

Philanthropic Laureate 2015

By JO LEE Magazine

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When we look at the world through the eyes of Unsung Heroes we see undreamed of possibilities. More and more we appreciate the incredible number of nominations submitted from around the world in the five ADESTE categories: Humanities, Social Justice, Arts, Technology and Medicine. The nominees of The ADESTE Gold Medal remind us of how many wonderful people are doing amazing things from corner to corner in this chaotic world. Also, we are reminded that the most important aspect, the heart, of ADESTE, is to discover "the 40 and under" Unsung Heroes who "outperform" in a globe of billions.

JO LEE MAGAZINE AND ITS 21 WORLD VOTING MEMBERS OF ADESTE PRESENT
WITH PRIDE THE 11TH ANNUAL ADESTE GOLD MEDAL LAUREATE 2015

This year, our 2015 Laureate's entrepreneurial theory has led to a device to help complement life's transforming world of today.

Elif Bilgin, a revolutionary 18-year-old student in Istanbul, Turkey, has invented a fossil fuel saving bioplastic made entirely out of banana peels.

In her research, she learned that starch and cellulose (from the skin of mangoes) are used elsewhere in the bioplastic industry and made the leap that banana peels might be suitable feedstock.

Elif spent two years toiling away on her project to develop a bioplastic from discarded banana peels, enduring 10 failed trials of plastics that weren't strong enough or that decayed rapidly. She was undaunted. Even Thomas Edison said: "I have not failed. I have just found 10,000 ways that won't work." Finally, in her last two trials, she made plastics with the features she sought, and it did not decay.

Elif's intention is to have bioplastic replace some of the petroleum-based plastics in use today for such applications as insulation for electric cables and for cosmetic prostheses. The health application is no surprise. Elif's on-going-vision is to attend medical school with hopes that her final years of study will be in the U.S.A.

JO LEE Magazine applauds, congratulates and reveres Elif Bilgin for her compassion – for embracing the world at large.