making and design.

In 2017, the GSSSH collaborated with the Koç University Health, Engineering, Media-Visual Arts and Archaeology Departments as well external parties such as Anima İstanbul, Arter, and the University of Southern California.

The participation of our students in renowned international platforms continues to provide increased recognition to the academic rigor of Koç University graduate programs. Students continue to be invited to present their papers at the Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI). The CHI is considered to be the most prestigious conference in the field of human-computer interaction. Our Design Technology and Society PhD student Oğuz Turan Buruk won 2nd Place Audience Choice Award with his project, “WEARPG: Movement-Based Tabletop Role-Playing Game with Arm-Worn Devices and an Augmented Die.”

We have sent graduate student delegations four years in a row to the Chicago Forum on Global Cities, hosted annually by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the Financial Times. The forum invites only the world’s leading research universities to nominate one promising graduate student to participate in the global student delegation.

Sixty percent of our PhD graduates have been placed in prominent universities in Turkey as assistant professors, 30 percent in prestigious post-doc positions at the Tampere University of Technology, the University of Zurich, and Linköping University, while the remaining 10 percent have been hired by prestigious international companies such as Apple, San Francisco (USA), and the National Academic Foundation, Bonn (Germany).

The ITS-Koç Holding Fellowship in Turkish Studies was launched, constituting a new, dedicated line of ITS research awards to be affiliated with Koç University for American academics engaged in Turkish and Ottoman Studies in the social sciences and humanities.

A Graduate Student Handbook was compiled that contains student guidelines and information from orientation to graduation, milestones from the Council of Higher Education (YÖK).