

VITA

Ismail Yildirim was born in Erzincan, a small city in a culturally rich Turkey, in 1966. He received his B.S. degree in Mining Engineering from Istanbul Technical University in the summer of 1987, and his master of science degree from the same university in 1993, specializing in mineral and coal processing. Ismail held a research and teaching assistant position from 1989 to 1997 with Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul-Turkey. He has been research assistant at Virginia Tech since 1997.

Ismail enrolled in the Mining and Minerals Engineering Department at Virginia Tech in August 1997 to pursue a Ph.D. He has accepted a research associate position with the Virginia Center for Coal and Minerals Processing at Virginia Tech.

Ismail is married to Hulya Yildirim with a beautiful daughter Elif Beste, 3.