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## ABOUT THE RC QUARTERLY



Photo by Melissa Karat, Tuncer Lier 10

Theater has long been a vibrant tradition at Robert College, which has produced many of Turkey's most talented directors, actors and scriptwriters. This issue salutes legends past, and introduces the innovation and exciting changes underway at RC in the theater. From new curriculum options which allow students to bring an academic focus to their stage passion, to a brand new theater company run with a spirit and discipline comparable to any professional outfit, the school is buzzing with new energy. Graduates are always welcome at school theatrical events - you can keep abreast with what's on at [www.robcoll.k12.tr](http://www.robcoll.k12.tr).

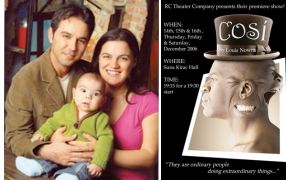
The fact that Robert College is a school of top performers was celebrated on another stage, just as the RCQ was going to print. News of the phenomenal results by the Class of RC 07 in the ÖSS (National University Entrance Exams) made all the headlines. To read about RC's four top scorers on the exam taken by 1.615.360 high school graduates all over Turkey see page 13.

Happy reading!

The RCQ Editorial Board

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Alumni Journal published quarterly  
by the RC Alumni & Development Office  
for 8000 members of the RC community:  
graduates, students, faculty,  
administration, parents and friends.  
Robert Lisesi tarafından dört ayda  
bir yayımlanır. Sayı 32



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**Design:**  
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**Printing:**  
Açılım Ofset  
Mat-Sit Yüzyıl Matbaacılar Sitesi  
5. Cadde No:28 Tel: 0212 629 00 07

**Basım yeri ve tarihi:**  
İstanbul, Temmuz 2007

**Yayın türü:** Süreli

**Yayın periyodu:** 4 Aylik

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**TODAY TOMORROW TOYOTA**





Atıl Kutoğlu speaks with RC alumni in NYC



Fashion designer Atıl Kutoğlu

## Annual Spring Dinner 2007 with Atıl Kutoğlu

**R**CAAA's Annual Spring Dinner was held at Manhattan Penthouse in New York City on April 24, 2007 with guest speaker Atıl Kutoğlu. Atıl Kutoğlu, one of Turkey's most well-known fashion designers, spoke to RC alumni about his stepping into the fashion world as a young Business Administration graduate of the University of Vienna and how he has made it thus far. He focused on concepts such as branding, which he thinks is becoming crucial for the Turkish textile industry with increasing competition from the Far East. More than 60 RC grads enjoyed catching up with old friends and listening to Kutoğlu's remarks. They also competed fiercely with each other in a silent auction on some RC memorabilia items, whose proceeds will go to the RC General Scholarship Fund.

## RC Teacher Adil İzci Publishes Poetry Collection

**R**C Turkish Language and Literature teacher Adil İzci's latest book of poetry, *Kır ve Gök (Fields & Sky)* has been published by the publishing house Yasakmeyve. The book comprises of poems written between 1998 and 2005. İzci returned to writing poems in 1991, after a longish hiatus. His poems frequently speak of nature, and are written in a sparse yet carefully constructed manner that draws attention to the use of language. "I tried not to have a predominant theme in this book, but nature plays a big role," says İzci. So much so that a review of his book in the Turkish daily Radikal newspaper was headlined "His body is nature, his shadow human". "I've loved nature since I was a child, says İzci. "I have to also honor the Plateau, which is a spot from which I have begun my days for many years now."

İzci joined the RC faculty in 1980, aged just 26. He says he has learnt a tremendous amount from his students over the years. He doesn't describe himself as a poet or a writer, but says these leanings do influence the way he teaches. "I'm particularly keen on looking at the meaning and connotations of words." İzci plans on publishing a follow-up collection late next year. He is also trying to finish a collection of essays. "I hope to put out 8-10 more books, as long as my life and stamina allow it," he says.

RC Turkish Literature teacher Adil İzci being interviewed by his former student Mehveş Dramur Yardımcı RC 96



### Note: Change of Address

**T**he New York Office of the Board of Trustees has moved to a new location. Lynne Prevot and Oya Nuzumlalı RC 02, share the office space with a media rights law company, and they've quickly given the office a Turkish look with Turkish artifacts and rugs. Come and visit them in their new office, sip tea, and get updated on the happenings at RC.

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# First Art Scholarship Award Given in Memory of Özlem Akçakuş, RC 97

The Class of 97 gave its first Art Scholarship Award in memory of Özlem Akçakuş, a beloved classmate who was a very talented student in arts. After her untimely death in November 2006, due to a brain tumor she suffered from for many years, the class wanted to keep her name alive in some way. In a very short period, hundreds of different ideas arose from class members. Finally, a decision was made to commemorate her in a way beneficial to both RC and its students. After several meetings held at RC with the Alumni Office and the Art Department to discuss proposals, the idea of an art scholarship blossomed into a real project.



## Ceren Özderdem, first recipient of the Özlem Akçakuş RC 97 Art Scholarship Award.

On April 18, Özlem's family, RC 97 members, RC art students, faculty and staff members came together for a special ceremony which took place in Marble Hall. This ceremony marked both the opening of Özlem's Art Exhibition and the announcement of the first recipient of the Özlem Akçakuş RC 97 Art Scholarship Award. Ceren Özderdem, Lise 10, is the first recipient of the award. She will be attending MICA, the Maryland Institute College of Art, on a partial scholarship from them with the rest funded by this award. She has won 1st, 2nd or 3rd prizes in the past three years of the alumni art competition in memory of Demirkan Aşetey RC 76.

## "She is one of the most talented and ambitious students I have ever taught in my 12 years of teaching."

Anne Hinds, her Art Excellence teacher said, "She is one of the most talented and ambitious students I have ever taught in my 12 years of teaching. We (the art dept) are looking forward to giving this new scholarship in the future as we do have many talented students. And we are very grateful to the class of 1997 for thinking of us when their classmate Özlem passed away. It is a great honor to remember her each year this way."

Art Department Head Merrill Hope-Brown added, "Although we naturally regret the circumstances for the scholarship, to remember Özlem through the award of an Art

scholarship will give a wonderful opportunity to another student for whom, like Özlem, Visual Art is so important. The Art Excellence club, which started this year, aimed at our most talented art students (sponsored by Barbara Willenborg, with Art and photography teacher, Anne Hinds, as the club advisor) means that already we have been able to give those students some extraordinary opportunities this academic year - such as the weekend glass furnace workshop last November, and the recent print making activities.

## To those who are making this scholarship possible, we say 'thank you'

Ceren is a member of this club and she is both talented and highly motivated, hoping to make Art her career. Already keen to attend an Art summer school this year, she is the perfect recipient for this scholarship. To receive this funding really is the 'icing on her cake' and to say she is delighted doesn't adequately express what this has meant to her. To those who are making this scholarship possible, we say 'thank you', because it has made a student's dream come true. To Özlem's family we say that through this award the RC community will remember and celebrate the life of one its former students through Art which she clearly held so dear. To the wider RC community we say, that once again we are reminded of just how special is the RC family and that just like blood relatives, to be a member of this family is for life and beyond."



Özlem's parents Emel and Erdal Akçakuş in front of the magnolia tree planted in memory of their daughter.

On the same day, an Ottoman magnolia - as Özlem's mother Emel hanım remarked, Özlem's favorite tree- was planted on the RC campus in her memory. We, the Class of 97, hope to continue our efforts in contributing to RC in the coming years and offer our heartfelt thanks to all who supported this special endeavor.

**Contributed by Özge Karadağ, RC 97**



Art work by Özlem Akçakuş RC 97

From L to R: Art Excellence teacher Anne Hinds, Ceren Özderdem Lise 10 and Özge Karadağ, RC 97



## RC Headmasters Summit

Former headmasters Harry Dawe and Chris Wadsworth were in Istanbul in March 2007. Here they are pictured with present head, John Chandler.

Dawe is presently a College Counsellor at the Fieldstone School based in New York City. He was visiting his son Alex who lives and works in Istanbul. His wife Nicolette Love was home in NYC with their three children aged, 13, 6 & 5.

Wadsworth was with his wife Lori, also paying a visit to the city they grew to love and enjoy so much. When he left RC, he became Executive Director of the International Boys' Schools Coalition, an organization of schools "dedicated to the education and development of boys, the professional growth of those who work with them, and the advocacy and the advancement of institutions - primarily schools for boys - that serve them." The organization runs conferences around the world (recently Sydney, Johannesburg, Washington), encourages research, publishes a newsletter and provides other services to member schools.

Last year, Wadsworth went part-time with them and is currently Associate Executive Director. He says he now has more time for other interests - including fishing and playing in a traditional jazz band.



From L to R: former headmaster Chris Wadsworth, present head John Chandler and former headmaster Harry Dawe





Zeynep Pamuk RC 07

## Zeynep Pamuk, RC 07, Earns Philosophy Gold

Robert College became the first school in the history of the International Student Philosophy Olympics to win two years in a row when RC L-12 student Zeynep Pamuk won the contest in May. Last year, the same competition was won by Efe Murat Balıkcıoğlu, who is now a freshman at Princeton. Pamuk won with an essay on Spinoza's conception of the state, examining the thorny relationship between national security and human rights and freedom. "In the essay, I discussed ideas of whether freedom can be limited. What constitutes censorship? Where should boundaries be drawn?" she says. "I never imagined that I would place first, though!". A total of 49 students from 22 countries attended the Olympics that were held in Antalya, under the auspices of International Council for Philosophy. Class valedictorian, Zeynep Pamuk will be attending Yale University next year. She hopes to become an academic. Pamuk comes from a family closely tied to RC - her father Şevket Pamuk, RA 68, is an Economics professor at Boğaziçi, her mother Yeşim Arat, RC 75, is a professor in the Dept. of Political Science and International Relations of Boğaziçi while her uncle is the Nobel prize-winning author Orhan Pamuk, RA 70.

## Demirkan Aşetey, RC 76, Art Competition

The 6th Annual Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition was held at Marble Hall on April 5, 2007. Each year, this competition, thought up and funded by the Class of 76 in memory of their classmate, becomes more and more popular with a great number of talented RC students entering their work.

As usual, the judges had a hard time choosing the winners. It was obvious that a lot of hard work and creativity had gone into all of the artwork submitted. On the panel of judges were Bora Fer, RC 03 and past winner of this competition, Lorraine Field, artist/photographer and Jeffrey Baykal Rollins, artist and teacher at Boğaziçi University (and hired to be a faculty member at RC starting September 2007). Highly commended awards went to Begüm Çital, Dilşad Anıl, Esen Pençe, Ecem Songelen, Deniz Tortum, Emel Kökre, Yasemin Uyar and Lale Alpar. As for the winners? Third prize went to Yiğit Karasözen, L 12, Second went to Selin Keyiş L 11 and the Grand Prize went to Ceren Özerdem L 10.

Members of the Class of 76 and Demirkan Aşetey's father, Halis Aşetey and Aşetey family members never fail to show up at the award ceremony of this competition which promises to grow in popularity in the years to come. It is a wonderful way to encourage art and recognize emerging talent.



From L to R: Competition winners Selin Keyiş Lise 11, Ceren Özerdem Lise 10 and Yiğit Karasözen Lise 12.



### Kütüphanemizdeki güzel hazine: Troya Hazinesi

Homeros'un İlyada'sına konu olan, tarih boyunca dokuz kez yıkılıp yeniden kurulan Truva kentine ait eşi benzeri olmayan hazineler bu kitapta toplandı. Aygaz Kitablığı'mızı 9. sınıftan itibaren Troya Hazinesi ile geçmişte hazineler aracılığıyla bakma fırsatı bulacaksınız. Troya Hazinesi tüm seçkin kitapçılarda.

# Farewell to the Graduating Class of 07



Graduation guest speaker and RC Trustee Oya Eczacıbaşı giving her daughter Esra the Jane Nichols Page award for excellence in French.

**1**68 members of the Class of 07 gathered in the Maze on Saturday, June 23rd in their caps and gowns for the 140th Commencement Exercises of Robert College. The Rodney Wagner Memorial Maze was filled with the graduating class and their families, as well as faculty and trustees. The Commencement Address was given by RC Trustee and parent Oya Eczacıbaşı. The student speakers were Zeynep Pamuk and Kadir Fırat Varol while Cem Ülgen from the English Department was the faculty speaker.

## Excerpts from Eczacıbaşı's speech:

"How lucky you are, as graduates of this school, that you have the freedom to do what you want. Your only problem, then, is to decide what it is that you want, what it is that you enjoy and what it is that really interests you, or, as I prefer to say, "discover your passion". Discovering your passion will be the most important discovery of your life. There's no rule as to when people discover their passions. All I can say is that I hope you won't take long in discovering yours. [...]

Now, here's a question for you intelligent young people.

According to recent research, what is the contribution of intelligence - as measured by IQ - to people's career success? I don't know what figures you came up with but the correct answer is between four and 10 percent...

...which means that the world is full of intelligent people who are not successful.

...which means that you young people, who have achieved a great deal already and are used to success, need other things as well as your intelligence to continue achieving in your life ahead.

## 'Find your passion'

If you ask what these are, I've already told you one important factor: you need passions or a passion. Because passion will give you energy. Your mind may be the wheel of your car, but if you don't have passion it means you don't have fuel - so you can't go anywhere!

The second thing you need is the use of the other half of your brain. Today, it's an accepted scientific fact that the right hemisphere of our brain has different functions from the left hemisphere. Logical and analytical skills are governed by the

left hemisphere, while the right hemisphere gives us the ability to synthesize information by enabling us to piece little details together, thus allowing us to see "the big picture". The right hemisphere also governs creativity and emotional intelligence. Traditionally our educational system has given priority to analytical intelligence, whereas to excel in the age ahead, the skills of the right hemisphere are increasingly more important. [...]

Here is what I think is your strongest advantage as graduates of Robert College. You've received your education from a school that encourages creativity, helps you to become multifaceted individuals, and teaches you to break out of molds, think freely and articulate your ideas well. Robert College gave you the opportunity to try out any subject that interested you. You are leaving this school with "a whole mind".

Henceforth, it's entirely in your own hands whether you prepare yourself for life ahead by transforming your interests into passions, develop your creativity, and become an expert as well as a multifaceted person.

Personally, I earnestly believe that art can play a powerful role in the development of a multifaceted individual. Before I move on to the "advice" section of my address, I'd like to tell you very briefly about my own experience. You may treat what I'm going to say as a story about "discovering a passion".

When Dr. Nejat Eczacıbaşı, the founder of the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts and, like you, a graduate of Robert College, became aware of my interest in culture and the



arts and suggested that we work together to establish a museum, my interest in this area was transformed into true passion. We worked long and hard for many years. Finally, on 11 December 2004, 17 years after Nejat Eczacıbaşı proposed the idea and 11 years after he passed away, the Istanbul Museum of Modern Art opened its doors. The tremendous excitement that Istanbul Modern has generated since has made us forget all of the difficulties we encountered in the past. [...]

## 'Never see art as a luxury or an occupation to fill your free time'

I am going to summarize what I would like to say to you in three points. The first of these has to do with "pursuing your passion". No one doubts you have superior abilities, but neither your abilities nor your achievements to date will guarantee that you excel in life. Your success in your business life will be linked to your ability to set goals for yourself that are consistent with your passions and to your determination in pursuing your goals.

Secondly, when choosing the fields and projects you work on, if you aim to give your country something that it's missing, your success will bring you that much more pleasure. [...]

Thirdly, never see art as a luxury or an occupation to fill your free time. Go to the museums of the city in which you live or study over and over again. Go to exhibitions and concerts. Never leave literature, theater and music out of your life.

Here, I would like to pass on to you the words of a great leader who believed in the power of art. In a letter to a friend who was one of Turkey's first MPs, Atatürk said the following:

"My dear friend,

As you know, ten days ago a painting exhibition opened in Ankara. In order to support our artists and show an interest in them, as we ought to, our government has bought various paintings. For my part, I, too, have selected some paintings for myself. Eager that you should also contribute to this encouragement of our artists, I have purchased a painting on your behalf at the cost of 20 lira. I hope that the members of our National Assembly, who share our Assembly's goals, will not be reluctant to pay the small expense associated with their share."

This letter of Atatürk's is particularly interesting because it reveals his view of art and artists. But even more interesting is the date of the letter: 28 October 1923... One day before the declaration of the Turkish Republic, its founder, Atatürk, visits a painting exhibition in Ankara, buys paintings in order to support artists and writes letters to the members of the National Assembly encouraging them to do the same...

You, too, should take strength from and expand your horizons with art. You will see that it makes the many difficult tests you face throughout your life much easier."

## Students Pay Homage to 'Great Teachers'

Zeynep Pamuk, student speaker on behalf of the her class



spoke of her teachers over the years. "When I worked at the help desk for incoming RC students in the summer after my prep year, [...] what I really wanted to say was, "There are great people here. There are really great people here." But that sounded less glitzy than all the other facts, so I kept it to myself.

Greatness is a relative concept as well as a rather ambiguous one. I should therefore try to clarify what I mean by great before I apply it to a large number of people who are not at all alike. Talking about a chemistry teacher who can quote Shakespeare in class, great means inspirational. Describing an English teacher who reads a poem each lesson to elaborate on the day's topic, great means stimulating. Great can describe a wonderful sense of humor if your math teacher gives you Calvin and Hobbes comics on the back of a trigonometry worksheet. When a history teacher cites five additional resources on Napoleonic wars in one lesson, great means knowledgeable, while in the case of a Turkish teacher who plays classical music in class and asks you to write a poem about how it makes you feel, great is challenging. Great could also mean eccentric if your drama teacher asks you to become a teapot, or it could mean quirky if your art teacher can talk of Mars bars and Gustave Klimt in the same sentence. In some cases, such as when a physical education teacher is walking down the corridor with headphones blaring, great can simply mean cool."

The second student speaker Kadir Fırat Varol spoke of his first trip to RC from Elazığ. "I am one of many who fell in love with Robert College at first sight. While I was still in 5th grade, I came from as far as Elazığ to visit Robert College. It was a platonic love at the time. When my father asked what I thought about the school, I replied: "Dad, what could be better than studying here?"

Varol spoke affectionately about the adventures of dorm life. "Even though Cahit Abi objected, even though it wasn't allowed, on some nights we got together in one of the rooms and talked for hours, or sometimes worked until the morning. Our song was: "Because the night belongs to lovers, because the night belongs to us". The most secret worries were revealed, the most exciting moments, the most animated discussions always took place at night, after the lights went off. The clicking sound of Cahit Abi's keys was the signal for us to part." He concluded by saying: "Cahit Ağabey, your children are grateful to you for everything you did."



### 'Never listen to the slithering sound of fear'

In a philosophical speech, English teacher Cem Ülgen called on students to become better people, to have courage and to integrate their own personal happiness with the welfare of the planet. "From now on, you are responsible of determining what you will become in the future. This is an exciting situation, so much so that at times, you may be afraid of it. My advice is to never listen to the slithering sound of fear," he said. "Creating ways in which personal happiness and the welfare of the rest of the world is not an easy task to tackle. I might sound bleak, however, when I look at you, I am filled with hope. I see your eyes shining with curiosity towards the world, and I think to myself that if all people had the hope and potential you possess right now and managed to maintain it unclouded by ostentatious ideas of material self-glory, this world could be saved. [...] Where and how to start is completely your decision, and that is why I want to emphasize the importance of this new responsibility. [...] The bottom line is, you must be ready to change yourselves before you can do any real good to others."

## 62 RC Seniors Head to Top Universities Abroad

RC seniors chalked up a stellar acceptance record to leading universities in the US, UK, Canada and the Netherlands this year. Despite US newspaper reports of record rejection rates at US universities this year, RC students managed to gain acceptance to the most prestigious schools. Commentators say the increased selectivity in the US is due to more American students applying to college than ever before, as well as the common application procedure, which makes it easier for students to apply to multiple schools.

A positive development was that for the first time post-September 11, schools this year stepped up international recruiting, resulting in a significant rise in international applicants to the US.

The breakdown of college acceptances for this year includes:

- 41 students plan to study in the United States;
- 4 students plan to study in the United Kingdom;
- 2 students plan to study in the Netherlands and
- 4 students plan to study in Canada.



Of the 168 students in the senior class, 62 applied to universities abroad. The following is a list of acceptances and attendance decisions as of June 25, 2007.

University	No of students accepted	No of students attending	University	No of students accepted	No of students attending
Amherst	2	1	NYU	1	
Bates	2	1	Oberlin	1	
Bentley	1	1	Oxford-UK	1	1
Birmingham-UK	1		Penn State	1	
Brandeis	4	1	Pratt Institute	1	
Brown	2		Princeton	3	1
Bryant	1		Purdue	10	1
BU	3		Reed	1	
Caltech	2	1	Rhode Island	1	
Carnegie Mellon	2	1	School of Design		
Chelsea College	1		RPI	3	
City U-UK	2		Sarah Lawrence	1	1
Clark	1		School of the Art	1	
Colby	1		Institute of Chicago		
Columbia	2	1	Skidmore	2	1
Concordia U	2		Southern Methodist	1	
Cornell	8	1	Stanford	2	1
Dartmouth	4	1	SUNY-Buffalo	3	
Delft Institute of Tech. NL	2	2	Sussex-UK	1	
Drexel	2	1	Swarthmore	1	1
Drew	1		Syracuse	1	
Duke	3		Trinity U	2	
Durham-UK	1		Tufts	2	
Edinburgh-UK	1		UC Berkeley	1	
Essex-UK	2		U of British Columbia	3	1
ETH-Switzerland	1		U of Chicago	5	
Franklin & Marshall	3		U of Illinois	4	1
George Washington	5		U of Maryland	1	
Georgetown	3		U of Miami	2	
Georgia Inst of Tech	2	1	U of Michigan	3	
Grinnell	1		U of Richmond	3	1
Hamilton	1		U of Rochester	2	
Hampshire	1		U of San Francisco	1	
Harvard	2	2	U of Texas-Austin	2	
Harvey Mudd	1		U of Toronto	5	2
Hollins	1		U of Wisconsin	2	1
Ithaca	1		Union C	1	
Johns Hopkins	4	1	University of the Arts, London	1	
Kettering	1		University of the Arts, Philadelphia	1	1
King's College-UK	1	1	UPenn	4	1
Lafayette	2		USC	2	
Leeds-UK	1		UVA	2	
LSE-UK	1	1	Vassar	2	1
Macalester	2		Virginia Tech	2	1
Massachusetts College of Art	1		Warwick-UK	2	
Mc Gill	2		Washington & Lee	2	
MIT	1	1	WashU	8	5
Michigan State	2		Wesleyan	2	1
Middlebury	1	1	Wilfrid Laurier U	1	
Northeastern	1		Williams	2	2
Northwestern	6	1	WPI	2	
Nottingham-UK	1	1	Yale	3	2



## RC Produces Four Top Scorers on ÖSS Exam

Robert College made headlines this July when four of this year's graduating seniors placed among Turkey's top scorers on the highly competitive nationwide university entrance exam - ÖSS. The Turkish daily *Hürriyet* newspaper called RC one of the country's most successful schools based on its performance by writing that "RC has put its stamp on this year's ÖSS." Yücel Nalbantoğlu placed first in the quantitative-2 area and the English Foreign Language Test. Lale Alpar and Yiğit Karayığıt both ranked in first place in the verbal-1, quantitative-1, and equally weighted-1 areas of the exam. Özge Onur ranked third in the equally weighted-2 area of the ÖSS.

### Robert College students' success is striking.

Nalbantoğlu, whose father is an olive farmer and mother a dentist, started primary school from the second grade because he could read and write at a very early age. He got into Robert College as the 5th in the OKS exam. "This success is an incredible feeling. Sure, I studied, but I never aimed to solve a certain number of tests in a day" he says. He plans to study engineering. He got his first offer from Middle East Technical University (ODTÜ) for his graduate degree but had not yet made his decision as the RCQ was going to press.

146 seniors out of the total 168 took the OSS-1 and 2 exams. The results enabled all of them to become eligible to study at Turkey's best four-year universities. Again, university placement results had not yet been finalized as the RCQ was going to press.

The ÖSS results as announced in two of the Turkish daily newspapers *Hürriyet* and *Milliyet*. A total of 1,615,360 high school students all over Turkey took the highly competitive university entrance exam this year.



## FROM THE BOSPHORUS CHRONICLE

*The Bosphorus Chronicle* is a student-produced newspaper printed monthly during the school year and supervised by English teacher Derek Parker Chase.

## RC Seniors Share Their University Acceptance Tips

By Dilek İzek, Lise 10 and Can Akcevin, Lise 10

This year, as usual, seniors have put up a display of glowing success. Having received acceptances from the most prestigious universities of the world, it is now their right to sit back and relax. You might be wondering about their secrets, how they charmed the admission officers. We asked them for you and before they bid farewell to Robert College, some, kindly agreed to share their experiences!

Yasemin Gökçe, who received acceptances from MIT, Cal Tech, Yale University, Princeton University, and Washington University, chose MIT. When asked what differentiated her from thousands of other applicants, she answered, "I believe that working in projects and activities related to Biology and Neuroscience and getting recommendations from my mentors were a major influence in my acceptances."

Another tip from Yasemin is that universities look for specific reasons why one chooses to apply. She underlines the fact that it is essential to mention which specific academic opportunities of that particular school are a match for your goals. "Future applicants should start searching for the right college early," she concludes and adds, "Make sure you are well-prepared before meeting college representatives who come to Istanbul."

With an early acceptance from Cornell University, Burak Bekdemir is relaxed these days. He plans to study Computer Science. "Since I knew I wanted to study Engineering or Computer Science," he comments, "it was relatively easy to decide on Cornell for my early application." Burak says he chose his extracurricular activities and elective classes based on his objective.

"In the summer of my junior year, I attended a college-credit program with undergraduate students at Cornell University, where I unknowingly took the basic courses of Engineering-related majors," said Burak. "There, my grades were high, therefore, admission officers, I think, were able to compare me to an actual Cornell student. I also took recommendations from my professors there, which really did make a difference."

Cansu Aydede, another smiling face, will be studying

From L to R: Levent Tüzün, Cansu Aydede, Burak Bekdemir, Bürge Abiral.



Applied Mathematics at Harvard University next year after a tough call between Stanford and Harvard Universities. "It's very useful to ask questions to people who have been through this experience; I personally learned a lot from upper classes," she says. She also advised applicants not to waste their summer. Like Burak, she attended a college credit program, which she says, "Prepares you for college, builds up self-confidence, and looks good on paper!" There, she says, one realizes whether s/he can survive at college or not. Student Council President Bürge Abiral has been accepted to Williams College. She thinks that she is suited to the liberal arts and describes herself as a "well-rounded" person, who works hard, but has a varied social life. When asked about the significance of APs in the admissions process, Bürge commented, "Taking AP language tests has proved my interest in cultures in terms of applications." She adds, "While considering colleges, apply only if you really feel you are going to be happy in that college. Do not fret yourselves with names! The most important thing is to spend an enjoyable four years."

Levent Tüzün was accepted to a number of universities including University of Pennsylvania, Cornell, Dartmouth and McGill. Levent, who chose Yale University, attributes his success to balancing his courses and extracurricular activities. Levent reiterated what has been emphasized by a lot of people: "It is no use when you have your extracurricular activities as a list in front of you. You should be trying to notice which activities parallel your personality and incorporate them into your life."

Yes, these seniors did indeed achieve a lot. But do not be frightened by their success! Who says you are not going to be one of them?





## FROM THE BOSPHORUS CHRONICLE

# RC MUN: A Golden Conference

By Dilek İzek Lise 10

In April, Robert College hosted its first ever Model United Nations Conference, RCIMUN 2007, which was a great success. The main theme of the conference was "Sustainable Development in the Global World," divided into sub-topics so that each committee could discuss a particular aspect of the issue. "Sustainable Development" is a phrase that each delegate has heard once, if not several times, throughout his or her MUN career. The UN defines sustainable development as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.' In order to accomplish this fundamental principle, sustainable development requires the adoption of a series of methods to eradicate poverty and provide equal life standards and rights for all people, while avoiding irreversible damage to nature. We began on April 11 by saying, "We the Peoples." Burak Bekdemir, Secretary-General, said in his opening speech, to much applause: "There is nothing wrong with being an idealist. In fact, we all need to remain deaf to remarks reminding us of 'the limits of our power,' because, after all, that limit is the sky." Deborah K. Jones, U.S. Consul General for Istanbul then took the floor. Quoting Franklin Roosevelt, she reminded the participants of four essential freedoms: Freedom from Fear, Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, and Freedom from Want. Writing in Munique, Zeynep Pamuk added, "Well, RCIMUN has its own quadruple of freedoms to go with these fundamental four:

- Freedom to Debate (replace debate with discuss, argue, fight politely, using correct language)
- i.e. "What you are proposing is codswallop honorable delegate")
- Freedom to Fun (fun: think the current situation of the fishing industry in Tanzania)
- Freedom to Dress Up (although it is arguable that walking on stilts/heels is freedom and not pure pain)
- Freedom from Want (define want as absence of coffee breaks, three cafeteria lunches, a Bizimtepe Dinner, and a boat trip)"

While some future gourmets had only wished for 'good food', and some nihilists did not expect 'anything' from the conference, Levent Tüzün proved his psychic powers. He had wanted to provide newly founded MUN clubs a realistic impression of both RCMUN and the Model United Nations concept in general. As the President of the RC MUN Club, he sought to create a conference praised for the high quality of debates and resolutions. "I believe we achieved that," he says, "especially in the Security Council, the resolutions were as good as those that pass at THIMUN. Robert Frost wrote, "Nothing gold can stay." Yes, RCIMUN was golden; an unforgettable memory, an enlightening experience, but most importantly, a first step on the path that will lead to many others. And yes, it cannot stay, for time flies away too quickly. We, the RCIMUNers, who spent four amazing days together, definitely understand what Mr. Frost meant by these words."



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## FROM THE BOSPHORUS CHRONICLE

### Celebrating RC's Olympics

By Şeyda Ece Sarıbaş, Lise 9 and Merve Haklı, Lise 9

**R**C Olympics. The day that makes us feel that May 19 is really a youth and sports day. And a day on which every single person at school has guaranteed fun, regardless of how much he or she is involved in sports. This year's RC Olympics were held on May 18. In addition to classics such as the marathon or relay, there were new ones introduced such as long jump and shell. It was great fun to watch these new sports events, since interesting moments took place. There was also something new about the marathon, which was the participation of about ten teachers. Among them were Ms. Halıcıoğlu, Günseli Duraklı, Ms. Kuiken and many other important figures of the school. Although not running like the others did, they were able to complete the whole marathon, backed by the support of their students. Mr. Mallinder was the king of the marathon, as usual. Although he did not rank highly, just his presence on the track was enough to raise a flood of applause from the crowd.

People both watched the races and found ways to have more fun: They took off their shoes and socks, and they ran on the plateau barefoot; They played "su savaşı" (water fight) and were soaked to the skin; they danced like crazy to the music played... After the races were over, it was time for the soccer match between SC and teachers. Mr. Simpson, Mr. Chase, Mr. Cadorette as the goal keeper and other teachers did not have a chance against the young members of SC. Their defeat was inevitable. At



13.30 it was time for the ceremony. Along with Mr. Chandler, Güler Erdur, Zeynep Pamuk (L12) was also invited to give her speech which made all of the students and teachers smile warmly. After the opening speeches, the awards were distributed. It turned out that L9 got the best year award, which led the whole L9 students to applaud for a long time despite the way L10's and L11's looked at them. The ceremony was made more colorful by the Folk Dance Team which danced with such a nice melody, that it made many people dance right at where they were sitting. Four LP students also danced, displaying the best figures of Latin Dance. The last nice event took place when Cahit Can was on the stage to give out the awards of the soccer team. He was welcomed by a march-like song invented by the soccer team. He mentioned a few anecdotes about the team and then distributed the awards. As he was leaving the stage, the team was singing their song and applauding him.

A great day. Such a day that every single second there was something to make you smile, even if you did not have anything to do with sports. Looks like it was just like the last year's Olympics, but this year it had a new taste in it. Everyone agrees that next year, the fun that students have will continue increasing. Don't you think so?



### RC Folk Dancers Visit Tarsus

By Şeyda Ece Sarıbaş, Lise 9

**I**t would probably make you furious to hear that just two days after the spring break, a group from our school was away in Tarsus and having a real good time. However, they were not on an additional holiday, as the teachers tell the students most of the time, they were "representing the RC community".

Between April 18 and April 22, our Folk Dance Team was in Mersin, at the Tarsus American College Folk Dance Festival. This may surprise some people; the Folk Dance Team does not have a big reputation at school. Most people remember them as the group who danced at the RC Olympics last year. This year, however, they worked harder, practiced more frequently and they joined the Folk Dance Festival. Three LP and six L9 students left making many of their friends jealous, accompanied by İzzet Dodurgali and Hasan Abi, the trainer of the team. It was the sixth time that Robert College joined this festival, along with İzmir American College, Üsküdar American Academy and many other schools from Serbia, Bulgaria and Albania. After arriving in Tarsus, they spent the night with their host families, who were very welcoming. On Thursday, the team went to Tarsus American College and put on their special costumes for the folkloric dance. They afterwards departed to join the parades in Mersin and Tarsus. Walking under the hot Mediterranean sun and dancing, they were exhausted towards the end of the day. The next two days were filled with sight-seeing, meeting people and more dancing. The team says the trip was tiring but very worthwhile. They were very moved by the warmth of their host families. Some girls joked that they gained weight because of the attentiveness of their hosts. The team hopes to make this event a tradition so that new members of the Robert College Folk Dance Team will also have the opportunity to experience such an event!

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## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

### Story Collection Celebrates Silk & Cashmere's 15th Anniversary



**S**ilk & Cashmere, the successful luxury brand created by entrepreneur Ayşen Keskin Zamanpur RC 76, celebrated its 15th year with something different. Zamanpur asked 15 of her favorite authors to choose their favorite Turkish short story to contribute to a commemorative collection of work. Participating authors include Yaşar Kemal, Nezihe Meriç, Tahsin Yücel, Ferit Edgü, Nursel Duruel, Pınar Kür, Nazlı Eray, Selim İleri, Ahmet Altan, Nedim Gürsel, Enis Batur, Orhan Pamuk, Murathan Mungan, Latife Tekin and Elif Şafak. The book was published by Can Yayınları. "We believe we are a timeless brand. So we wanted to create something that would be lasting and meaningful," says Zamanpur of the book.

After Robert College, Zamanpur studied Business Administration at Boğaziçi. She went on to work at Şişecam as a planning expert for five years. "I enjoyed my job but my personality just wasn't suited to routine," she says. She left Şişecam to open a Benetton store in the then-newly built Galleria Shopping Mall, expanding to seven other Benetton stores after that. But five years on, Zamanpur was still itching to do something else. She adored the touch and feel of cashmere and began thinking about what she might do with it. By chance, her husband had begun doing business in China, so for the next year and a half, Zamanpur went too, looking into cashmere production possibilities "In 1991, I was the only foreigner there," she says. "Outside of Peking, people would turn and stare. I could have bought and sold cashmere internationally but I really wanted to create a brand. In 1992, I handed over my seven (Benetton) stores and became a 50% partner in a Chinese cashmere factory." Zamanpur opened her first Silk & Cashmere store in Zurich in 1992. Today, the brand is sold in 28 locations worldwide.



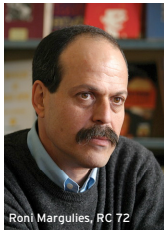
Ayşen Zamanpur RC 76

### Roni Margulies, RC 72, Pens Book on Istanbul's Jews

**T**he poet, political commentator and translator Roni Margulies, RC 72, recently published *Bugün Pazar, Yahudiler Azar* (loosely translated as Today is Sunday, the Jew Goes Mad - A Personal Observation on the Jews of Istanbul), a lively, entertaining and personal account of Istanbul's Jewish community. "I was born and raised in Istanbul. My mother tongue is Turkish, Istanbul is where I feel most at home. I can't feel like a foreigner here, and yet, I know that I am always seen as a foreigner," he writes.

A socialist activist, Margulies says the book is something of a departure for him. "Up until now most of what I've written or spoken about have been about Israel, Zionism, Israeli politics or what is being done to Palestinians. But in every Israeli war, every Israeli brutality, not just in Istanbul, but everywhere in the world, all Jews are treated as if they are implicated in it. As if they're not an individual, a Jew who goes to work, goes shopping, goes to school, but

part of a brutal conspiracy run by Israel. But they are clearly not. There is a tiny community in Istanbul; a community who lives here quietly, who has lived here for centuries. They are different from other communities, yet increasingly the same.



Roni Margulies, RC 72

This is what I wanted to write about. Every community has a madman, a racist, a socialist, a worker, a boss..."

Of his years as a student at Robert College, Margulies says: "That I studied at Robert College, not, say, Feridun Fazıl Tülbentçi Lisesi, played a fundamental role in becoming the person I am today. I learnt to read, write and think in those years; I learnt that doing these was possible, and important. I probably learnt that not in the classroom, but chatting to Şavkar and Hulusi when we got ourselves thrown out of class, two years spent on the Teras and the third, the Plateau. Wherever it was though, I learnt that at Robert College. And what more could I ask for!"



Volkan Rodoplu RC 92

### Volkan Rodoplu, RC 92, Awarded US National Science Award

**V**olkan Rodoplu RC 92, an assistant professor at the University of California Santa Barbara, has won the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, one of the most prestigious national awards for young faculty in the U.S. This \$400,000 award will support Rodoplu's research on energy-limited, mobile wireless networks, which are envisioned as next-generation networks that consist of wireless sensor-microprocess or-actuator mobile devices. The NSF promotes and advances scientific progress in the United States by competitively awarding grants and sponsoring cooperative agreements for research and education in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

After RC, Rodoplu graduated from Princeton University in 1996, worked for Texas Instruments in 1998, and Tensilica, Inc. in Silicon Valley in 2000-2001, and received his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Stanford University in 2003. He subsequently joined the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of California Santa Barbara, where he is currently an assistant professor.

## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

### Fügen Gülerterkin ACG 71, Home at Last

**F**ügen Gülerterkin ACG 71 finally returned home to Turkey from the US, after serving an eight-year prison sentence and then two years under home surveillance for allegedly harming a child in the Ohio day care center she ran. In a trial riddled with improprieties and contested by leading legal groups, Gülerterkin was convicted in 1997 for harming a baby, Patrick Lape (who is alive and well), by shaking him.

Gülerterkin has maintained her innocence, and testified that she gave the baby mouth-to-mouth resuscitation after the baby -5 months old at the time- began choking on his own vomit. She refused, over the years, to take up a clemency appeal on grounds that she would have to testify as guilty. An ACG and Boğaziçi graduate, Gülerterkin has a degree in early childhood development, and 25 years experience looking after young children.

However, Gülerterkin has emerged from her ordeal, spent mostly at the Ohio Marysville Women's Prison, luminous with optimism and wisdom. "I have become a person who lives every second in happiness. I wasn't like this before," she says. "I knew that I wasn't guilty, so it didn't feel like a punishment. I had none of the guilt associated with a crime. I said to myself, 'You are going there for research and learning'. And with that mentality, I was able to be very productive. For nine years I had no worries about rent, or food. I lived as a recluse and profited from my time. I studied a lot, particularly psychology, religion and philosophy. I grew tremendously."

She says that it was harder on her family, her husband Erdal, and daughter Zeliş, who was 12 when her mother went to prison. "My daughter is now 22. That's a lot of mother-daughter time missing," says Gülerterkin. Both husband and daughter have joined her in Turkey where they are on an extended holiday. "We are using this time now to heal our wounds, to rediscover each other."

Gülerterkin holds no grudges against the US, her home for so many years. "People are people everywhere. Wrongs happen everywhere. You have to think to yourself - have I never lied? You have of course, and that lie had a consequence for someone else. It's just that you don't think about these until something like this happens to you." She quotes from a book of healing stories recounted by rape victims that inspired her. "Healing is a ravaging force to which nothing seems sacred or inviolate. As my original pain releases itself to healing, it rips to shreds the structure and foundation I built in weakness and ignorance. Ironically and unjustly, only I can pay the price of having lived a lie. I'm experiencing the bizarre miracle of reincarnating more lucidly than at birth, in the same lifetime."

Gülerterkin was supported throughout her imprisonment by her friends from ACG, who also raised money to help fund legal fees. She says she is tremendously grateful to all of them, and to the warmth she has been shown on her return. She plans to make Turkey her home, although her husband won't be able to join her for another four years, when he retires.

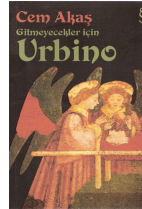


### Author Cem Akaş RC 86, Travels to Urbino, in His Head

**E**xactly 15 years after the publication of his celebrated cult novel 7, Cem Akaş, RC 86 has returned with *Giltmeyeceler için Urbino*, published by Everest Yayınları. Like his other work, Urbino is a free-wheeling, imaginary journey through one night in an Italian city, one that Akaş has never in fact been to.

Akaş already has five other novels under his belt. He was born in Germany in 1968 but his family returned to Turkey in 1974. After RC, he studied chemical engineering at Boğaziçi University and then obtained a double M.A in Political Science from Boğaziçi and Columbia University. His Ph.D. thesis was entitled "Collective Political action in Turkey from 1950-1980".

He has recently published a trilogy called *Age of Maturity*; the novels in that series called respectively *Where the Fish Fell Captive*, *Quicklime*, and *Empire of Games*. The trilogy is set in the future and is concerned with the abuse of technology by the elite who use it to introduce a new caste system based on who has access to technology.

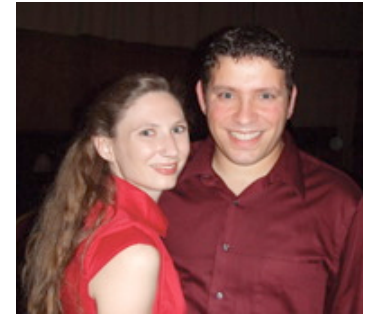


### US-Based Photographer Evrim İçöz RC 92, Wins Awards

**E**vrım İçöz, RC 92, was recently awarded four first place awards in the prestigious US Wedding Photojournalists Association (WPJA) Winter Competition. Originally trained in IT, İçöz -who is based in Portland, Oregon- left a career at Intel to pursue his passion for photography and has created a thriving artistic business.

İçöz was in part born into photography. His grandfather was a professional photographer and his dad put himself through college by taking photographs. However, it was while working at Intel, having acquired a Computer Engineering Master's degree from Duke University, that he was bitten by the photography bug. He says: "In 1999, I went to an art show where I was very moved by the art I saw. I bought a new camera, and started reading about photography non-stop, often until 3am. I have always been fascinated by human interaction, and being a dancer (I won a couple of awards in swing dancing), I decided to specialize a bit and use dancers as my initial subjects. This had interesting consequences as I learned how to use my camera really well. Dancers are fast moving subjects, and you have to catch them at the peak of their motion. In addition, the dances are held at dim locations, so it forced me to improve my technical side very quickly. This in turn allowed me to use the camera as an extension of my body so that when I saw a scene, and decided on how to capture it, I could do it without worrying about technical details."

His hobby was expensive however, and to subsidize it he got into wedding photography. "After a couple years of having two jobs, I quit my day job and concentrated on my photography only. My business took off and I am a much happier and productive artist now." İçöz has made a name for himself with his distinctive style. For weddings, he shoots in a photojournalistic style, meaning he captures the events of the day as they unfold without interrupting them. "I do take romantic photos of my couples, but the goal is to create unusual dramatic and romantic shots, not the cheesy smile at camera photos." İçöz travels extensively for wedding, portrait and event photography including Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Turkey and across the US. You can see his award-winning photographs at [www.evrimgallery.com](http://www.evrimgallery.com).



Evrim İçöz RC 92 and his wife Tanya



Fügen Gülerterkin ACG 71 reunited with her family



## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS



### Women Don Moustaches for Political Awareness

Several Robert College graduates were among the women featured in one of the year's most talked about political advertising campaigns, designed to raise awareness about the low level of women's participation in Turkish politics. Journalist Deniz Alphan ACG 67, sociology professor Nükhet Sirman RC 72, women's rights activist Zülal Kılıç ACG 63 and businesswoman Sibel Kutman RC 92 were among a number of famous women who agreed to be photographed wearing a moustache. Orchestrated by the women's rights group KA-DER, the campaign asks "Does one have to be a man to become an MP?" and is aimed at increasing the number of female candidates who run in elections this year. "Since the republic was founded, just 186 women have been MPs. That's a third of the current parliament," says Sirman, explaining the campaign's rationale. "There are less female MPs in Turkey's parliament today than there were in 1934. Turkey ranks 163rd among 167 countries in terms of women's participation in politics." Kutman, marketing director for Doluca wines, said: "In order to address gender bias, the public needs to become aware of the problem. Leading Turkish women coming together to launch a campaign is a good beginning. Once this awareness is there, the campaign needs to be pushed further to a successful conclusion."

### New Book Out By Perihan Mağden RC 79

Novelist and newspaper columnist Perihan Mağden, RC 79, has published her fifth work of fiction, *Biz Kimden Kaçıyorduk Anne?* (Who Were We Running From, Mother?) The book centers on an intense relationship between a mother and daughter, a bond fraught with fear of the outside world.

"Even in a household with the most dominant father, don't we secretly see a mother's hand?" said Mağden in an interview. "I think we really need to look at the mother. My propensity for writing is closely tied to my mother. Because, I am her project child. She wanted to create a writer and -more power to her- she did. But I can't get my daughter to even tidy her room up."

Contrary to the inventive style of her newspaper articles in the Turkish daily, *Radikal*, in this book, Mağden favors straightforward language that she likens to the language of cinema. "I have a problem with literature," she says. "I truly hate books that have been designed, that aspire to be literary, that are decorative and insincere."

The book is out by Can Yayınları and available in bookstores across Turkey.



Perihan Mağden RC 79

### Cihan Tuğal, RC 92, a Berkeley Sociology Professor

Cihan Tuğal, RC 92, has become an assistant professor at UC Berkeley, where he teaches political sociology, social change, and social theory. He is interested in social movements and their relations to capitalism and religion.

Tuğal received his doctorate from the University of Michigan in 2003. He studies the relationship between religion, mobilization, and the construction of political alternatives. The apparent shift of oppositional politics from the secular left to Islamism in his native Turkey got him interested in issues related to the worldwide increase in the impact of religion. He seeks to understand the implications of the reintegration of religious symbols and rituals into political and social life for projects of control, regulation and liberation.

He is now working on a manuscript titled "A Call for Salvation and Justice" in which he studies the interactions between Islamism and various popular sectors in Turkey, primarily the urban poor. The manuscript situates an ethnographic study of a predominantly Islamist poor district in Istanbul in the historical making of secularism, urbanization, and capitalism in Turkey. It seeks to demonstrate the contingency of popular support for Islamism on the strategies of various parties as well as on class dynamics, the transformation of the state, and global forces. Tuğal's earlier work regarding poverty, social justice, and capitalism in Islamist discourse was published in *Economy and Society*. He also publishes articles periodically in the Turkish press.



## Beneath The African Sun

by Deniz İklim Viol (Türkçe) RC 92

While being bid farewell as a proud young bride to Switzerland after marrying my German husband, Gordon, all my girlfriends' parents warned their daughters, "Don't you dare!". I didn't understand what they were so worried about. Just 23, crazy-in-love, idiotically brave, I was actually leaving everything behind that was me; my loving parents, my sister-my soul, my mad girlfriends for twelve years from the dormitory, my promising job, my graduation present car, my perfect little apartment in Arnavutköy with a view of the Bosphorus, just by my pride school RC and my dear Istanbul, with boxes of memories. Living in a pretty, newly decorated house in the middle of Switzerland, just by a picturesque lake at the foot of an outstanding mountain, with a brand new car at my doorstep; I was in depression in two months! Pretty as a postcard, dead as a doornail! Switzerland was slowly killing me...

I didn't hesitate when Gordon cum asked me if we could move to Zimbabwe for three years (max 5, he added!) to start up his own business in mining. Why not? No kids, no attachments, what is there to lose?

In November 1999, we packed our goods in a container to Africa and left Europe, once again, to an unknown. We used to play this game back at school, name-town-country which were all supposed to start with the same alphabetical letter. All I knew about Zimbabwe was that it was the country

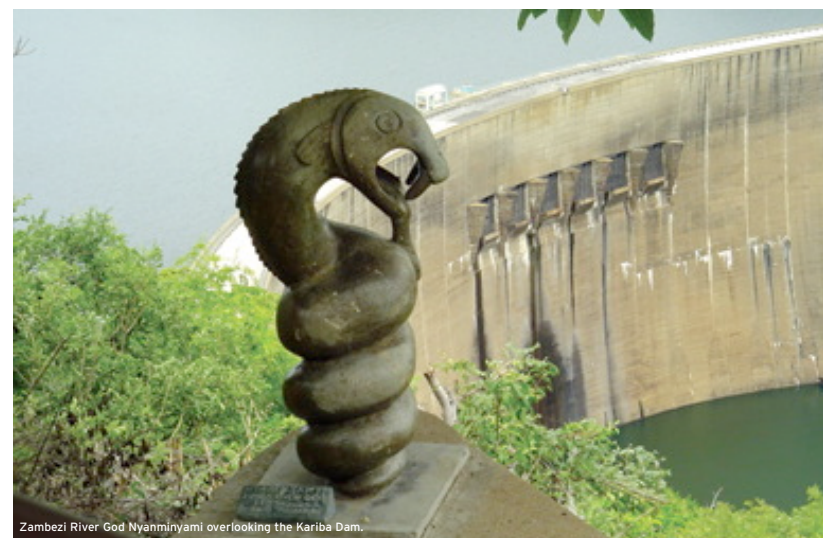
whose name started with the letter 'Z'.

The moment I arrived at the Harare Airport, my heart sank; I felt the reality of what I had put myself into. There it was...the face of Africa. It was a sickening feeling and if you are over-cautious like me, you wouldn't like to touch anywhere fearing you would catch something. However, the minute you walked out of the airport, it was a pleasant surprise to see wide tar roads, single houses situated in big gardens decorated with colourful interesting plants and gigantic trees. What struck me the most was the huge beautiful blue African sky, covering up almost everything of what the eye could see. So magnificent that I felt instantly lighter...

### Learning 'Shona'

Soon after we found our own little haven, nice house with a front garden which had mango, paw-paw and guava trees, pool at the back and service quarters for our maid, gardener and guard to live in. We bought two dogs. Picture perfect!

While my husband threw himself into the 'bush' trying to build up his mine, I decided to look for my options. I had studied pharmacy in Turkey, so I wanted to see if it was possible to register here. I had to take some exams and work as an intern for a year and there I was, a registered Pharmacist, and started working in a retail pharmacy. In the



meantime, I began to get to know the local people and their culture. I bought myself a language book and with the help of a friend of mine at the University of Zimbabwe, I began learning 'Shona'. The main tribe in Zimbabwe, the Shona, are descendants of the Karanga who, in AD 800, settled in what is now the Masvingo province and built Great Zimbabwe, an enormous stone fortress. The Shona are very friendly and peaceful people who endure an incredible amount of hardship and still smile. Just like Turkish people, the Shona appreciate foreigners who are keen in communicating in their language and respect their culture. Wherever I went, they greeted me and asked me how I was even if they had seen me for the first time and I just wanted to buy a loaf of bread. This ceremony is even more striking if you were to do it in Shona, especially on any given morning;

A- Good morning, did you dream well?

B- I dreamt well if you dreamt well.

A- I dreamt well. A loaf of bread, please.

The second biggest tribe are the Ndebele who branched from the Zulu warrior tribe in South Africa. In the early 19th century, Mzilikazi, a Zulu chief in South Africa, quarrelled with the mighty chief Chaka and fled north with his supporters to what is now Bulawayo. It is easy to tell the difference between the Shona and the Ndebele just by physical appearance since the Ndebele people are bigger and better built. This also reflects in their personalities. I found them to be more distant and less friendly than the Shona.

The 'third biggest tribe' are the Rhodesians who descended from Cecil John Rhodes! He came over the land in 1880's and saw Zimbabwe as the glittering prize in his Cape-to-Cairo master plan. Seeking only mining concessions and promising the local chieftains rifles, ammunition and money, he occupied the land in the name of his queen



Victoria and called it Rhodesia. In the 1970's, under Prime Minister Ian Smith, this 'tribe' declared unilateral independence from Great Britain. Ironically, this served to the advantage of the Africans in seeking their own independence which finally came about in 1980. After some 'unfortunate' car accidents of the war heroes, Robert Mugabe became the president of now-called Zimbabwe. To everyone's surprise, Comrade Mugabe let the whites stay. That was until 2000, before presidential elections when he announced the Land Reform Program which he used as political propaganda to secure his re-election. Everything got out of hand when so-called 20 year old 'war veterans' who weren't even born at the time of war, started invading white-owned farms, killing farmers and livestock, burning homesteads and crops and in general looting and pillaging. That was the end of the Zimbabwean economy.



## AROUND THE WORLD



Rhinos in Masvingo



City walls

We started queuing up for basic necessities like bread, milk, meat, sugar, cooking oil and mealie (maize) meal to cook 'Sadza' with, which is the staple diet of the Zimbabweans. Sanctions followed and foreign currency prices started shooting up and so did the prices of everything else. Today's 'official' exchange rate at the bank for 1 USD is 15,000 Zimbabwean dollars whereas the 'unofficial' black-market rate is 240,000 Zimbabwean dollars for the same 1USD! Last year's inflation rate was announced as 1500%. Working now at the School of Pharmacy, University of Zimbabwe as Graduate Teaching Assistant doing my DPhil, I am currently earning 1,5 million ZWD per month which is the equivalent of -6 USD at black-market rates. I know, don't cry for me...

### Eating Mopani worms and crocodile tail

Despite all the economic challenges, we did and still do have fun times. The wild life in Zimbabwe is simply amazing. As a newcomer, the moment I would travel outside Harare, I would start looking for elephants and lions walking around! Although that is rarely the case, there are still exceptions like the town of Kariba which is really wild. Have you ever seen a school soccer match being interrupted by a herd of elephants crossing the pitch? Imagine having your dinner, eating Mopani worms, crocodile tail (tastes like chicken!), kudu meat with the local house-made beer 'Chibuku' at a restaurant by the Zambezi River, with hippos grazing next to you. How about stumbling over cheetahs when your guide is busy explaining how experienced he is, just to be the first one to the run back to the car! How can I explain the

sensation of your inner organs vibrating when a lion roars to warn you not to come any closer on a walk safari in the bush, or else! Thank God for mothers who are willing to sacrifice themselves and stay behind; I love you, annecim.

We also had our encounter with the Zambezi River God, Nyaminyami, who swallowed us whole with canoes and all and spat us out again onto crocodile infested, rocky banks that no human being had set foot on before. The National Parks Authority had forgotten to mention to us that they had opened five floodgates of the Kariba Dam and that all the commercial companies had cancelled their canoe trips. Try white water rafting in canoes! An experience not to be missed; just to be saved by the Tonga fishermen from the Zambian side who came to our rescue in their "dug-outs" which are basically carved out tree-trunks. The initial three years that my husband had told me have gone by, even the 'maximum' five! So, all in all, it's been seven exciting years with ups and downs. Of course, you should never forget to take into consideration that we are living in "African time". It is a phenomenon, hard to explain. Everything has its own pace here; you can never rush things...

Sarai zvakanaka- Stay well

Do you have an interesting story to share of the place you live in?

Please contact us to contribute to RC Around the World, we love to hear your stories.

Email: cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr.

# KOROZO

## DÜNYAYA AÇILAN YÜZÜNÜZ



KoroZo olarak plastik ambalaj sektöründe üretime başladığımız ilk günden itibaren, markamızın geleceğine yaptığımız yatırım ve en iyi olmak için verdiğimiz çabayla, bugün Türkiye'nin geleceğine yön veren ilk 100 ihracatçı sanayi kuruluşu arasında yer almaktan gurur duyuyoruz. Üretimimizin %60'ını dış pazarlara ihraç eden bir kuruluş olarak KoroZo'nun tüm Dünya'nın ambalaj seçimi olmasının çok haklı nedenleri var...

**Markanızı, hak ettiği yere koymak için, sizi de bizimle çalışmaya bekliyoruz...**

**KOROZO**  
"ambalajın dünyası, dünyanın ambalajı"





COVER  
STORY

# Curtain Rises on New RC Theater Company

Robert College undergoes a theater revitalisation with a brand-new theater company, new drama curriculum options, a Turkish musical club, several inter-school theater festivals and much more.



The cast of *Mikado* in 1905 as featured in the RCQ, issue 7

One of the earliest known photographs of a theatrical production on the Robert College campus dates back to 1905, a black-and-white ensemble picture of a group in *Mikado* costumes. There is no mention of date or location; but we know, in the words of legendary theater director, the late Dorothy İz, "that drama had been a way of life at the colleges (ACG and RC) from the moment they inhabited the Bebek and Arnavutköy hills."

The school has produced many of Turkey's leading theatrical luminaries. From playwrights like Refik Erduran RC 47 and Ülkü Tamer RC 58, actors like Haldun Dormen RC 49, Engin Cezzar RC 55, Genco Erkal RC 57, Nevra Serezli ACG 57, Göksel Kortay ACG 55 and many more, directors like Kerem Kurdoğlu RC 81 or Yeşim Özsoy Gülan RC 90, the College has a rich and varied tradition of stellar stage talent.

Home to perhaps the best-equipped stage facilities at any high school in the country in the shape of the Suna Kırac Theater Hall, this year, the College decided to take its vibrant stage tradition further by merging all existing dramatic activity -Turkish, English, German and French- into The RC Theater Company. (Older graduates will recall The Hisar Players, founded in 1919, of which the new company could be called a descendant.)

"The company is run like a professional theater company," says Vanessa Johnson, an Australian, brimming with energy, who has been director of Theater at RC since last year. "This means that we plan each year as you would one theater season. We've created an umbrella under which all drama at

Photograph by Ercan Adan/Milliyet





RC theater legend Dorothy İz and RC theater greats on stage for the grand opening of Suna Kırac Hall on April 1&2, 1991. Standing from L to R : Dorothy İz, Nedim Göknil RA 60, Genco Erkal RC 57, Gökseil Kortay ACG 55, Engin Cezzar RC 55, Can Gürzap RA 62, Ali Taygun RA 61, Esin Eden ACG 54, Seated from L to R: Nüvid Özdoğru RC 46, Nevra Serrezi ACG 57, Oya Başak ACG 55, Haldun Dormen RC 49 and Yağız Tanlı RA 59

## The Suna Kırac Theater Hall

With the merger of ACG and RC in 1971, the old Assembly Hall at ACG was turned into a gymnasium to accommodate the doubling of the student body, leaving both schools bereft of their stage facilities. The opportunity to build a new theater hall only arose in 1986, with a change in Turkish law that allowed foreign schools to build on their campuses. Named after its biggest donor, Suna Kırac ACG 60, and supported by dozens of other graduates, the new Hall was inaugurated in April 1991 with a special performance by a star-studded cast of alumni. The Suna Kırac Theater has a capacity of 512 seats and is equipped with a computerized lighting system and sound system at a highly professional level.



Suna and İnan Kırac, at the opening of Suna Kırac Hall on April 1, 1991.

school- Turkish, English, French and German, is programmed. We mix a variety of stuff, from individual pieces, newly written work or well-established texts. We put on two or three big performances each year."

More than 100 students auditioned this year for the Company's 25 slots, ranging from Preps to LITs. To parallel the actors group, Serdar Akgün, the Theater Manager, is putting together a media and production crew that will be the company's technical arm, made up of about 10 students who run all technical aspects of productions.

Ticketing is run like a professional theater, as are the design and distribution of printed materials. The school has already begun to open up to a broader community in Istanbul, and will continue to do so with initiatives like a Turkish theater festival, run by Turkish Literature teacher Esra Ürtekin, which has flourished in the last five years (see box), and the annual inter-school Fine Arts Festival.

Johnson made her debut last fall with *Così*, an Australian play set in an insane asylum where an inexperienced director is sent to create a production with the patients. One patient

## Stage Memories

### Ali Taygun, RA 61, actor

"We were only about 30 people (in the Theater Company). There were a few girls. Everybody knew each other really well. The older students might not know the younger ones, but the younger ones knew them. For instance I knew Engin Cezzar, even though he didn't know me. There was a very distinct feature of our time at school- that was the teachers. These were people who didn't really like living the U.S, in search of adventure, really creative people who would come to Robert College to teach for very low salaries. They gave these people housing, and those houses would turn into a small academy, much like in Ancient Greece. When classes were over, we'd go there, debate, save the world... Each of these teachers also headed up a cultural activity. (Hilary Sumner) Boyd, for instance, he was extraordinary. He was devoted to theater. He directed The Robert College Players. His counterpart in the Girls College was Dorothy İz. Relations with ACG were important; the only way to meet girls was through the theater. All rehearsals for plays at the ACG were held there!"

### Nedim Göknil, RA 60, actor

"In 1963, for the first time ever, Turkey funded the RC Players to attend a university theater festival in Nancy, France. Led by Dorothy İz, an ensemble of Ali Taygun, Nevra Serrezi, Ahmet Levendoğlu, Mürvet Somuncuoğlu (who still teaches Theater at the University of California), Tarkan Oktay, Güler Okman and I traveled to France with two plays. Because money was very tight, we traveled all nine of us in a second-class train compartment. Everyone's mother and father had given them food and canned goods for the journey. On the way, I opened and ate from a tin of yalancı dolma, before chucking the remainder out of the window. By a stroke of bad luck, another train was approaching from the opposite direction. The can bounced around between the two trains before flying back in through the window and spilling its contents all over Dorothy. I can never forget that moment.

A highlight of that trip was that when it was our turn to perform, as we peeked through the curtain at the audience, who should we see on the jury? Jean Paul Sartre, Ionesco and Jules Romaine! I don't know about anyone else but I was almost tongue-tied. I don't imagine that anyone else ever got the chance to perform to a jury like that."

### Kerem Ku rdoğlu, RC 81, director

"It was 1980 April or possibly May. (The coup of September 12th hadn't yet taken place.) We were performing Refik Erduran's Ayı Masalı (A Bear Tale) on a stage we had built ourselves in the RC gym, under lights we had set up where referees usually sat. The audience laughs a lot, the lights go up, rounds of congratulations begin. People shaking your hand, complimenting you...the most pleasurable moments of a theatrical experience. Among those who approaches me is an "ağbi" (elder brother) from Boğaziçi. He shakes my hand and says: "I really enjoyed your acting. Don't give it up."

Years later, as I reflect on the choices I have made, I realize how much those two brief sentences influenced my life. I try to remember who that "ağbi" was. The blurry picture in my memory most resembles Hüsam. But I can never be sure. Hüsam and I never become very close, but he is always part of my circle of friends. I never tell him of his role in my life. Not because I am withholding, but because it never occurs to me. Even many years later, when we run into each other at a concert in April 2007, I don't recall that it was he who uttered those two sentences that were so important to me. Our encounter is one of chitchat.

Who knows how many forgotten or only vaguely remembered tiny experiences determine the big decisions of our lives? How many are we even aware of, I wonder? And what do I owe Hüsam? Other opportunities lost, or a great big thank you?"



Wall of Fame in Suna Kırac Hall

dreams of performing Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte* and Lewis, the young director takes up this challenge. "It was a tough play to work with. It's about pushing boundaries and taboos," says Johnson. "But the kids were amazing. I work with them as if they are professionals. This means it's very demanding on them in terms of time and dedication. But they're very disciplined and passionate."

Johnson has even more ambitious plans for next year -

staging *Finding Gallipoli*, an original project based on the war that will make use of video footage, interviews with survivors and a host of other techniques. Tolga Örneker RC 89, director of a celebrated documentary on the subject, is helping her and her students write a script. The play



The *Così* cast with Vanessa Johnson (center)

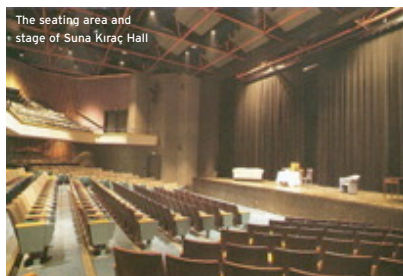


The cast of *Lüküs Hayat* with director Serdar Akgün and guest theater star Haldun Dormen receive a standing ovation.

Photo by Melika Konat/Tuncer Lise 10

could well be the first bi-lingual play in College history, with Turkish scenes acted in Turkish and Anzac scenes in English. Johnson has just returned from a fact-finding trip to the Gallipoli area with her students. "It's going to be experimental in style," she says. *Gallipoli* will be the first in what Johnson hopes to see become a new tradition. "I'd like to see a special production once a year. This could be a musical, or an original production."

This year also saw the launch of the RC Turkish Musical Club, which staged its first musical, *Lüküs Hayat*, in March. The musical was directed by Akgün, with music by Istanbul City Theater musical director Hakan Elbir and dances choreographed by National Opera and Ballet performer Cem Görk. A group of 23 students and 10 musicians rehearsed for almost an entire school year. On their opening night, they were honored with the presence of Haldun Dormen RC 49, Göksel Kortay ACG 55, Esin Eden ACG 54, Özgür Erkekli RC 78 and Yağiz Tanlı RA 59. Dormen, who directed the famous musical nationally for 22 years, caused the audience to break out in applause when he joined the students on stage to perform the musical's theme song as a finale.



The seating area and stage of Suna Kıraç Hall



## Theater as an academic option

Beyond these heady events, the RC Drama program is wide-ranging. Master acting classes will be held every Wednesday, leading up to performance evenings. "The Preps and Lise 9s will use these to gain experience," says Johnson.

English teacher Charlotte Şamlı continues to run the innovative creative arts program, an interdisciplinary rotation course for Lise Preps in art, music, drama and computer designed to develop student creativity. She says, "The whole point is to get them thinking about creative possibilities and learn different techniques." Last year, Şamlı also introduced a hands-on advanced modern drama course where students are encouraged to create their own pieces. "I made it curricular, giving kids a chance to pursue their interest in an academic environment," she says. Her students

## RC's Turkish Theater Festival Turns Five

For the past five years, led by RC Turkish Literature teacher Esra Ürtekin, RC has organized a Turkish-language theater festival for schools across Turkey, known as TIFES. The school's outstanding facilities make it a perfect venue for this initiative. Due to the high level of interest, the five schools that will participate each year are chosen based on a draw. The festival takes place over several consecutive days, with different plays being performed after school every day. A jury of actors, critics and playwrights watches each play to decide on a winner. Last year, for instance, Beşiktaş Atatürk Anadolu Lisesi won for its play, *To Be or Not to Be*. This year, participating schools put on a range of work, both original and adapted, from a wide variety of authors, Shakespeare to Moliere, Murathan Mungan to Turgut Özakman.

The festival also invites a number of leading theater stars to the school to meet with students during this time. Actors such as Göksel Kortay, Halit Ergenç, Mehmet Ali Alabora and Ozan Güven have all participated in lively discussions with students on theater.

TIFES is made possible through the generous support of Denizbank.



RC seniors Nil Güral, Bentley James Yaffe, Hakan Bayraktan, Esra Eczacıbaşı, and Levent Tüzün staged their drama class project with English Drama teacher Charlotte Şamlı (third from left). Their play *Repression*, exposes five people in an office and experiments with two separate projectors to show three of these people's perspectives to the audience. They ask, "How different or indifferent can people's views be on a given situation?"

produced four plays, all of which were "comments on contemporary society".

The new Company will also vary the type of theatrical experience audiences at the school are exposed to. After *Così*, for instance, they staged an adaptation of *Annie* in Bingham 1, a barebones black box studio that Johnson says "works beautifully for intimate, powerful pieces". In the future, she hopes to use the campus grounds, the Maze and other spaces as venues. The renewed emphasis on theater and the energy and enthusiasm being invested in the

school's dramatic tradition may also help to encourage some students to take their passion -and considerable talent- for the stage beyond high school. "Turkey has changed a lot since the time of earlier generations (like in the 1940s and 50s)," says Johnson. "There is so much pressure on kids now to become doctors and lawyers, and increased competition to get into university makes it difficult for them to set aside time for this. We ask a lot of them. But that makes their success all the more amazing. I don't doubt that some of them will indeed go into the arts and do brilliantly."



## ONES TO WATCH



Photo by Mine Kasapoğlu

## Building Turkey's Art Market

**Z**eynep Kayhan RC 2000 has her finger on the pulse of Turkey's burgeoning world of art buyers. As the Turkish representative of the world-renowned auction house Christie's, she advises Turks wishing to buy art work for their collections. Kayhan studied art history and comparative literature at Cornell University. She worked at a variety of jobs in New York, including at *Artforum* magazine, documentary research and as an assistant at a publishing house before starting at Christie's photography department. She was soon noticed, and in less than a year, sent to Istanbul to become the Christie's representative here.

Kayhan says that Turkish buyers are becoming increasingly visible in the global art world. Growing local demand feeds the art market, and has positive repercussions for local artists too. "The project I would like to see happen next year is to get contemporary Turkish artists into First Open, which is an auction of young artists' work held in London and New York," she says. "As the Turkish buyers grow, and if the international art world becomes more interested, we might then be able to collect these works under their own name." Kayhan divides her time between Istanbul, New York, London and Paris, where the auctions are held. She works closely with Christie's London business development department on improving their presence in the Turkish market. She also advises individuals and institutions on upcoming auctions and works they might be interested in acquiring. Despite her busy schedule, Kayhan is also completing her Masters degree in media philosophy at the European Graduate School.

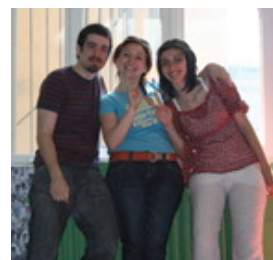
## Stanford Senior Awarded Top Prize, Invites RC Teacher to Attend

**S**tanford University senior Eytan Daniyalzade RC 03 was singled out for the highly prestigious Frederick Emmons Terman Engineering Scholastic Award, presented to the students that rank academically in the top five percent of the graduating senior class. As part of the award, each recipient invites a high school teacher who has been most influential in the student's academic career to attend the ceremony. Daniyalzade asked RC Mathematics teacher Rina Kapuya to come. "Having been my math teacher for two years, Rina Kapuya had a very positive influence on me," says Daniyalzade. "She always encouraged me to pursue my interest in math, and her encouragements led me to study a discipline that is heavily mathematics based." Kapuya says it was a "great honor" to have been asked to attend. The award dinner took place on April 28 at the Stanford University Faculty Club and involved a very moving ceremony.

Daniyalzade has decided to stay on at Stanford for the co-term program in Electrical Engineering. The program is a Masters Degree and enables Stanford undergraduates to achieve this degree in one year instead of two. And after that? "Concerning what I will do afterwards, I am divided between two options. On one hand, I believe that time has come to start working in the industry. On the other hand, I am considering continuing my education with a PhD degree, either in Applied Mathematics or Signal Processing," he says. Either way, we wish him the best of luck!



Eytan Daniyalzade RC 03 with his RC math teacher Rina Kapuya



From L to R: Egemen Bozdağ RC 02, Gizem Ekiz (Koç 04) and Zeynep Koçak RC 04.

## Amateur Art Finds a Voice

**Z**eynep Koçak RC 04 and Egemen Bozdağ RC 02, are among a group of seven Istanbulite twentysomethings who have created what they hope will become a new platform for amateur artistic expression of every kind. The group publishes both a website - [www.kesekagidi.org](http://www.kesekagidi.org) - which functions like an e-zine, and a monthly print magazine by the same name, *Kesekagidi* (which loosely translates as Brown Paper). "The reason we decided to create this magazine was because there was nothing for amateurs in the market," says Koçak. "Our aim was to create a platform where amateurs could present their portfolios, and express themselves comfortably." The website features young artists' work, along with their CVs.

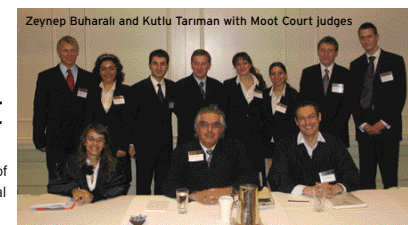
In their eight-point manifesto, the group declares its aspiration to become a platform where experts and amateurs interested in art can meet and exchange ideas. Point two says, "The Kesekagidi group take up a position against industrialization and mass production in art and literature, and against the practice of art based on the discourse or pressures of one group/center of power." The magazine picks a different subject each month and solicits for contributions based on that theme. These range from articles, to photographs, to illustration. The magazine is available in a few Istanbul bookstores (Mephisto, Atlas Pasajı) and is supported by a printing press. "When we started, I thought that nobody would want to support an endeavor like this," says Koçak. "But we're seeing that, contrary to what older people tell us, there is a lot of positive movement amongst the young generation here." You can visit the group on [www.kesekagidi.org](http://www.kesekagidi.org). An entirely independent effort, *Kesekagidi* is always looking for supporters to help keep it going. To find out more, contact Zeynep Koçak at [zeykocak@gmail.com](mailto:zeykocak@gmail.com).



## Budding Lawyers Represent Turkey at International Contest

**Z**eynep Buharalı and Kutlu Tarıman, both RC 05 and second-year law students at Bilgi University, were part of a winning team of lawyers-to-be who beat off other local universities to become Turkey's representative at a global competition run by the International Law Students Association (ILSA) in March. ILSA is a US-based non-profit organization whose biggest and best-known enterprise is the annual Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, in which Buharalı and Tarıman participated. Now in its 45th year, the Jessup Competition involves law students from over 500 law schools in over 80 countries. Each year, teams face off against each other to argue a hypothetical international legal problem. (For this year's problem, see [www.ilsa.org/jessup](http://www.ilsa.org/jessup))

Buharalı and Tarıman began preparing for the competition in September, when this year's Jessup problem was first posted online. Their team was comprised of five students from Bilgi's law department and they submitted both a complaint and a defense statement. In national rounds on February 24-25, they beat off competition from other Turkish legal students, earning the right to participate in the international round held in Washington DC at the end of March. More than 100 schools from 80 countries took part. Buharalı and Tarıman did not make it to the final 24, comprised mostly of teams heralding from English-speaking countries, but they said winning the Turkish round was a victory in its own right. "For many years Istanbul University's law department has won this contest. We are incredibly proud to have been able to use all our accumulated knowledge, starting with our Robert College education, to help Bilgi University win this year," Buharalı says.



## VENUES WE RUN

# Quirky Fashion Brand Elaidi Turns Five



Mehtap Elaidi, RC 82

Seven years ago, Mehtap Elaidi RC 82, took a plunge. Quitting her successful maritime law practice aside, she began designing clothes. "I was always someone who bought clothes and then played with them. I'd make bags out of skirts, cut shirts up and add frills," she says. She spent a year running a boutique selling up-market brands before she went one step further and opened a store on Nisantasi's busy Teşvikiye Caddesi. She began with just three rolls of cloth and a tailor, and called her shop Elaidi, her last name.

Her stylish smart-casual design sense quickly earned her a fan following, particularly among working women. Says Elaidi: "Let's say you work at a bank and you need to buy an outfit. The options on offer to you are always the same - a skirt and jacket, or a trouser suit. But you want to express yourself a bit more. You want to stand out in the twist of your skirt, or with a detail on your shirt. That's the kind of woman I'm here for."

She describes her clientele as women between the ages of 25-55, who aren't afraid to stand out with what they wear. Elaidi says that starting out from scratch was a liberating experience. "When you don't have any preconceived ideas about the right way of doing things, it can free you up." She stayed away from fashion trends, designing her clothes based entirely on what she would like to wear.

Elaidi credits RC as a huge influence, instilling in her a sense of self-confidence that fuels her business. "At school, I really learnt how to see the big picture. I'm not afraid to be original. It gave me the confidence to try something new and stand behind what I do." Five years after opening the first store, Elaidi recently opened a second store around the corner. She has also begun making a name for herself abroad. Her clothes are sold in Ireland, France, Kuwait, Dubai and Greece. She shows each season's collection at major fashion fairs around the world, and the orders keep coming in. "It takes time to establish good working relations internationally. You have to get to know each other so there is a test period. But interest in our clothes keeps growing, so it's been great."



The window dressing in Nisantasi



## REUNIONS



# Class of 57 Celebrates 50th Reunion

The 50th graduation anniversary of the Class of 57 was held between June 1-5, 2007. We say anniversary because we received our diplomas on June 12, 1957 and wanted to reunite during the same period. We changed the date by a week because we wanted to enjoy the full moon of June. And enjoy it we did.

The organizing committee started working in August last year to reach as many classmates as possible. We sent out more than a hundred announcements of the planned events. In spite of losses and inconveniences, some caused by reasons of health, many of us were able to get together. Participants joined us by flying in from the States, Europe, Israel and from various parts of Turkey.

The festivities kicked off on June 1 with cocktails followed by dinner at Bizim Tepe with the participation of more than 75 people. The joy of getting together again after many years was something to be seen. Everyone was very excited and happy, endlessly questioning each other to get updates on each other's lives.

The 2nd of June saw us at the Arnavutköy campus, in front of Marble Hall. We went for a walk around the school to see the changes and also visited the plateau to renew the memory of the beautiful scenery. Then, we left for Boğaziçi University and had lunch at Kennedy Lodge.

That same evening we enjoyed a cruise on the Bosphorus which was the highlight of the program. Everyone was fascinated with the rising copper moon which later turned into a silver moon. Live Turkish music and dance music added color to our evening.

On the 3rd of June, almost half of the crowd left for Klasis hotel in Silivri where we stayed for two nights and enjoyed each other's company.

This reunion was so wonderful that we decided to repeat it every year.

Contributed by Sevil Erel Bleda, ACG 57





## REUNIONS



### RA 67, 40 Years On

RA 67 held a three-day reunion themed "40 YILDA BİR" (Once Every 40 Years). A total 56 classmates participated, many with their families, from as far afield as Sydney in the East and Honolulu in the West.

We got over the first shock of seeing each other on Friday at my house. It was amazing to see people who hadn't met in 40 years try to recognize each other. The good thing was that at least we didn't suffer the embarrassment of having to do that with our wives by our sides...

On Saturday, we met on campus outside Anderson Hall. After cocktails at Kennedy Lodge at 19:00, we had a gala dinner at 20:00. On Saturday our teachers Münir Aysu and Abbas Sakarya joined us, and embarrassed us completely by recognizing us instantly. Not only did he recognize us, but Münir Hoca told stories about all of us, including what we had been up to since graduation. Most embarrassing. There was an 18-person orchestra at dinner who played beautifully; we all danced. I gave a presentation with pictures of everyone who was with us between 1963 and 1967, even if just for a year, and including those who had passed away. I then gave all present a 40th year participation certificate. Present among us were the wives of classmates who had passed away, which led to some emotional moments. Following that, Cemal Tankut's wife Sema Tankut, a classical Turkish singer, gave a mini concert. Later we danced; we formed a '67 circle, with our wives on the inside. On two giant screens, we showed more than 1,000 photographs throughout the evening. That was fun for everyone. We enjoyed it and Münir Hoca praised us by saying that he had attended many reunions over 35-40 years, but none were as well-organized, and that it was particularly wonderful to have remembered to include everyone. Because we know how hard it was to get good grades from him, these words made us very happy.

On Sunday we enjoyed brunch in the gardens of the Efes Pilsen factory. We were joined by our children and even grand-children. That was wonderful too. We added on the kilos with lots of beer and good food, and finished the 3-day celebrations with a backgammon tournament.

**Contributed by Rint Akyüz RA 67**



### RC Eng 59 and RC 57 Reunion

**F**ourteen of us got together for our 48th and 50th reunion at the Sarigerme Iberotel located near Dalaman, Turkey. The official dinner took place on May 19th (appropriately Youth and Sports Day!). Stavros came from Washington D.C and Işın flew in from Florida. Mehmet Tümay (Louisiana) and Üner Turgay (Canada) could not make it because of their work schedules. Işın, Papi, Tuğrul, Batıca and Sina were accompanied by their spouses. There were no pre-set activity programs arranged as the emphasis was placed on just being together, catching up and enjoying each other's company. The football game between Fenerbahçe and Galatasaray aroused the old rivalry between Uğur and Bedi, the outcome of which caused long faces but they quickly got over it. Everyone wanted to go to Dalyan and a tour was quickly organized by Oktay. The group first went up to Radar Tepe to enjoy the breathtaking view of the area and later rented a motor-boat to go around the canals. The next day the group went to Göçek, walked around and had tea before heading back to lunch at the hotel beach. Everyone enjoyed spending a few relaxed days together eating, talking, remembering lost classmates and just having a good time as if they were back in the old days. We agreed to meet more frequently than the five year intervals.

**Contributed by Sina Serinken, RC Eng 59**

Standing, from L to R:  
Tuğrul Sirel, Işın Erel, Rasin Güven, Stavros  
Papadopoulos, Sina Serinken, Alpay Özelsel,  
Üstün Erçüder, Coşkun Torunlu, Bedi Grantay  
Seated from L to R: Ergun Incekara, Oktay  
Orton, Uğur Şanda, Üstün Batıca, Can Kurdoğlu



## REUNIONS



### Forty "Erguvan" Trees for Forty Years: ACG 67 Celebrate Their 40th Reunion



**M**ay 6, 2007: Exactly forty years after their memorable May Day Festival on May 7, 1967, fifty-two members of ACG 67 gathered at the Plateau to plant forty *erguvan* trees (Judas trees). These trees will form a grove called "ERGUVANLIK", which stands for "Judas Tree Grove" in Turkish. The grove is the 40th reunion gift of the ACG Class of 67 to their Alma Mater.

This activity kicked-off the "Erguvan Tree Festival" which aims to bring about an increase of environmental consciousness. Hopefully, this festival will be repeated every year by future generations.

The *erguvan* tree which blooms in early May is the main ornamental tree of the shores of the Bosphorus. It has also become a symbol. Over the years, the ever present purple hues of these flowering trees covered smaller and smaller areas as a result of overbuilding on the hills around the Bosphorus. During their school years, the class of ACG 67 had been lucky to enjoy year after year the extensive show of these magnificent flowers on their campus. Even after 40 years, they are as determined as ever to prevent any damage to the "crowned" beauty of their Alma Mater. "Though they wandered far

away, they have loved thee ever" and the "lessons deep they learned from thee: To forget? No never!" Caring for the environment was a lesson that we learnt never to be forgotten!

The day began early for the organization committee. They had hardly slept the previous night, making final touches to the decorations and praying for nice weather. Among a series of problems during the preparations, two are worth mentioning: the transfer of the heaviest item and the lightest item to the Plateau!

The heaviest item was the granite rock on to which a gift plaque was to be mounted. The rock weighs about 900 kg and has a totally natural indentation that allows two people to sit on it side by side. It had to be transported to its final site at the plateau on a truck with a lift. With the help of 10-15 RC personnel, utmost care was taken to gently lift this enormous rock off of the truck and to place it at the most scenic spot on the Plateau overlooking the Bosphorus. The RC administration very graciously allowed us to place this rock at this wonderful spot. We also thank the RC administration for giving this very good location for our Erguvan Tree Grove, ERGUVANLIK. We have to admit that some of us, could hardly resist the temptation to build a "gecekondur" on this site with such a spectacular Bosphorus view!!

The second problem was the transfer of air balloons to the festival site. Approximately 250 purple and pink balloons were the most indispensable part of the festival decoration, something we could not do without! Every committee member was assigned the task of finding a "baloncu" in their own neighborhood but their efforts were in vain. Finally, a "professional balloon blower" solved the problem which kept us worrying for several weeks; this man came to the Plateau with his blowing equipment and finished the job in less than an hour!

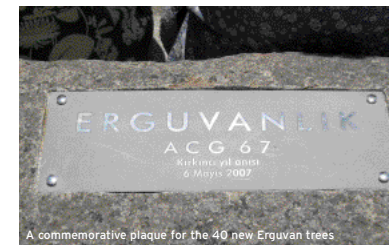
The entire road from the parking lot to the Plateau was completely decorated with these balloons and ribbons; the trees to be planted were also marked with these balloons; the catering company set up one big table which seated all of the 52 people; the music system was installed; and.....

The festival began at 12:00 noon. Initially, participants were registered with "a hug and a kiss on the cheek" at the registration table. They were presented with a "festival pin" and their reunion gift bags. Then everyone joined in singing the Alma Mater. After brief speeches by the headmaster and class members, all of the 40 trees were planted. Lunch was served. Ceremony for the exchange of the title between the May Queen of 1967 and the 52 May Queens of 2007 was carried out. The ceremony for handing out "The Erguvan Tree Diploma" was the last attraction. The festival ended, though reluctantly, at 4:30 p.m.

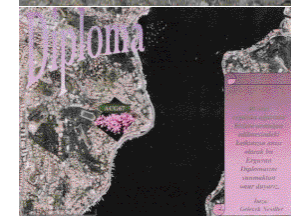
If you happen to know some people from the class of ACG 67, you would instantly guess that the "Erguvan Tree Festival" was only the beginning of the celebrations.

The second part of the celebrations took place at the Splendid Palace Hotel in Büyükdada on May 26-27. Initially, the class had lunch at the Aya Yorgi Peak on Saturday with the participation of 48 class members. The evening started with a cocktail and continued with a formal dinner at the Hotel. Hülidiyet Productions, the formal media company of ACG 67, gained much applause for the presentations done in three parts: "History 101" on the historical background of the Splendid Palace Hotel, "ACG 67 Mantra of the 40 Years", and finally the "ACG 67 Sleep Prayer" after which everybody refused to go to bed and danced through the night!

The disco session ended with extraordinary shows with the international collaboration from a "Belgian Salsa & Flamenco Dance Group"!



A commemorative plaque for the 40 new Erguvan trees



A mock diploma for the occasion

## Watch these pages:

The next issue of the RCQ will include reunion news for RC 72, RC 77, RC 82 and RC 87.





Süheyla Kunt ACG 32

## Pioneering Program to 'Adopt' a Child Still Going Strong

Improving children's health and securing their access to education is one of the keystones of any country's development. The Çocuk Sağlığı Derneği (Children's Health Association) is one of Turkey's oldest NGOs working in this field, led by Olcay Ataman Neyzi ACG 46 and long associated with the tireless efforts of Süheyla (Hidayet) Kunt ACG 32.

The indefatigable Kunt was one of three daughters of a well-known physician, Süreyya Hidayet Paşa. "My ACG background gave me the tools for my work, and my father, a sense of military self-discipline" she says. In the 1960s, having raised two children, she decided to go into welfare work and joined the Çocuk Esirgeme Kurumu (ÇEK), the state-run orphanage and child support organization, as a volunteer. She worked hard to establish partnerships with international organizations such as Oxfam, Save the Children's Fund and Rette das Kind, all of whom were eager to extend financial aid to Turkey. She began a sponsorship program which would allow families across the world to "adopt" a Turkish child and support him or her through the end of his/her school education. Kunt's enthusiasm and hard work paid off- the program soon reached its goal of 1,000 children sponsored.

Following bureaucratic difficulties, Kunt left ÇEK in the early 1970s and joined the Çocuk Sağlığı Derneği (Child Health Association), a non-governmental organization established by a group of pediatricians and friends of children. All the international agencies she had introduced to Turkey then transferred their support to her new organization. This sponsorship program was known as the "Şefkat Eli" or "Caring Hand" program and became a cornerstone of the organization's activities.

In time, international aid gradually tapered off, since Turkey was no longer considered a country in need of financial support. This had the effect of greatly curtailing the number of children helped by the Şefkat Eli program as the majority of children are now sponsored by people in Turkey, which has a much less methodological sense of charitable giving.

Today, the program is in need of support. It is a highly effective, direct way of making a difference in a child's life and has a proven track record of success with tens of thousands of kids who can speak on its behalf.

Many RC and ACG graduates are personally involved with the Association, including İclal Üçer Refiğ (ACG 52), Filze Gökner Tepeler (ACG 60), Nil Bezmen Büyükgürel (ACG 69) and Gülbın Akman Gökçay (RC 76), who serve on the Executive Committee, and Oya Arslanoğlu Çetinkaya (RC 75) and Feyza Kuyucu Darendeliler (RC 74), who are recent members. The Association president is Olcay Ataman Neyzi, ACG 46.

To see details, please visit [www.cocuksagligidernegi.org](http://www.cocuksagligidernegi.org)



Writer Nazlı Eray (center) with a RC graduates of various years.

## Ankara Graduates

RA, RC and ACG graduates living in Ankara get together for luncheons from time to time. Prof. Dr. Sirel Karakaş, ACG 62 ex from Hacettepe University wrote to the RCQ to share one of their latest meetings. On their "Welcome to Spring" lunch date held on March 31 in Ankara, writer Nazlı Eray was their guest speaker. Ms. Eray talked to the gathering of RC graduates about how she started writing novels, and how her style evolved.

## Suna Kili ACG 46

In December 2006, Professor Suna Kili received the "Award for Lifetime Service to Atatürkist Thought" from the "Atatürkist Thought Society" of the Middle East Technical University.

Her classic text, *The Atatürk Revolution: A Paradigm of Modernization* (İş Bankası Kültür Yayınları), saw two new editions within a span of two and a half months. The 2nd edition came out in March 2007 and the third edition in June 2007. In this book, Professor Kili discusses in detail the paradigm of modernization as systematized and implemented by Atatürk and includes analysis of the political forces in Turkey between the years of 1919-2007. The author focuses upon İslam and Laicism and the role of the military in contemporary Turkish society.

In the fall of 2006, Professor Kili published the following Turkish language books, all of which are used as textbooks at several Turkish universities: *Atatürk Devrimi: Bir Çağdaşlaşma Modeli*, in its 10th revised edition, *Sened-i İttifaktan Günümüze Türk Anayasa Metinleri* (Turkish Constitutional Documents from Sened-i İttifak Until Today, with Prof. Şeref Gözübüyük), and *Türk Devrim Tarihi* (History of the Turkish Revolution), which also saw its 10th revised edition.

Professor Kili has also written articles for various university publications and newspapers. Her article entitled "Öteki Amerika" ("The Other America") which appeared in the *Cumhuriyet* newspaper attracted a great deal of attention. She continues to write for *Cumhuriyet* on national and international issues.



Suna Kili ACG 46

## ALUMNI NEWS

### Isy Haas RC Eng 55

Haas is an engineering graduate of the Class of 55. He did his graduate work at Princeton and got his Masters in 1957. Haas made his mark by building the first planar integrated circuit (monolithic integrated circuit or an integrated circuit as a single chip). He says that although most readers are already quite familiar with the hi-tech world, they might not be aware that an RC graduate laid one of its foundations.

He wrote: "Alumni might be interested in hearing about the accomplishments of another of their own. In my case this relates to the field of "microcircuits" which are so much part of our daily life now. Not only are microcircuits very much embedded in our daily lives but furthermore, microcircuits have had a profound effect on society and progress!

I graduated from Robert College in Electrical Engineering in 1955 and went to Princeton for graduate work. Princeton introduced me to the exciting world of Solid State Physics and Solid State Electronics which were then (1955) in their infancy. Furthermore, I was lucky and fortunate enough to obtain employment in 1958 at a very young company called Fairchild Semiconductor Corporation in Palo Alto, CA. This is the company founded by the now famous Robert Noyce and Gordon Moore! All the products coming out of this company were the result of ground breaking technologies! Until then, silicon devices (transistors and diodes) had never been commercially produced.

I started as a device development engineer evaluating and developing "pnp" transistors and "four layer" switches but got soon involved in the microcircuit program which at the time consisted of high density packaging techniques. I got intrigued by the Noyce Integrated Circuit patent which, even though issued, was considered only a theoretical idea that was impossible to build in the practical world. I was naïve and inexperienced enough to believe that I could build it, and

proceeded to do so against the wishes and advice of my colleagues and superiors. It could not be done, they said!!! All opposition vanished, however, when after about a month of work, I produced a real, working circuit, a four transistor flip-flop (or memory circuit) on one integral chip of silicon.

The offshoot of my work, my creating what we used to call the existence proof of a solid or integrated microcircuit was that Fairchild dropped all other microcircuit research projects and formed the IC (integrated circuit) development program that added many other circuits to the DCTL (direct coupled transistor logic) flip-flop I developed and then went on with several other digital and analog circuit families!

As for myself, I pursued my curiosity and did the pioneering work in understanding how a transistor and circuits behave when surrounded by other transistors or diodes or other forms of "pn" junctions, including how to optimize transistor structures for specialized applications such as IC's. I have been issued a few patents relating to transistor and IC structures. After Fairchild, I went with Teledyne where I set up and ran the Research and Development division; I continued my work in optimizing components such as the dual collector transistor for use in IC's and developed several digital and analog, bipolar IC families.

IC's, today, have evolved to degrees of sophistication beyond my imagination and I am sure that the technology would have eventually, in a few years, evolved even without my contributions. But I feel good knowing that I primed the pump."

The article (<http://nobelprize.org/physics/articles/lecuyer>) acknowledges and gives credit to Haas' work and goes on to talk about the electronic industry that evolved in Silicon Valley as we know it today.

See also: <http://www.themanbehindthemicrochip.com/>.

Haas is now retired and lives with his wife Lynda and daughter, Ilana, near Phoenix, Arizona. Their two sons, Aaron and Jason live in California and Idaho respectively with their five granddaughters.



Haas with his beloved cat Chaco, a new American breed named the Ragdoll.



### Ömer İltan Bilgin RA 62

Bilgin, whose professional experience includes being the CEO and Board Member of six automotive supply companies, has two children, Orhan and İdil, and a year-old grand-child, Eren.

Bilgin founded the company, Pimsa Poliüretan in 1975 with six other RA and RC graduates. Pimsa Poliüretan established 3 joint ventures and 3 Turkish owned companies, producing parts for the automobile industry in Turkey. Pimsa Group was proud to celebrate its 30th year in 2005. The existing Turkish partners and board members of Pimsa Poliüretan can be seen in the photo. Ömer Bilgin (RA 62/RCYük 67), Şerif Egeli (RA 62), İzzet İncekara (RA 62/RCYük 67), Servet Harunoğlu (RA 63), Hasan Esen (RA 63) and Mithat Bigat (RA 64 ex).



### Tamer Gürsoy RC 77

Tamer, pictured above with Yeliz, founder of the Turkish International Prep Schools (TIPPS), composed six of the eight songs featured on "Haykırdım Sessizce" a new album released in June this year by Yeliz, who was one of Turkey's most loved pop stars back in the 70s. Having listened to and been impressed by Tamer's song in another pop album released earlier this year, Yeliz's manager contacted Tamer and asked him if he would be interested in sending in a few songs, as Yeliz was about to record a new album and was looking for new material. He explained that they would most likely use one song that Tamer had written. Accordingly, Tamer sent off six songs he had written to Yeliz. She adored Tamer's work so much she didn't use just one song—she used all six! "Haykırdım Sessizce" is produced by DMC and is now available at all D&R and major record stores throughout Turkey.



### Burak Çekmece RC 90

Burak is very happy to announce the birth of his twins, Eren and Arda, on Dec. 18th, 2006. He is delighted to see old friends on different occasions and wanted to share the great news with those who he might not come across.

### Class of 75 Raise Money for Hrant Dink Memorial Forest

In an Internet age, one click can indeed work miracles. A Yahoo discussion group run by a member of RC 75 has successfully raised 10.676 YTL towards the planting of a 6.7 hectare forest in memory of slain journalist Hrant Dink.

The campaign was initially started by a group of university students -all members of the Duvur Gazetesi e-group- in March as an action to raise awareness about global warming. "It was an important symbolic gesture to say 'Stop' to global warming" says campaign participant Cihan Uzunçarşılı Baysal RC 75.

The group decided that the forest - located in Istanbul's Sarıyer district- should also serve as a memorial to Hrant Dink, an ethnic Armenian journalist killed by ultra nationalists earlier this year. The forest is called Canım Kardeşim (My Dear Brother). "[The forest] is a call to end every kind of discrimination, racism and violence and to support the virtues of peace, brotherhood and mutual tolerance," says Baysal.

Some 50 people from the Class of 75 contributed to the campaign, making it a huge success.



### Cem Akaş RC 86

Can was born a healthy if irritable-looking elf, on March 12, 2007. His greatest preoccupation now is watching his hands and picking fights with them. Cem Akaş (RC 86, born on March 10, 1968) published his latest novel "Gitmeyecekler İçin Urbino" in February.





## ALUMNI NEWS

### Suna Reyent RC 93

Suna wrote with the following news: "After graduating from Robert College, I went to the United States on a full scholarship provided by Mount Holyoke College. There I studied physics and then economics, the latter with the intent of getting a job in a business related field. Upon graduation, I embarked on a career in derivatives trading on Wall Street at a hedge fund called Susquehanna Investment Group. There and later on at New York Futures Exchange, I served at arbitrage trading desks and worked on derivatives pricing models.

Later on I moved my focus to equities and analyzed company and industry trends along with designing trading algorithms on the day trading of equity securities. At Bear, Stearns & Co., I was part of an Emerging Markets Global Strategy Team, where I participated in developing a comprehensive database of companies from 23 countries to assist in equity valuation modeling and foreign exchange forecasting. I have recently relocated to Turkey, but I still remain a member with the New York Board of Trade.

Currently I specialize in risk analysis along with portfolio management, specifically financial risks faced by institutions, while providing an analytical framework for measuring, managing, and monitoring risk. Risk management encompasses a wide range of activities such as hedging company positions and market exposure with financial derivatives or preparing alternative plans in response to unlikely scenarios that might happen in the future. Global companies have sophisticated risk management departments where they quantify, analyze and prepare for such possibilities. Quantitative risk analysis and strategic portfolio allocation is very limited in Turkey, and almost nonexistent in many large firms. As a visiting instructor in Izmir University of Economics and via several publications regarding risks and opportunities faced by Turkish firms in the foreseeable future, I wish to positively influence the way businesses in Turkey think about risk and portfolio strategies."



### Julie Paulino & Evren Yeniçay RC 93

Evren Yeniçay RC 93 married Julie Paulino on February 16, 2007, in Santo Domingo, The Dominican Republic. Julie and Evren met at a dinner party in New Jersey through a classmate of Evren's from RC. The couple immediately fell in love and after a few months of courting Evren finally asked Julie to be his wife while on vacation in Santo Domingo.

The wedding took place on the same island a year after they met, starting with a traditional ceremony in late afternoon, followed by a dinner party in the old city where the couple's family, Evren's classmates, colleagues and friends from around the world joined them. Celebrations lasted two days on different locations on the island. Julie and Evren continue to live and work in Fort Lee, New Jersey.



### Melike Gürkaynak Erbaşı RC 96

Melike and Serdar Erbaşı welcomed their first child on October 4th, 2006. Baby Selim, who is now 10 months old, was born 3,200 grams and 52 cm tall. Melike and Serdar met during a trip in the year 2000, and got married two years later in Bursa.

Serdar Erbaşı is working for Eston Yapı as an architect, and Melike has returned to her career as a sales executive at Koç Bilgi Group - Promena A.Ş. after a three month leave following Selim's birth. She's getting an e-MBA degree from Bilgi University, working, and raising Selim at the same time!

Selim's aunt, Melike's sister Seda Gürkaynak, RC 91, also got married in June, to Cem Koçak, at Bizimtepe.



### Bilge Demirköz RC 97

Bilge Demirköz is a real scientist, hungry for knowledge and fascinated by the creation of the universe. She finished her undergraduate studies at MIT, mastering in Physics, with minors in Mathematics and Music, after which she continued to work on the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS) that has been designed to be installed on the International Space Station (ISS) and finished her master's at MIT in particle physics. She completed her PhD at Oxford University this year, while working at the European Center of Nuclear Research (CERN) on the ATLAS semi-conductor tracker. The aim of the ATLAS project is to find the Higgs particle, which gives other particles their mass. Bilge says that ATLAS can even shed light on the dark matter and about how many dimensions the universe has. The Large Hadron Collider at CERN will collide two protons at high energies, thereby replicating the big bang to map the particle physics during the explosion, and study the particles that existed in space only a few seconds after the explosion and played part in the creation of the universe. She is now a Research Fellow at CERN, a position that citizens of countries that are not members are rarely offered, and she's also advertising to get Turkey a full membership at CERN. Bilge Demirköz also carried the Olympic Torch as part of the Athens Olympics Torch Relay in Üsküdar in 2004 as a young woman scientist. Kudos for our young scientist!

## Faculty & Friends

### Erol Altuğ

The Altuğ family was in İstanbul in February, during their two week spring break, to visit family and friends. While they caught up with RC, the RCQ caught up with them.

Erol is the Science Department Chair at The Stony Brook School in Long Island, New York. He teaches Biology and also introduced an AP Environmental Science course. In addition, he teaches a required humanity course that all the seniors take named World Views. This course involves topics such as how people look at the world philosophically. Erol was extensively involved in developing the curriculum. One component that is now integral is a 40 hour service project in lieu of a final exam for the course.

"The biggest change for me professionally has been the summer workload but despite that it is a lot of fun," says Altuğ. He is doing even more work in AP during the summer than he used to do at RC. In addition to grading biology essays he now also teaches AP Biology teachers how to set up an AP Biology course and how to teach it. He also does AP workshops in Toronto and the Taft school in Connecticut. Erol continues to have a passion for American Football. His wife Michelle is the librarian at the same school. She is also involved in the boarding department as a Dorm Mom. Their daughter Bahar is a middle school teacher of English and social studies at a school in Kentucky. Another daughter Petek is a junior at Wellesley College in Boston, studying sociology and pre-med. Petek was also an RC summer camp counsellor in 2006, where she taught the counsellors ultimate frisbee. Over the years Erol has been in close contact with various alumni and colleagues. He has attended various RC alumni events in NYC and enjoys communicating with RC friends. He can be reached at [erol.altug@stonybrookschoool.org](mailto:erol.altug@stonybrookschoool.org)



### Maura Kelley

English Literature teacher, Maura Kelly-Kuvvet and her husband, Gökhan Kuvvet, welcomed their first child, a daughter, named Sibel on April 12, 2007. Sibel is already being introduced by her mother to the joys of reading with an ever expanding library of children's books.

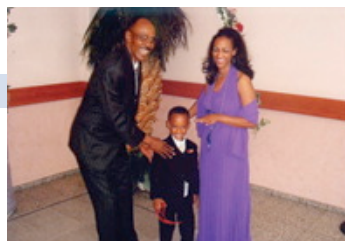
## ALUMNI NEWS

### Faculty & Friends



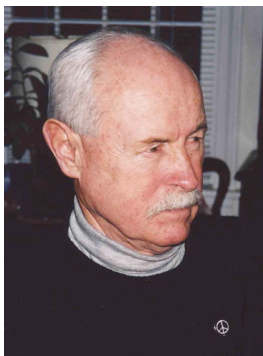
### Birol Özdemir & Şengül Toprak

Two of RC's teachers in the Turkish Language & Literature Department, Birol Özdemir and Şengül Toprak tied the knot at a ceremony held at Bizim Tepe on March 31.



### Dave Phillips Jr.

Dave Phillips, one of the most popular physical education teachers ever, has been at RC since 1979, for a total of 28 years so far. He recently gave everyone a wonderful surprise when he married Leya Behre Reda of Ethiopia on June 4, 2007. Dave and Leya met in Istanbul in 2001. They became the proud parents of Natnael, better known as "Natty" who was born in Kiruna, Sweden and is now four years old. The family reunited in Turkey in March and tied the knot in June.



### Roddy O'Connor

Former English teacher Roddy O'Connor wrote to the RCQ to let us know about his first novel "*Istanbul Gathering*", published by Çitlenbik Yayınları.

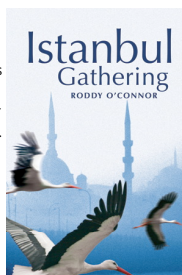
"I taught English, with a dash of French on the side - and was Chair of the English Department from the fall of 1963 to the spring of 1966, under Neil Bull. Those were great years and had a formative influence on everybody who taught there," said O'Connor who sent his book to the Robert College library as a gift.

O'Connor spent nine years in Istanbul, three years teaching English and French at Robert Academy during the 1960s and six years teaching at the Koç School during the 1990s. He has also spent a dozen years in France and two in Morocco. He received his Ph.D. in French from Princeton University and during the seventies and early eighties he taught nineteenth-century French Literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, before returning overseas.

*Istanbul Gathering* is his first novel. He and his wife Olga live in Le Faouet, France. *Istanbul Gathering* tells the story of a circle of friends in the heady expatriate scene of 1960s and '70s Istanbul. The novel's American protagonist Malone, a middle-aged academic, fond of his drink, has returned to Istanbul for the first time in twenty years; his beautiful ex-wife Sylvia and other friends have never left. The narrative follows the characters over the course of a single day as they make their ways through the city and reminisce on their lives before meeting for a reunion dinner in the heart of the old European quarter of Beyoğlu.

Renowned author and historian John Freely says of the book: "Many of us who lived in Istanbul in the good old days (the sixties and seventies) have always hoped that someone would immortalize the town we remember by writing the great Istanbul novel. Someone has finally come through with the novel we have been waiting for, and this is Roddy O'Connor with his *Istanbul Gathering*."

Roddy can be reached at rooconnor2004@yahoo.fr



## OBITUARIES

### Daniş Ünsal RC 36

Died on March 18, 2007, in Bebek, İstanbul, where he had been living for 74 years.

Daniş Ünsal completed the İzmir Hakimiyyeti Milliye Primary School and then came to Robert College where he passed all the entrance exams with top grades and won the right to be a scholarship boarding student. Lacking financial means to do otherwise he even spent his summer vacations on the RC Bebek campus. For ten years he also taught at the RC English Department, Boğaziçi High School and İstanbul University and enabled his sister and brother living in İzmir to complete the İstanbul Faculty of Medicine and İTİA (İktisadi ve Ticari İlimler Akademisi).

In 1942 he married İsmet Hanım, with whom he enjoyed a happy, 63-year marriage. In 1947 Daniş Ünsal left his academic career for a managerial position at Mobil Oil-Industrial Relations. When Türkiye Sınai Kalkınma Bankası was founded he became its General Secretary and kept this position for 29 years. In 1980, after 44 years of an active work life, Ünsal retired and served on the managerial boards of several private firms and various associations. He spent his final years at his home, on the hills of Bebek, across from Boğaziçi Univ., with his son Reha Ünsal RA 65 ex, İTİA 70, his daughter in law Ayşe, NDS 72, Univ. Of Munich 77, grand-children Engin, UNH 05, and Rennin, NDS 03, SUNY 07.

As written in the 1936 Record, Daniş Ünsal's philosophy of life was: "He who does not work shall perish."

### Hatice Enise Melek Gop Gerede ACG 39

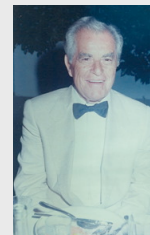
Passed away in April 2007.



### Ahmet Armağan RC 42

Born in Bergama, near İzmir in 1921, he passed away in İstanbul on September 8, 2006. After completing the İzmir Buca Middle School he told his father he wanted to study in İstanbul and thus started his RC adventure. His daughter Esra Armağan, RC 78, says: "I believe his RC school life was very colorful. He was the lead writer in the *İzmirimiz* magazine published jointly by RC and ACG in 1942. After RC, he completed the İstanbul University, Faculty of Economics and launched himself into the business world while settling down in İstanbul. He married Ayhan Köseoğlu in 1952. For many years, he worked in the historic building "Gürün Han" before it burned down, dealing with the wholesale cloth industry, and acting as an agent of major firms. He also worked in real estate and construction as well as being involved in agriculture in his birth place Bergama, something he never ceased to do as long as his health allowed.

His other involvements included his years as a member of



the Rotary club and position as an auditor in the RC Alumni Association. Ahmet Armağan was very proud of being an alumnus of RC as well as having his daughter graduate from there too. He was adamant that his daughter become a member of Bizim Tepe when it was founded even though she could have benefited from membership advantages just by being a daughter of a member. He was a very modest person and treated all he knew with equal respect, despite their many differences. He enjoyed his food and ate with much gusto and was very much attached to the art of living. His frequent advice to his twin daughters Esra and Feyha was not to take all the problems life brought forth too seriously and to enjoy life to the full. Even though his last 10 years were fraught with ill health and he lived with an aorta replacement he never lost his joie de vivre. There were two places that he was extremely attached to, that he never wanted to leave and that awoke deep emotions in him. One was the house in Bergama where he spent his youthful summer vacations and the other was the Robert College gardens."

### Jale Acar Akman ACG 43

Passed away April 19, 2007. Her classmate Nimet Erenli contributed the following in her memory: "Our dear classmate was a loyal member of our Alma Mater and she was fondly attached to her friends. Her outstanding qualities revealed the synthesis of modernity and family tradition. She showed exceptional strength when confronting the death of her single, beloved son, Mehmet Akman. Jale is survived by her grand-son Kerem Akman, daughter-in-law Nuran Akman, sister Hale Ebussuudoğlu, ACG 44, brother Mustafa Acar and sister-in-law Güner German Acar, ACG 43."



### Belkis (Topuz) Burak ACG 49

Passed away on February 22, 2007.

She worked with Türkiye Sınai Kalkınma Bankası (TSKB) as Project Manager and in collaboration with the World Bank for more than thirty years, thus contributing to the development of the Turkish private industry. After retiring from her managerial position in TSKB, and still full of energy, she took up arts and crafts and produced many beautiful wooden items, flowers and paintings and exhibited her works at the school of crafts. She lived every minute of her life to its fullest, until the sunny morning of February 22, 2007 when she suddenly passed away after finishing her daily morning walk along the sea shore. The last of her art work, a beautiful wooden magazine rack with handcrafted flowers, was completed by her classmates at the school of crafts. She will be missed in the monthly gatherings of her Robert College classmates. She will always be remembered for her positive philosophy of life. "The most





## OBITUARIES

manifest sign of wisdom is continued cheerfulness" was what her Robert College classmates wrote about her in 1949 and she practiced that every day of her life. Her approach to life will be passed on through her husband Cüneyt, son Ahmet, daughter-in-law Seyyide and grandchildren Efe and Esra. May she rest in peace in the cool breeze of the Bosphorus which she admired the most.

### Ergun F. Sabar RC 52

Passed away on January 28, 2007, only 3 weeks after the death of his younger brother Ömer Sabar, RC 57. After RC, Ergun Sabar continued his studies at the Medical school of Lausanne and went to the US to specialize in heart surgery. He served in the University of Istanbul, St. Thomas Hospital London, became a professor and then Dean of the Cardiovascular Department at the University of Erzurum. He also worked at the SSK Hospital in Izmir.

Ergun Sabar is survived by his wife Güler, daughters Merve, Esra and Reana and grand-children Levent, Barbaros, Can, İlayda and Neslihan.

### Ömer Sabar RC 57

Passed away on January 5, 2007. Ömer Sabar belonged to one of the last classes before Robert College became Robert Academy and turned into the three year Lise program. He studied medicine but switched to the conservatory to become a soloist in the Istanbul State Opera and took leading roles in a number of operas staged by the State Opera.

Ömer Sabar is survived by his wife Gül Sabar, who is also an opera singer, and daughter, Nilgün.

### Riga Hacısava RC 59

Died in 2006. Cent Ardan, RC 59, contributed the following: "Riga's father was from Latvia, and his mother was a beautiful Greek lady with blue eyes that he inherited. The family owned and operated a ship yard in the Golden Horn of Istanbul. They lived on Mete Caddesi, Taksim Square, and had a private home in Bebek by the water. During our second and third years, we were in the same section, we always sat together during the classes and had a little fun from time to time. After graduation he studied in London to be a naval captain for cruise ships. During the summers he came back to Istanbul and dropped by to talk about his experiences. There was a lot to laugh about. He was always happy with a great sense of humor. I will always miss him dearly."



### Bahar Piran Erel ACG 68

Passed away on March 7th, 2007, due to heart failure. After working with Turkish Airlines for many years, Bahar served as the import-export manager for Johnson & Johnson. She is survived by her husband, a daughter and a grandson.

### Ayla Gökay ACG 54

Ayla Gökay, who passed away in September 2005, had many fond memories of her years at ACG. She continued her involvement with the school through the PTA, and by being a member of the Alumni Association in the 1970s and was always a fervent supporter of the school. The Gökay family, in the person of her husband Hüsameddin and sons Mehmet Kerim (RC 80) and Ahmet (RC 84) have recently established an endowed scholarship in her name, so that future generations of students can benefit from the RC education and experience and carry on the tradition, as she would have wished.



### Vedat Demren RA 70

Described by colleagues as a true doyen of tourism in Turkey, much loved Vedat Demren, RA 70, died of cancer on March 30, 2007.

Born in 1951, Vedat Demren completed the German High School and Robert Academy, followed by Leeds University, from which he returned early due to the death of his father. From that day on his life became his family and his work. In 1982 he started off as a small scale tourism agency in Fethiye, a town on the Aegean coast of Turkey. This led to his finally being among the first ten tour operators to be able to enter the British market. During all this time he worked hard to do what was for the good of his country, striving for improvement and the best at all times. For his efforts he was much admired and looked up upon by hotel managements throughout the Aegean.

Full of joie de vivre, he loved the sea and would sail away whenever he found the chance. Much loved by family and friends he will be remembered for his unflinching friendship, his smile, and the many wonderful memories he shared with his loved ones.

Vedat's friend of 50 years, Melih Ünver, summarized the person he was with these words.

"I first knew him when we were about 2-3 years old. It is difficult to fit this long friendship into a few words but one event can show how important friendship was to Vedat.

One day, he was in London and I, in Istanbul. I was going over a rough patch and over the phone I said to him, "I might need you" then started talking of different things. We hung up.

The next day, in my Istanbul office, I saw Vedat saying, "What do you need?" This is the type of person he was. Very giving, a real friend, at your side in times of need as well as in good times."

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