

RC QUARTERLY SPRING / SUMMER 2016

ISSUE 49

RCQ

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

# the Sporting Life

Murat Karamancı Student Center | Measuring Social Impact  
A Fund for Documentaries | Shakespeare on the Green | Reunions

Türkiye'nin en  
zengin içerikli  
maden suyu!

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Doğal Maden Suyu  
Zengin Doğal Mineralli Su

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**Türkiye çok yaşasın!**

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sağlığınıza iyi gelir.

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# In this issue...

The cover story of this issue is the Sporting Life at Robert College, and focuses on how student-athletes at the school are always encouraged to put forth their best effort, to "win with grace, and lose with dignity." The article has been penned by Headmaster Dr. Charlie Skipper, whose views on education affirm that, "... the serious business of schooling is best done when combined with a serious sense of play and of joy" (p. 32).

The sense of joy was very much in evidence on campus this spring, with the Murat Karamancı Student Center becoming the new place to be on campus. Read about the transformative power of a generous gift that provides students a brand new dining area and social spaces (p. 10).

The following pages include stories on a variety of student activities, from building sustainable gardens to Shakespeare on the Green and the debut of dinner theatre in Bingham. As always the RCQ strives to inform its readers of the exciting activities at the school, while highlighting the vast array of achievements, milestones and news from alumni, faculty and friends.

Let us know what you are up to, for inclusion in the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> issue of the RCQ, by emailing us at alumni@robcol.k12.tr.

Wishing you a good summer!

The RCQ Team

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Photo: Mine Kasapoğlu

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# Dr. Charlie Skipper Appointed Headmaster

The RC Community recently got news that a familiar face, Dr. Charlie Skipper, who started as interim headmaster in the fall, has been appointed Headmaster by the Board of Trustees.

In the previous issue (RCQ 48, p. 10), an excerpt from an article that ran in Köprü student magazine gave readers a glimpse of who Dr. Skipper is. The RCQ asked him what his impressions are of the school after being here for a few months.

## What has impressed you about RC?

The list of things that have impressed me is too long to enumerate unless I have a few volumes of space!

One of the things that struck me from the start and remains with me is the aspirational sense of our community. We are a place of striving students and adults, and the power of that culture in a school community is immense.

There is also a wonderful family feel to RC. Over 1000 students, over 200 adults, and yet it is really like a family. There are the moments of love and support and being there for one another. In a recent flag ceremony I said that in our learning community there is no "us" and "them", only "we together." Having met with alumni in Turkey, the UK and around the US, I know this feeling extends over time and space.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have joined the RC community, and now for the chance to continue as part of the RC story.

## What are your plans for RC over the next few years?

The first priority is to maintain and build on the excellence that is RC. There are a number of faculty and faculty/student work groups reviewing different aspects of our operations to determine how to improve.

Another is to find ways to foster a community atmosphere that is mutually supportive, engaged, and care-filled. To quote the memorable phrase of one of our seniors, I want to make sure that we have a "healthy platform" for even difficult conversations about important topics.

If I were to pick one more overarching goal, it would be to be an effective ambassador for joy. In an aspirational



Headmaster Dr. Charlie Skipper addresses the RC community

community filled with high achieving students and adults we can sometimes lose sight of the great pleasure and happiness - the definition of joy - that being part of this community provides. I am not one who confuses learning with happiness; in fact, my most important lessons over the years have taken blood, sweat, and tears. Yet, the serious business of schooling is best done when combined with a serious sense of play and of joy in the experiences that make up teaching and learning.

## Where would you like to see RC in a few years?

That is an interesting question for one of the world's great schools. Where do you go when you are at or very near the top of something? To me the answer lies in two directions, one internal and one external.

The internal answer is that we have in our minds an image of the best RC, and we need to take the necessary steps to align our reality to that image. When we do that, we will even more fully realize our life-changing, world enhancing mission.

The external answer is that RC is not an island though it feels like an oasis in some ways. We exist as part of larger and larger circles of societal and educational

groupings, and we have a role to play in leading those groups. We are already doing this in a number of ways, and so we are building on a firm and secure foundation.

Dr. Charlie Skipper has been a teacher and administrator in schools around the world for the last 30 years. Prior to Robert College, he was most recently Headmaster of the American School in Switzerland (TASIS), a boarding and day school with three campuses in Lugano, Switzerland. His experience also includes having been the Head, for eight years, of the Escuela Americana in San Salvador, El Salvador, a bilingual English/Spanish school with significant outreach efforts to other institutions in El Salvador.

An honors graduate in History of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, Skipper holds MEd and PhD degrees from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia in the areas of educational administration and evaluation. The author of many published articles about education, he has a professional interest in assessment of schools and programs. He is married to Anne Marie Skipper and has two grown sons, Ben and Jacob.



# Excellence in Science Award 2016

It has been seven years since the Prof. Seyhan N. Ege ACG 49 Excellence in Science Award for young women at Robert College was inaugurated. The seventh recipient was Yağmur Erhan L11, who received her recognition from Güneş Ege Akter ACG 51, the founder of the award. This award, to acknowledge the scientific achievement of young women and honor the memory of a trailblazer, was announced at the Monday morning flag ceremony on March 21.

As has been the case since the very first year, Güneş Ege Akter addressed the audience: "I have talked about matters important to Seyhan such as loyalty, a sense of destiny, creating a legacy and finally the gift of serendipity. Today I will talk about 'authenticity', a true characteristic throughout the life of Seyhan Ege. These youthful school years are a period of shaping one's personality and character as well as being a time of great impressionability. Genetics is a major determinant of our character



Yağmur Ertan L11 and Güneş Ege Akter ACG 51

but the way we are nurtured and the environment play an important part in the outcome. Ultimately it is our own sense of self, of self-worth and sense of destiny which determine the whole person and personality we aspire to project.

"The authentic self seeks to enhance, elevate, distinguish and dignify the person through a quiet, unobtrusive

reflection of deeply held values, an engagement with the environment in ways which enhance the mind and spirit - not through provocative and unconventional conduct. Authenticity is the source of the respect we owe ourselves and which we inspire in others, with modesty and humility, free of artifice. To this end, as your Code of Conduct I suggest you download the Hazreti Mevlâna app and follow the instructions:

In affection and compassion be like the sun

In concealing the faults of others be like the night

In munificence and generosity be like flowing water

In moments of anger and irritability be like the dead

In modesty and humility be like the soil

Appear as you are and be as you appear"

# A Sustainable Garden for All to Enjoy

Permaculture became more accessible to residents of Beşiktaş this winter when the RC Permaculture Club established a sustainable garden in a public park in Ulus - the first of its kind in Turkey. Located in the Ulus Meyve Bahçesi (Ulus Orchard), the garden was created in cooperation with the Beşiktaş Municipality.

Lise 11 student Kerem Nakay, leader of the Permaculture Club, explains: "I met with the mayor of the Beşiktaş Municipality last fall to introduce the possibility of building a permaculture garden. He was excited about it and gave us the permission, land and resources to build the garden. After the construction I met with him again along with Taner Aksel RC 87, to discuss possibilities for projects such as gardens in other parks or public schools. He was already aware of environmental issues and looking for projects such as ours, so we didn't have to convince him. He convinced us to do even more than we had planned!"

The purpose of the garden is to educate local residents about the importance



The RC Permaculture Club members and people from the Beşiktaş Municipality plant the first crops at Ulus Orchard

of ecological gardening, and to show them how it can be done. The first crop of fava beans, leeks, onions and red spinach, planted by RC students and people from the municipality, was harvested in the spring. For the summer, the club planted tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, pumpkins, peppers, eggplant and sunflowers. Anybody from the community can water, weed and harvest the plants.

The project has inspired other Istanbul schools and municipalities. In March, the Kadıköy Municipality started a

similar project with Saint Joseph Lisesi in Fenerbahçe. In addition, Beşiktaş is interested in creating similar gardens in other parks, as well as in public schools.

The RC Permaculture Club recently worked with students from 100. Yıl Mustafa Kemal İlkokulu in Balmumcu to build a permaculture garden at their school. The club is also working with other schools to help them roll out similar public garden programs around Istanbul. The club continues to work with the Alpagut village in Bolu (see RCQ 47, p. 15).

# The Hamlin Players

## Dinner Theatre Comes to Campus

Audiences were treated to a unique dinner theatre experience on March 9-11, when a new acting group - the Hamlin Players - staged hits from Broadway musicals in Bingham 1. Songs from a variety of musicals including *Cats*, *Wicked*, *Rent*, *the Lion King*, and *Aida* were performed by the group while the audience enjoyed a delicious meal, served by the actors. Each song was chosen to teach a specific musical theatre skill, such as symbolic movement, blending simultaneous solo performances, and transitioning between song and dialog.

"The fact that the group was mostly Preps ended up shaping the show,"



The Hamlin Players perform a number from the musical *Cats*

explains Hamlin Players advisor Caitlin Dunne. "Since this was the first time many of the students performed in English and for some, in musical theatre, developing the necessary stage skills was a major part of the experience. It was very important to me that the students also act as table servers because that added element made the experience memorable, challenging and fun in a different way."

"We were beyond excited but Ms. Dunne kept calming us down although she was even more nervous than us!" says Lise Prep student Ayça Yılmaz. "Being on stage was a totally different and unexplainable feeling. I don't think I ever will enjoy anything as much."

"I still remember my audition for Hamlin Players with a shivering voice and shaking hands," Ayça adds. "After six months, I noticed that something had changed within me. I became a courageous and confident girl who was proud of what she and her group had achieved."

The audience's response was very positive, with many student audience



The audience enjoyed a delicious dinner and a delightful show

members expressing regret that they had not tried out for the group. The performers were so excited to be given the chance to perform that the energy was palpable.

"In the long run I hope the Hamlin Players will provide an opportunity for students of all skill levels to participate in musical theatre, and allow students to develop leadership skills by shaping the performances themselves," says Dunne. "Our goal was not to be perfect, but to have fun with musical theatre and share it with the school community. I hope that remains a part of the Hamlin Player's ethos in the future."

## Seeing the Campus through Shakespeare

Miami-sleaze Richard III seduces Lady Anne next to a dumpster; *Taming of the Shrew's* Kate marries an ostentatious Petruchio, clothed in kimono and spandex on a path in the woods; 1920s-style King Lear disinherits Cordelia in the Forum; Lady Macbeth pushes Macbeth on a swing at Hillside; Claudius, Gertrude and Hamlet die on the running track with a Bosphorous view, a cat lapping up Hamlet's wounds.

RC Theater Company's mammoth Shakespeare on the Green was performed in spots all over the campus and involved over 50 participants including the company's actors, teachers, student musicians and children of faculty.

The night began in the Maze with music and a rag tag bunch of actors led by Quince and Bottom from *A Midsummer*

*Night's Dream* planning their play *Pyramus and Thisbe*. After audience members visited five stations on campus which included several famous scenes and a high-octane improv routine in front of Gould Hall, they returned to the Maze for a final peek at *Pyramus and Thisbe*.

Many attendees said that part of the fun of the evening was being led by guides from scene to scene, including Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, the minor characters from *Hamlet*, who played a game of questions with a broken badminton net, and then continued the game with the audience en route to the final scene from *Hamlet* on the Plateau. At another point, the audience ran into the planned but failed execution of the drunk Barnadine from *Measure for Measure*. English teacher Andy Jones said, "It was amazing how the atmosphere, voice, setting, and sense of



Hamlet takes his last breath on the Plateau

humor changed so much as we wandered all over campus. What a fantastic way to celebrate the talents of our actors and also the beauty of the campus."

The first Shakespeare on the Green, organized by former RC Theater Company Director Charlotte Şamlı, was performed five years ago and the hope is to make it a tradition every five years.



## Music and Literature Explored at Turkish Symposium

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Culture and Literature Symposium, organized by the Robert College Turkish Language and Literature Department, took place on Saturday, April 16. This year's theme was "Music and Literature". The morning and afternoon sessions were attended by eminent guests, including Timur Selçuk, Gönül Paçacı, Prof. Dr. Handan İnci Elçi, Prof. Dr. Hakan Yılmaz, Bayram Bilge Tokel, and Evin İlyasoğlu ACG 66.

The department teachers said, "It was a great honor for us to host these guests, and all on the same day. Following their individual talks in the four sessions, they answered the questions of the attendees. The concert of the RC Orchestra, comprised of our students, was a musical feast."

At the end of the event filled with music and literature, all the guests gathered in the garden for the closing cocktail party and enjoyed the beautiful spring day.



11<sup>th</sup> annual Turkish Culture and Literature Symposium participants in the Forum

## Global Social Entrepreneurship Summit

In February, nine members of the Robert College Social Entrepreneurship Club traveled to India to attend the Global Social Entrepreneurship Summit (GSES) hosted by the American School of Bombay (ASB). The students observed life in various communities of Mumbai and considered ways of bringing about social change through entrepreneurial projects. The students described it as nothing short of transformative.

The goal of GSES was to offer teenagers from around the world a chance to collaborate on designing and prototyping projects using sustainable models to address social needs in their communities. Students from schools in Jordan, South Africa, Bangladesh, the US, and various parts of India attended the summit and worked together in teams formed by common interests. Karishma Galani from the Research and Development Center of ASB, along with Suzie Boss, one of the leading voices in education, introduced students to the process of Design Thinking, a model of developing solutions to problems in which learning to cultivate empathy is an essential element of the innovation process.

At the beginning of the summit, the students visited Dharavi, one of the

largest slums in the world, and engaged with locals as part of an important exercise in community needs assessment. For Lise 11 student Rabia Demirelli, it has been a perspective-changing experience: "In India, I learned to change my view to get to know people. Putting my prejudices behind and discovering their point of view showed me how cultures seem so different but people are similar. I met people who were content living in a slum. I saw that assumptions we make about 'the other' are our handicaps that keep us away from understanding them."

Back at ASB, the students formed small teams and began to problem-solve ways of addressing needs either in India or another community. Summit participants

were split into groups that worked with issues ranging from education to production of clean water. At the conclusion of the summit, each group delivered a formal presentation of its project idea. Rabia and İdilü Güney L10 received special recognition for their work in designing water filtration systems that demonstrated great innovative potential.

Inspired by what they learned at the summit, the club is working on projects to share the Design Thinking model with other schools, in hopes of spreading social entrepreneurial initiatives around Turkey. In the fall they will focus on spending time in a local community in order to understand the true needs of the people they want to help.



RC Social Entrepreneurship club students and their advisors enjoy a picnic in Mumbai

## Real World Business Experience through JARC

Tired of fiddling with worn out phone chargers? Junior Achievement of Robert College (JARC) has developed a solution. ChargerAid is an eco-friendly 3D-printed clip that protects the wires in charger cables.

Just as different companies in the real world collaborate to create products, JA worked together with another club - RC Makers - to develop the clip. "To make the ChargerAid we needed a broad knowledge of 3D designing. JA and Makers club came together and took the initiative to build our product," says Lise 9 student Atlas Kaan Yilmaz.

The clips and their accompanying phone holder raised a lot of interest at JA Trade Fairs in Belgium, Latvia and Lithuania this spring. In Lithuania, the RC team won the creativity award for ChargerAid, while their healthy cake mix named Bakelt was chosen as one of the best products.

"JA students look for ways to make people's lives easier," explained club advisor Metin Ferhatoğlu when asked how the students decide which products to develop. "This year they came up with 15 ideas. They did market research to see which ones had been developed before and which problems the products



JARC members promote ChargerAid at the Junior Achievement fair in Belgium

address. They voted to bring ChargerAid and Bakelt to market."

As soon as the students returned from marketing their creations, they hosted Remixopolis Innovation Camp on May 18-22, an annual international conference that JARC has been organizing for the past five years. The event allows high school students to take a big step into the entrepreneurial world while having fun. Participants get exposed to real life problems of major companies and

are expected to come up with their own creative solutions. It is the biggest JA event in Turkey.

Since its establishment in 2008, the Robert College Junior Achievement Club has been inspiring students to become global business leaders. With no age, gender or background restrictions, the club offers students the opportunity to learn first-hand what it is like to become innovative and promising entrepreneurs.

## RC Robotics Team Wins Rookie Award

The RC Roboteam came home with the Rookie Innovation Award from the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC), which took place in New York on March 11-13. FRC is the largest robotics competition in the world with over 6,000 teams from 24 countries participating. With strict rules, limited resources, and an intense six week time limit, teams of 20 or more students are challenged to raise funds, hone teamwork skills, and build industrial size robots to play a difficult field game. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team.

The team took an innovative approach to designing their robot. Lack of space and money prevented them from building the full replica of the game field, so they could not follow the necessary testing procedure nor produce the needed spare parts. To be able to address potential problems, they designed their robot to be as modular as possible, which allowed them to easily make adjustments to the design.



The RC Robotics Team fine tunes their robot at the competition in NYC

It was not only this novel development approach which helped them win the award. They learned that FRC is about working together as a family - not just a team - to share the importance of science and engineering and to use these disciplines to inspire people. The

team believes that with more financial and technical help, their future will be very bright. Next year they aim to find more sponsors, which will enable them to come up with even more innovative and inspiring projects.



# GARANTİ DAİMA TÜRK BASKETBOLUNUN YANINDA!



# Murat Karamancı Student Center

## The new place to be on campus

State of the art, light, and welcoming are words people on campus use to describe the newly named Murat Karamancı Student Center, formerly known as the Bubble or White House.

A generous gift by Murat Karamancı has allowed the creation of a wonderful space for Robert College students to eat, study and spend time with friends. A great view of the natural surroundings, and use of outdoor space are among the outstanding features of the new center, allowing students, teachers and staff to enjoy their meals and free time around the trees near the Maze, overlooking the small fish pond. The remarkable design of the structure is the brainchild of award winning architect Ahmet Alataş.

The Murat Karamancı Student Center became operational in April, right after spring break this year. It has replaced the cafeteria in the basement of Gould Hall. As Lise 10 student Sezen Sümer describes, the new center "provides a much more appealing environment, both aesthetically and socially for us students. It's much bigger than the old one, has more seating options (indoors and outdoors) and enables us to socialize more. As a student that doesn't have a cafeteria pass, it enables me to have lunch with all of my friends without us having to divide into separate groups. Also, some of our teachers take us to the new student center to write essays during a lesson, and as an outdoor person I find it more than relaxing to get out of the classroom when I'm writing something. I think that it is very user friendly without the sense of over-crowdedness the old cafeteria used to give. My favorite place to sit is outside, beside the palm trees." Assistant Student Dean Andrew Laraia said, "I think the new student center is wonderful: It's full of light, it's roomy and it really sets a tone for RC moving into the future and growing."

A dedication ceremony was held on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees in May. Faculty, staff, trustees, student and alumni representatives gathered to celebrate its



From L to R: Demir Karamancı RC 48, Murat Karamancı, Şehnaz Karamancı, Kaan Karamancı RC 04 L3, Headmaster Dr. Charlie Skipper, Board of Trustees Chair Nina J. Köprülü, Business Director Ümran Üngün ACG 70 and architect Ahmet Alataş

donor and namesake Murat Karamancı, on May 9, 2016. The son of Demir Karamancı RC 48, and the father of Kaan Karamancı RC 04 L3, Murat Karamancı has been a long-time supporter of Robert College. At this time, he was acknowledged for his vision, recognizing how the center would enhance student life at the school, and his gift that made this a reality. After her speech, RC Board Chair Nina J. Köprülü presented Murat Karamancı with an RC 2016 graduation cap as a symbolic token of appreciation to mark the year the center was dedicated.



An interior view of the Murat Karamancı Student Center



# Burası *20 Yıldır* BİLGİ

Burası, önünde sınırlar olmadığını gördüğün yer...  
Sadece okul için değil, hayat için öğrendiğin yer...  
Gücünün, kendi geleceğine de, dünyaya da  
yön vermeye yeteceğini keşfettiğin yer.

Burası, ilk günden beri, kendine de, hayata da  
bu güvenle bakabilmen için var. Çünkü burası  
sadece bir üniversite değil.

Burası, BİLGİ. 20 yıldır...



# Silent Auction

A fun detail of RC's 150<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Benefit Gala was a Silent Auction held throughout the evening to raise funds for the RC Scholarship Fund. The theme was "Experience" and 18 exclusive experiences were auctioned off. Over 70 RC alumni and friends participated in the buying game raising close to 300,000 TL for this worthy cause. Here are snapshots of four of these fun experiences enjoyed during the past year.

## Taking a Spin With Two RC Icons!

On a lovely spring day in April 2016, lucky Silent Auction bidder Metin Bonfil RC 79 met up with former RC chemistry teacher Rahel Çikvaşvili and her iconic "Düldül". Düldül is a 1968 Fiat Spring and has been a constant companion of Rahel for the past 48 years! Though she can be temperamental (the car!), needing many repairs and adjustments which are not easy to complete, Rahel continues to enjoy driving her. A beloved sight on campus, Düldül has had her fair share of adventures while parked on the grounds. Metin Bonfil was the lucky Silent Auction bidder who won the right to this latest adventure, a spin with her, complete with Rahel and a Bosphorus tour.



Metin Bonfil RC 79, Düldül and Rahel Çikvaşvili

## Exclusive Winery Tour

Robert College friend Urs Grunder and his guests enjoyed a magical journey through the world of wine, courtesy of Sibel Kutman RC 92, board member of Doluca winemakers. Taking a tour of the state of the art facilities at Doluca'a Çerkezköy winery in October 2015, Urs and friends witnessed wine's journey from grape to glass. They visited the cellar where the oak barrels are stored, tasted a variety of Doluca and Sarafin wines and thoroughly enjoyed a day of pairing wine with tasty food.



Enjoying the Doluca Winery tour, from L to R: Ebru Günacan, Marketing Manager of Doluca, Uğur Sevim, Haver Tanbay, Cengiz Argat and Urs Grunder

## RC Headmaster for a Day

Among the experiences auctioned off was "Be the Headmaster for a Day". Former RC parent, Mustafa Say, father of Metin Say RC 15, donated to the school for this once in a lifetime experience. RC "Headmaster" Mustafa Say was on campus on Monday, May 4, 2015, visiting classes, having coffee with teachers at the faculty lounge, and heading the weekly administration team meeting.



"Headmaster for a Day" Mustafa Say listened to the RC Makers Club discuss their projects and shared his experiences with club members.

## Feast at the Deanery by a Celebrity Chef

This sounded really tempting to Gonca Artunkal RC 85 when she decided to go for it during the Silent Auction. She won the bid for this item, and during the summer of 2015 she and her friends shared an evening with celebrity chef Refika Birgül RC 98. They learned how to make *çiğ köfte* and enjoyed a delicious dinner in the Deanery garden where Refika and her assistants prepared all the tasty meals right in front of their eyes.



From L to R: Bilge Yavuz Rizvani RC 85, Gonca Gursoy Artunkal RC 85, Refika'a assistant, Refika Birgül RC 98, Refika's assistant, Beti Danon Lengerli RC 85, Nazlı Kaptanoğlu, Serra Ersan Bağcı RC 85, Gülüstü Salur RC 85, İpek İlkaracan Ajas RC 85, Deniz Aktosun, and Oya Inal RC 85



# Daha ilerisi için, BİLGİ Lisansüstü.

Alanlarının önde gelen akademisyen ve profesyonellerinden eğitim alma, kariyeriniz için güçlü bağlantılar kurma olanağı BİLGİ Lisansüstü Programları'nda.

## Yüksek Lisans

- Avrupa Etüdları
- Avrupa Etüdları Çift Diplomalı Program
- Bankacılık ve Finans
- Bankacılık ve Finans Uzaktan Eğitim
- Beslenme ve Diyetetik
- Bilişim ve Teknoloji Hukuku
- Ekonomi
- Elektrik-Elektronik Mühendisliği
- Felsefe ve Toplumsal Düşünce
- Finansal Ekonomi
- Fizyoterapi ve Rehabilitasyon
- Gastronomi\*
- Halkla İlişkiler ve Kurumsal İletişim
- Hukuk / Ekonomi Hukuku
- Hukuk / İnsan Hakları Hukuku
- Hukuk Uzaktan Eğitim\*
- İnsan Kaynakları Yönetimi
- İş Sağlığı ve Güvenliği\*
- İnsan Kaynakları Yönetimi Uzaktan Eğitim
- İnteraktif Pazarlama / Next Academy
- İslami Finans Uzaktan Eğitim\*
- Klinik Psikoloji
- Kültür Yönetimi
- Kültürel İncelemeler
- MBA (İngilizce)
- MBA (Türkçe)
- MBA (Türkçe - Kozyatağı)
- MBA (Türkçe - Bursa)
- e-MBA (Türkçe)
- e-MBA (İngilizce)

- Medya ve İletişim Sistemleri
- Mimari Tasarım
- Mimarlık Tarihi, Teorisi ve Eleştirisi
- Muhasebe ve Denetim
- Örgütsel Psikoloji
- Pazarlama İletişimi / Marka Okulu
- Pazarlama İletişimi / Marka Okulu (Kozyatağı)
- Pazarlama (İngilizce)
- Pazarlama Uzaktan Eğitim\*
- Sağlık Hizmetleri Yönetimi
- Sağlık Hizmetleri Yönetimi (Uzaktan Eğitim)
- Sinema ve Televizyon
- Sosyoloji
- Sosyal Projeler ve STK Yönetimi
- Tarih
- Teknolojide Girişimcilik ve İnovasyon
- Türk-Alman Ekonomi Hukuku Ortak Programı (İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi-Köln Üniversitesi)
- Travma ve Afet Çalışmaları Uygulamalı Ruh Sağlığı\*
- Uluslararası Ekonomi Politik
- Uluslararası Finans
- Uluslararası İlişkiler
- Yapım Yönetimi
- Yönetim Bilişim Sistemleri (Uzaktan Eğitim)

## Doktora

- Ekonomi
- İletişim Bilimleri
- İşletme
- Kamu Hukuku
- Özel Hukuk
- Siyaset Bilimi
- Bilişim, Teknoloji ve Hukuk\*

\*Yükseköğretim Kurulu'ndan onay beklenmektedir.



# Beyond Academics

RC students make positive changes around Turkey during the school year

RC is known for its heavy academic schedule, but RC students manage to find time during the school year to reach out to those very different from themselves, sharing their skills and maturing in the process. During the 2015-16 school year, 21 community involvement projects were conducted. These included a wide range of activities such as doing drama with the mentally challenged, setting up a library in a primary school in Ayvalık, being *abla* and *ağabey* to orphans, tutoring the visually impaired, and working at a center for Roma students. During the projects, RC students tried to fulfill a need of the community they worked with, but they themselves gained much as they learn responsibility, business and communication skills. Plus they had fun! Here is a sample of some of the projects run this year:

## Using Creative Drama to Teach Hittite History - Çorum

At the Istanbul Archeology Museum, RC students learned techniques from the Creative Drama Association for teaching history to children through creative drama. They then prepared



Boğazkale primary school students learn about local history through play

a plan to teach Hittite history to the children living in the lands in the center of the Hittite Empire: the Hattusa area in Boğazkale, Çorum. With RC literature teacher Sinan Tümtürk and Creative Drama trainer Bahar Gürey, RC students used creative drama techniques and played outdoor games, worked with the children to design their own stamps and reflect on what they learned during the day. The social science teacher from the Boğazkale primary school was pleasantly surprised as his young students all clamored to teach him about the Kadesh Agreement.

"We placed a girl at every station. We organized an activity with riddles created from the information that we taught during the day. We (the girls) being the queens, and the boys accompanying the children being the kings, took the concept further. The necessity of getting signatures from both the queen and the king in order to reach the treasure symbolized the gender equality of the Hittites. By emphasizing that universal message we intended to make the idea have a place in their minds."

- Meriç İkiz L9

"One of the incidents that affected me the most was the day when the third graders came. The teaching part had been really good and I was talking to a kid, Ali Ercan. His exact words to me were, 'I had no idea that I would create this strong of a bond with someone in just one day, you are so nice, I wish we could see you again.' But the way he said it was so beautiful! The sadness in his voice really affected me and made me proud of myself. I thought we did something really good and worth being proud of, if we were able to make these kids this happy in just one day. Also, I felt their sadness too. I wish we could spend more time with them." - Arda Çaycı L9

## Environmental Center Renovation - Acarlar, Sakarya

In one of Turkey's few lagoon areas, students renovated an abandoned environmental center. With sponsorship from Marshall Boya, they also painted the exterior. In addition, together with their advisor, RC geography teacher Çağdaş Yüksel, they received education from TOG and TEMA on ecological literacy and organic seeds. After their training, the RC students shared what they learned with students from nearby Denizköy Ortaokulu. They also showed the younger children how to plant the seeds. Both the village and the headmaster of the school expressed hope that RC students will come to the center again and continue with more projects.



RC students teach primary students about preserving the environment

## Students Teaching Students

Under the guidance of Lise 9 English teachers Erica Hoffman and Cecile Popp, Lise 9 students are teaching English to third grade students in Kastamonu. Lessons are taught via Skype after school, which coincides with when the Kastamonu children have their weekly English class. RC students are also preparing a series of 1-2 minute instructional videos so that the students in Kastamonu are able to continue their learning whenever they want. The goal is to create a bank of instructional resources for present and future students in Kastamonu.





RC students teach English to students in Kastamonu via Skype

A similar project has been organized over the past two years by English teacher İrem Eren. Students from RC and Mardin Fen Lisesi meet online once or twice a week and discuss ideas, movies, songs and books in English. The project partner, Payda, which was founded by two RC graduates - Aylin Tankut RC 79 and Bora Tokyay RC 97 - supports girls' education in Mardin. Payda helped find the participants from Mardin Fen Lisesi and provided them a camera and local logistical support. (For more about Payda please see RCQ 43, p. 44)

#### Sharing the Love of Model United Nations

During the spring semester of 2015, eight RC students worked closely with students from Sakıp Sabancı Lisesi (SSL) in Beşiktaş to help them create their own MUN club. As part of the experience, they provided the SSL students a delegation and roles in RC Specialized Agencies and Model International



Mardin Fen Lisesi students, who came as guests to this year's RCIMUN conference

Criminal Court, two branches of the RCIMUN conference. "It was wonderful to see these students become passionate about MUN and seize the opportunity to improve their English", says Jeremy Hardy, RCIMUN club advisor.

After the conference, they met the SSL students once again to help them establish a club constitution and vote in their new leaders. "Fast-forward to February 2016. I was standing with RCMUN students at the Koç schools MUNDP conference.

I was pulled away from a conversation and one of our MUN leaders said, 'Mr. Hardy, look who's here!' A delegation of 15 SSL students were at the conference, and for some it was their fourth conference of the year!" added Hardy.

With the enthusiasm of this success, the RCMUN club founded another project with Mardin Fen Lisesi (MFL). The project committee invited the MFL MUN team to Istanbul to attend the RCIMUN conference in April 2016, in collaboration with Payda. It was the first time that MFL attended an English MUN. Under the leadership of Deniz Cengiz L11 and Ece Akcay L10, the RC team trained MFL for two months on Skype. Six MFL students, four girls and two boys, participated. Students formed great friendships. RC Lise 10 students Mehmet Can Olgaç, from Mardin, and Serdil Tinda Yalçın from Van were additional great hosts and trainers.

#### İZEV Project

RC students supported İstanbul Zihinsel Engelliler için Eğitim ve Dayanışma Vakfı (İZEV) at their center, hosted them at RC and did fundraising with them. As part of this relationship, RC students spent their spring break at the İZEV center helping the mentally challenged during their soap making, bag making, and ceramics painting workshops. The purpose was to share the process of producing things together. RC students gained much from these interactions.

"Before this project, before I met the students from İZEV, I would not have believed that I would be able to get along with them well, or even fully understand people with mental disabilities. But working with them for only a week changed my mind. All the students we worked with were quite diverse in temperament, and this truly helped me see them as as people just like you and me, *plus a difference*, as the İZEV motto goes. Some I could get along with, some I shared interests with and could converse with meaningfully and some I simply didn't click with; in other words, just like everyone else. They're not that different from us, after all." - Ali Çataltepe L10

"I was pretty shocked the first day and I tried to communicate with the people there. The communication part was hard, but I was able to understand them based on their actions and their emotions. On the last day we talked about our lives. Several İZEV students gave speeches and some of them cried. I was so disappointed that the spring break was going to end and I would not be able to see them again. That was one of the most emotional moments of my life." - Yiğit Can Çevikol L9



RC students fundraised for İZEV and visited them at their center

# Creating Bridges: UNIRC turns 10

Over the past decade, RC Alumni Association's committee of university students, UNIRC, has helped create a lot of extraordinary memories for young RC grads. Everything started in 2004 with a small group of people who wanted to make a difference for the RC community. Saturday mornings at Bizim Tepe became an inspiration for many young alumni. The 10<sup>th</sup> UNIRC Committee highlights some annual activities that were born from this weekly custom, which have helped build bridges between the entire RC community.



RC 12 grads Semih Karaçeşme and Ceren Daniş (left) learn about careers in banking



From L to R: Oğuzcan Alada RC 14, Mertcan Demiray RC 14, Serra Erke RC 14, Naz Aydın RC 14, Mert Uzan RC 14, Ebrar Bahçivan RC 13, İdil Gençosmanoğlu RC 14 and Yunus Emre Erdölen RC 15

## Career Days

During Career Days, RC graduates share their career paths with university students. The professionals of tomorrow are able to meet with graduates who have passed through many experiences in their respective fields. Hopefully, the stories of real life academic and career journeys will inspire many others.



Children from around Turkey strike a colorful pose in the Forum

## UNIFuar

At the RC Alumni Association university fair, UNIFuar, recent graduates studying at top ranked Turkish universities share their experiences of how they got there. The RC senior class is always welcome to contact the graduates throughout their year of preparing for the Turkish university entrance exam. This mentorship program is in place to help seniors navigate what can be a stressful journey on the path to getting into the university and faculty of their choice.



RC 12 friends Miray Palaz, Doruk Kilitçiöğlu, Tolga Gidener, Bihter Akyol and Anıl Özder ring in the new year together

## Seven Colors of Turkey

UNIRC'S Community Involvement Project is in its ninth year. With the support of Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği (The Association for Supporting Contemporary Life), 56 children from seven different cities in Turkey's seven regions come to RC for a one week summer program. The children are successful in school but do not have financial and social opportunities. They are hosted in the RC residential halls. The program includes orienteering, technology education, a mini coding course, filming, science experiments, percussion lessons, art activities, visiting important sights and museums in Istanbul and much more. This year students from Kayseri, Zonguldak, Antalya, Bursa, Tunceli, Gaziantep and Manisa attended. Every year sponsors help to make this project possible. If you would like to contribute to the next project, contact unircrkm@gmail.com.

## Social Activities

As young graduates, UniIRC knows that the best way to create bridges is by having fun! Several parties, brunches, concerts and tournaments are hosted during the year. The annual New Year's party, scheduled when most young alumni are in Istanbul, brings together graduates from the last five years to have fun and share memories. GradLive, the annual Lise Live-like concert, brings favorite high school bands together again and kicks off the summer season at Bizim Tepe with the pool and good music. The Football Tournament, with teams made up of graduates from the past 15 years, takes place in spring on the Dave Phillips Field. It is a great way to meet again as a class, but also as a community. Also, young alumni have been known to play against managers of companies they hope to intern for!





Natural Olive

# BANYO KEYFİNİN EN DOĞAL HALİ





## The Robert College Alumni Association (RKMD)

### RKMD Courses

RKMD began offering various courses in the Fall of 2015 for kids and adults alike.



#### Coding for Kids:

##### Like weekend sports for the brain

Since October, RKMD has been offering coding courses (such as Scratch, Bitsbox and Kodu Game Lab) for kids in collaboration with Maker Çocuk. Kids starting from as early as age seven learn to code by making their own games, using a creative learning approach. Kids are full of ideas and love computer games. That energy is harnessed and directed toward learning how to code in a fun environment.



#### Improve Your Photography

This class is designed for any photographer at any level: whether you are simply trying to figure out what all those buttons and dials on your machine do, or are looking to take your current skills up a notch. Attendees are free to work with a film and/or digital camera or even a cell phone. Each class introduces a new concept and explores some technical aspects of photography. There are group critiques of student work and weekly exercises designed to be fun and educational, highly individualized, and end with food, drink and conversation at Bizim Tepe. Improve Your Photography is taught by dedicated RC photography teacher Alex Downs.



#### Go for Kids

Go is an ancient Chinese board game that encourages kids to detect patterns, plan ahead, predict the outcome of alternative moves and learn from experience. In collaboration with Istanbul Go School, RKMD brings a unique experience to the children of our alumni and guests.



#### Scriptwriting with Haluk Özenç RC 88

The scriptwriting course begins with an overview of dramatic principles, when applied to a distinctive cinematic storytelling. These principles are also critically evaluated to see how they help in the creative process, which ultimately results in an original screenplay. The next step in the course is coming up with a first draft feature screenplay; this includes a lot of one on one mentoring and group discussions with fellow students. Class work and exercises on various techniques include Italian and American formats, creating characters and algorithmic development, focusing on visualization and cinema specific aspects of screenwriting.



#### Yoga in the Morning

RKMD offers beginner and advanced level yoga classes. Yoga instructor Seher Peker Mısırlı has created a friendly atmosphere on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at Bizim Tepe. The activity brings together alumni of all ages.



## Dead Poets Society Gala Held at Robert College

The theatrical version of the unforgettable film *Dead Poets Society*, featuring Can Gürzap RA 62ex in the leading role, was staged at the Suna Kırış Theater on Saturday, April 23. Proceeds from the ticket sales were contributed to the RC scholarship program by the Alumni Association to benefit RC students.



Can Gürzap RA 62ex (center) in the lead role of *Dead Poets Society*

## One Hour with Ayşe Kulin ACG 61

Renowned alumna and one of the most prolific Turkish authors of our time, Ayşe Kulin ACG 61, discussed the issues of women and gender-awareness in Turkey as well as her characters in her book on February 2.



Ayşe Kulin ACG 61

## Political Polarization Report

On February 8, right after the "Dimensions of Polarization in Turkey" study was published, Özgür Ünlühisarcıklı RC 91, director of the German Marshall Fund's office in Ankara which undertook the study, held a discussion at Bizim Tepe on the report. Summarizing the study, Ünlühisarcıklı said, "We are living in separate worlds where party affiliation and social identities overlap. Our identities have become so politicized that differences in political perspectives have turned into social distance, causing a psychological distance as well, among members of society." Political scientist Prof. Dr. İter Turan also gave input on the report.



Özgür Ünlühisarcıklı RC 91 (standing) and Prof. Dr. İter Turan discuss the report

## The Living Library at Bizim Tepe

Organized in cooperation with the Community Volunteers Foundation (TOG) and sponsored by Kadir Has University, the Living Library met its "readers" for the first time at Bizim Tepe on January 16. The Living Library works much like a standard library. Visitors choose the topic that they want to learn more about from a catalogue and are given a library card. Assisted by librarians, they check out a resource for a given time, and return it when they are finished. However, there is one unique difference: the resources are people and learning takes place through conversation. In other words, it's OK to talk in this library! The resources in the Living Library are chosen from among those groups who frequently face prejudice, discrimination and social exclusion in society. The borrower in this library is anyone who might like to talk about his or her own prejudices and has half an hour for this experience.



A Living Library "resource" shares her experiences with a "reader"

## Being in the Film Business in the 2000s

A new generation of young producers and directors from RC are defining the non-commercial line of new Turkish cinema. RKMD hosted a discussion on January 19 with some influential alumni in the film industry: Ersan Congar RC 90, Tamer Üner RC 91 and Kerem Kurdoğlu RC 81, with Aysim Türkmen RC 91 as the moderator. This conversation will continue with others in the industry in the months to come.



From L to R: Ersan Congar RC 90, Aysim Türkmen RC 91, Kerem Kurdoğlu RC 81 and Tamer Üner RC 91

## Boston and Bay Area Alumni Meet the Headmaster

Alumni in the Bay Area and Boston had the opportunity to chat with Headmaster Dr. Charlie Skipper at events held on Friday, Feb 26 at the Stanford Faculty Club, and Monday, Feb 29 at Harvard's Loeb House. Alumni enjoyed hearing Dr. Skipper's RC updates, and asking him about his experience so far at the school and his future goals. Both events were an excellent opportunity for alumni of all ages to get together.



From L to R: Headmaster Dr. Charlie Skipper, Üner Taysı RC ENG 57, Ahmet Taşpınar RC ENG 56 and Aydın Tıbar RC ENG 55



Dr. Skipper updates Boston alumni on what is happening at RC

## Boston Spring Dinner

The Robert College family in Boston hosted Dr. Canan Dağdeviren at its annual spring dinner on March 30. A native of Istanbul, Canan works at the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT and was recently named a Junior Fellow of Harvard University, Society of Fellows; the first scientist from Turkey in its history. In 2015 she received MIT Technology Review's Innovators Under 35 award and made the Forbes 30 Under 30 list in science. Canan inspires many, and most importantly young women scientists of Turkey. It was a wonderful evening, with more than 30 members of the RC community gathering at a neighborhood restaurant in Boston's historical South End. Many new friends were made and old friends had the opportunity to catch up.



The Boston Spring Dinner was a great opportunity for alumni to meet up



## An Afternoon at the Met



Dr. Deniz Beyazit (second from left) shares the history of a Seljuq burial shroud with RC alumni and their guests.

On May 16, RC alumni and their family and friends attended a private tour of two exhibitions at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. The first tour was of the exhibition *Court and Cosmos: The Great Age of the Seljuqs* with Dr. Deniz Beyazit, Assistant Curator of Islamic Art, followed by a tour of the exhibition *Pergamon and the Hellenistic Kingdoms of the Ancient World* with Dr. Christopher Lightfoot, Curator at the Department of Greek and Roman Art. The event was a unique opportunity to catch up with friends while learning about ancient art through the eyes of the curators.

## Philadelphia Brunch

On Sunday, February 7, RCAAA held a brunch at London Grill in Philadelphia. Following the brunch was a visit to the Philadelphia Art Museum where the alumni enjoyed İznik and Kütahya ceramics along with some Anatolian rugs. The Philadelphia group continues to grow and plans to get together more often. If you have suggestions for events, please contact Nesrin Asya Young ACG 69 at [nesyoung@yahoo.com](mailto:nesyoung@yahoo.com)



Philadelphia area alumni at brunch before heading off to the museum

## RC Bay Area Party



Bay Area alumni of all ages gathered to celebrate the holidays

Over 20 RC Alumni from the San Francisco Bay Area gathered on December 18, 2015 to celebrate the holidays. The group has grown rapidly over the past couple of years and includes business leaders, engineers, marketing and operations managers, as well as venture capitalists. Since Silicon Valley has been leading global innovation over the past few years, it is exciting to have such a diverse and dynamic network of friends and colleagues who exchange ideas about local opportunities and stay in touch. The Bay Area alumni group plans to get together two or three times a year at a minimum, in addition to attending formal alumni local events organized by RCAAA. Those interested in hearing more about activities can follow RC mailings or contact RCAAA at [nyoffice@robcol.org](mailto:nyoffice@robcol.org) for details.

## London Alumni Meet the Headmaster



From L to R: Tom Campbell, Işıl Tümer Flodan RC 97, Çevrem Campbell RC 97, Feyza İplikçi Howell RC 75 and Cihat İmamoğlu RC 08

Alumni in the London area met with Headmaster Dr. Charlie Skipper in Chelsea on January 21. The event brought together around 60 alumni, giving graduates from different classes a chance to mingle and reminisce about RC. The event was also a chance to get to know the new headmaster better. Dr. Skipper talked about the latest school happenings with great enthusiasm, reminding attendees of the common bond that the community shares.

If you would like to keep in touch and get information about future events, contact İrem Günay RC 06 at [iremxgunay@gmail.com](mailto:iremxgunay@gmail.com) or join the RC Alumni Club of London's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/groups/rcalumnicluboflondon](http://www.facebook.com/groups/rcalumnicluboflondon)

## Amsterdam Mini-reunion

A first for RC was achieved when RC graduates living in the Netherlands got together in Amsterdam on January 30, for a mini-reunion and fun evening out. Thirteen RC graduates ranging from 1991 to 2014 met for a three-hour reunion which ended up lasting for six hours, until the restaurant had to close for the night! The group looks forward to another get-together soon. Drop Aycan Sağır RC 07 a line at [ansagir@gmail.com](mailto:ansagir@gmail.com) if you'd like to be kept informed of future alumni events in and around the area.



RC alumni living in the Netherlands enjoyed a long evening together in Amsterdam



# İS MOB 'UN TASARIM HARİKASI **THERESA** **YATAK** **ODASI**

**İstanbul Mobilya Fuarı İS MOB 2016**

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## Kamil Uğurbil RA 67 Receives Vehbi Koç Award

Scientist Dr. Kamil Uğurbil, renowned for his work on the human brain, received the 15<sup>th</sup> Vehbi Koç Award at a ceremony on April 19. The prestigious award is given each year by the Vehbi Koç Foundation to individuals and organizations in culture, education or healthcare.

The award was presented to Dr. Uğurbil by Ömer M. Koç RC 80, Koç Holding Chairman, who said, "We wholeheartedly congratulate this esteemed scientist for his groundbreaking work on neuroimaging and analyzing the functions of the human brain through magnetic resonance imaging methods." Dr. Uğurbil is credited for the development and application of ultrahigh field magnetic resonance methods for neuroimaging (known as fMRI), particularly of the brain. His innovative methods allow doctors to analyze brain function and brain disorders without the need for anesthesia.

In his speech, Dr. Uğurbil said, "We have not solved the mystery of the brain yet but we developed a technique widely used by people interested in the brain's secrets. I am among the people that developed the functional MRI technique. I would like to thank you for recognizing not only me but also other scientists with such awards, it is a very meaningful support for the development of science." The Vehbi Koç Award selection committee noted that Dr. Uğurbil is an important role model for young scientists in Turkey.



Dr. Kamil Uğurbil RA 67 and Ömer M. Koç RC 80

After graduating from Robert College, Dr. Uğurbil studied at Columbia University, where he received his PhD in chemical physics. He worked at AT&T Bell Laboratories and as a faculty member at Columbia University before joining the University of Minnesota in 1982. His research in magnetic resonance led to the evolution of his lab into an interdepartmental and interdisciplinary research center, the Center for Magnetic

Resonance Research.

Uğurbil is the third RC graduate to receive the VKV prize. Zeynep Çelik ACG 70, won in 2014 for her research on Ottoman architecture, culture and urban life, and Mehmet Özdoğan RA 63, won in 2008 for his contributions to prehistoric archeology in the Marmara Region (see p. 26, and RCQ 35, p. 18).

## Mustafa K. Abadan RC 77 Given 2016 Ellis Island Medal of Honor

World-renowned architect and Turkish Philanthropy Funds (TPF) co-founder and current chairman, Mustafa Kemal Abadan RC 77, was among this year's recipients of the Ellis Island Medals of Honor, presented by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO) at its ceremony on Ellis Island on May 7. NECO presents the award each year to a select group of individuals who have made it their mission to share their talents and knowledge with those less fortunate while maintaining the traditions of their ethnic heritage as they uphold the ideals and spirit of America.

Abadan has long been active in philanthropic and civic organizations.



Mustafa Kemal Abadan RC 77 with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor

In 2007 he co-founded TPF as a means of giving back to his home country. As chairman of the SOM Foundation, he has created research and fellowship opportunities for recent architecture graduates and students. His commitment to education and to the integration of immigrants within the United States is exemplified by his frequent selection as a jury panelist for the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans. As a recognized civic leader and professional, he is regularly invited to represent the Turkish community to governmental leaders visiting the United States.



## Muharrem Kayhan RC 73

### Rare Ancient Coin Collection Exhibited

The public had a unique glimpse of ancient Anatolia at a recent exhibition titled *Antik Anadolu'nun Tanıkları (Testimonies of Anatolian Antiquity)*, featuring rare artifacts from the personal collection of Muharrem Kayhan RC 73. Held from December 10, 2015-March 20, 2016 at Arkas Art Center in Izmir, the exhibition featured around 300 artifacts and 500 coins from the collection that reveal the lifestyle, habits and beliefs of the Caria and Ionic regions in ancient times.

The Muharrem Kayhan Collection, one of the top private archeological collections in Turkey, includes around 2000 coins and 1315 artifacts from the Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic periods. Kayhan began purchasing coins, which make up the most important part of the collection, at auctions in Europe in the late 1980s. He also obtained hundreds of coins locally. Some of the coins are the only examples of their kind in the world, and they are crucial to be able to understand the development of coinage that started in the Lydian Kingdom.

Kayhan, who is a native of Söke, says, "I grew up in the heart of Ionia and Caria. My greatest source of pride is that I have been able to purchase hundreds of precious coins at auction and to repatriate them to the location of their glorious birth. This collection doesn't belong to me, it belongs to Turkey. I am only a custodian; the important thing is to preserve them."



Muharrem Kayhan RC 73 (left) and Arkas Chairman Lucien Arkas pose next to Kayhan's "Seated Woman" statue from 540 BCE, a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday gift from his family

The coins have been cataloged and published in two volumes in the *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum* series, catalogs of Greek coins published by the British Academy. They are the standard reference books for this domain. Kayhan's collection is important for researchers as it helps them to understand production techniques, local traditions, belief systems, daily life and political developments in the area during this time period.

"It's not enough to collect pieces, it is equally exciting to share the collection," says Kayhan.

The Muharrem Kayhan Collection also includes Roman statues, glassware, fossils and jewelry.

A catalog with photos and descriptions of several items in the exhibition is available from Arkas Sanat Merkezi.

## Arwa Damon RC 94 Wins Top Media Award

Arwa Damon was presented a Gracie, one of the most prestigious media awards in the US, at a ceremony attended on May 26. Damon was honored for her courageous work as a senior international correspondent for CNN, reporting from conflict zones such as Syria, Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan. The award, established by the Alliance for Women in Media, recognizes people in the media that represent the changing roles, issues and concerns of women.



Arwa Damon RC 94

In her acceptance speech, Damon dedicated the award to all of the women whose stories she has covered, who "don't have the rights and freedoms that I take for granted." Her experience of telling the stories of ordinary civilians caught in the crossfire of conflict inspired her to create INARA, an organization that provides crucial medical care to children from conflict areas (see "Why Reporting on Conflict is Not Enough for Me" on p. 54).

## Cem-Papandreou Peace Award

In 2001, two men from countries with historically bitter relations planted olive trees on the island of Samos and in Kuşadası as symbols of peace. They were İsmail Cem RC 59, Foreign Minister of Turkey, and George Papandreou, then Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs. The symbolic gesture was a promise that they would both take the necessary actions to build peace between their two nations.

Over the years they accomplished much for Turkish-Greek relations. They even discussed creating an award to honor those who had strived to build bridges between the two nations. Their shared vision was realized years later through the work of Cem's daughter, İpek Cem Taha RC 85 and former Prime Minister of Greece George Papandreou with the creation of the Cem-Papandreou Peace Award, which honors individuals and groups that contribute to promoting peace in an original and inspiring way.

Papandreou announced the first winners of the award in 2015 at the Symi Symposium, saying, "For 2015, we decided to give the Cem-Papandreou Peace Award to two enlightened individuals

from the business community, Theodoros Papalexopoulos and Şarik Tara. They have contributed consistently to keep alive the spirit of peace and understanding between Greece and Turkey." Tara and Papalexopoulos received their awards from Cem Taha and Papandreou at a ceremony in Istanbul on April 16. The award was also presented to the Greek-Turkish Forum, a civil society initiative that includes politicians, diplomats, entrepreneurs and opinion leaders from Greece and Turkey.

At the Istanbul ceremony, İpek Cem Taha complimented İsmail Cem and George Papandreou's efforts to build peace, noting that friendly relations between Turkey and Greece seem natural today because their work was furthered by both countries. She said that peace is currently the most important priority in the world. She urged, "See peace as a very serious issue. If we are still looking for a cause to fight, how about fighting for peace."

With this award, George Papandreou and İsmail Cem's family hope to bring to light role models that can inspire the young generation and cultivate a spirit of peace.



RC Trustee İpek Cem Taha RC 85 and H.E. George Papandreou present the award to Şarik Tara

## A Cultural Leader at the World Forum

The excitement was audible in his voice as he stood in front of the representatives of the international business and political world during the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos on January 20. Professor Mehmet Özdoğan RA 63, was giving a presentation on Göbeklitepe, an archeological site in Şanlıurfa, close to Turkey's border with Syria.

Professor Özdoğan was elected as one of the Cultural Leaders to attend the Forum. It was the first time the field of archeology was included in the Forum program. His presentation on Göbeklitepe was in the Special Focus on Cultural Heritage discussions, a series on how to protect cultural heritage at a time of catastrophic destruction.

Presenting Göbeklitepe, Professor Özdoğan said, "I would like to invite you, in the name of our Göbeklitepe excavation team, back some 12,000 years, to a very critical point in the history of civilization. It is a time when permanent villages were established,



Mehmet Özdoğan RA 63 at the World Economic Forum

a new way of living developed based on farming, which replaced the conventional strategies of hunters and gatherers. It is one of the most critical turning points in the history of our civilization."

Özdoğan is one of the few Turkish scientists that have been elected to the American National Academy of Sciences. In 2008, he was awarded the Vehbi Koç Award, given annually to individuals or organizations that have contributed significantly to the people

and the development of Turkey (see RCQ 35, p. 18).

In 1980, Professor Özdoğan discovered the Aşağı Pınar, Kırklareli prehistorical site, where he continues to work. It is recognized for showing how agrarian living was transferred to Europe from Anatolia. Professor Özdoğan used his Vehbi Koç Award money to establish the Aşağı Pınar museum, which is Turkey's first open-air prehistorical rural museum and towards the construction of the archeological institute in Kırklareli.

In 2014, he was one of the organizers of the European Association of Archeologists meeting in Istanbul. With the attendance of 2500 scientists and papers from 46 parallel sections, it was the largest archeological meeting in Europe since 1970.

Professor Özdoğan has 23 published books and 295 scientific articles.



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## Sedat Ergin RC 75 Recognized by Deutsche Welle

Hürriyet Editor-in-Chief Sedat Ergin has been awarded German international broadcaster Deutsche Welle's Freedom of Speech Award, which honors individuals who "exemplify human rights and free speech." Ergin said he was "honored to receive the prize that stands for preservation of press freedom worldwide."

Ergin's career in journalism spans four decades. Some of the positions he has held include writing for the Foreign News Service at the Turkish News Agency (THA), diplomacy reporter for Cumhuriyet newspaper, correspondent for Hürriyet in Washington, DC, and Editor-in-Chief of Milliyet newspaper. He became Hürriyet's Editor-in-Chief in August 2015 (see RCQ 46, p. 25).



Sedat Ergin RC 75

## TÜBİTAK Project on Artificial Touch for Prosthetic Limbs

Burak Güçlü RC 92 has been up to interesting research over the past 10 years. He has been running the Tactile Research Laboratory at Boğaziçi University since 2004.

His recent research project, funded by TÜBİTAK, involves basic methods and technology for generating artificial tactile sensation in the nervous system. This technology could be used in next-generation prosthetic hands, allowing amputees and paralyzed patients to feel with their artificial limbs.

The TÜBİTAK project includes experiments on rats and was inspired by the BrainGate neuroprosthetic system which is under clinical testing in the US. By implanting an electrode array in the brain, the BrainGate system can directly read neural signals related to movement and move the prosthetic limb of a paralyzed patient. However, the current technology does not give sensory feedback to the patient about limb position, velocity and tactile forces. Güçlü and his students are developing a similar sensory component for future neuroprostheses.

Rats are initially trained to detect and respond to tactile stimuli applied on

their intact limbs. Then, electrode arrays are implanted in their somatosensory areas of the brain, and they learn to perform similar tasks by electrical micro stimulation applied through the implants. Micro stimulation activates neurons representing a particular skin area; therefore, rats detect artificial touch as if they feel it on the skin. The final stage of the project focuses on signals coming from external force sensors worn by the animals, analogous to those generated by artificial skin covering prosthetic limbs. The results of these experiments will be useful to guide human studies. In addition to improving movement performance, sensory feedback also promises to help the embodiment of the neuroprostheses by patients.

During his RC years, Güçlü was a keen electronics hobbyist, building add-on circuits for computers and effect units for his bass guitar. He remembers demonstrating his gadgets in Alison Oğuz's physics classes and funny anecdotes with music instructor Margaret Halıcıoğlu about the "sound" during band rehearsals. Additionally, he notes that Erol Altuğ's influential Biology courses were what changed his career plans. While studying Control



Burak Güçlü RC 92

and Computer Engineering at İstanbul Teknik University, Burak was attracted to biomedical engineering and took several electives in this field. Subsequently, he went to the US and received bioengineering (MS) and neuroscience (PhD) degrees from Syracuse University, specializing in the sense of touch. He also worked at the University of Michigan as a research assistant and at the University of Rochester Medical Center as a post-doctoral fellow. Güçlü is currently an associate professor at the Institute of Biomedical Engineering at Boğaziçi University.



## Classmates Featured in Forbes Magazine

Our RC alumni were featured in a recent issue of Forbes for the success of their biotech firm, Samumed. Started in 2008 by Osman Kibar RC 88, the company is developing revolutionary medicines that aim to reverse aging, from baldness and arthritis to degenerated spinal discs and scar tissue in lungs. Privately held, the company has been valued at \$12 billion in its latest round of financing.

Kibar received his PhD in biophotonics from UC San Diego in 1999. He has a history of creating successful start-ups;



Osman Kibar RC 88 on the cover of a special issue of Forbes Magazine

while in grad school, he founded Genoptix, a biotech which was sold to Novartis. He also co-founded E-tenna, a producer of antennas for the wireless industry, which was sold to Intel and Titan Corp. Samumed started in a Pfizer incubator as Kibar's company Wintherix.

Kibar shared his investment strategy with Cevdet Şamikoğlu RC 89 when he ran into him at an airport. Şamikoğlu had been working in banking in the US prior to moving back to Turkey. Kibar sketched out his investment strategy on the back of a boarding pass, and Şamikoğlu helped him secure \$3.5 million to create new startups. One of those would become Samumed, and Kibar convinced Şamikoğlu to move back to the US to be its chief financial officer.

Following his decision, Şamikoğlu got in touch with Yusuf Yazıcı RC 88, who was a leading rheumatologist at NYU. After explaining the company's scientific approach, Yazıcı's reaction was, "You have to get me in on this. Osman has found the God pill." He came on board as the chief medical officer.

Arman Oruç RC 88, who is the fourth RC grad in the Samumed constellation, left the prestigious law firm Simpson, Thatcher & Bartlett to become chief legal



From L to R: Arman Oruç RC 88, Yusuf Yazıcı RC 88 and Cevdet Şamikoğlu RC 89

officer. Oruç has extensive experience with intellectual property and anti-trust laws, as well as regulatory work with US and non-US agencies.

One of the main draws for these RC alumni was chief scientific officer and co-founder John Hood. Kibar and Hood targetted a gene called Wnt, which they believe is the gateway to being able to regenerate tissue and block the development of diseases. Hood also decided to do his research on colorectal cancer cells, instead of a cell line that most labs use.

The first product they hope to bring to market is a formula to regrow hair in bald men, which may also reverse greying hair and erase wrinkles. The other one aims to regenerate cartilage in arthritic knees.

Photo: Forbes

## A Life Dedicated to Theatre

Theatre critic, author and academician Dikmen Gürün ACG 61 is in the news with her book *Tiyatro Benim Hayatım* (Theatre is My Life) - a biography of the legendary actress Yıldız Kenter - and the Afife Jale Honor Award she recently received.

"Yıldız Kenter is a living legend of Turkish theatre. It was a necessity for me to write the life story of such a productive and challenging artist. I interviewed Kenter extensively, and spoke with her friends and artists, and students who have worked with her. I went back as far as her childhood and her years at the Ankara Conservatory. I also investigated her life in the context of the concurrent political environment. It was a bit tiring, but I knew this was what needed to be done." says Gürün, explaining her motivation for writing the biography. Gürün and Kenter knew each other for many years and had mutual respect and sympathy for one another. When asked about Kenter's



Yıldız Kenter and Dikmen Gürün ACG 61

reactions once the book was finished, Gürün replied, "She really loved the book. And this made me very happy. The readers liked the book as well. They must

have, since two months ago *Tiyatro Benim Hayatım* had its third printing. This is very satisfactory for a book on theatre, and in Turkey in particular."

Gürün recently received the Muhsin Ertuğrul Award - the most prestigious award at the Yapı Kredi Afife Awards - which recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the development of Turkish theatre. Gürün said, "Muhsin Ertuğrul, who is the founder of contemporary Turkish Theatre, has regarded theatre as a whole consisting of writers, artists, educators and critics. It is a great honor to have my labor of many years as a critic, teacher and a festival director recognized by the Afife Jury and to be awarded the Muhsin Ertuğrul Award."

Gürün is currently working on a new project researching Turkish theatre since 1923 through critical reviews.

## From Dark Room to Silver Screen Documentary on the Life of Ara Güler

The latest documentary by film director Binnur Karaevli RC 84 is making waves at festivals around the world. She told the RCQ how the project came about and what it was like working with the legendary photographer.

**Can you tell us how the idea for your documentary, *The Eye of Istanbul: the Life and Photographs of Ara Güler* came about?**

I had already done *Searching for Paradise*, an autobiographical documentary about living between the East and the West and *Voices Unveiled* about the women of Istanbul. I have been a fan of Ara Güler's photography for many years. So I thought that a documentary about his life and photographs would be a great way to conclude my Istanbul trilogy.

**What type of a documentary is your film?**

Viewers will get a sense of Ara's long career and his style of photography. But they will also get a glimpse of his personality, his childhood and the influences that made him who he is today. It is a character-driven documentary; there is no narration, the story is told by Ara, his friends and colleagues. My goal was to make a visually stunning and emotionally gratifying film.



Ara Güler and Binnur Karaevli RC 84

**How did you come up with the visual style?**

One of the biggest challenges for me in the film was not being able to shoot active scenes with Ara. Even though at nearly 88 years of age, he is energetic and sharp, he cannot walk too much. To inject some activity into the film, I used re-enactments to tell the stories of some of his photographs. I also filmed a scene where my son played Ara's childhood, which was a special experience for me.

**What is the reaction from the festivals and the media?**

The film was completed in November 2015, and the world premiere was on

March 13 in Washington DC at the DCIFF, where we won the Best of the Fest award. The European premiere was also in March at the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival and the West Coast premiere was at SEE Film Festival in Los Angeles in May.

**What type of movie awaits the audience?**

An entertaining one! Ara Güler is dynamic, funny but at the same time philosophical. The film reveals his personality in a visually exciting way. The audience will see most of his iconic images; they will also witness a city's evolution from the 1950s till 2000. Since Ara has a killer sense of humor, I tried to keep the film as light and humorous as possible. He really liked the film when he saw it. That is a great seal of approval for me.

Director and writer Binnur Karaevli earned her BFA in Drama from Carnegie-Mellon University and her MFA in Film Production from University of Southern California. Her films have won acclaim at festivals around the world. In addition to *Eye of Istanbul*, her recent projects include Focus Film Istanbul's *Walking Into Fire* and Digiflame's animated feature *Jack Blue*. She has also consulted on Böcek Film's recent feature *8 Seconds*.

## Sinem Hallı RC 06 Receives Prestigious Design Award

Sinem Hallı has received the iF Product Design Award 2016 - considered the Oscar of the design industry - for her Roots collection of plant holders. She spoke with the RCQ about her award-winning design.

**Where did you find the inspiration for your Roots line?**

I love plants. They bring life and energy to their environment. However, many people prefer not to have plants at home because they think they don't have time in to look after them. Roots is a self-watering plant pot made up of two containers that are joined by a wick. The plant is placed in the top part with the wick inserted into the soil. The bottom part holds water. This system allows the plant to draw as much water from the bottom container as it needs, whenever it needs it.

**How is working with glass different than other media you've worked with?**

Light refracts through glass, diffusing different hues. All other materials lack that

feature. Glass is solid and strong, yet fragile. Glass acts as it wishes; sometimes you expect it to take a certain shape and it doesn't. On the other hand, it allows you to design minimalist objects that you can easily carry with you and have in all areas of your life.

**How did you decide you wanted to be a designer?**

I was always interested in visual subjects. I was also successful in math and science. My father insisted that I be an engineer. However, when my Lise 9 math teacher Mr. Tingleff brought a book about Gaudi to class to explain parabolas, I realized it is not that hard to combine art and math, that I could enjoy life the way I understand it. I decided to be a designer at that moment.

**How has your education at RC influenced your career?**

At RC we were always exploring and questioning the way the things are. In the design industry, in order to create a successful solution for the user, you have



Sinem Hallı RC 06

to change the way things are accepted. You always have to look at issues from a different perspective. This approach has helped me design items that make people happy and also bring me success.

Hallı first worked at Paşabahçe as an intern while studying industrial product design at İstanbul Technical University. She dreamt of working for them ever since, and now is a part of the Paşabahçe design team. She has received awards from national and international competitions for a variety of designs ranging from furniture to packaging.



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Enes Arda Özgür LP competes in the long jump while Ege Çavuşoğlu L10 and English teacher Claire Livesay look on

# the Sporting Life

by Dr. Charlie Skipper, Headmaster  
Photos: Mine Kasapoğlu

*"At Robert College, we hope to create a positive and nurturing environment that encourages our student-athletes to strive for their potential both as individuals and as a team. Coaches seek to instill the values of responsibility, respect towards oneself and to others, fair play, commitment, dedication, and teamwork in our student-athletes. Robert College student-athletes will always be encouraged to put forth their best effort, win with grace, and lose with dignity."*



The spirit of athletics and the physical education program at Robert College is well expressed in the Robert College coaching philosophy statement (on the opposite page).

Athletics and prep schooling are a mixture of long standing, rooted in English public schools and the apocryphal story attributed to Wellington. Whether the triumph at Waterloo was earned on the playing fields of Eton is debatable, but the importance of sports and athletics to forming a gentleman and his, and later her, character and experiences is something that spread widely from its English origins to the United States and, soon, around the world in the minds and hearts of British and American educators. Athletic endeavors train the body and form the habits of a healthy life to be sure, but they also provide lessons in leadership, in being part of a team, in perseverance, discipline, and, most importantly, respect for oneself and others that makes up sportsmanship. Athletic competition provides experiences in classic virtues on a regular basis.

Sport has always been a part of life at Robert College. Founder Cyrus Hamlin, who was a firm believer that for a complete education the training of the body is equally important as the training of the mind, started a physical education



The RC fencing team in full gear

Photo: Alex Downs

program simultaneously with the opening of the school.

Today, after-school athletics and physical education during the class day represent the co-curricular and the curricular elements of sports at RC. The Physical Education (PE) department has five fulltime faculty members providing health and physical education instruction and is chaired by Liz Molton. PE is a required course for all RC students; classes meet once a week for 80 minutes.

The PE program is regularly reviewed and revised to meet student interests and needs with the intention to lead into and

support the Athletics Program. The range of teaching arrangements is vast with classes single gendered, co-ed and also co-taught. Examples of the course units, by grade, include:

- LP: Team Building, Strength and Agility, Co-ordination, Speed and Reaction Time
- L9 and L10: Health and Well-Being, Net Names, Invasion Games, Striking and Fielding
- L11 Restrictive Elective - Students sign up each semester for five activities
- L12 Open and Special Electives - Sign up in first semester for optional special electives



Volleyball practice in the Nejat Eczacıbası Gym: Students vs Faculty

The Physical Education program is enriched by additions like self-defense and adventure education for Prep students, and yoga, dance and golf for L11 and L12 students. The overall goals for the athletic program at RC, according to Mauricio Araya, RC's Athletic Director, are to "inspire students to apply the knowledge instilled in them and to lead a healthy lifestyle." Inspiration, for Araya, "involves the act of creating a desire in students to have healthy habits from the classroom to the table." From the classroom to life is the goal of the best teachers and the best schools, and it is part of the fabric of the RC learning community.

RC has a history of introducing new sports in Turkey, beginning with basketball in 1907. Girls' flag football started in Turkey in 2011 at RC, led by Yasemin Tekgürler RC 15 and



The RC Girls Flag Football team on the Plateau with coach Jake Becker. RC introduced girls flag football to Turkey, when Becker and Yasemin Tekgürler RC 15 started the team in 2011.

teacher Jake Becker. The first match was with İstanbul Teknik University in October 2013, which the RC team won 32-20. Today there are 12 teams in Turkey. Next year, girls' flag football will be an official sports federation. The first high school boys' flag football game was between RC and Üsküdar American Academy in 2011. Its roots at RC go back to Muzaffer Akay RC 08, one of the main figures behind girls' and boys' flag football in Turkey, who used to play on the Plateau with Baran Karsak RC 10.

The RC athletic enrichment program is varied. It features floor hockey, orienteering, fencing, archery, karate, and cross-country running. Joe Welch, the Director of Student Activities, has played a key role in helping grow the athletic options for students along with other activities. Welch says of his vision, "We want all of the students to play sports, to try a sport. That's an exciting part; we can offer them something they've never seen before or never dreamed of." Opening doors toward the future is what great schools do.

Why does a young man or woman tackle the challenge of athletic competition along with a rigorous academic program and all of the activity options available at Robert College? The reasons vary. For Abdullah Burak Yıldız L10, it provides a break from the academic grind, "It is a relief from the academics." For Ege Çavuşoğlu L10, it provided an outlet and school-based replacement for his

national level swimming career. "I swam competitively for ten years, but the 5:30 a.m. practices had a negative impact on my academics in my Prep and L9 years. That's why I started basketball." Ege also noted that athletics, "is not the primary thing we do. You have to balance athletics with academic life." Finding the balance is a life skill that RC student athletes master, but only part of what they gain.



Forumball is a sport unique to RC



"I feel the team spirit vividly every time I step on the court for practice. It is a joy to run into my teammates in school halls and chat with them. It is like seeing your siblings after being apart from them for a while," according to Bilge Tatar L10. Bilge added regarding the lessons of sports, "As Atatürk said, to be smart, agile, and well-behaved are a few of the key points I learned from sports. Apart from these, it made me a more organized and determined person. Sports in general taught me to work for what I want to achieve, and to never give up until I get it. It also taught me that in certain cases being a team will work better than showing off your individual skills."

JV basketball coach Murat Özyiğit says sees his team is "focused on improving skills, fundamentals, gaining playing experience, and preparing for the varsity team" while also practicing "teamwork, responsibility, and fair play while having fun." The fun component cannot be understated, and while it is often unstated, for athletes the chance to play the game is simply fun.

Elif Kesikbaş L11 finds that sports "shapes your character." For Elif, it is an avenue to discipline, on and off the court, that requires determination to persevere through the challenges of training with its physical and emotional demands. Elif also



Kıvanç Aykaç L11 hurls the shot put

truly understands the deeper dimensions of learning that come through sport. "Most importantly, playing sports teaches you to show respect to others, and it develops self-confidence. You become a strong, patient, and rational person who can calmly accept any challenges and decide accordingly. Without sports, I would not be me."

Mine Gökçen L10 also finds that sports have an important influence on who she is and what she does. "Sports keep me disciplined and awake. Without swimming

my ambitions toward anything would be lost. Now, unlike many people, giving up is a more difficult choice for me. I am never afraid of trying again when I lose. Losing only makes me want to achieve my goal more and stay tough."

Mine hits upon a very important point, and one that is often very difficult for high achieving high performance students to grasp - the value of failure. Athletes know that failure is part of the process of learning and the foundation for future success. There is no shame or fear of trying and trying again. The feedback loop in athletics is powerful and immediate for both skills and attitudes.

Welch echoes Mine's words. "Through the sports program, students learn how to win and lose the right way. Learning to deal with failure helps them in other areas of life. Coaches work with kids who are not used to failing. The sports program creates safe environments where we can show them that it's safe to fail, if they fail they'll be ok, and we'll give them the tools to deal with it."

Coaches also understand the unique learning situations offered on the courts and playing fields. Andy Jones, the coach for Girls Basketball, notes "The values you learn as you work hard together, face challenges, sometime succeed



Bilge Tatar L10 (center) and İrem Akçal L11 keep faculty members Sertaç Çelebi, Jeremy Hardy, Claus Cadorette and Muhittin Gürbüz on their toes



Lise Prep students Zeynep Soydan, Berfu Ege Sobe and Selin Balıkdere recover after their track race

and sometimes fail are the things you'll remember all your life . . . as we steel ourselves to work together and do our best in basketball, we're also preparing ourselves to do our best in life." The learning loop of action-feedback-adjust-try again is the structural essence of athletic experience. Another bedrock value is the experience of being part of something bigger and outside of yourself.

The word RC student athletes use to express this feeling of being a part of something bigger than themselves is family. For Mine, competing in an individual sport is not a bar to this feeling on connectedness. "Although swimming is an individual sport, until stepping on the starting block you are together with

your team in every step you take. You see your teammates every day of your life, more than anyone else except your parents. They become your family; you eat together, you train together, you cry together, and you laugh together. They support you at every point in your life."

Two-sport captain Saygın Güney L11 says of his soccer experiences, "As a playmaker midfielder, I always loved to play as a team. I don't like playing by myself, and I don't keep the ball. I always pass to my teammates and let them play as a team."

Mert Hızlı L12 is a soccer captain who strives to establish an effective balance for team success. "Today as captain, I

can say that I tried my best to maintain the funny and family-like environment in practices and seriousness in the Dostluk league." Coach Greg Pinto (Boys Basketball and Boys Flag Football) finds that, "The experiences (of being on a athletic team) can vary from team to team, can greatly help students in their academic careers and their social lives. It can give them purpose, keep them on track, and be fun."

For Elif Kesikbaş, "Being part of the team means becoming family. It is having friends around you who know you better than you do yourself. You build an invisible bond with them which someone out of the team could never imagine. Every game is an opportunity to strengthen this bond by sharing unforgettable moments. Being part of a team is a precious experience. It is a gift." This is a beautiful way of expressing the spirit of team that develops among RC student athletes. But it is not a gift without costs that go beyond the hours of practice and competition. The costs include the time trade-offs involved in a high-powered academic school and another feature of high-powered academic programs at both the high school and university levels - low spectator attendance.

Doğukan Dalgıç L9 values the time management skills that being part of the team has taught him. "To improve my game (basketball) I have extra practices, so I have to plan everything out." It is a balancing act juggling the commitments to team and to school, but it is a life lesson that pays off time and time again in the future.



RC Olympics Day on May 11 witnessed an exciting finale between Prep students Arman Zoghi and Ozan Kaya





Ege Çavuşoğlu L10 soars through the air during the long jump competition at the RC Olympics

Photo: Mehveş Dramur RC 96



The RC PE Department's hallway reminds students of the motto of RC Athletics

Student athletes at RC perform for the love of sport and their teammates, not the cheers of fans filling bleachers or buses to support them at away games. In psychological terms, RC student athletes must be intrinsically motivated since the hype, the glamour, the social standing associated with high profile athletic programs are in short supply.

The importance of intrinsic motivation to a person's life is difficult to overstate. Our RC student athletes are learning through experiences life lessons and virtues that will form a firm foundation for their futures.



Enjoying a game of American football on the Plateau



Prep students Arman Zoghi and Ozan Kaya cross the finish line and recap the race afterwards

Lise 10 student Bilge Tatar and friends share a moment during the RC Olympics

Through PE courses, teams and sports clubs, Robert College students have the opportunity to try a wide variety of sports. There is literally something that everybody will enjoy, instilling the value that physical activity is a fun and essential part of a balanced life.

<b>PE COURSES</b>	<b>Athletics</b>	Soccer	High Ropes Course
	Track & Field	Flag Football	Belaying
	Speed Walking	Floor Hockey	<b>Self Defense</b>
	<b>Net Games</b>	Irish Football	<b>Social Dance</b>
	Tennis	Touch Rugby	Health and Well-Being
	Table Tennis	<b>Field Sports</b>	Yoga
	Badminton	Softball	Golf
	<b>Team Net Games</b>	Ultimate Frisbee	Bowling
	Volleyball	<b>Adventure / Outdoor Activities</b>	
	<b>Contact Sports</b>	Team Building Games	
	Basketball	Low Ropes Course	
<b>SPORTS CLUBS</b>	Adventure Training	Floor Hockey	Modern Dance- Advanced
	Archery	Girls Basketball	RC Runners
	Badminton	Girls Flag Football	Soccer
	Boys Basketball	Girls Soccer	Table Tennis
	Boys Soccer	Girls Volleyball	Team Tennis
	Boys Volleyball	Golf	Tennis for Enthusiasts
	Fencing	Inter Tennis	Ultimate (frisbee)
	Fitness	Karate & Kick Boxing	Yıldız Boys Basketball
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# Creating a Better World through Science

Wherever you look on campus, you'll see traces of RC senior Miraç Süzgün L12. He is Editor-in-Chief of the Bosphorus Chronicle, a Berker Fellow, and the co-leader and instructor of the TÜBİTAK Computing and Mathematics Olympiad teams (rcoders), and also is involved in many other clubs and activities.

With so many things on his plate, it is astounding that he had time to work over the summer with a group of researchers at Boğaziçi University on a special program to help the hearing impaired. Together they developed Hospisign, a system designed to assist communication between medical professionals and hearing impaired patients.

Miraç spoke with the RCQ about the project and his future plans.

## What is Hospisign?

The Hospisign system is an interactive sign language platform that is designed to assist hearing-impaired patients in hospital environments. Many hearing-impaired people cannot express themselves clearly in public since they are unable to use speech as a medium of communication. Yet a large part of the hearing population cannot communicate with the deaf because they do not know sign language. In some cases, this challenge may be solved with the use of an interpreter or through written material. However, many hearing-impaired people do not know how to read and write. In emergencies where time is extremely valuable, the inability to communicate becomes a more pressing problem.

In order to solve this problem, we developed an interactive communication interface that recognizes sign language. Hospisign is designed to meet deaf people at the information desk of a hospital and to assist them in their visit. The interface guides the deaf visitors to answer certain questions and express intention of their visit, in sign language, without the need of a translator.

## How did you get involved in the project and what was your role?

The project was started in late 2014 as a part of the master's thesis of Boğaziçi University student Necati Cihan Camgöz. The development of the Hospisign platform was supported by a Boğaziçi University SAN-TEZ project (an



Miraç Süzgün L12 presenting Hospisign at the Eurasian Graphics 2015 International Conference

industrial thesis program of the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology) and the communications company Netaş. I was involved in this project as part of my summer internship under the supervision of Prof. Lale Akarun, the Vice Rector of Boğaziçi University. I worked mainly on the Hospisign project with Prof. Akarun's postgraduate students, and helped them to update the system.

In my first month at Boğaziçi University's Perceptual Intelligence Laboratory, I studied research on Gesture Recognition (GR) and Sign Language Recognition (SLR), while collaborating with the postgraduate students to update the interface of the Hospisign platform. Then, I helped the research group collect the BosphorusSign Turkish Sign Language corpus and create a website for this database. We published our most recent work for the Eurasian Graphics 2015 International Conference on Computer Graphics, Animation and Gaming Technologies in November. The authors and Prof. Akarun selected me as the lead author on the article, and I presented Hospisign, at the conference.

## How does this project relate to what you plan to do in the future?

Throughout the research process, I was able to collaborate with diligent and supportive people in the laboratory, who always helped me whenever I struggled to solve a problem. This research project has definitely helped me to expand my experience in computer vision and artificial intelligence, while giving me a chance to fulfill my passion to find optimal solutions to real-world problems. It also taught me to accustom myself to a lab culture, and more importantly, academic research.



Miraç demonstrates the Hospisign system

## Was this your first research project with a university?

This is actually my second. In my sophomore year, to further explore my interests in artificial intelligence I became a member of the İstanbul Şehir University Computational Biology Lab. In the summer of 2014, I worked on research projects with Assistant Professor Mehmet Serkan Apaydın based on machine learning applications. Last year, I completed a demo version of my own research project under the supervision of Dr. Apaydın, which analyses the house pricing indices in İstanbul and creates a model that allows users to predict the maximum profit one can make in a given interval of time by buying and selling a house in İstanbul, using two simple machine learning methods.

## What are your plans after RC?

In the fall I will be going to Harvard. After gaining a solid background in computer science and mathematics, I'd like to study artificial intelligence as a postgraduate student. I want to create intelligent machines that will help us to achieve great things beyond our sight and to contribute to science and mathematics through my works in the future.



## A Unique View Through the Lens

Many students who study film after leaving RC go on to become successful filmmakers. But before even graduating, Furkan Özcan L12 has received international recognition and acclaim for his work.

One of his first short films, *Kör Baykuş* (*Blind Owl*), which he made while he was a Lise 11 student, received the Best Cinematography Award at the 2015 THIMUN Qatar Northwestern University Film Festival. In addition, Fuat Cem Özyazıcı L12, the actor in the movie, won the Best Young Actor award at the 2016 KısaKes Film Competition, Lisevision Awards.

*Kör Baykuş* portrays a solitary character's escape from himself in his imaginary, psychological and real worlds. The film is dedicated to Sadık Hidayet, an Iranian author of a novel named *Blind Owl*. Although the book plot and the film script are not related, Furkan says, "The atmosphere that the book created about madness attracted me so much that I gave importance to reflect that aggression with madness in my *Blind Owl*." Describing what inspired him to create the film, he says, "After I read the book, I was coming home from *dershane* on the subway. I was looking at people's faces they were all tired and senseless. Then I saw a face that affected me: the reflection of my own face which was not different than the others."

This summer, Furkan's film *Crime* will be shown at the prestigious Transylvania Shorts Film Festival. His Lise 11 Film and Literature teacher Rick Hummel, whom Furkan credits for getting him interested in film, says, "Furkan continues to do amazing things. *Crime* was nominated as a finalist in two categories. This is especially impressive because this is not a student film festival - Furkan is competing against experienced and accomplished filmmakers from around the world."

"It is a great honor to be nominated at a festival for industry professionals," says Furkan. "It is nice to know that your work is appreciated by people you don't know, and those people are from a different country, a different culture."



A scene from *Kör Baykuş* with Fuat Cem Özyazıcı L12



Furkan Özcan L12

Furkan's interest in cinematography began in his 10<sup>th</sup> grade literature classes. "I discovered the world of literature, especially Russian literature. There were lots of characters, most of them were real, and most of them included some of my own characteristics. I got into the habit of analyzing characteristics, especially my own. The world was not a different place, and I was not a different person, but my perception of life completely changed. It was like washing your face after you wake up. I met a new dilemma: existence. My burden got heavier as my discomfort bred further awareness allowing me to experience life at a deeper level. Then I coincidentally took Film and Literature classes, where I could reflect my feelings through the visual power of cinema."

Describing his genre, Furkan says, "We mostly characterize ourselves with Oscar Isaac in *Inside Llewyn Davis* instead of Leonardo Di Caprio in *Inception*. That's how my cinema works, too. My foundations are 'reality' and I focus on people's inner worlds. That is more

exciting to me than explosions, light sabers and dreams within dreams."

His Film and Literature teacher this year, Jameson Vierling, describes his work: "Furkan is an original filmmaker who has a unique, creative approach to his work. He sees beauty in objects that we often take for granted and has the ability to use color and the facial expressions of his characters in his own innovative way. Often it takes a few viewings of his work to get its full meaning. But what strikes me is the first time I view one of his new productions, I'm always amazed at how from the first shot, he gets right to the point of his vision and never lets go. There is a calmness in his films, oftentimes melancholic or dark, but underneath this feeling of tranquillity lies a sense of mystery that makes me want to watch them again to attempt to resolve and understand this feeling. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. Yet somehow I'm drawn back into the world of Furkan's films."

"I tell my students that every great filmmaker creates a world within the real one we are living in, and Furkan's films absolutely reside in a world of their own."

Furkan and Derin Eğrikavuk, a Lise 12 Advanced Film & Lit student who will be attending New York University as a film student in the fall, won the Best Story Award at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual RC Film Festival this year for their film *Coins*.

Furkan will begin at the School of Visual Arts in New York in the fall.

# A Quick Break Between Lives

Instead of heading straight off to college like most seniors, Su Özer RC 15 decided to take a year off to travel and learn more about the world and herself. When the RCQ caught up with her, she had hitchhiked, ride-shared, trained and bused between Germany, France, Spain, Italy and the US. She was still planning to visit Lebanon and Iran before going to Berklee School of Music in the fall, where she will study contemporary music and production. Su shared insights into the places she's visited so far and life on the road. The following are excerpts from her travel journal.

## Munich

I was a lucky soul. I was in Munich during Oktoberfest. If you haven't been, your imagination won't help you to understand how big it actually is. Both culturally, in terms of how it affects the city, and literally.

As soon as I got off the plane and took the train to the city center. I had the first "What am I doing here?" feeling. You get those a lot when you travel alone. Suddenly, I just wanted to go back to Istanbul and into my bed. Not because I was scared, but because for the first time I felt that I wasn't

vacationing. I was traveling. There is a huge difference. I had little money, and no housing security, whatsoever. It was a big epiphany for me. After I got off the train I had a whole new perspective on why I was taking a year off. I wasn't doing it for fun; I was doing it because I wanted to see how I would operate when confronted with challenges, a different lifestyle and loneliness. I say loneliness because during my trip I realized I had never felt alone in my life before. I spent a lot of time by myself, and I enjoyed that, but what I felt when I got off that train was true loneliness.



Su Özer RC 15 poses in front of a metro station in Munich

A view of the town of Granada from the Generalife





Munich is a beautiful city. In daylight it is very calm. Everything is so easy. To an Istanbulite every European city is easy, I think. You can get to anywhere in the city in under an hour. There are metro stations everywhere. No train is ever late. Actually, that's not true; I witnessed a two-minute delay once and everyone on the subway platform freaked out. When a heated conversation broke out between some angry passengers I asked what was going on and they said, "Can't you see the train is late?"

It is of course a great thing that people live stable lives and the state ensures their rights in all fields. That being said, many rights people are rightfully born with sadly felt like privileges to me. The problems on people's agendas were so different: economy, education, the city's welfare, social media, and transportation. Whereas, where I come from people's number one struggle is simply existing. Existing in the way they want, and to be who they want to be without paying a price.

For example, you can imagine my surprise when I realized no one was looking at me when I walked down the streets of Munich. I did not feel the malicious gaze, which I get in Istanbul every day from both men and women. Even though women are probably more familiar with this feeling, I am sure my male friends know, too. I am talking about the looks that most of us feel are the price you're paying for what you're wearing, how you're walking, who you're with, where you're going. These looks, whispers, or, sometimes, even out-loud statements have always been so integrated in our daily lives that we are convinced they are totally called for, and are natural. But they are not.

I was so used to that feeling that I was taken aback by my first day in Munich. My initial reaction was "Why is no one looking at me? Am I ugly in Europe?!" then, immediately after, shame took over me. I realized that over time, probably as a survival tactic, I had based a portion of my self-worth on those looks. I saw them as some kind of validation, because confrontation would simply be too exhausting. As soon as I realized I wasn't

being looked at, judged, and sexualized constantly, I immediately became more fearless and daring. I overcame a lot of challenges throughout my trip with this sensation and this reassuring confidence that the first city on my grand tour, Munich, taught me.

#### So.... Oktoberfest!

I thought Oktoberfest was going to be a dozen tents put up by several beer companies where you drink yourself to unconsciousness. (Disclaimer: this part is actually true.) But it is a humongous festival, the biggest liquor festival in the world, that holds over six and a half million visitors. This is absolutely ridiculous, because Munich's population is about three million. And it is far from a couple of tents here and there. It is the Disneyland of the beer industry. It literally is a theme park. There are rollercoasters, haunted houses, Ferris wheels and carousels. The beer sizes are either a large amount of beer, or a this-will-kill-you amount of beer. I haven't had beer since my lovely day at Oktoberfest; apparently that was enough beer for a

lifetime. But before I had all the liquid gold I rode one of the rollercoasters and when the car was at the very top, just before you start to go down I got to look down on the venue. It was breathtaking. It looked like a lake was drained and filled back up with Christmas lights. It was a gob-smacking sight followed by a gob-smacking downfall on one of the biggest rollercoaster rides in the world. (I recommend that you go on the ride first, then drink. Otherwise you most definitely will throw up.)

Thank you for the best beer and the confidence, Munich. I am sure I will see you again.

#### Barcelona and Gaudi and Granada

Barcelona is a magical place. It's a coastal metropolis. People are warm, the food is phenomenal, and the architecture, which is one of the most important characteristics of the city, is truly breath taking. It is like a Spanish-speaking version of Istanbul. If there is a God he must have created Barcelona right after he created Istanbul.



Su and Aslı Salihoğlu RC 13 in Park Güell



Su Özer shows off some of Gaudi's handiwork in Park Güell



Interior of the Basílica i Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família

I went with my friends Aslı Salihoğlu RC 13 and Zeynep Aksoy RC 15. Our first day in Barcelona we went to Park Güell, a public park composed of gardens and Gaudi's architectonic genius. Gaudi blurs the lines between artificial and natural so well. It was fascinating, a feast for the eyes and the soul. Architecture is a man-made concept, but in Park Güell you can't see where nature ends and the artifacts start. The park was one of his early works, and we got the chance to see his progression through comparing his buildings around the city and, of course, the incomparable Sagrada Família.

Granada is this gorgeous city in Andalucía. The Arab Umayyad conquered the city in the 1200s and even though the city was taken back, the Arab influence remains. The greatest artistic wealth of Granada is its Spanish-Muslim art - in particular, the compound of the Alhambra and the Generalife. The Generalife is truly a pleasure palace with attached romantic gardens, remarkable for the diversity of flowers, plants and fountains. The palaces of the Alhambra are composed of millions of little plaques that are intricately worked with beautiful Islamic patterns. The amount of work that must have gone into it is incredible. I can't imagine the devotion and hard work of the *ustas* who actually made the palace. I couldn't stop thinking about this after I left the Alhambra, but initially, when I first saw the palace all I could feel was how small



Alhambra, Granada

I was. Shrines are designed to make you feel that way, and the Alhambra was right on the money. I could feel that it was built out of love of God. The whole thing was a spiritual experience.

This brings me back to Barcelona. Being in La Sagrada Família was also a spiritual experience and I felt as small as a bean in it, too. But the higher presence in the church was not God. It was Gaudi.

The craft was loyal to his design, and his design only. Even though it was as intricate as Alhambra it was not submissive towards God. It was more of an ode to man.

I don't know which one is better. I don't know if there is a comparison at all but it was certainly interesting to feel so differently in two different houses of worship. ■



# TÜRKİYE'NİN VE DÜNYANIN TÜM GÜZELLİKLERİNİ FEST İLE KEŞFEDİN !



Gezginleri kültür turizmi kavramı ile tanıştıran FEST Travel'in farklı temalar altında kurguladığı gezilerinin her adımında tecrübe ve uzmanlık var, sürprizlere yer yok!

Tatil planı yapmadan önce 2016/II programımıza mutlaka göz atın!

## Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Demirkan Aşetey RC 76 Art Competition awards ceremony was held on April 27 in the Suna Kıraç Foyer. As much as this is a joyous celebration for the budding artists who display their art work and are judged by those in the know in the art world, there was sadness when Merril Hope-Brown, Art Department Head, announced that Halis Aşetey, father of Demirkan in whose memory this competition is held, had passed away in the summer of 2015. Halis Bey was an inspiring presence at all 14 of the past competitions and his presence will be greatly missed. Representing the Aşetey family that day was older son Yelkan Aşetey and his wife Şeniz. They enjoyed the art work and congratulated all the winners. This year, the first prize went to Beril Erdoğdu L12, second to Tulya Bekişoğlu L11 and third to Esen Gezer L10, as well as five highly commended winners: Polen Güzelocak L11, Ayşenaz Toptaş L12, Melissa Akkoç L12, Gülbeden Babür L11 and Ecem Öztürk L10.



From L to R: Yelkan Aşetey, Beril Erdoğdu L12, Şeniz Aşetey, and judges Diana Page, Ulya Sönmez RC 09 and Bora Fer RC 03

## Sibel Horada RC 98 Revives Forgotten Monument

Ariel Art gallery in Nişantaşı, Istanbul was host to a scale version of "the gigantic stone wing", which artist Sibel Horada RC 98 digitally 'stole' from Madrid in August 2013 and 3D printed in Istanbul. "The gigantic stone wing" is a missing part of a fallen monument she had encountered during an artist residency at Matadero Madrid.

First erected in stone to crown the façade of Spain's turn-of-the-century Ministry of Development, the allegorical monument featured figures of winged Victoria and two Pegasus. Intended to communicate the ideas of progress and development, the 150 ton marble monument had nevertheless become a threat to public safety when - towards the end of Franco's regime - one of its wings fell off. The solution against this crumbling monster was found in replacing it with its bronze replica. As soon as the replica was made, the obsolete original was cut into pieces and brought down to street level.

Horada traced the story of the monument's displacement and restoration, only to find that it had been moved numerous times within the city



"The gigantic stone wing" by Sibel Horada RC 98 like an oversized burden, and that every time it moved, it had lost one of its wings. The wings accumulated in the restoration studio to form a hidden alternative monument to development.

Weaving the climate of street riots and public movements between Madrid and Istanbul, the first copy of "the gigantic stone wing" had manifested itself as part of *A Fall*, Horada's second solo show, at Daire Gallery in 2013.

A second manifestation took place in spring 2016 at Ariel Art Gallery, as part

of *Conference of Birds*, featuring works by Murat Akagündüz, Ebru Ceylan and Pelin Kırca, as well as Horada. The show's conceptual framework was defined by Norgunk Publishing house based on Feriduddin Attar's 12<sup>th</sup> century poem *Mantiku't-Tayr*.

Horada's other works along with upcoming shows can be seen on her website: [sibelhorada.com](http://sibelhorada.com)



Sibel Horada RC 98



# Nancy Atakan: Sporting Chances Exhibition

Former RC art history teacher and college counselor Nancy Atakan continues her career as an artist following her retirement from Robert College in 1997.

Curated by Nat Muller, her recent international exhibition *Sporting Chances* premiered two bodies of her work in which she engages with the long-standing core issues of her practice: history, nationalism, different concepts of femininity, the relations between East and West, and the female body. With these notions under pressure and in flux in contemporary Turkey, this show at Pi Artworks London from February 19 – March 24 presented a look back at the past and let the viewer reflect on a time when a sporting chance for women, and for visionaries, seemed a possibility.

In "My Name is Azade (Freedom)" Atakan brings to life Azade, her former gymnastics teacher and a pioneer of physical therapy. Azade was born during the Ottoman Empire, but came of



"My Name is Azade" from Atakan's *Sporting Chances* exhibition

age during the newly founded Turkish Republic, an era of transition for cultural norms and gender politics. The drawings lining the gallery walls depict a story that is neither totally fictional nor factual; telling a refreshing tale of female empowerment and of opportunity.

The handkerchiefs of "Lingering Shadows" use computer-generated designs of old family photographs that have been digitally printed on cloth and are embellished with delicate hand embroidery. Here "masculine" mechanization and modernity blend



Former RC art history teacher Nancy Atakan

with an age-old "feminine" tradition of needlework. The handkerchiefs unfold an intimate historical timeline of the New Turkish Republic.

Artist Cevdet Erek gives sound to the historical context that Atakan's works address. With his rhythm piece, commissioned for this exhibition, he combines the beats of Zeybek folk dance, revolutionized by Azade's father, with the beats of a well-known Turkish march. It brings together East and West, history, folklore, nationalism, the New Turkish Republic and the politics of rhythm.

## New Film Fund to Support Documentaries

There is a lot at stake in Turkey today over questions of identity, history and geo-political destiny and these are fuelling a passionate new generation of documentary-makers. As it becomes easier to make a film, and in a climate of increasing press censorship, documentaries have become an important way of recording and sharing stories that might otherwise go untold.

Two years ago If Istanbul, the independent film festival founded by Serra Ciliv and Pelin Turgut (both RC 92) and Anadolu Kültür, the Turkey-wide cultural NGO founded by Osman Kavala RC 75 sought to provide these stories with a much-needed funding mechanism. They set up the New Film Fund (NFF) to grant documentary filmmakers at various stages of the production process. Many RC alumni were involved in birthing this project - Anadolu Kültür's executive director Meltem Aslan RC 88, one of the initial funders Mehmet Betil RA 60 and juror Yıldırım Türker RC 75.

Anyone can apply - the only criteria is that the films are committed to freedom of expression in its broadest sense. Interest has been overwhelming, with more than 150 applications in the last funding round. The NFF supported 20 documentaries in 2015. Content has been highly diverse - from the poignant stories of elderly members of Istanbul's minority communities to a Lenin statue that washed up on a Black Sea shore, to documenting Alevi culture in eastern Anatolia.

"We've been gratified by the enormous interest shown in the Fund. It confirmed to us a need for this type of structured support to get these films made," says Ciliv.



Serra Ciliv RC 92



Osman Kavala RC 75

Local support is also important to these films as a way to attract international financing too. *Blue ID (Mavi Kimlik)*, directed by Vuslat Karan and Burcu Melekoğlu, a documentary about a transgender man's struggles in mainstream society, also received support from acclaimed institutions such as Bertha BRITDOC Journalism Fund, Kindle Project, Stichting Democratie en Media, Threshold Foundation High Impact Documentary Fund and Alter-Ciné Foundation.

Ayşe Toprak RC 98 also received grants from various bodies for her film *Mr. Gay Syria* that is about a Syrian refugee who fled civil war in Syria and gay discrimination for a better future.

## The History of Modern Turkey through Family Photos

**M**ualla Mezhepoğlu ACG 61 recently published her first book, *Dün Takvimde Biter - Bir Cumhuriyet Ailesinin Tarihçesi (Yesterday Ends on the Calendar - The History of a Family of the Republic)*. Prepared by the well-known editor Cem Akas RC 86, the book sheds light on an extensive period of the Republic from its early days, through Mezhepoğlu's family history. "Although the title says it's a history of a Republic family, it is not only the history of a family, but the story of a family interwoven with the numerous and various social changes and at the same time deep down continuity along the years," says Mezhepoğlu.

Mezhepoğlu got the idea for the book in 1999 when some of the photos from her mother's albums were published in the Historical Foundation's İstanbul magazine. Then in 2006 she was interviewed by Ayşe Arman about her photo albums for Hürriyet newspaper. These became the basis for the draft, which Akas developed into a book.

The book is a sort of family album compiled from her mother's photo collection. "I didn't want the album I had prepared to be hidden away in a dark drawer. I wanted to also create an oral history and local history from stories, memories that were shared and events that she remembers," Mezhepoğlu says. "I thought if I could write down the memories from my family, my notes would one day serve as evidence, and be a written summary of an ordinary family's passage from the Ottoman to the Republican period. I wanted to add to the rare family histories of our country." She adds, "I hope you will write too".

The stories told in the book include one which will be of interest to many who read it: it is 1930, an unexpected guest arrives at a maritime law class at İstanbul University. The visitor is Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and he sits right next to Mezhepoğlu's soon-to-be parents.

This book is for those who are curious about memories from the last period



Mualla Mezhepoğlu ACG 61 with one of her mother's photo albums

of the Ottoman Empire, old customs, stories from everyday life, and photos of documents and personal items.

## A Guide for Measuring Social Impact

**P**ublished by the Koç University Social Impact Forum (KUSIF) in the fall of 2015, *Social Impact Measurement: KUSIF 4-Step Approach* by Seda Müftügil Yalçın RC 01 and Duygu Güner offers practical guidance to civil society organizations in Turkey that want to measure and assess their social impact but do not know how to start. The guide is especially useful for organizations looking to say something more than, "we touched the lives of so many children/women"; a statement that only indicates the outcome. Instead it encourages organizations to look into the change that they claim to make. The guide uses Robert College's Community Involvement Program (CIP) as a case study. It offers the "theory of change" of the program, a necessary step through which one can decide on the outcomes the program would like to measure. Yalçın happily assists CIP teams to assess the impact of their program. Her book can be accessed from the KUSIF website ([kusif.ku.edu.tr](http://kusif.ku.edu.tr)).

Two more relevant books are in the pipeline; one is on a shared measurement approach (for women's NGOs in Turkey)



Seda Müftügil Yalçın RC 01

and the other is a guide to enable funders to measure their impact at the macro level. It aims to offer ways to match the expectations of funders and the organizations they support in the field of social impact measurement.

After Robert College, Yalçın completed her undergraduate studies at Sabancı University, followed by her master's degree in London where she studied Human Rights and Anthropology (MSc) at London School of Economics via a grant from the Turkish Education Foundation (TEV) and the British Chevening Scholarship Program. In 2011, she obtained her PhD in Cultural Analysis from the University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis. She is currently working at KUSIF as a researcher and is a faculty instructor at Koç University Graduate School of Business. Yalçın teaches courses on social impact and social entrepreneurship. Her specific expertise is on social impact management and its measurement.

Seda Yalçın is married to Ali Yalçın RC 99, and has two children; Emre (7) and Ela (4). She looks forward to receiving feedback from RC Alumni who work in the third sector and are interested in social impact measurement. She can be contacted at [smuftugil@ku.edu.tr](mailto:smuftugil@ku.edu.tr)



## The Story of Transformation: Turkey's Banking System

Considered to be a pioneer of modern banking in Turkey, Burhan Karaçam RA 68, saw his second book, *Dönüşüm Yolculuğu* (Journey of Transformation) come out from Remzi Kitabevi at the end of 2015.

"This book and the accompanying documentary are prepared to convey and document the importance of the advances and the corporate culture created by people with modern values that become the main and impulsive force behind the process of transformation," reads the press release of *Dönüşüm Yolculuğu*. It adds, "Burhan Karaçam, who served as the CEO of Yapı Kredi Bank, transformed not only Yapı Kredi but also the Turkish banking sector."

Karaçam started his career in Arthur Andersen's London office in 1972. He then established the company's Istanbul office in 1975. He worked at Pamukbank and Egebank before becoming the CEO of Yapı Kredi Bank in 1987. He founded his own company, BK Partnership in 1999. He continues to be active in the world of business with BK Partnership in the fields



Burhan Karaçam RA 68

of finance, real estate, technology, retail, textile, strategy design, and business development.

While working for Yapı Kredi, Karaçam and his team were the ones responsible

for introducing many banking services to Turkey for the first time such as 24-hour banking, ATMs, personal loans, credit cards, mortgages, phone banking, automatic payments, and internet banking. A generation grew up with the following lines from the Yapı Kredi advertisement introducing the ATM card:

"This, this, - what is this?

A Telecard sir!

What do you do with this?

You can withdraw money 24/7, deposit money, transfer money, reach your account from anywhere in Turkey, go shopping...

Enough!"

*Dönüşüm Yolculuğu* is Karaçam's second book. His first, *Orası Yapı Kredi, Fark Oradaydı* (That Was Yapı Kredi, That Was the Difference) was published in 2008 by Yapı Kredi Yayınları, which he also helped establish. (See RCQ 30, p. 29) Proceeds from the sales of the book and the documentary go to the Yapı Kredi Retired Members Association.

## From Ottoman to Turk: Shimmering Threads of Identity

When Nükhet Kardam ACG 71 set out to explore her identity, she had no idea what surprises she would uncover. The result is a unique literary project, *From Ottoman to Turk: Shimmering Threads of Identity*, which she published online with the support of her colleague Sarah Springer.

In the preface, she explains how she started her quest: "Driven to face who I am as a Turkish-American woman, this journey began as an exploration of my paternal grandfather, Dr. Kilisli Rifat. I had never met him but he had chosen my name. As a successful, renowned doctor when the Ottoman Empire disappeared and the Republic of Turkey was born, Dr. Rifat and his family were caught in momentous changes. By following his complex story of redefined identities, adopted voluntarily or by force, I was led to reexamine the history of modern Turkey and definition of being a Turk. I uncovered that my family was not

the Turkish family I imagined, and my grandfather was harboring secrets I could never have imagined. Through writing I found myself on a parallel journey, encountering multiple identities of the culture and landscape I called home."

In 2013 Kardam gave a TEDx Monterey talk that was the catalyst for the book. As a political scientist, she was always interested in questions of national, ethnic, and gender identity. She says that as she started to look into her family history, she found repressed identities that had been hidden from the family. Her grandmother's father was Greek. Her grandmother's mother was Kurdish. They adopted an Armenian baby. She wondered why she had to make a choice between these identities; why she couldn't embrace them all.

The book's web-based format includes text, images and hyperlinks, and allows readers to interact with the author.



Nükhet Kardam ACG 71 gives her cousin the news that she found their grandfather's grave

Kardam says, "I wanted an online project where readers could converse with me, that I could engage in a conversation about identity with readers who have had similar experiences or are interested in the same topics."

Kardam's book is also being translated to Turkish. It can be found at [www.ottomantoturk.middcreate.net](http://www.ottomantoturk.middcreate.net)

## The Olive Grove that No Longer Is

**M**ühür Gözlüm is a joint collaboration between Semra Özümerzifon ACG 70 and İzzeddin Çalışlar, and is dedicated to the destruction of the olive grove in Yırca. Here is the story of the book in her own words.

"On November 7, 2014, in the village of Yırca, bulldozers hastily uprooted 6,000 olive trees. Villagers who tried to protect their trees were badly beaten. A firm, intending to build a thermal power plant on this olive grove had obtained an urgent expropriation decision. The following day, the Council of State annulled this decision but the olive grove had already turned into a wasteland, unharvested and massacred olive trees lying on the ground.

"I was overwhelmed with grief and rebellion at what had happened. I



Semra Özümerzifon ACG 70 with one of her olive tree drawings

started to work on a sculpture, then I drew countless massacred olive trees. The broken necked sculpture unites the massacred trees and the grief of villagers. It also represents those of us who witnessed the injustice but could do nothing about it. The infinity signs on

the drawings indicate the immortality of the olive trees and the golden background recalls their immense value. I named the sculpture "Mühür Gözlüm", which signifies a dear one with beautiful black eyes, in this case referring to the olive trees. The drawings are accompanied by a sentimental, but at the same time very entertaining story written by İzzeddin Çalışlar.

"For me, the Yırca event is an example of the immoral means by which deplorable benefits are obtained at great cost to society, unfortunately too often in our country. This time the destructive scheme was not fully accomplished. But the damage and the underlying attitude persist. The Yırca event signifies society's ignorance and apathy towards the environment, threatening the values which we should cherish, and the wealth we should protect for posterity."

## The Politics of Halide Edip Put Under the Scope

**H**ülya Adak RC 89 recently published *Halide Edib ve Siyasal Şiddet - Ermeni Kırımı, Diktatörlük ve Şiddetsizlik (Halide Edib and Political Violence)* about the novelist, essayist, journalist, women's rights activist Halide Edib ACG 1901 and the confrontation of her works with political violence through different periods of history.

Adak analyzes many different sources indepth including letters, novels, short stories, scholarly works, histories and absurdist drama written by Halide Edib to illustrate the diversity and heterogeneity in genre that characterized Halide Edib's oeuvre. Adak further explores the differences in Halide Edib's works in English and Turkish.

Dedicated to the memory of the legendary drama teacher at Robert College Dorothy İz, who was a source



Hülya Adak RC 89

of inspiration to many including Adak during her high school years, the book

discusses significant questions related to revising the history of absurdist drama in Turkey, as well as European absurdist drama and its relationship to politics. This section explores the works of Halide Edib, together with the works of Eugene Ionesco and Samuel Beckett.

For the past 15 years, Hülya Adak has been working in the Cultural Studies Program at Sabancı University. She is an associate professor of comparative literature and a Humboldt Experienced Fellow at the Freie Universität Berlin. Her research interests include literature and genocide, gender and sexuality, theories of the novel and modern drama. She has been working on the life and works of Halide Edib since her years as a graduate student at the University of Chicago, where she received her PhD in 2001. She can be reached at [hadak@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:hadak@sabanciuniv.edu)



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# Remembering Fallen Diplomats

Retired Turkish ambassador Nuri Yıldırım RA 62 writes about two RC alumni in the diplomatic core whose lives were tragically cut short.

Professor Haluk Şahin's recent book *Unutulmuş Bir Suikastın Anatomisi* (*Anatomy of a Forgotten Assassination*) starts with the following passage:

"Forty-three years ago on January 27, 1973, two Turkish diplomats were assassinated by an elderly Santa Barbara resident of Armenian origin by the name of Gourgen Yanikian." Both of those diplomats were graduates of Robert College: the Consul General Mehmet Baydar RC 42 and his Vice-Consul Bahadır Demir RA 62.

Bahadır was my classmate at Robert Academy for 8 years. When we graduated, five classmates decided to continue their studies at the Political Science Faculty in Ankara, planning to be diplomats, and probably one day to be an ambassador. One of them, Nuri Çolakoğlu, chose another career path before graduation, but the other four joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (The other two were Ahmet Banguoğlu and Aydın Şahinbaş.)

Although the three of us finally became ambassadors towards the end of our careers, Bahadır was no longer with us. I am sure that Bahadır would have been a perfect and respectable ambassador and would have represented his country with dignity and dedication. One consolation is that his widow Sina, a graduate of Üsküdar American Academy for Girls, later joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She continued Bahadır's mission with the same elegant manner and became an ambassador herself.

The government of the United States provided a special airplane to bring the remains of Baydar and Demir to Turkey. It was a sad reminder of the time when battleship the USS Missouri brought the remains of another Turkish diplomat, Ambassador Münir Ertegün, to Istanbul in 1946, after he passed away in the US.

Although the Missouri's visit to Istanbul was a symbolical gesture of friendship from America which was honored by the Turkish government with special Missouri commemorative stamps, the airplane's



Mehmet Baydar RC 42 with his family

visit to Ankara carrying two coffins was a harbinger of the many other assassinations of Turkish diplomats in the US and other parts of the world that would follow very quickly after their deaths.

I was at the Foreign Ministry's personnel department in 1973, and was assigned to meet the airplane carrying the coffins of our two colleagues at the Ankara airport and to arrange the other bureaucratic requirements. On the airplane, in addition to the families of the two deceased diplomats, the late Mustafa Gürsel RC 64, also a dear friend, accompanied Bahadır's widow Sina from Los Angeles.

I hope Prof. Haluk Şahin's investigative book will be a belated consolation for the classmates and friends of both Bahadır Demir and Mehmet Baydar.

Contributed by Nuri Yıldırım RA 62



Bahadır Demir RA 62







**Her sabah  
böyle bir manzaraya  
uyanmak ister misiniz?**

**BAYKAN**

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# "Why Reporting on Conflict is Not Enough for Me"

Arwa Damon RC 94 explains what motivated her to start INARA, an organization that links children injured in warzones with much needed medical support for life-threatening or life-altering injuries.

The following is an excerpt from the warscapes.com article contributed by Damon, published in February 2016.

From the Turkish side of the border I could hear the low rumblings of explosions, the sound rolling across the northern Aleppo countryside. I was left to imagine the ear shattering impact, the soul splitting screams of the survivors, the wounded, or those who were forced to watch their loved ones die.

But death is the norm, hardly generating shock and outrage anymore, hardly galvanizing those who can arguably initiate an end to the suffering to do so. And perhaps among the most difficult thing for me to come to terms with is the fact that most of the rest of the world seems to be anesthetized to the suffocating sorrow it generates.

My need to do something tangible started back in Iraq in August 2007. A little boy named Youssif sat in the kitchen of CNN's Baghdad bureau, shoving one grain of rice into his mouth at a time. Masked men had doused him in gasoline and set him on fire. His entire face was covered in hard rivers of scar tissue. He was sullen, quiet and angry.

We reported Youssif's story on CNN and the response was overwhelming - an outpouring of support that transcended race, religion, ethnicity, and came from across the globe. The best moment of my career was when I was able to call his parents and tell them their little boy would be getting help.

And for me, it also reminded me that the kindness of strangers exists and generated the first thoughts about starting a non-profit that might tap into that generosity and build the links needed to help in cases like Youssif's.

Creating INARA - the International Network for Aid, Relief and Assistance - became a personal obligation.

INARA establishes links between injured children and their families and much



Arwa Damon RC 94 with Sara, a Syrian girl living in Lebanon who, through INARA, received treatment for severe burns on her arm

needed medical support in cases of life threatening or life altering injuries.

We have found that parents are often at a loss in terms of simply knowing where to go to help their children. At times, the assistance they need already exists, so we refer them to the right organization and help them navigate the system.

And when the issues are not merely logistical, we tap into our network of doctors, medical facilities and other support systems to get them the treatment they need. Each case has a dedicated caseworker.

We have a small, core team - medical residents who donate their time, doctors who perform surgeries pro bono, discounts at hospitals, companies that have provided us with anything from free business cards to free dental implants in one of our cases. We have built a network with the other international and local non-profits in Lebanon, and have a growing community of individuals who donate.

We started working in Lebanon because it's where I already had a pre-existing network, but also because there is a massive need there for the type of niche work that INARA does. We have taken on cases in which a girl's genitals were burnt in a bomb; a little boy whose face was melted by an explosion; a baby suffering from septic wounds after a botched burn surgery.

Currently we are focusing on providing medical assistance to children from Syria, including Palestinians. As we get more funding, we will expand, and harbor hopes of one day working globally.

Back in 2007, I travelled with Youssif and his family to Los Angeles. It was there, on a trip to the beach before his first surgery, that I first saw the little boy that his parents so dreadfully missed. I laughed amid his shrieks of joy at seeing the ocean for the first time, built his first sandcastle with him and hugged his mother as she cried.

When I talked to Youssif last year, he still wanted to be a doctor, to help burn victims like himself. One of our current INARA cases, Ala'a, a teenage girl whose jaw was blown off in Syria, wants to be a nurse. Adnan, paralyzed from the waist down, has a beautiful eye for photography wants to be an engineer. Fatima just had her first surgery and is at the start of a long and painful journey that will restore the use of her hands, which were lost when a blast hit her home. She wants to teach children Arabic.

By not turning our backs on the most vulnerable victims of war, by showing them kindness and compassion rather than rejection and barricades in instances where it feels like humanity has failed itself, we are not just impacting their lives, but the lives of those around them in ways that extend from today into the future.

To find out more about the organization and how you can help visit [www.inara.org/](http://www.inara.org/)



# Providing Turkish Women and Syrian Refugees Lasting Support

Since 1986, the US-based rug firm Woven Legends, founded by Neslihan Jevremovic RC 74, has been producing antique-design rugs. Not only has it shortly become one of the leading manufacturers in its field; it has made a name for itself because of the work opportunity it provided to thousands of eastern Anatolian women. When the Syrian conflict became one of the world's largest humanitarian crises, Woven Legends chose not to be indifferent to this tragedy.

More than two million Syrian asylum-seekers live in Turkey, of which about 280,000 live in camps. Very few activities or work opportunities are available. Jevremovic is one of the few individuals to take realistic action to help solve this problem. Her visionary "Anka Project" has been training young Syrian women in Turkish refugee camps to become skilled weavers since 2012, providing hope and dignity to hundreds.

In partnership with the company's Turkey-based supplier Öz-Kent, Woven Legends has created and manage weaving work for 250 Syrian refugees at two of fifteen Turkish camps.

Below she explains how it all started, and how they created opportunities for refugees as well as Turkish women:

"The Turkish Ministry of Education approached us in 1986 for our cooperation in teaching rug weaving to girls in Eastern Turkey. Traditionally, weavers who work outside of their home are all young, unmarried women in their teens. Once they get married, 99 percent no longer weave. If they do weave, it is

in the western part of Turkey. Because of this turnover, we always need a new pool of young weavers and we are accustomed to teaching our weaving methods. Giving work to these girls is a significant accomplishment for many reasons. If their daughter is working, her family does not rush to marry her off. I see weaving as a way to empower them to become accomplished, confident women and surely they will mature to be better mothers. Our Turkish weavers work in the security and familiar environment of their villages. We set up a system where the pay is by the knot. They plan their time and how much they weave based on the needs of their family and the agriculture season. They are working at the atelier because the looms would not fit their homes; it also serves as a social place where young girls bond with each other and their teachers.

**"Weaving rugs gives Syrian refugees more than an income. It gives them integrity and empowers them," says Jevremovic.**

"Four years ago I started working with my contacts in local Turkish government to help teach Syrian women. I explained how teaching a vocation, as with the Turks, would empower them beyond making money; it would be giving them a career. In 2012, we began teaching refugees in the Adiyaman camp how to weave carpets. Three years later, we had six workshop tents, consisting of 69 looms and 216 active weavers. We started a second weaving project in 2015 in the Harran, Urfa refugee camp with 13 looms and 25 weavers, and hope to do even more in the future."



Carpet on display at the Met museum, woven by Syrian refugees

When asked if an expansion of the project is possible, she says, "My personal rapport with the refugees convinces me that we can build on the present projects. The alternative is possibly a restless community, which would be the breeding ground for potential disturbances. I am trying to reach out to viable connections to duplicate our work with Syrian refugees and exponentially grow it. The grants and funds are out there, yet to reach the right people requires connections. We received recognition from the American government in the form of an award last year. Now the commercial attaché is helping me for the next level."

In addition to its work with the Syrian refugees, Woven Legends has provided weaving opportunities to thousands of Anatolian women over the past 30 years. For more information go to [www.wovenlegends.com](http://www.wovenlegends.com)



Neslihan Jevremovic RC 74 with the weavers

## Class of ACG 63

In April, the Class of ACG 63 enjoyed a delightful picnic on the grounds of their "teenage heaven", the Plateau, "far from the maddening crowd", as they put it.

Present on that beautiful day were Ayşe Onat Doğruer, Seres Başak Ener, Ayla Karanis, Ful Duran, Günsel Gerçel Onaran, Hülya Özaçık Tüfekçi, Meral Erden İkizler,

Sevin Okyay, Beyhan Sezer Şahin, Tomris Beşeli and Leyla Uzman.



Members of the Class of ACG 63 reunite at their "teenage heaven"

## ACG 67 Judas Tree Reunion

Spring is special everywhere but especially so on the Bosphorus when the short-lived but equally gorgeous Judas tree blossoms are seen in all their glory. The Class of ACG 67's anniversary gift to their alma mater was a handful of these beautiful trees planted in 2007 to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> year of their graduation. On April 3, over 25 members of the class came to the Plateau to visit the "Erguvanlık" they had helped plant. This visit has become a spring ritual for ACG 67 and class members say their love for their school increases with each visit.



Alumni from the Class of ACG 67 pose with a Judas tree that they planted on the Plateau

**Save the Date!**

**Homecoming 2016 Sunday, November 6**



## RC 72 Mini Reunion

Six alumni of RC 72 got together in New Orleans, Louisiana, in March 2016.



From left to right: Ömer Eğecioğlu (Santa Barbara), Ahmet Yoğurtçuoğlu (Istanbul), Cihan Bilginsoy (Salt Lake City), Sinan Cebenoyan (New York), Reşat Kasaba (Seattle) and Oğuz Peker (Istanbul)

## RC 75 A Good Year to Remember

The Class of 75 celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> reunion with a memorable two-day event on June 27 and 28, 2015 in Istanbul. The joyous and well-planned reunion festivities started on the RC campus with the contributions of its organizer Bülent Kıymir. Neslihan Zabacı designed the 40<sup>th</sup> year logo and Günseli Alkan Ünlütürk produced the lovely reunion t-shirts.

For the first event, classmates came together on the afternoon of June 27 to

enjoy cocktails and each other's company, receive their lovely t-shirts and reunion plaques, as well as to visit the Plateau, share memories and photos. Classmates also came from far away; Talia Arkut Berkok from Canada, Cihan Sultanoğlu and Yeşim Ternar from the US and Feyza İplikçi Howell from the UK. There was a remembrance corner for friends who had passed away, prepared by Feyha Çınarlı and Osman Nihat Aydoğan. The elegant dinner took place in Gould Hall. The two highlights of the dinner

were the video of school days presented by Nihal Koldaş and a surprise belly dance performance by Feyza İplikçi Howell.

The second event, organized by Osman Kavala, was a colorful brunch at Cezayir Restaurant in Beyoğlu on June 28. Everyone enjoyed the open buffet in the lovely garden. Classmates thrilled to see each other again continued chatting, socializing and remembering the good old days.



RC 75 at Gould Hall once again



Remembrance corner



Aydın Urgan and Çiğdem Taran surrounded with the RC 75 ladies

# Back to the Future with Renkler

■ A benefit concert from a vintage RC rock band to support future RC students

The legendary Robert Academy Band of 1969 has made a comeback, and is going stronger than ever.

Participating and winning the Milliyet newspaper competition held among high school bands in Istanbul was a very prestigious achievement in 1969. Renkler, the Robert Academy band consisting of Osman Dinç Kermen (soloist), Osman Kermen (keyboard), İbrahim Büyükyüksel, Mehmet Yucad, Oktay Özinci (guitars), Şadi Burat (drums) and Selim Kalafat (percussion). This group of multit talented RA 69 graduates stayed closely connected after graduation, but starting families and careers put an end to the band – albeit only temporarily as it turned out. A revival, 50 years after they first met, was in the cards. What a comeback it has been!

Band practice picked up from where they left in 2011 and in the same Teşvikiye apartment they used in the 1960s. It did not take long to realize that they had not lost any of the spirit and musical talent that had first brought them together. The repertoire is made up of Beatles, Santana, The Animals, Sinatra, Joe Cocker as well as Turkish pop and rock covers. The group has performed several times at Bizim Tepe in the last few years, and made guest appearances on campus at

the current student orchestra concerts under the direction of RC music teacher Deniz Baysal. The special Homecoming Assembly concert in 2013, celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> year of the school was especially memorable.

Renkler is now gearing up to claim the stage for a full benefit performance at the Suna Kıraç Theater in the fall of 2016. (The tentative date is set for October 20, check with the Alumni and Development Office for details.) All proceeds from the event will go to the RC scholarship fund. The concert will include student performances to add even more color



Renkler won the Milliyet High School Band competition in 1969

to "Renkler". This promises to be a not to be missed Robert College happening, yet another example of how the future is shaped by outstanding alumni spirit and support.



The band members feel like high school kids again in front of Gould Hall



Save the Date!  
Renkler RC Scholarship Fund  
Benefit Concert  
Tuesday, October 18

For details contact the RC Alumni  
and Development Office

The beat goes on - Renkler perform with the RC Orchestra in 2014





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## Bercestte Anter ACG 31

Ahmet Taşpınar RC ENG 56 wrote to the RCQ about a very special occasion.

"A grand lady, Bercestte Anter turned 107 on March 27, 2016. She was regal in her armchair as we all kissed her and felt proud to be in her company on such a special day. Her Nisantaşı apartment was crowded with her children, grandchildren, children-in-law and unrelated, but very loving non-family, like Seval and I.

"Bercestte 'Teyze' (aunt), is an inspiration to many. She is the daughter of Mr. Sezai Selek, the director of "Saraylar" in the 1930's and 40's. Her aunt, Reşide Hanım, as the wife of President Celal Bayar, was the First Lady of Turkey. Bercestte Anter is also a classmate of my mother from ACG. They formed a distinguished group of ladies, who kept their close friendship alive after graduating from ACG in 1931.

That wonderful group of ladies included at least three others who lived to be over 96 years of age. They must have done something right!

"Also worth mentioning is her younger sister, Sütude Selek Aras ACG 41, who must be approaching 100, and looks not a day older than 60. These grand ladies, educated, enlightened, aware of the world around them and highly capable of maintaining their faith and Turkishness, while completely accepting of people who look, speak and believe in different ways than they do, are among the few left from the Turkish nation that was the result of the work of great leader, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

"Please join me in wishing Bercestte and Sütude 'Teyze'ler' many more happy birthdays in good health and in good cheer, among their loved ones."



## Sıdıka Akaygen Tulça ACG 41

Sıdıka Tulça, who celebrated her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, visited the campus on a lovely spring day in April. Accompanied by her son Enis Tulça, Sıdıka Hanım reminisced beneath the wisteria of Gould Hall and struck a pose in front of the imposing portrait of Miss Summers, hanging in the faculty parlor of Marble Hall. Miss Summers had been her school principal during their years at ACG and they have a shared history.

## Nihat Gökyiğit RC ENG 46

Engineering legend, environmentalist, and philanthropist Nihat Gökyiğit marked his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in March with a celebration among friends and family at Bizim Tepe, and a book about his life. "Actually my birthday and my book are just an excuse for me to get together with my dear friends!" he said.

Gökyiğit prepared a special surprise for his guests: his autobiography titled *Doğa ve İnsan Sevdam (My Passion for Nature and People)*. The 591-page work which includes his early life in Artvin, years at Robert College, experience at the University of Michigan, the growth of Tekfen, and the founding of TEMA, is in many ways a reflection on the development of Turkey.

Gökyiğit had another surprise at the event. A musical group from the town of Macahel, Artvin - where Gökyiğit started his first rural development project in 1995 - played traditional Turkish melodies which had guests up and dancing the *horon*.

RC alumni who attended the birthday celebration at Bizim Tepe included Feyyaz Berker RC ENG 46, Semahat Arsel ACG 49, Demir Karamancı RC 48, Tunç Uluğ RC ENG 60, Oğuz Dağdelen RC ENG 47, Emre Gönesay RC 57, Üstün Ergüder RC 57, and Şevki Figen RC ENG 48.

Gökyiğit is one of the co-founders of engineering firm Tekfen, which he started in the 1950s with Feyyaz Berker and Necati Akçağlılar. For the past 15 years, he



has focused on working with civil society organizations. As one of the founders of the TEMA Foundation, he has been the driving force behind projects to develop rural areas, track bees (see RCQ 24, p. 26), eliminate drought and catalog endemic plants.



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GÖRMEDİ, DUYMADI, HİSSETMEDİ.

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BİR MİLLETİN YENİDEN DOĞUŞUDUR.

BİZE DÜŞEN DE ÇANAKKALE RUHUNU  
GÖSTERMEK, DİNLETMEK,  
YÜREKLERDE HİSSETMEKTİR.

ÇANAKKALE ŞEHİTLERİMİZİ VE GAZİLERİMİZİ  
MİNNETLE ANIYORUZ.  
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## Robi Ebeoğlu RA 70



After graduating from Boğaziçi University with a degree in chemical engineering and an MBA in finance, Ebeoğlu worked for various trade and financial institutions. He started the American Express organization in Turkey and then thought of going into a field where money was the means but not necessarily the end.

In 1991, Ebeoğlu founded Tepta Aydınlatma A.Ş. At the time, in Turkey, lighting was in its virgin state. "Light is the fourth element in architecture," he says. "It showcases beauty in its best form and adds to its appreciation, be it exterior lighting of historical monuments, modern buildings and gardens or indoor lighting for museums, shops, offices and private residences."

Ebeoğlu's company both designs lighting

projects and provides the necessary lighting equipment. This is always done in close cooperation with the architect and electrical company doing the installation.

Supporting culture is important to Tepta, and the company has sponsored projects such as Bilgi University's Santral Istanbul museum and the Istanbul Modern Museum. In 2010 when Istanbul was a European Capital of Culture, they entered a lighting project competition for six historically important buildings and won first prize for both Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque. Ebeoğlu believes there is still a lot to do in terms of illuminating the beautiful and historical city of Istanbul.

This year, Robi Ebeoğlu and his team are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> year in the business of lighting and the aesthetics it involves.

## Sanem Alkan RC 90



This year Sanem Alkan is celebrating her 15 year milestone in the alternative investment space. Working closely with leading private equity investors around the world over this period, Sanem has been instrumental in the launch and growth of several innovative platforms in the US and Asia, including the first Japanese hedge fund incubator. She also co-led a tech venture for several years, gaining insight into tech venture

capital. Following her move from New York to the San Francisco Bay Area in 2012, Sanem recently embarked on her next challenge with a role at a boutique real estate private equity firm, which manages over \$1 billion of capital for family offices and wealth advisors. Sanem remains an active alumna in California and is looking forward to growing the West Coast network.

## Duygu Alptekin Gürsu RC 92

Duygu Alptekin Gürsu RC 92 received the Global Coaching Leadership Award at the World Coaching Congress 2016 in Mumbai on February 16. World Coaching Congress award winners are chosen by an independent jury of senior professionals from across the globe. Candidates are benchmarked on a variety of criteria including strategic perspective, integrity and ethics, track record, and future orientation.

Gürsu is a professional leadership and team coach with seven years of national and international executive leadership coaching experience. Prior

to coaching, she worked 13 years in marketing leadership roles at global FMCG companies.

With a mission to grow agility and humanity at the workplace, Gürsu is keen to develop conscious and effective leaders who can make business results happen with their team and organizations in a fulfilling way. She believes that leadership starts with leadership of the self and can only expand with personal consciousness and connection to the real you inside. Her passion is to help individuals get to know who they are at a deeper level and create their unique leadership style.





## Lale Deliveli RC 98

Lale Deliveli recently joined Deliveli Turkmen Attorney Partnership where they are focusing on cross-border mergers and acquisitions, corporate, privatization, energy and construction projects, and advising both local and international clients on legal issues.

During her tenure of over 10 years - half of which she spent in New York - she has advised clients ranging from hotel owners in the Cayman Islands to American airline companies in their sale of assets or ownership transfers. She also helped several American and European companies in their IPOs or issuance of capital market tools, as well as offshore structuring. For these



projects, she traveled across the globe and worked in a wide range of countries including Kazakhstan, Venezuela, India, Japan, and China.

Over the past several years in Istanbul she has played a key role in some of the biggest mergers and acquisitions in Turkey in sectors such as banking, energy and media. She has advised several Turkish and foreign companies in their partnership strategies as well as development of their projects. Deliveli continues to visit Bahrain and Qatar regularly in order to bring foreign investments to Turkey.

Several RC alums are currently her clients or work with her in the new firm. If you would like to find out more or get back in touch, please contact Lale at [ldeliveli@deliveliturkmen.av.tr](mailto:ldeliveli@deliveliturkmen.av.tr)

## Zeynep Özoğul Turan RC 02

Zeynep Özoğul Turan has created a new brand called Bi'GezGel.com, where she organizes tours in Turkey and abroad, to destinations she has visited and enjoyed. Having seen the destinations on her own trips, her experience sets the foundation of the tours and enables the itineraries to be adjusted in the best way, giving importance to maximum local experience and minimum touristic spots.

Zeynep is the General Manager of Tridab Tourism, an incoming travel agency organizing tours for foreigners in Turkey. Taking her experience to the next level, she decided to put together her love of

travel with her work, to create a brand which stands as a mixture of a travel blog and a travel agent.

She has also created a new project called CreateYourOwnTour where people are able to choose a date and together with her form an itinerary for a destination they are unable to find anywhere else. The tour then becomes available for others to join on the Bi'GezGel.com website.

After graduating from Robert College in 2002, Zeynep attended Boğaziçi University where she majored in sociology. Then she lived in Milan for two



years, where she worked for an integrated communications consultancy group before coming back to Istanbul.

There is a discount of 5% for RC graduates on all tours. For more details visit [www.bigezgel.com](http://www.bigezgel.com)

## Firdevs Abacioğlu RC 03 and Melike Abacioğlu RC 05

Firdevs and Melike Abacioğlu are both Harvard MBAs, as well as Cornell and Stanford undergrads respectively, who have done private equity investing in tech and management strategy consulting. They founded PhysioHealth, a mobile health and wellness platform that helps companies engage employees in living healthy.

The Abacioğlu sisters are creating a new market where making an effort to be healthy is like currency. Their goal is to create savings for companies not only on healthcare costs and absenteeism but also through employee engagement and productivity. They provide an innovative rewards program - WellMiles (like air miles) - where employees get points for every healthy thing they do and get to



spend them on discounted goods from top brands. PhysioHealth is currently available both in the US and Turkey.

Firdevs and Melike want to make living healthy fun and easy so their platform also integrates with wearables such as fitbit, lets users add friends, and taps into intrinsic motivators to get healthier by scheduling small doses of exercises and meditation. PhysioHealth has been funded by Y Combinator, the most successful start-up accelerator in Silicon Valley which helped grow companies such as Airbnb and Dropbox. You can reach them at [founders@physioh.com](mailto:founders@physioh.com)

## Sanem İnsu Tezkan RC 05

Sanem İnsu Tezkan has started a partnership with her close college friend, Çağrı Arsin, and established Arsin • Tezkan Law Firm.

After graduating from İstanbul University, Tezkan joined a top law firm in 2009 and her practice primarily focused on mergers, acquisitions and general corporate matters. She attended an LLM program at Duke University School of Law and completed her Master of Laws in 2012. Upon her return to Turkey, she became an associate lawyer in one of the oldest established law firms,

where she practiced litigation as well as corporate law.

After gaining experience and assisting foreign and Turkish clients, Tezkan and Arsin decided to combine their experience and established their firm in 2015. They are committed to providing high quality legal consultancy and dispute resolution services to local and foreign clients especially on corporate law, contracts law, and labor and construction law.

She can be reached at [insu.tezkan@arsintezkan.com](mailto:insu.tezkan@arsintezkan.com)



## Seda Arca RC 06

Among the Forbes 30 under 30 list was a familiar face: Seda Arca was featured in the Finance category. She works as a corporate bond trader manning Goldman Sachs' industrial and consumer sector trading, moving debt for the healthcare, tobacco and retail industries. Her position as Vice President in the firm involves trading directly with a lot of the company's clients on a daily basis, and one of them nominated her. Arca was then contacted by Forbes with questions about her background. There are no defined criteria, Arca says. Her story was heard along with everybody else's and months later she found out that she had made the list.



After graduating from Robert College, Arca studied financial engineering at

Princeton University, which is essentially applied math, with applications to finance. She interned at Deutsche Bank in New York during the summer of her junior year, after which she got an offer to come back full time. Upon graduation, she spent her summer in London for training, then returned to New York where she did three trading rotations before deciding on what desk she actually wanted to end up. She started out as an investment grade corporate bond trader, which is what she's been doing ever since. After five years at Deutsche Bank New York, she moved to Goldman Sachs in 2015 for the same role, which put her in the Forbes list.

## Ufuk Baykaş RC 07

And then there were three... Ufuk and Victor Manuel Navarro Tebar welcomed their bundle of joy Pedro Efe on June 11, 2015.

Ambitious to outgrow first his mother and later his father, Pedro Efe enjoys his days playing, drinking and sleeping. The Navarro Baykaş family is looking forward to discovering the world together.





## Caner Malkaralı RC 08

The couple met in Istanbul when Caner crashed Gülce's birthday party in the summer of 2013. Following many emails, concerts, salsa nights, and all sorts of lovely moments together, Caner proposed to Gülce near Sunset Lake at Vassar College in New York - his alma mater. They decided to have a sunflower-themed wedding party when Gülce was inspired by the yellow sunflower fields as they were visiting Caner's hometown Tekirdağ for the first time. They were joined by family and beloved friends from across the world for a wonderful sunny day in Istanbul in August 2015, accompanied by Ceren Yalaz, Emre Şarbak, Gökşin Uğur, İrem Bilgiç, Murat Uralkan, Önder Polat, Sabri Şirolu, Tunç Timur and Zeynep Coşkun from the Class of '08, and Nuh Sevinç RC 06. Caner works as a consultant at Ernst & Young, and Gülce, an alumna of Sabancı and Boğaziçi University, works at Türk Telekom Regulatory Group in Istanbul.



## Ahmet Ali Arslan RC 10



Ahmet Ali Arslan and his band have released their second EP, a three-song album titled *Bahara Övgü (Ode to Spring)*. This album has a more produced sound than their first and intends to be more captive and listener-friendly; a good start for the casual music lover. The four-piece band includes acoustic and fretless guitars, buzouki, electric bass and a percussion set.

After studying electrical engineering at Columbia University, Arslan decided to pursue a career in music. His interest in traditional music started during his years at RC. Arslan says that the orchestra planted the first seeds, which began blossoming when he learned to play the ney, inspired by Deniz Baysal, one of

his music teachers at Robert College. He had a program Turkish music on a radio station in NYC. Inspired to learn the fretless guitar, he began to focus on Turkish classical and folk music. From then on, it has been a journey of music slowly invading his life.

Arslan came back to Turkey in 2014, and has been performing and recording in Istanbul since, while also completing a master's degree in sound engineering at ITU MIAM.

Arslan says that all he can think of nowadays is to produce more, both in terms of composing and recording his own material, slowly building up to a full album.

## İlteriş Canberk RC 11

İlteriş Canberk, RC 11 recently graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a degree in electrical and computer engineering, but he has long since been more than a student. His endeavors in the business world commenced when he was still in college. Along with experiences such as working for Facebook as a mobile engineer in the summer of his freshman year, Canberk was involved in various successful ventures throughout his undergraduate years. Between 2013 and 2015 he built Autolab, an education tool for computer science classes that is used in more than 500 courses across the United States.

His main accomplishment in the business world, however, did not come until recently. In 2015, Canberk co-founded



Skurt, a company that makes renting a car quicker via a mobile app. While providing a much smoother experience than traditional car rental companies,

Skurt wants to make mobility accessible to as many people as possible and serve as an alternative to car ownership. Instead of purchasing its own fleet, Skurt connects various other fleet owners with its customers. By doing so, Skurt hopes to improve the utilization of a vehicle within its lifetime, therefore globally decreasing waste in the long term.

Responsible for engineering and product efforts, Canberk built the initial version of the service and led his company to what it is today. Skurt has raised \$13 million dollars in only a year and currently employs 20 people, with Canberk as their CTO. Currently providing services in Southern California, Skurt plans to extend its services to the rest of the United States during the summer of 2016.

## For Güler Karabatur Upon 38 Years at RC

By Jennifer Sertel, Community Involvement Program Coordinator

Güler Karabatur is retiring for the second time! Ten years ago in this magazine, former German teacher at RC, Süheyla Soğancılar (Yenerer at the time) wrote the following words upon Güler's first retirement as German teacher and Department Head of Foreign Languages.

"You work tirelessly to resolve everyone's problems. You are always full of energy and available to everyone; for dinners, concerts, funerals, school, social activities, to relatives, family, grandchildren and students. You embrace novelty and immediately adapt to change. You were not just a German teacher but a teacher of life to your students. You taught them how to be real humanists, from the way they walk and think to the values they uphold."

These words are still true 10 years later as Güler continued to be an integral part of RC. In 2006, she helped John Chandler and I set up the Community Involvement Program (CIP). She has worked tirelessly in the CIP office for the last 10 years. Her energy has not diminished one iota. She is tireless in using her broad network of friends and acquaintances to find funding and support for the program, in bringing people together, and in the sharing of her wisdom and expertise. Her heart has been totally involved in the mission of the Community Involvement Program;



Güler Karabatur, enjoying her well-earned going away party

in Robert College students developing their skills while maturing and becoming responsible citizens during their CIPs. She fights tirelessly for what she believes in and it is obvious to all that she believed wholeheartedly in the Community Involvement Program! She is a superb

role model of community involvement herself. In her many inspirational speeches, she always paraphrases İbrahim Betil RA 64, who claims to have caught the virus of social responsibility at RC. It is not an exaggeration to say that thousands of RC students have been exposed to "the virus" through her work.

Proof of her profound effect on students can be found in Aral Sürmeli RC 11, one who has really caught the virus. Aral, while still a student at Acibadem Medical School, set up a center immediately after the Nepal earthquake and has started an organization, MEDAK, to provide medical assistance to children, especially Syrian children who have no recourse to medical treatment. The following are his words upon learning of her retirement:

"I started volunteering on CIP projects as a Lise 10 student, and at present I work for global health at an important organization. For me, the most important aspect of RC has been meeting you and having the chance to work with you. Thanks to you and the CIP Office, I realized what I really wanted to do. Thank you for showing me how I want to spend my life."

We all wish Güler well in the next stage of her life's adventure. We know she will continue to touch others as she makes her corner of the world a better place.



CIP Advisor İzzet Şengel (pictured above on Güler's left) is also leaving RC this June. Robert College wished Güler and İzzet well at their going away party



## Farewell Ms. Callahan!

*The following is an excerpt from the article prepared by Deniz Yağmur Urey LP for the Bosphorus Chronicle, May 2016 issue.*

Doesn't it make you sad when you hear that someone who has been here for 23 years and calls Turkey her home away from home is leaving? We are heartbroken to say farewell to a great teacher like her. "Who is she?" is the first question you'll probably ask, and the answer is "our beloved prep English teacher Ms. Amy Callahan." It was a very hard decision for her to make.

The news was a big surprise for us. We knew that she loved working at RC, so one of the biggest questions that popped in our minds immediately was why she was returning to California. Apparently her parents' health had been declining for the past year, and she wanted to spend some quality time with them while she still had the chance.

She has had long teaching careers in different countries. Even with all these other experiences, she said that Robert College "was one of the greatest teaching jobs you could ever imagine." In light of all her experiences, we had to ask her if she's planning on coming back. She told us she has a strong feeling that she definitely will. We want to say farewell to this amazing teacher and thank her for all the effort.

Arade Kural (RC '20): "Ms. Callahan has been teaching me for only a few months, but I can say that I have learned a lot from her. It is a shame that I will not have the chance to be a student of Ms. Callahan in the following years. Farewell..."

Sude Naz Kutlu (RC '20) said that Ms. Callahan's contributions "to many of her students are undeniable." The laughter-filled memories of every one of her classes will live on in our minds. Especially the words she says when we

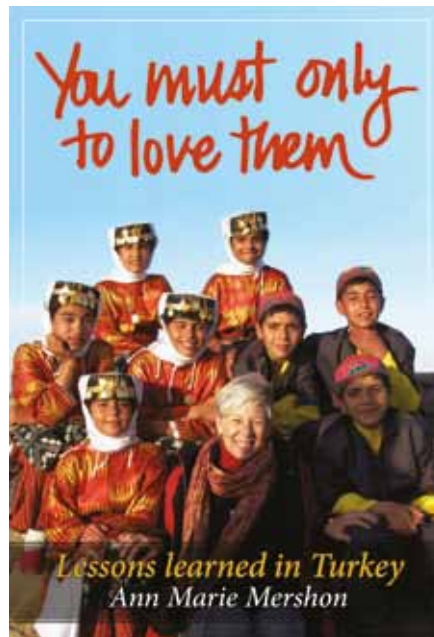


start speaking in Turkish during lessons: "Çok rahatım, Türkçe konuşuyorum." She inspired us and changed our lives in many ways. She was the first person who introduced me to the power of writing and made me find myself with the magic of words. We definitely want her to know she'll never be forgotten. Don't make us miss you so much; Istanbul will be waiting to see you soon. Take care, Ms. Callahan!

## English Teacher Ann Marie Mershon Shares Lessons from Turkey

English teacher at Robert College between 2008 and 2011, Ann Marie Mershon wrote to the RCQ about her latest book, *You Must Only to Love Them*, now available on Amazon.

Recently divorced, Ann Marie was free to pursue her lifelong dream of teaching overseas, landing in the unlikely destination of Istanbul. "You must only to love them" was a bit of ungrammatical wisdom from a young Turkish friend - advice for managing the exuberant young Turks. Over the course of seven years, Ann Marie explored Turkey from the inside out, awed by the splendor of its artifacts and majestic terrain as well as the grace and generosity of its people. This memoir is part travelogue, part adventure, and part romance - a heartfelt account of Ann Marie's adventures as she stepped away from her secure American life to be enlightened by a new perspective on the world.



Ann Marie began writing when her two sons left home twenty years ago. She

wrote a weekly newspaper column for five years as well as numerous articles for newspapers and magazines. In 2005 she moved to Istanbul to teach at Koç Lisesi, where she taught two years. After retiring she returned repeatedly to teach at both Koç and Robert College.

Ann Marie wrote *Britta's Journey-An Emigration Saga* before moving to Turkey. Her second book, *Istanbul's Bazaar Quarter, Backstreet Walking Tours*, was a collaboration with Edda Renker Weissenbacher, a Turkish woman who guided small groups on walking tours through Istanbul.

Now retired, Ann Marie lives on a wilderness lake with her husband Jerry and their two dogs. She writes every day but always finds time for hiking, biking, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, skiing, or snowshoeing in the wilderness she calls home.

## İbrahim Bodur RC 50



İbrahim Bodur RC 50

"I have one wish for the present and future students of Robert College. Enjoy your time in the school, go and visit the library often. Don't just see it as a place to study, but a place to explore, discover and learn. Never forget that great minds are those who never stop learning."

Words by İbrahim Bodur were projected on the screens of the İbrahim Bodur Library at Robert College to commemorate his passing on May 23, 2016 at the age of 88.

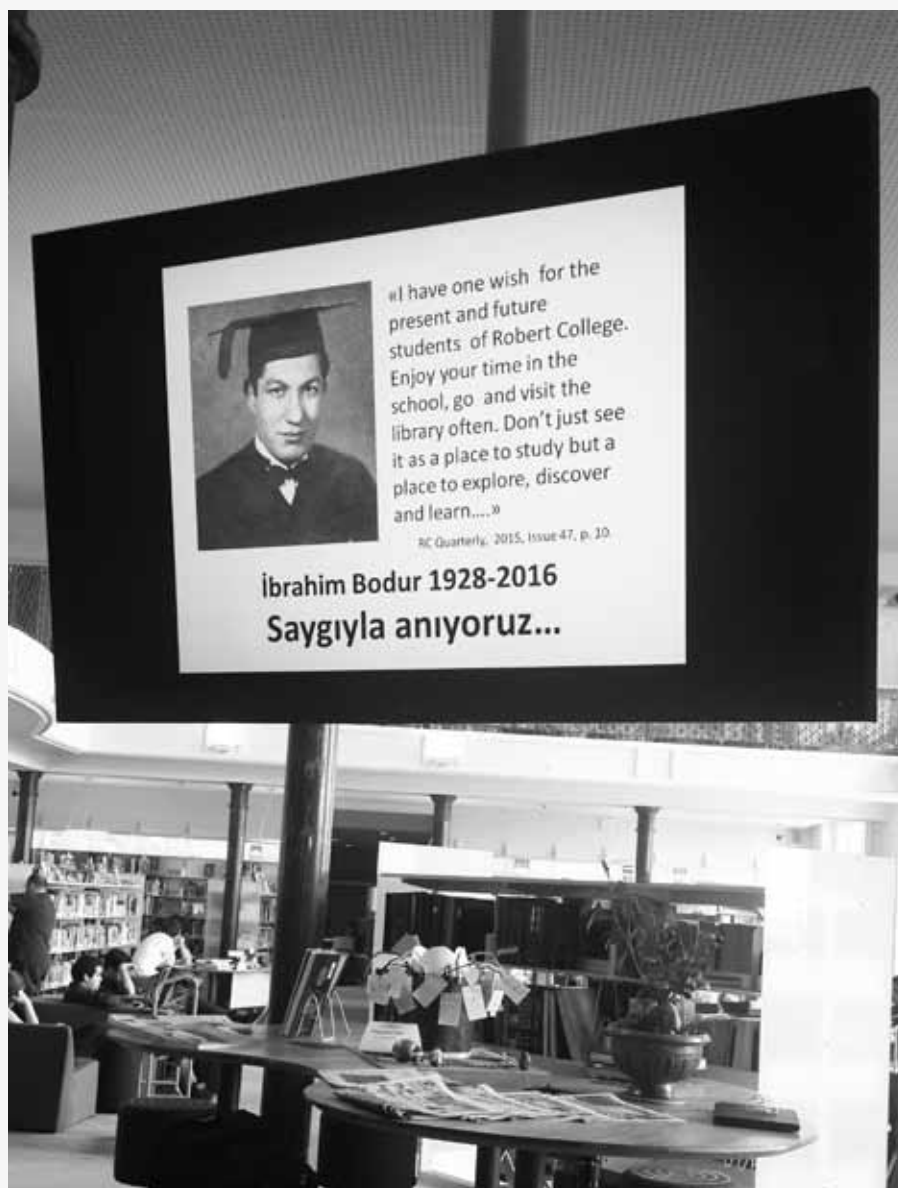
The founder and honorary president of the Kale Group, RC 1950 graduate İbrahim Bodur, was a highly respected and successful businessman. He established the Kale Group, one of the largest businesses in Turkey with a total of 17 companies, with interests ranging from defense to energy and tourism. Bodur instituted foreign partnerships with other major corporations and was involved in the establishment of Istanbul's Chamber of Industry, the first independent chamber of industry in Turkey. He made large contributions to the Turkish economy and industry during his terms on the Industry Council of the Turkish Union of Chambers of Industry and the Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Council (DEİK). As one of the founders of the Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD), Bodur provided many years of service as manager and chairman and held a high advisory board position. The Turkish parliament had recognized Bodur with the distinguished service award in 2006

İbrahim Bodur was a generous supporter of Robert College. During the school's

150th year anniversary, he contributed the largest gift of the celebration year, and his name was given to the Robert College Library whose renovation he made possible.

When İbrahim Bodur visited the RC library that carries his name in the spring of 2015, he said, "I loved Robert College, loved every minute of my time there and cherished all that this school has given me. I still hang out with my friends and we remember those days as if they were just a few years ago."

İbrahim Bodur's funeral ceremony took place in Istanbul on May 24 before he was laid to rest in his hometown of Çanakkale, on May 25. At the ceremony, his daughter Zeynep Bodur gave a moving speech on what her father meant to her and the Kale family at large. He was a good guide, a great role model who always put people first, and believed in Mevlana's saying: "To be remembered, one has to enter people's hearts." Robert College remains indebted to İbrahim Bodur whose name will live on in the hearts and minds of generations of RC students' for years to come.



İbrahim Bodur RC 50, after whom the RC library is named, was commemorated in the library



## James Warren Fowle RC 35

James Warren Fowle died on July 24, 2015 in Vermont. He spent his early years in Istanbul and returned to the US to attend Deerfield Academy and Williams College. He served in the Navy in World War II. After the war, he earned a PhD in art history at Harvard. Jim was an art history professor who organized his life so that he had plenty of time for his family and friends, as well as his flower

and vegetable gardens. His teaching career included years at Harvard, Bryn Mawr, and the Rhode Island School of Design. As a professor, his interest was in his students, not in research. He shared with his wife, Alison Fowle, a love of music and gardening, travel, and creating special family occasions. He had a wonderful ability to share his love of life and beauty, enriching the lives of a

great many people. Jim is survived by his daughters, Rebecca Lafave and Shelley Stokes, 5 grandchildren, two brothers and one sister.

Excerpts from his obituary, published in the Valley News.

## Aristid Berk RC ENG 47

Dr. Aristid Berk passed away on December 21, 2015 in Malibu, California. Berk was a multi-talented man. His achievements in science, engineering, business, music and culture were outstanding. He received his PhD in Electrical Engineering from MIT, worked in Space and Defense projects at the Hughes Aircraft Company where he published classic technical articles, and founded and managed the engineering company Micromega which later merged with the Bunker Ramo Corporation where he became an executive. He helped in establishing the Peter B. Caloyeras Center

for Modern Greek at Loyola Marymount University and supported the Center by organizing and directing its fundraising aspects. Upon retirement, he and his wife, Hope, traveled throughout the world. His vitality and love of classical music carried him over to a new pursuit: music composition, where he showed his perfectionism by composing superb musical compositions. He also enjoyed Byzantine art and culture and meticulously documented various artifacts he encountered in museums during their travels.



## Betül Çağıl Akman ACG 52



Zahide Betül Çağıl Akman, 86, passed away on Friday, February 26, 2016. She was born on April 12, 1929 in Istanbul. After graduating from the American College for Girls in 1952, she attended university at İstanbul Teknik University where she received her degree in architecture. She worked at the same university as a research assistant in the regional planning department. Later she continued her work in government

regional planning offices and retired in 1992. She is survived by her husband Süheyl Akman, her daughter Nazan Akman Pek RC 85 and her grandson Yunuscan Pek. She was a hardworking, kind, smart "Cumhuriyet Kadını". She will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

## Hayri Adanalı RC ENG 53

Hayri Adanalı passed away on February 14, 2016 at the age of 87. A proud graduate of RC ENG 53, BS in mechanical engineering, he completed his master's degree at Purdue University in 1955.

He was the father of three daughters (Piril Adanalı, Pinar Beard and Defne Kanatlı) whom he loved and cherished dearly. It was an irony of life to lose our father on Valentine's Day, a day he always sent flowers to each one of his daughters, stating year after year, that they were his valentines in life.

Hayri Adanalı was a relentless advocate of education and perfectionism. He was also a keen sportsman in tennis, nature and sailing. His straight forwardness, his ethics and values and most of all, his education at Robert College played a very important role in forming his strong character. We miss him dearly and will try our best to pass his values on to his grandchildren.

*Contributed by his daughters*



## Meral Orgun ACG 56

Meral Orgun passed away on November 25, 2015. Her classmate Prof. Duygu Sezer memorialized her as follows.  
...ACG girls grew up to become highly-motivated, strong-minded and responsible individuals, young optimists eager to take on the challenges of life...  
Meral grew up to become one of these ACG girls. Awarded a Fulbright fellowship after graduation, she studied social

anthropology in the US, completing her graduate studies at Washington University in Missouri. She worked at a Jewish community center for several years, acquiring first-hand exposure to the challenges of combining theory with practice. Upon returning to Turkey, she joined the Department of Social Planning at DPT, one of Turkey's youngest, most valued and progressive state institutions

at the time. Although her strong academic formation as a multidisciplinary social scientist and her contributions to the use of social work as a tool in defining and resolving social problems were recognized by close colleagues, she was so modest I regret to note that most people around her did not have the opportunity to find out about her pioneering academic and professional merits.

## Yelis Çamlıbel Belgin ACG 56

Yelis Belgin passed away on May 13, 2015. Our dear friend for 68 years, she was the daughter of a favorite poet of our generation, Faruk Nafiz Çamlıbel. We felt privileged to have insider knowledge that the lyrics for a song "Sakın bir söz söyleme, yüzüme bakma sakın" were written by her father for her mother. Faruk Nafiz Çamlıbel, in addition to being

a poet, had also been a Turkish Literature teacher at many schools, including ACG.

Though she was the daughter of a poet and artist, Yelis herself, did not write. Her whole life, she helped children and the needy and was a member of the Fatih Kıztaşı Lions Club, which devoted itself to charity work.

In her will, she left her whole estate to the Turkish Education Foundation, thus adding a final good deed to her list.

*Contributed by Deniz Türkmen Uslu for ACG 56*

## Prof. Dr. Tosun Terzioğlu RA 61

Member of the Robert College Board of Trustees and Founding President of Sabancı University, Prof. Dr. Tosun Terzioğlu passed away in Istanbul on February 23, 2016. Terzioğlu received his BS in mathematics at Newcastle University in 1965 and his PhD from Frankfurt University in 1968. Between 1968-1994, he taught at the University of Michigan, Wuppertal University and Ortadoğu Teknik University (ODTÜ). He was also, consecutively, the head of ODTÜ's mathematics department and its dean of the science and literature faculty. From 1992 to 1997 he served as the president of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey

(TÜBİTAK). In the years 1997 to 2009, Terzioğlu was the Founding President of Sabancı University, Istanbul, where he was one of the first three emeritus members of the university. He also taught in its engineering and natural sciences department and in the words of his students, "through his visionary personality, superior management skills, his love and toil that was never held back, Tosun 'Hoca' played a unique role in the journey of making Sabancı University a world university." In addition to his academic responsibilities, Prof. Terzioğlu was also the president of the Mathematics Association between 1989 and 2008. He authored more than 50 academic



articles and four books in the field of mathematics. Tosun Terzioğlu is survived by his wife Nuran Terzioğlu ACG 65 and his children Derin Terzioğlu RC 87 and Ayşecan Terzioğlu.

## Cavit Alev RA 67

Cahit Alev passed away in Texas, on January 1, 2016. He was a dear, special and respected friend to many from both RA and RC, and prior to that, the English High School for Boys. Cavit was always one of the most successful in class and a role model for many of his fellow students. He will also be remembered for his theatrical achievements, as a member of the RC Players. After RC, he completed his MS in computer sciences at the State University of New York. He lived in Istanbul, New York City, and finally in Houston. He worked for Deloitte and Cap



Gemini, and in 1999, established his own company Alev Consulting Academy.

Cahit often visited Istanbul, where he enjoyed staying on his favorite island, Burgaz Ada. He is survived by his sister Rozi Sadioğlu in Istanbul, his brother Vedat Alev in Tel Aviv, and his partner Lilita Olano in Houston. Cavit's friends will keep his memory alive by remembering and celebrating his unique life and his witty sense of humor.

*Contributed by Michel Grunberg RA 67*



## Selim Ergin RC 77



Selim Ergin passed away on February 1, 2016. After RC, he graduated from University of London, University College London. He studied at London School of Economics and Political Science and London School of Oriental and African Studies. In 1993, Selim founded PARAMETRE, a research and information technology firm operating in the field of numbering, geographical data systems and software development. He was a member of Türkiye Bilişim Derneği, Beşiktaş Jimnastik Kulübü and Anadolu Kulübü. He enjoyed chess, collected books and digital documentaries and was a sportsman who

swam all year round. As an ardent RC fan he served on the Robert College Alumni Association executive board for 13 years during which he was the chair for six years. A gentleman known for his politeness and intelligent sense of humor, Selim had a soft spot in his heart for all his classmates whom he brought together on many occasions. He will be greatly missed by the Class of RC 77.

*Contributed by Emine Erkin RC 77*

## Arzu Osmanoğlu Seven RC 78

Our beloved friend and classmate Arzu passed away on February 14, 2016. She graduated from Cerrahpaşa School of Medicine, and had been a professor of biochemistry at the same school since 1999. She is survived by her husband Prof. Dr. Rıdvan Seven and two children, Barış and Burcu.

All who had the privilege of knowing Arzu, will remember her inspiring presence, vivaciousness, conscientiousness and devotion to her profession. Not only was she a disciplined, organized and focused person in her academic career, she

was also a compassionate mother who provided an excellent upbringing for her children. Surprisingly enough, there was a hidden adventurous girl inside her who passionately loved to travel to distant parts of the world, so hastily, as if time was running out.

Goodbye sis! You have lived life to the fullest. Thank you for being with me for 45 years. May you rest in peace till we meet again.

*Contributed by Neval Sayın RC 78*



## S. Asım Demir RC 82



Asım passed away in Germany on April 18, 2016 after his battle with cancer. He received his BS in mechanical engineering from Istanbul Technical University, three masters (MBA, mechanical engineering and manufacturing engineering) from Northwestern University and executive training at Harvard. He worked for Accuray, ABB and Dunn & Bradstreet in the US. Moving to Germany in 1996, he worked for IMS Holding and became General Manager and CFO of both Insight Health and GfsG. He started IH Teknoloji, a software development company, in Istanbul in 2012.

With a warm smile, a golden heart and a brilliant mind, he enjoyed life to the fullest. Family and friends were always his priority. His hobbies were car racing, painting, traveling, climbing, cooking, BBQing, sailing, scuba diving, skiing, tennis, soccer and music. He didn't miss a Rolling Stones concert. He loved working on his cars and collecting the latest technological gadgets.

Asım is survived by his wife Gabriela, two year old twins Halit Timur and Güner Defne, father Halit and mother Güner and sisters Semahat (RC 84) and Siddika (RC 89).

## Münir Aysu

Münir Aysu, one of the best known Turkish Language and Literature teachers at Robert College (from 1958 until his retirement in 1988) passed away on February 22, 2016. After his retirement, Aysu continued to be a familiar face on the streets of Nişantaşı and at Homecoming. He moved to Bodrum some years ago, where he passed away and was laid to rest.

One of his former students, Tanses Gülsoy RC 81, echoed the sentiments of many with the following. "Münir Hoca was a great teacher. As only a great teacher can, he taught us much more besides the course material. His Turkish literature classes were a delight to be savored minute by minute. He had a deep love for literature, vast reservoirs of knowledge, and a wonderful sense of humor which permeated his teaching. As



a teacher, Münir Hoca would go above and beyond the call of duty. In our last year of high school, to help prepare us for the university exam, he instituted - on his own initiative - a preparation session on two afternoons, during which he would give us tests on Turkish grammar and literature and then correct them. After we graduated, he followed the course of our lives and careers with genuine love. With Münir Hoca, one always knew that he cared."

In the spring of 2016, a Turkish Language and Literature competition was held at school and awards were given out in Münir Aysu's name to commemorate his passing.

An RCQ interview held with him in 1989 can be read in the first issue of RCQ (Spring 1989), page 21.

## Michael T. Drons

Michael Drons, Director of Studies at Robert College between 1996-2002, died peacefully following a six-month battle with cancer on May 9, 2016, at Sussman House in Rockport, Maine. He was 75 years old. Michael Drons is survived by his wife, Kathleen Brandes.



## Robert H. McMickle

Robert H. McMickle died January 9, 2016 at the age of 91 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He earned his BS degree at Oberlin College, a master's from the University of Illinois and a PhD from Penn State University. He was a physics professor and department head at RC from 1959 to 1970, and at Boğaziçi University from 1970 to 1979. Even though he had left RC and Turkey, he continued to be a loyal supporter of the school through the RC Annual Giving program.

Robert H. McMickle is survived by sons Douglas of Oregon, Alan and Barry of Allentown, daughter, Margaret of New Jersey and two grandchildren, Christopher and Hendrik.

*Excerpts from obituary published in Morning Call on Jan. 13, 2016*



If you would like to share news of a deceased RC community member please send us a notice in English of no more than 160 words to [cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:cyazicioglu@robcol.k12.tr). Longer notices will be edited due to space restrictions.

*Please include a high resolution (minimum 700 x 700 pixels) photo of the deceased.*



# *ıçerek atıřtır!*



**Hayatı hareket halinde yařayan siz  
Robert Kolej mezunları için  
saęlıklı bir atıřtırmalık!**



# BEN SEÇERİM, KARTIM UÇURUR.



f /WingsCard

axess  
**Wings**  
HAYAT. ŞİMDİ. BENZERSİZ.

## WINGS'LE, UÇACAĞINIZ HAVAYOLUNU SİZ SEÇERSİNİZ.

Sezon farkı, kontenjan kısıtı olmadan uçarınız. Üstelik, gerekirse Avans Mil Puan da kullanırsınız. Şimdiden iyi yolculuklar.

Başvuru için gönderilecek SMS'ler; KDV ve ÖİV dahil Turkcell, Vodafone ve Türk Telekom için 0,65 TL'dir. Turkcell, Vodafone ve Türk Telekom kampanya katılım ücretlendirmesinde meydana gelecek değişiklikleri yansıtırma hakkını saklı tutar. Wings ayrıcalıkları hakkında detaylı bilgi için [www.wingscard.com.tr](http://www.wingscard.com.tr) adresini ziyaret edebilirsiniz.

Başvurmak için WINGS yazın, 5990'a kısa mesaj gönderin.