

# RC Quarterly

ROBERT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Winter 2005 • Issue 26

- RC Graduates and the New Era in Turkish-Greek Ties
- Babylon Turns Five!
- Homecoming 2004





# Yanınızda kim var?

Yanınızdakilerin varlığını en çok onlar yokken ararsınız. Güvenin önemini, nedense tam ona ihtiyacınız olunca fark edersiniz. Yanınızdakiler; iyi ve kötü günde, inişte ve çıkışta, gecede ve gündüzde sizinle olmalı. Güven, koşulsuz ve sürekli olmalı.

Bize ihtiyaç duyduğunuzda, biz yanınızdayız.  
Her zaman, her koşulda...



## ABOUT THE RC QUARTERLY\_\_\_\_\_

# Q

*Spoking* at the Kick-off dinner for this year's Annual Giving Campaign, World Bank Turkey director Andrew Vorkink RA 65, emphasized the particular significance of Robert College as Turkey begins the lengthy process of European Union accession. "While the leaders of today's Turkey have opened the path ahead for EU membership, it is tomorrow's Turkish leaders who must work hard to finish the journey. Robert College has a unique role to play in creating those leaders of tomorrow," he said.



It is therefore fitting that in this issue's cover story, we salute those influential RC graduates who have played key roles in creating and developing a new era of Turkish-Greek friendship without which Turkey's EU hopes might have remained a dream. Whether as negotiator or teacher, diplomat or academician, these individuals are walking proof of the College's belief that each person can indeed make a difference.

Happy Reading.

Leyla Aktay RC 72  
Development Director  
RCQ, Editor in Chief





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- RC Faculty Get Digital in Pioneering Project
- Mine Tascioglu Retires After 34 Years



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## RC NEWS

### DESTINATION IAAAGI NATION FOR RC STUDENTS!

Divergent thinking, risk taking, thinking outside the box, team building and a whole lot of fun... that's DI: Destination ImagiNation, a thriving RC Club.

**D**estination ImagiNation has been offered as a club to Robert College students for the past 6 years. Destination ImagiNation (DI), a product of Destination ImagiNation, Inc. ([www.dini.org](http://www.dini.org)), is one of the world's largest creativity and problem solving programs for youths, with thousands of participants in 47 US states and 15 countries and Canadian provinces participating annually. The RC DI club is the only official DI member in Turkey. DI, a non-profit corporation located in Glassboro, New Jersey, is in its fifth year; the former corporate name was Odyssey of the Mind Association, Inc., which has existed since 1983.

The DI program helps kids build important, lifelong skills, such as problem solving, teamwork and divergent thinking. Based on the concept of divergent thinking-understanding that there is more than one way to solve a problem-DI "Challenges" encourage students to build on their strengths and to discover skills they never knew they possessed. Each team solves two types of "Challenges" within the program year. The "Central Team Challenge" involves structural, technical or theatrical oriented "Challenges" and take several months to solve. Throughout the school year teams also practice improvisational "Instant Challenges", which stimulate the team's ability to think quickly and creatively with only minutes to prepare solutions. Last year the RC DI club chose the "Team Challenge": "DestiNations In Time". Their challenge was to build a timing device which not only kept time, but also had to initiate other tasks, such as opening a door, moving the timing device across the floor and showing a visual display. All of this was incorporated in a drama, which told the history of Istanbul and the Anatolian Peninsula over the past 700 years. Although it was very complicated, the team managed to build a very creative project.

A team consists of 7 members and a Team Manager. Last year was the first year at Robert College in which the students made enough progress with the "Team Challenge" to consider the possibility of participating in the Global Finals. Because the RC DI team was the only DI member in Turkey, it automatically qualified for the 2004 DI Global Finals at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee from May 25 to May 29.



A DI team consists of 7 members and a Team Manager.



### Young Turks in Tennessee

DI Club supervisor Joe Welch describes the week in Tennessee as follows: "Of the 7 team members (all boys, ages 15-16), four and the team manager participated in the DI Global Finals. The team left Istanbul on Monday, May 24 and returned on Monday, May 31. From Monday evening until the performance on Friday, the team continuously worked on getting the project/performance ready. It was an exhausting, yet enlightening week. The RC DI team performed their Team Challenge on Friday afternoon and did a fantastic job. Earlier in the day, the second element of the competition, the Instant Challenge, took place, which the team was able to solve as well. One must remember that the RC team never competed and only performed the Team Challenge in short sections in Istanbul. Being up against the best teams in the world, who competed and came in first in their region, state and/or country at least twice, was a daunting task. To everyone's joy and astonishment the RC DI team performed better than 6 other global finalists. The boys worked well together and acted as mature ambassadors of Robert College and Turkey. By the end of the competition, the RC team had left an indelible mark on everyone they met. One of the team members, Göktürk said, "Since we were the only Turks who participated in the finals, we got a lot of attention. Other countries sent many teams and were represented by about 100 people, but we were only four from Turkey. People were crazy about getting our memory pins which represented the 80th anniversary of the Turkish Republic." All in all the DI Global Finals was a fantastic experience, one the boys and team manager will never forget. It is hoped that a new tradition has begun at RC and the school will be able to send a team to the finals in the future."

Future plans for the club include expanding DI to other schools in Istanbul, and eventually Turkey. Joe Welch has given several presentations on DI to teachers from around Istanbul and Turkey in hopes of finding other interested schools. "If we are able to find more schools, we can start to have our own competitions here in Turkey, along with receiving more help for DI headquarters in regards to team manager and judge training," he says.

RC students have embraced DI with a passion. This year, there is not just one, but two DI teams, with a total of 14 members. "We had to have tryouts this year because we can only have 7 members per team," says Welch.

Welch would like to find sponsorship this year to cover the costs of travel and competition fees if the team does make it to the Finals in the US.

If you are interested in Destination ImagiNation, you can visit the club's website at:  
<http://www.robcol.k12.tr/clubs/di/pages/index.htm>.

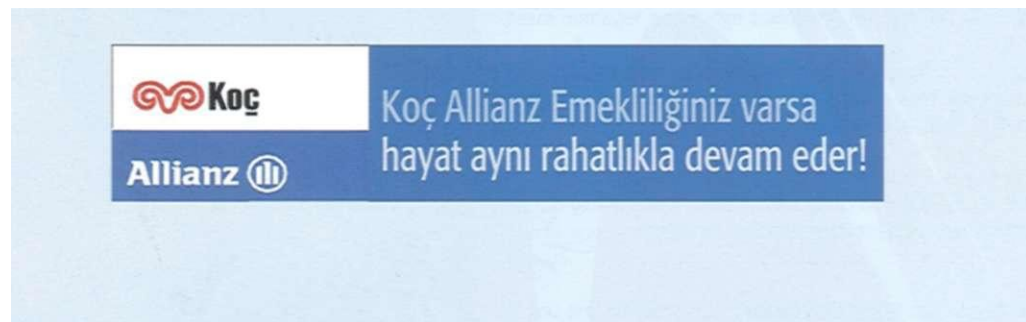
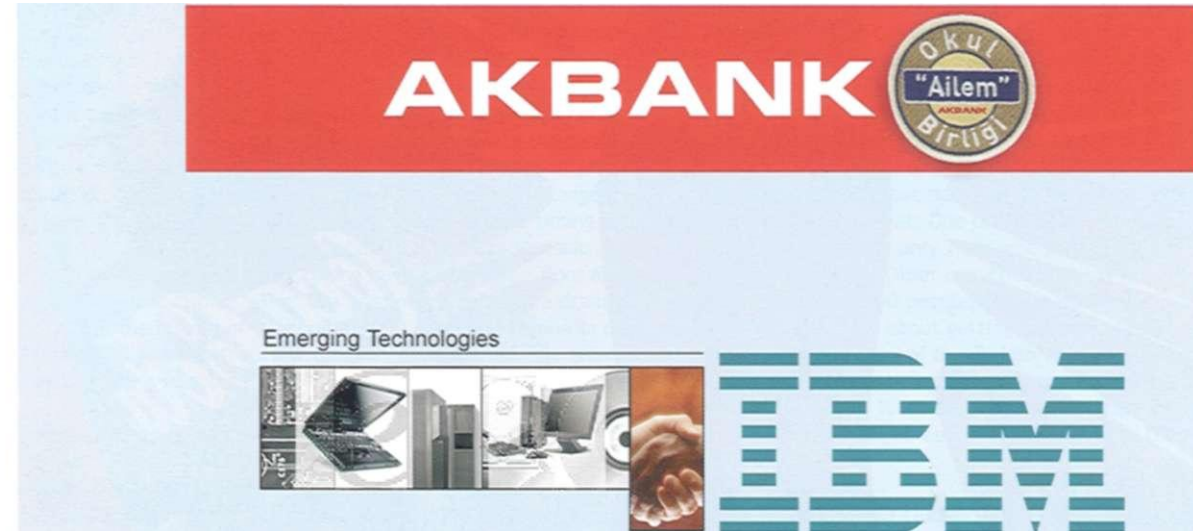
# Gerçek Serinliği Yakala !





## RC NEWS

# ROBERT COLLEGE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE GENEROSITY OF THE FOLLOWING DISTINGUISHED COMPANIES WHO HELPED LAUNCH A FIRST IN TURKISH EDUCATION AS THE MAJOR SPONSORS OF THE ROBERT COLLEGE FACULTY LAPTOP PROJECT.



## RC FACULTY GET DIGITAL IN PIONEERING PROJECT



Süheyla Yenerer and Ersin Aybars enjoying their new laptops.

Robert College leapt into the digital age this fall by becoming the first high school in Turkey to equip all of its faculty members with state-of-the-art laptop computers in an educational project mainly sponsored by IBM, Akbank and Koç Allianz as well as supported by Ernst & Young and IBS Insurance. It is the first step in the school's four-year technology master plan that envisions eventually supplying all RC faculty and students with laptop computers. "As in many other fields, Robert College has created a 'first' for a Turkish high school. We hope RC will be a role model for other schools," says Ümran Üngün ACG 70,

the school's Financial Director who spearheaded the project.

The project was conceived in line with the school's mission to educate students who are fully equipped to respond to the demands of an increasingly competitive global market. "Teachers play a key role in ensuring that our students receive the best quality, most up-to-date education, on par with their global counterparts," says Üngün. Teachers who want to improve their computer skills are trained by members of the school's computer department, Cengiz Ağalar and Colin Edmonds. Many of the international projects that RC teachers are involved in, such as Model United Nations or the peace education program WINPEACE, as well as professional development seminars and workshops, require them to travel and work abroad. The laptop project allows teachers to maintain their connection to the school during these trips, and to continue their work outside the school.

Üngün and her staff succeeded in raising \$150,000 in sponsorship for the project; the three main sponsors being IBM, Akbank, Koç Allianz, as well as Ernst & Young and IBS Insurance, thereby ensuring that the new investment would not draw any funds from existing school resources.

The school administration is now busy planning for the second phase of the project, whereby every student at RC will be able to rent a laptop from the school to use both in and out of the classroom during his/her education at RC. Üngün and the Development Office have already started cultivating new resources, which will be required for bridge financing.

## MİNE TASCIOĞLU RETIRES AFTER 34 YEARS

Mine (Topaloğlu) Taşcıoğlu ACG 61, retired from Robert College at the end of this year after 34 years of dedicated service to the school. Taşcıoğlu entered ACG as an Orta Prep student in 1952 and graduated in June 1961. After graduation, she began working at Robert Academy, on the Bebek Campus, in the Registrar's Office until June 1971. When RC moved to the Arnavutköy campus in the summer of 1971 she came to work at the Lise Office until January 1981 when she retired after 20 years. She worked elsewhere for several years before returning 'home' to RC in October 1990, where she worked in the Turkish Director's Office until retiring in December 2004. "It seems that I have lived at RC more than I have at home," Taşcıoğlu says, "there have been ups and downs, funny, sad and happy memories, but the overall picture has always been bright and sunny,".

Former RC Turkish director Esin Hoyi said of Taşcıoğlu: "Mine's dedication to Robert College and high level of motivation and energy has always created a very positive emotional climate for those around her. She has passion for work itself - may it be the routine work of the office, typical demanding last minute orders that regularly came to the Turkish office, or special tasks pleaded by a colleague, a graduate, a student, a friend or a total stranger.

Her extraordinary pace continues after work hours with social service projects for various organizations, social and cultural activities, as well as her knitting, embroidery, sewing, baby blankets and many others. Some people suspect these famous blankets may have

encouraged people to have more children!

Mine at ACG, Mine at RC, Mine at the Turkish Office, Mine knitting blankets, doing patchwork, Mine collecting accessories from all over the world and displaying a different one each day, Mine with her genuine hospitality under all conditions, Mine with her sense of humor and radiation of love and positive energy will never be forgotten."



Mine Taşcıoğlu ACG 61



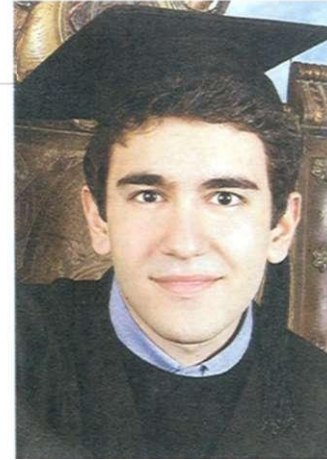
## RC NEWS

**T**he list of institutions of higher learning in Turkey and overseas that our graduates are now attending is quite impressive (see charts below). RC has a proven track record of placing its graduates into some of the best schools out there.

The GPA's of the 2003/2004 graduates of both the old and the new lise were generally slightly higher compared to the previous year. Among the 2004 L3 graduates, the award for the highest academic average attained throughout his lise years went to Kaan Karamancı with 94.69, who was followed by Nazlı Gizem Özbek with 94.46 and Burcu Zeydan with 94.44. Among the Lise 12 graduates, the first three were Ercan Aksu with a GPA of 95.02, followed by Ömer Sedes with 93.73 and Yiğit Satılmaz with 93.66.



Kaan Karamancı RC 2004



Ercan Aksu RC 2004



The class of 2004.

## 2004 UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE RESULTS FOR L3

<b>BOĞAZICI ÜNİVERSİTESİ</b>	23	<b>İSTANBUL TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ</b>	12	<b>MARMARA ÜNİVERSİTESİ</b>	3
Tarih	1	İçmimarlık	1	Sosyoloji (İng.)	1
Bilişim Sistemleri Müh.	1	Şehir ve Bölge Planlaması	2	İktisat (İng.)	1
Makine Müh.	2	Endüstri Müh.	1	Makine Müh. (İng.)	1
Turizm İşletmeciliği	2	Maden Müh.	1		
Elektrik- Elektronik Müh.	3	Moleküler Biyoloji ve Genetik	1	<b>YEDİTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ</b>	2
İktisat	2	Uzay Mühendisliği	1	Diş Hekimliği	1
İnşaat Müh.	1	Kimya	1	Tıp	1
Sosyoloji	3	Makine Müh.	2		
Siyaset Bil. ve Uluslararası İliş.	3	Elektronik Müh.	1	<b>BİLKENT ÜNİVERSİTESİ</b>	1
Endüstri Müh.	1	Mimarlık	1	İşletme	1
Bilgisayar Müh.	1				
İşletme	1	<b>İSTANBUL ÜNİVERSİTESİ</b>	12	<b>YILDIZ TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ</b>	2
Kimya Müh.	1	Hukuk	7	Kimya Müh.	1
Fizik	1	Sanat Tar.	1	Makine Müh.	1
		Cerrahpaşa Tıp	1		
<b>KOÇ ÜNİVERSİTESİ</b>	12	İstanbul Tıp	1	<b>İSTANBUL TİCARET ÜNİVERSİTESİ</b>	1
İşletme (İng.)	3	Diş Hekimliği	2	Endüstri Müh.	1
Makine Müh. (İng.)	2				
Hukuk (İng.)	2	<b>SABANCI ÜNİVERSİTESİ</b>	18	<b>TRAKYA ÜNİVERSİTESİ</b>	1
Uluslararası İlişkiler (İng.)	1	Mühendislik ve Doğa Bil. Prog.	9	Tıp	1
Ekonomi (İng.)	2	Ekonomi-Yönetim Bilimleri Prog.	7		
Elektrik-Elektronik Müh. (İng.)	1	Sanat ve Sosyal Bilimler	2	<b>HACETTEPE ÜNİVERSİTESİ</b>	1
Endüstri Müh. (İng.)	1			Tıp	1
		<b>GALATASARAY ÜNİVERSİTESİ</b>	5		
<b>ORTA DOĞU TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ</b>	3	İşletme	1	<b>İSTANBUL BİLGİ ÜNİVERSİTESİ</b>	1
İşletme	1	Hukuk	2	Uluslararası İlişkiler	1
Elektrik- Elektronik Müh.	1	Uluslararası İlişkiler	1		
Sosyoloji	1	İletişim	1	<b>YURT DIŞI ÜNİVERSİTELERİ</b>	37

Bu kadar basit...



### Merkezi Enerji Sistemi'nde Türkiye'nin ilk Uzaktan Kontrol Teknolojisi

Şimdi tankınızın gaz seviyesini evden çıkmadan kontrol etmenin bir yolu var! Aygaz'ın son yeniliği Uzaktan Kontrol Teknolojisi ile LPG tankınızdaki gaz seviyesini evinize yerleştirilen dijital ekran ile kontrol edebileceksiniz. Bu kontrolü sizin adınıza Aygaz'ın merkezden takip etmesini de tercih edebilirsiniz. Böylece Aygaz, gerektiğinde sizi uyaracak, derseniz uyarmaya gerek kalmadan evinize gelip tankınızı dolduracak. Ayrıca artık Aygaz'ın tüm Merkezi Enerji Sistemleri'nde standart ekipmanından biri haline getirdiği yangın vanasından faydalanabilirsiniz. Deprem vanası seçeneği ile de emniyetinizi güçlendirebilir ve kendinizi daha da güvende hissedebilirsiniz.

**AYGAZ**  
MERKEZİ ENERJİ SİSTEMİ







## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

### JOURNALIST BECOMES FIRST FEMALE ANKARA BUREAU CHIEF

**A**slı Aydıntaşbaş RC 89 was appointed Ankara bureau chief of the daily Sabah newspaper in August 2004. Taking over from Muharrem Sarıkaya, Aydıntaşbaş is the first ever female journalist to become Ankara bureau chief for a major daily Turkish newspaper.

Despite her young age, Aydıntaşbaş has a long and impressive career in journalism under her belt. Editor of the Bosphorus Chronicle while she was at RC, she also began interning at Cumhuriyet. Upon graduation from RC, she went on to study at Bates College in the USA. She became a professional journalist when she started working at Yeni Yüzyıl, until the newspaper was shut down. She then went back to the US and became the Washington correspondent for Radikal and NTV, reporting primarily on UN-Turkey and USA-Turkey relations. During the time she remained in the USA, she completed her Master's degree in Journalism and the Middle East at New York University.

After her studies, Aydıntaşbaş took a short break from journalism, "during which time", she said in a recent interview in Sabah, she

"experienced the other side of the fence", working in the crisis management department of a public relations company.

It was 9/11 that compelled Aydıntaşbaş to return to journalism. She began contributing to publications such as the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, The New Republic and [Salon.com](http://Salon.com) and soon became one of the experts consulted by CNN and other channels on Middle East affairs. Her fields of expertise include Turkey's internal and foreign policies and its role in the Middle East, and the opposition movements in Iraq. She has worked on the war zones of the south Caucasus, North Iraq, Israel and Egypt. In 2002, she also joined the research team of the Western Policy Center, an American institute conducting analysis and review of U.S. foreign and security policies in the eastern Mediterranean and southern Balkans.

Sabah will surely benefit from Aydıntaşbaş's youthful energy and expertise in international politics.



Ash Aydıntaşbaş RC 89

### NEW BOOK PROMOTES VISION OF ISTANBUL AS REGIONAL FINANCE HUB

**B**usiness consultant Ralf Arditti RA 64, has written an intriguing book that manages to combine financial know-how with humorous personal reflections on a career as a consultant to international investors. In *Açıl Ufkum Açıl* (Alfa Yayınları, 2004) Arditti says he was motivated to write out of curiosity. He wondered why, despite falling interest rates at home, investors here chose to keep their savings in foreign currency accounts in Turkish banks, rather than investing in global capital markets. "Turks hold about \$50 billion in foreign currency accounts," he says. "My thought was that if even a small percentage of these chose to invest in capital markets abroad, they would both spread their risk, and educate themselves with new knowledge."

Turkey would then be a candidate to become a regional center for finance and private banking," he says. "We might never be able to compete with London, Geneva or Zurich, but we could well compete with cities like Athens, Nicosia, Dubai and Beirut." If Turkey's financial services sector developed in the way he argues for, Arditti says Istanbul could become a regional financial hub by 2014.

Arditti suggests that Turkish banks and brokerages should pursue the regional investor - in particular Arabs, Russians, Kazakhs and Azeris - with between \$150,000 and \$1 million to invest. "These are small sums for their Swiss competitors," he explains. He argues that Istanbul is well poised to become a regional financial hub for a number of well-documented reasons: "It's an attractive city, pleasant to stop over in, the food is good, the service is great - all of these are contributing factors in our favor".

Arditti is a big believer in the power of communication in a rapidly globalising world. His sees this book - his first - as an extension of other efforts to share his experiences and education with the public. A founder of the Toplum Gönülleri Vakfı (Social Volunteers Foundation), he mentors several students, writes for various business



Ralf Arditti RA 64

publications and the Shalom newspaper and is an advisor at London's Cass Business School. He is especially proud of emails he has received from readers of the book commenting on his lucid and easy-to-follow style of writing. "Even someone who doesn't know anything about the way global markets function, can read this book and find out about the way financial investments work," he says.

Leading industrialist İshak Alaton has commented "I was intrigued by the broad perspective and creative solutions proposed to Turkish investors. I believe [Arditti] is a pioneer who believes in Turkey's future, and is of real service to its society."

Arditti earned his MBA from London's City University, and has been a business consultant since 1979. He is currently head of DigiFiter, a company he formed in 1988 to supply retail infrastructure.



## Where to eat today?

**The latest version of the Time Out Istanbul Yeme İçme Rehberi, İstanbul's most comprehensive resource for eating & drinking is out. This comprehensive Turkish language directory includes more than 1700 venues ranging from the city's top restaurants and bars to gourmet food stores to wine shops complete with detailed information and editor's comments.**



## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

### TV FAME PUTS LEGENDARY ACTOR BACK IN SPOTLIGHT

A stage icon and legendary actor, Haldun Dormen RC 49 became a household name last year for millions of Turks as Master of Ceremonies for the popular TV show *Pop Star*, in which would-be pop singers compete to win the public vote. This season, Dormen continues his TV work as one of the leads in *Emret Bakanım*, a local version of Yes, Prime Minister, where he plays a retired bureaucrat. In the series, he is joined by another RC graduate, Haluk Özene, RC 88.

As MC, Dormen won kudos from viewers and contestants alike for his dry wit, his command of rowdy live broadcasts and his genteel handling of the ambitious young contenders. "I'm the good cop!" he says. "When the show's producer Fatih Aksoy contacted me for the role, at first I said 'No way, I'm not a presenter. Then he called me again and said 'I'm not looking for a live broadcast presenter, I want Haldun Dormen up there.'" Live TV was new territory even for Dormen. "In the beginning, I was scared of saying something out of line. It's live, so once something comes out of your lips, that's it". But Dormen became an overnight success; millions began calling him "Haldun Abi".

It was not Dormen's first foray into television - he previously starred in the popular sit-com *Dadı* (Nanny)- but *Pop Star* made Dormen a celebrity, no small irony for an actor of world repute with 40 years on stage and his own theater company to his credit. "People knew of me before, but this made me popular, which is something completely different. People who never go to the theater, youths between the ages of 15-25, stop me on the street to talk to me. Everybody waves at me."

Dormen doesn't recall when he was first bitten by the stage bug. "This passion has been inside me for as long as I can remember. It's strange, because there were no actors in my family." At first, his family tried to dissuade him. His father eventually gave in, but he had one condition for his son: he had to receive proper stage training. Dormen graduated from RC and went to Yale University for his Masters, where his classmates included Paul Newman. He set up a theater with two friends and spent the



Haldun Dormen RC 49



RC students enjoyed Dormen's visit to Robert College in 2004.

next two summers there staging some 18 plays.

Upon graduation however, despite the allure of Hollywood, Dormen decided to come back to Turkey. "I never regretted my decision," he says. "I've had hard times, and disappointments, but I never once regretted it. The respect and love that I receive from people here is something that no amount of gold in the world can buy." Haldun Dormen founded his own company in 1955 with which he toured all over the world, visiting the legendary World Theatre season in London in 1975. He also toured an original Turkish play in the UK in 1980. He has written and directed several original musicals, and has been awarded the title of State Actor.

Dormen published a first volume of memoirs last year, *Surc-u Lisan Ettikse* (Epsilon Yayinevi), covering his life from birth to the closing down of his first theater in 1972. He is currently working on a handbook for young actors. He also continues to direct with the Istanbul Municipal Theater.

### DORMEN RECALLS RC STAGE ANECDOTE

"We were staging *Campus Follies*, a lively musical. The boys wore sheets and pretended to be women for the female parts. At that time, we were supervised by Prof. Dean Allen, whose tough attitude and strict discipline struck fear into us. When angered, he would shout, "Go home!" and freely hand out penalties. It occurred to me that it would be interesting to involve him in the play, so I offered him a part. He accepted on the spot. At one point in the play, as we were up there dressed in sheets singing Andrew Sisters' "I'll Be With You in Apple Blossom Time", Prof Allen would dart onto the stage and shout "Go home!" to dismiss us. We loved the joke, it made us laugh for some time to come."

## NEW BOOK HIGHLIGHTS ARCHITECTS LEGACY

In her new book *Yazıları ve Rölöveleriyle Sedat Çetinta* (Sedat Çetintaş's Essays and Surveys), established art historian Prof. Ayla Ödekan ACG 61, introduces us to one of Turkey's most talented early 20th century architects, Sedat Çetintaş. The book is a remarkable compilation of both the writing and drawings of the idealist intellectual, works which are stunning both for their precision and the painstaking human labor they represent. "In a time of computer-based craftsmanship, these surveys and restitutions [a technical term for drawings which recreate the original state of a building] are of course exceptional," says Ödekan in her introduction.

Sedat Çetintaş, an expert on Seljuk and Early and Classical Ottoman architecture - and a big fan of that period-, produced over 200 surveys and restitutions of many monumental structures in Turkey, creating an impeccable archive for students as well as connoisseurs of architectural history. Ödekan's book introduces these drawings, 108 of which are kept in the Istanbul Technical University (ITU) Faculty of Architecture Archives, to a wider audience.

Çetintaş's ideal was to build a corpus of work for future generations. Ödekan's book also introduces readers to his essays, which underline this lifelong aspiration. Ödekan supplies her readers with enough of Çetintaş's own narrative to get a feel of his resourceful personality and his determination to preserve and to educate. The first book by İTÜ's new publishing venture, the book is an excellent resource.

Ödekan is currently a Professor of Architectural History at ITU and head of the department of Art History. She is editor of *Cumhuriyet'in Renkleri ve Biçimleri* (The Colors and Shapes of the Republic) (1999), the author of *Mimarlık ve Sanat Tarihi* (Architecture and Art History) (1987), and co-author of *Türkiye Tarihi* (Turkish History) (5 volumes). She has also published an extensive number of articles on architecture and art history.



## FUGEN GULERTEKIN CONTINUES LEGAL BATTLE TO PROVE INNOCENCE

RC Quarterly readers are familiar with the case of Fügen Gülertekin ACG 71, sentenced to an 8-year jail term without parole in 1997 in the US for allegedly harming a child under her care in the day care center she ran from home in Ohio. The prosecution claimed the baby Patrick Lape (who is alive and well) suffered from "shaken baby syndrome," and that Fügen Gülertekin was the one who shook the baby.

Gülertekin has maintained her innocence, and testified that she gave the baby mouth-to-mouth resuscitation after the baby -5 months old at the time- began choking on his own vomit. Gülertekin has a degree in early childhood development, and 25 years experience looking after young children. She has served seven years of her sentence, mostly at the Ohio Marysville Women's Prison.

In 2001, her friends from ACG prepared and distributed to 4,950 alumni a brochure "*İçimizden Birinin Ba ma Gelenler*" (It Happened One of Us) to raise money to help fund Gülertekin's legal fees. They received authorization from the Interior Ministry to do so. As of November 2001, only 56 people had contributed to the fund, raising \$5,200, which was then transferred to the US. "We would like to extend our deepest thanks once again to those who showed interest and contributed," says Gülertekin's classmate Gülay Uluçay.

Uluçay gave the RCQ the following update on Gülertekin's situation:

"Before his visit to US President George W. Bush in January 2004, Prime Minister Erdogan was given Fugen's file to raise the issue in Washington and ask for an official pardon. Unfortunately, that did not happen. However, the file was given to the US Embassy by the Prime Minister's staff. In order to be pardoned, Fugen herself must make an appeal. However, because that would mean that she accepts her guilt, she has not wanted to do so. She is still fighting a legal battle to prove her innocence.

Fugen has served about seven years of her eight-year sentence. She is now in Columbus, Ohio, at a better institution. In the last letter we received from her in October 2004, she spoke about a visit from a young woman who told her about her own daughter who died aged 2, of "hydrocephalus". Fugen subsequently appealed to the courts on October 7, 2004, asking for her case to be reviewed on the grounds that Patrick did not have "Acute Hydrocephalus", but "Chronic Hydrocephalus".

Another development is that trial judge O'Neil was removed from office on the grounds of conspiring to fix cases. As a result, a special committee is now reviewing more than 800 cases that were decided by this judge. Fugen's case was one of these,

and if it is reviewed without any pre-judgment, we believe there will be a decision in our favor.

Fugen continues to fight her battle in the belief that she can one day prove her innocence. Unfortunately, every initiative requires money. If you would like to support Fugen financially in her rightful legal battle, you can contribute to the "Fugen Gülertekin Support Fund" which is run by Fugen's lawyer friend Nancy Erickson."

#### Account information:

Fugen Gülertekin Trust Fund  
Citibank  
114 Seventh Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11215  
ABA No.: 021000089  
Account No.: 92484603

If you would like to write to Fugen to give her morale and emotional support, her new address is:  
Mrs. Fugen Gülertekin 42100  
FPRC, UNIT-1  
1800 Harmon Ave.  
Columbus, OHIO 43223.



Fügen Gülertekin ACG 71



## GRADUATES IN THE NEWS

### GROWING UP AS A TURKISH JEW IN 1940S TURKEY

**A** former economist for the World Bank, Erol Haker RC 50 has written a deeply personal autobiographical account of coming to terms with his Jewish roots. The book succeeds in inter-weaving a personal journey of self-discovery against the backdrop of virulent anti-Semitism in Turkey -and the world- surrounding World War II.

*Istanbul'dan Kudüs'e Bir Kimlik Arayışı* (From Jerusalem to Istanbul, the Search for an Identity - Kitap Yayınevi, 2004) is Erol Haker's second book, and follows on from his first, *Once Upon a time Jews Lived in Kırklareli, the Story of the Adato Family* (iletişim, 2002), a history of his family. His second book is a candid, intimate autobiography, beginning with his birth in 1930.

Haker's awareness of being "different" begins at the age of eight, in 1938, when his father comes home one evening and announces that his name will no longer be Elio Adato, but Erol Haker. On the eve of World War II, Haker's father has decided that the only way for his non-Muslim family to lead a safe existence in Turkey is to convert, although the conversion remains in name only.

Robert College alumni will be particularly interested in Haker's memories of life as a boarder at Robert Academy, and then Robert College. He devotes a chapter, for example, to influential RA teachers, such as Turkish teacher Baha Toven, who chose his last name in the 1930s because of his passion for Beethoven; when read together Mr. B. Toven recalled the great composer! A keen critical thinker, Toven encouraged his students to debate the dramatic Kemalist reforms being undertaken at the time. He was particularly critical of efforts to purge Turkish of Arabic words, replacing them with newly derived 'Turkic' equivalents. Another of Haker's favorites was the Armenian math teacher Çerçiyan, who was especially popular among students because he gave a grade 11 to students who did exceptionally well on exams.

Haker also describes the students' introduction to what he calls "the world of New England", which was "akin to visiting Mars, not because it was luxurious, but because it was so cultured and comfortable". He cites The English Speakers Club presided over by Mrs. McNeal, whose husband, the literature professor Charles McNeal, would weep at a particularly moving Schubert piece. Impromptu gatherings in the rooms of David Garwood are also fondly remembered.

Much of Haker's book charts the progress of a tight friendship among his "group" - Nur, Kemal, İbo, İlham and Tosun- that continues today -

from exploits on the girls' campus, to their favorite haunts, Çiçek Pasajı in Beyoğlu, the Russian restaurant in Ayazpaşa and Güneş in Bebek. (Amazingly, all three places are still standing!)

#### RC Memoirs

Haker devotes a later chapter to his Lise teachers. Readers are introduced to Phillip Ulyott, a colorful Englishman who came to RC in 1940 after completing his doctorate at Cambridge. He taught biology and psychology, had a passion for Darwin and Freud and often invited students

round for serious discussions that ran until the wee hours. Ulyott was a man of many hobbies, chief of which was measuring the currents in the Bosphorus. Inevitably, this pursuit led students to speculate that he was a British spy! "I personally didn't believe this," says Haker, "but he never refuted the rumours, which increased the air of mystery about him". Ulyott's other hobbies included drawing and linguistics - he spoke Turkish and German fluently, and some Serbian. 'There was never a dull moment in his classes. He was a great actor,' recalls Haker.

Another well-loved teacher was Hillary Sumner-Boyd, also an Englishman, with a degree in literature from Oxford who arrived at RC in 1944. A chain-smoker who was a Trotskyist, Hillary insisted on first name terms with his students ("Mr. Boyd was my father's name", he once chided Haker). Haker credits him with having "shaped my literary tastes". It was at soirees chez Hillary that students were introduced to contemporary writers including Hemingway, Steinbeck, Don Passos, Faulkner and Huxley, as well as the Russian classics and French surrealists. Haker points out that informal relationships that were cultivated between students and teachers at RC were a key component of school experience, and "unparalleled elsewhere". "Outside of classes, students and teachers were more or less equals, the only difference being our ages and experiences".

Haker's memoirs manage to powerfully convey the varying degrees to which anti-Semitism affected his daily life. World War II, for example, is particularly hard for him, as the school is divided into two camps - those who support the mass killing of Jews, and those who are opposed. "It was all done in a civilized manner. As if what was being debated was not a moral issue with life-or-death consequences, but something completely abstract."

Likewise, despite their closeness, his "group" reacts when, in 1944, they find out Erol is Jewish. All but one make anti-Semitic remarks. "Looking back," Haker writes, "I think I should have been up front with the group about my Jewish roots, instead of pretending they did not exist. I was afraid of doing this, because I knew that none of them liked Jews. I was afraid that by admitting I was Jewish, I would lose them all. The way I saw it then, if God came down from heaven and said 'Erol, if you accept living five years less, I will bring you back into the world as a Turkish baby,' I would have accepted on the spot." It took me years to understand that my fears of losing my friends were ungrounded."

An economist by training, Haker, 74, has taken up research and writing in his retirement. His keen memory for the details of daily life and his frank, humorous style make this book invaluable to students of modern Turkish history, and to interested readers. In the words of historian Rifat Bali, it is "a worthy contribution to the social, cultural and political history of Turkish minorities".



Legendary literature teacher Hillary Sumner-Boyd.



Biology teacher Phillip Ulyott.

### RC AMBASSADORS ON THE MOVE



Uğur Ziyal RA 61

**P**resident Ahmet Necdet Sezer approved a decree in September 2004, appointing former Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Uğur Ziyal RA 61 Ambassador to Rome. Ziyal was based in Ankara since 2001 and is seen as a mastermind of Turkish foreign policy in recent years. As key negotiator, he played a central role in talks over Cyprus, the US war in Iraq and other major foreign policy issues. Ziyal has been with the diplomatic corps since 1965, serving in Nicosia, Geneva and the US, among other places. Rome is expected to be his last post before retirement.

The same decree also approved the appointment of Ahmet Banguoglu RA 62 as Ambassador to Mexico. Banguoglu joined the Foreign Ministry in 1971 and served in NATO, Burgos, Athens, Madrid and Vienna. His first ambassadorial appointment was to Portugal in 1996, followed by Saudi Arabia in 1999. Returning to Ankara in 2001, he became head of US relations, and led critical negotiations with the US before and during the Iraq war.



Ahmet Banguoglu RA 62

### FETVACI APPOINTED CEO OF THE AYDIN DOĞAN FOUNDATION

**C**andan Fetvacı ACG 70 was appointed the Aydın Doğan Foundation Chief Executive Officer and General Manager in September 2004.

After working as general manager of the Boğaziçi University Foundation (BÜVAK) for seven years, Fetvacı says her primary aim will be to contribute to the further institutionalization of the Aydın Doğan Foundation. "It is rather different from my former job," she said, "At the Boğaziçi University Foundation, the most critical part of the job was fundraising. Here, the funds are already available, and it is of utmost importance to channel the funds in the right direction in line with the Foundation's aims and mission statement."

Since 1996, The Aydın Doğan Foundation works to create social responsibility projects, and social investment programs designed to improve conditions in under-privileged areas. Its main - though not the only- concern is education. In cooperation with the government and other NGOs, it has so far focused specifically on selected vocational education and training projects.



Candan Fetvacı ACG 70

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# COVER STORY

## RC GRADUATES PLAY KEY ROLES CEMENTING NEW ERA IN TURKISH-GREEK RELATIONS



Ismail Cem RC 59, in the center, flanked by his personal assistant Engin Soysal on his right and former undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Onur Öymen on his left.

As Turkey stands on the cusp of starting accession talks with the European Union, it is almost hard to remember a time when opposition coming from neighboring Greece was seen as inescapable. Yet as recently as 1996, the two countries almost went to war over a few barren islets in the Aegean Sea.

It took courageous steps by visionary statesmen on both sides and the devastating earthquakes of 1999 both in Turkey (August 17) and Greece (September 7) to create a breakthrough. The post-earthquake era created a tremendous show of "people power" as both countries rushed to each other's aid. The Turkish and Greek foreign ministers, Ismail Cem RC 59 and George Papandreou, then seized on that goodwill to forge a series of confidence-building meas-

ures in areas like tourism, the environment, culture, migration and trade. Today, several years on, that rapprochement is seen as having progressed beyond the point of no return.

In this cover story, we honor several Robert College alumni who have played a key role in the rapprochement process, all working in different fields. Going forward, we also highlight the current peace education process being championed by RC that aims to ensure that future RC graduates are as enlightened, and continue to play a role in fostering world peace.

Politician Who Led the Way on Rapprochement

Posterity will mark Ismail Cem as the man

who, together with his Greek counterpart George Papandreou, staked his political credibility on building good relations with Greece after years of hostility, which had often threatened to turn into war.

Cem and Papandreou seized on an outpouring of goodwill between Turks and Greeks in the wake of two earthquakes as an opportunity to help soften mutual distrust and and foster an environment of openness. The two men cultivated a deep friendship that often made headlines in both countries. One famous scene showed Cem and Papandreou joined in a Greek sirtaki and singing on the Greek island of Samos. That meeting was followed by a much-photographed holiday in Turkey of the two men and their families. That initial rapprochement was followed by a series of confidence-building agreements,



Ismail Cem RC 59

including exchanges of officers to attend annual military exercises and joint chiefs of staff to share views on military matters within international organizations, environmental cooperation, expanding trade and tourism and clearing land mines from shared borders.

Ismail Cem was born in 1940, Istanbul. After graduating from RC in 1959 he started out as a journalist. In 1974, he was appointed head of Turkish state radio and TV company TRT, a meteoric rise for a man of his age. But the social democrat fell out with the ruling conservatives and was fired after only a year in the job.

In 1987 he was elected an MP for the Social Democrat Populist Party and took the portfolio of Culture Minister in 1995. In 1997, he moved to Bülent Ecevit's (RC 44) Democratic Left Party (DSP) and was made Foreign Minister, a post he kept through two changes of government. He resigned from his post and party in 2002 and founded the New Turkey Party (YTP). Last month, he announced his YTP would merge with the center-left Republican People's Party. Cem is currently undergoing cancer treatment in the US.

Extraordinary Diplomat Steered Turkey Through Tough Negotiations

"There are some people who don't want to be seen in the limelight. Many people may not know it, but these people's attitude

greatly influences the changes in history," wrote columnist Mehmet Ali Birand, referring to career diplomat Ugur Ziyal RA 61.

Recently appointed Ambassador to Rome, Ziyal was Foreign Ministry Undersecretary in Ankara from 2001 to 2004. During his time there, he played a key role in cementing the rapprochement between Turkey and Greece. Most recently, Ziyal scored a major diplomatic breakthrough for Turkey with his position during Cyprus negotiations in early 2004. A top UN official said at the time: "Ziyal being the Foreign Ministry Undersecretary at such a crucial time is in Turkey's favor. If Ziyal had not participated in the negotiations, the final agreement would have been much different."

"There has been a real improvement in the level of trust between Turkey and Greece," Ziyal told the RCQ. "The earthquakes awakened a "reach out" instinct between the two peoples. Papandreou and Cem took a political risk and worked on rapprochement. We began talking about issues. We initiated



Ugur Ziyal RA 61

what are known as a series of confidence-building measures, in tourism, in trade. This helped cement mutual confidence in each other. Today, it is at the point where we can lay any issue out on the table and talk about it. I would say that our relations with Greece are very good at the moment, and that both sides are working to make that excellent."

"Us" vs. "the Other" - Academic Devoted to Improving Turkish-Greek Understanding

Born in Turkey in 1940, Iraklis (Herkul) Millas

RA 61 is Greek and Turkish. After graduating from Robert College, he studied civil engineering. He later completed his PhD in political science at Ankara University. His PhD thesis 'Türk Edebiyatında Yunanlının imajı, Karşılaştırmalı bir yöntemle ulusçuluk ve kimlik sorunları' (The Image of the Greek in Turkish Literature; a Comparative Approach to Nationalism and identity Politics) is published as by Sabancı University Press as 'Türk Romanı ve Öteki, Ulusal Kimlike Yunan İmajı' (The Turkish Novel and the Other, the Image of the Greek in National Identity).

In his study, Millas focuses on 449 literary works published between 1870-1890 by Ottoman and Turkish authors. He finds that national identities have not yet taken root, neither has the distinction between Turks and non-Turks. Turkey's subsequent nationalization process brings with it a concomitant view of the empire's non-Moslem subjects as "enemies". Millas points out however that in what he calls the "Anatolian" authors such as Halikarnas Balıkcısı, Kemal Tahir and Fikret Ötügen, Greeks figure quite large, and are always friendly. This is because those writers share a central thesis of a shared Anatolian identity. In turn, however, these writers fail to acknowledge the national Greek identity of their characters.

Millas has published many articles on themes relating to Greek-Turkish relations (over 200 in newspapers alone) and he participated in the preparation of a voluminous Greek-Turkish dictionary in 1944. He has translated and published in Turkish the complete works of Giorgos Seferis and Constantine Cavafy, for instance, and in Greek, Turkish poets such as Yunus Emre, Can Yücel and Nazmi Akiman.

In 2002, he was the editor of Göç (Exodus), a compilation of oral histories by Greeks who were sent from Anatolia during the compulsory exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey in 1924. The book is based on interviews conducted during the 1950s and 1960s with these families.

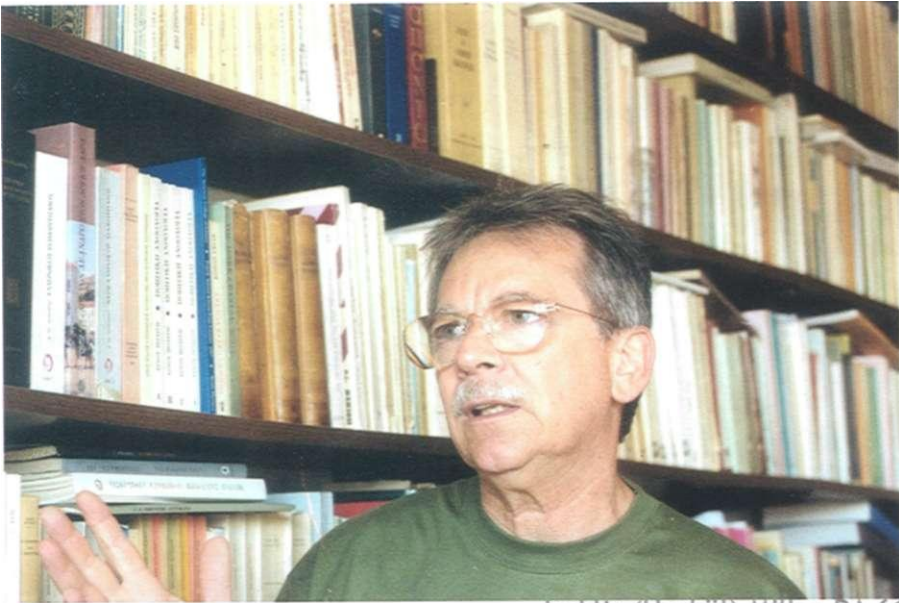
Millas has also published Do's and Don'ts - a behavior guide for improving Greek-Turkish relations, in Turkish, English, and Greek. His guide is aimed at anyone wishing to avoid making common mistakes that often lead to misunderstandings between the two countries. "I often found myself in a difficult position when talking with Greek or Turkish friends. I listened to a Turk defending a position and I could image how this would upset a Greek and vice versa," says Millas.



# COVER STORY

"And this was not malicious or insulting talk, but rather innocent, neutral points of view, expressed by people who meant well. And so I began classifying these sources of 'evil' in an attempt to see where these little misunderstandings stemmed from. Names, behavior, body language, for instance."

Of his work, Millas has said: "The concept of the Other has always existed historically, but as an analytical tool, is quite recent. It is only in recent years that we have understood that when we say 'us', referring to a specific identity, we are necessarily implying people somewhere who are not 'us'." He added, however, that both countries' approach towards the "other" has changed considerably. "We are now able to sit around a table and critique our past behavior," he says. Millas' latest book is in English, The Imagined Other as National Identity, Greeks and Turks, and sponsored by the European Commission.



Iraklis (Herkül) Millas RA 61

## Former Boğaziçi Rector in Key Non-Governmental Advisory Group

Former Boğaziçi University rector Üstün Ergüder RC 57 is one of eight influential Turks and Greeks on the Greek-Turkish Forum Political Analysis Group, a high-profile private initiative that has worked since May 1998 to assist in improving relations between Turkey and Greece.

Since 1998, the GTF has been convening

academicians, international policy makers, retired ambassadors and foreign policy experts from Turkey and Greece for meetings, which have been facilitated by experts. The group's goals are to:

- 1) conduct regular analysis of domestic or international political developments which can affect bi-lateral relations;
- 2) create informal channels of communication between governments, political parties and opinion leaders that can help to reduce

tension and improve bi-lateral relations; 3) produce ideas, which could contribute to the resolution of specific problems affecting the relations of Greece and Turkey.

In 1998, before the rapprochement began between Greece and Turkey, GTF's work focused on confidence building. In mid-1999, the Forum sent the foreign ministers of Greece and Turkey some ideas for timely action to take advantage of the initial improvement in mutual relations. In March 2000, it issued a statement outlining common interests of the two countries, and in June 2000 put forward an agreed methodology for resolving issues in the Aegean, as an expression of those common interests. In recent years, the Greek-Turkish Forum has worked actively with Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to end the political impasse on the island.

After undergraduate studies at Manchester University in the UK, Ergüder received his Ph.D. degree in Political Science from Syracuse University in 1970. He then joined the academic staff of Boğaziçi University. He was a Research Scholar at the University of Michigan and taught at Syracuse University and at the State University of New York, Binghamton, when on leave from Boğaziçi. He was Director of the School of Foreign Languages (1979-1982 and 1986-1989), and Chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations (1989-1992) before being appointed Rector in 1992. He served in that capacity for two terms until August 2000. He is currently



Üstün Ergüder RC 57

head of Türkiye Üçüncü Sektör Vakfı (Turkey Third Sector Foundation), an NGO which works on improving the legal, operational and financial environment for civil society initiatives in Turkey.

## The Way Forward: Educating for Peace

RC English Language and Literature teacher Jennifer Sertel was a founding member of WINPEACE, an initiative created by a group of Greek and Turkish women's groups and non-governmental organizations to facilitate the growth of "peace culture" between the two countries. The group was spurred into action by the Imea/Kardak Crisis of 1996, when Turkey and Greece came to the brink of war over a tiny islet in the Aegean. The Women's Peace Initiative Turkey-Greece (WINPEACE) has since produced and carried out a number of joint projects. Past activities include summer camps which bring together youths from both countries, conflict resolution workshops, rural women's agro-tourism cooperatives, as well as lobbying in the international arena.

A major goal of the project has been to incorporate "Peace Education" into the education curriculums of both countries. As a result of this work, funded by the European Commission with the co-operation of Eymir Culture Foundation (Eymir Kültür Vakfı), a highly comprehensive education programme was created. This programme

was implemented in pilot schools both in Greece and in Turkey, including Robert College.

To date, RC students have also been involved in five conflict resolution workshops, one each year. The first two were at RC, the third in Naphlion, Greece, the fourth in Izmir, and, most recently, at Anatolian College in Thessaloniki. This summer the workshop will be held at Robert College again.

Jennifer Sertel has played a pioneering role in the educational efforts of WINPEACE. In November, after two years research, she published a book of activities for teachers in Turkish. The book will also be published in English, Greek and Arabic. "All but one of the activities in the WINPEACE Peace Education Book are student centered," says Sertel. "What the book aims to do is to help students deal with conflicts in their lives."

The book is structured into units, each unit outlining activities designed to create awareness in students of a different goal of peace education. One unit for example, deals with how to respond assertively but not aggressively in a given conflict situation, another is based on getting students to realize that there are no easy answers to many ethical dilemmas. Each unit is taught using a variety of 'experiential' activities, from keeping a log, to role-playing, to scanning local media.



RC faculty member Janifer Sertel has played a vital role in the education efforts of WINPEACE.

## Goals of Peace Education

Students will,

1. Recognize peace is more than the absence of war. They will gain a broader understanding of peace such as respect for life of all living organisms.
2. Recognize their fears.
3. Be aware of the amount of economic investment allocated on weapons.
4. Be aware of the presence of inequality among societies, their underlying reasons and they will gain new perspectives on violence and war based on new awareness.
5. Learn how to solve conflict constructively.
6. Envision how a new structure of societies can be realized within the framework of peace.
7. Learn how to deal constructively with their anger and learn different ways to be peaceful under emotionally challenging times.
8. Understand the concepts of human rights, equality, social justice and non-violent ways to solve conflicts.
9. Gain self-respect, acceptance and they will develop in terms of critical thinking, communication, empathy and ethical understanding.
10. Gain awareness related to the presence of violence in various environments, the impact of it as well as alternative ways to violent behavior.



## ONES TO WATCH

### SCIENTIST AWARDED FOR THESIS WORK ON FUEL

**M**erve Cetinkaya RC 97 was awarded the Student Excellence Award given out annually by the American Oil Chemists Society, Industrial Oil Products Division for her Masters thesis study on generator applications for used cooking oil originated biodiesel.

Cetinkaya is a student in the Istanbul Technical University Chemical Engineering Department. She received her award during the 95th AOCs Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, USA. Following on from this success, in August 2004, Cetinkaya's thesis titled "Used Cooking Oil Originated Biodiesel as a Generator Fuel" was given the "Rudolf Diesel Research Award", which is sponsored by MAN Turkey A.S.



Merve Cetinkaya receives her award from Prof. Dr. Dharma Kodali.

Cetinkaya shared the award with Semiha Turkey from Anadolu University. The award is given in honor of Rudolf Diesel, inventor of the diesel engine and an early member of MAN AG, to technology and to support research activities in Turkish universities. Cetinkaya is currently pursuing her PhD. studies at the Istanbul Technical University Materials Science & Engineering Department on nanocomposite solid lubricants.

### ENTREPRENEUR CREATES ONLINE SOCIAL NETWORKING SUCCESS

**"A**n online community that connects people to their friends and friends of friends for meeting, dating, and more" - the now infamous *Yonja.com*, was established a little more than a year ago in September 2004. The founders, in this case, the behind-the-scenes partners in crime were Kerim Baran RC 90 and his brother Emre.

Yonja.com is not your regular dating web site. It has become a haven of friendship and communication for young and well-educated Turks eager to expand their social networks without compromising on safety i.e. by meeting friends of friends, and to find long-lost friends. Until recently, becoming a member of Yonja.com was impossible without the reference / invitation of a Yonja member, from within the trusted network. This aspect made Yonja a hit among Internet savvy youths who wanted to socialize, but not recklessly.

The other aspect, according to many members, has been the fact that Yonja has an ethics code. "You may only post information that is true on Yonja. You agree that you will not post information that is harmful to other individuals," reads the yonja.com terms of service agreement. No nicks (nicknames), no lies, no offensive language. "I wanted a network, a community comprised of people who would not be embarrassed to become members and to present true information about themselves; people with similar tastes and life styles," Kerim Baran said in a recent interview.

Recently, the first of a face-to-face Yonja gathering, a concert by the New York-based World/ Inferno group, took place in Venue, Maslak. The organizers had no real need to do much advertising for the event - the Yonja community, most of them very frequent visitors of the web site, were numerous enough.



Though the exact number of members is uncertain, each user is greeted with a message, which tells them how many people they are connected to via their friends. "You are con-

nected to 256890 people through 69 friends in your Network," says one member's greeting page. A simple calculation of the ratio between those numbers could give us some idea of the actual number of people who belong to the community.



Kerim Baran RC90

From a business perspective, though they are not venture backed and are not currently seeking to raise venture capital, Yonja is an "international social networking company" with investors and founders who have backgrounds working in leading technology companies such as IBM, Microsoft, Oracle, Siebel Systems, AMS, Sybase, and Digitas. Recently, after a questionnaire about personal user preferences was sent out to members, a "Gold Membership" option was added on. Now, if you are a paid member, you can run advanced searches among members, see which members are currently online, post more photos, and get 24/7 technical help. It is however, two of these advantages which explain a great deal about the sense of humor behind Yonja creators: The ability to send and receive Winks ;) from members you like, and the chance to create a Secret Crush List. When two people secretly like each other, Yonja will send both of them an email, and a heart sign will appear next to their picture to let them know that they both like each other.

Kerim Baran, who went to Harvard Business School for his graduate studies, has been living in the USA for the last 14 years. He currently lives in San Francisco. Yonja.com is not his only brilliant idea regarding social networking. He is also the founder of Baran Travel, specializing in providing planning and organizational services to young professionals and students who want to take a group of friends to Turkey. Baran Travel fills the niche created when young professionals miss valuable opportunities to cement friendships in the few weeks of holiday break, due to time and energy constraints at school and work.

Look out for the imaginative networker's future ventures!

## RC IN THE CITY: VFNUFS WF RUN

### CELEBRATED MUSIC VENUE BABYLON TURNS FIVE



From L to R: Ahmet Uluğ, Cem Yegül and Mehmet Uluğ.

**W**hen Mehmet Uluğ RC 78, Cem Yegül RC 78 and Ahmet Uluğ RC 81 founded Babylon in a restored carpentry atelier in a tiny Beyoğlu side street, few people thought it would become the landmark it is today. In just five years, Babylon has become a club of international repute. It has hosted jazz virtuosos like Courtney Pine and Eric Truffaz, electronic music stars like Bugge Wesseltuft and the Gotan Project, as well as just plain greats like Sun Ra and John Lurie. The Downbeat jazz magazine has named Babylon one of the 100 best live music venues in the world for three consecutive years.

The trio go back a long way. Cem and Mehmet were classmates at RC, Ahmet is Mehmet's younger brother. All three studied various branches of engineering at university. Their subsequent foray into the corporate world was short-lived. "We soon decided that we weren't going to be happy doing those jobs," says Mehmet. "So we decided to transform our love of jazz and world music into a business".

None however foresaw that their company Pozitif would grow from humble roots organizing jazz and world music concerts in warehouse-like spaces in the 1980s into a thriving business, which employs 30 people. Today, in addition to Babylon, they also own Doublemoon Records, a respected record label dedicating to promoting quality Turkish music abroad. "We never thought back then we would end up here," says Ahmet. "We grew because we had to. We've made it this far because we love the work and get real

pleasure from it, and also because we have grown without compromising our basic principles." Pozitif also successfully organizes annual festivals like Akbank Caz, Efes Pilsen Blues and Rock N Coke.

The trio began looking for a venue of their own early on. "It took us years to find the right place," says Cem. Eventually they fell in love with a dilapidated carpentry workshop in Asmalimescit, a maze of side streets and turn-of-the-century buildings, which used to be the city's artistic center but fell into disrepute in the 1970s and 80s. They bought it and renovated it, opening Babylon's doors in 1999. Their venture led the way for other investors to follow suit. Today the area is a lively hub of restaurants, bars and art galleries, much like Soho in London or the East Village in New York.

The process was not without hardship. "In the beginning it was difficult to persuade the groups we wanted to come here. Istanbul is not usually a stop for touring international bands," says Mehmet, adding

"Of course, they love it once they get here!".

Another issue is the continuous need for sponsorship as it is impossible to meet the artists' travel and performance expenses through ticket revenues alone. Pozitif has placed great emphasis on creating successful lasting partnerships with companies such as Garanti Bank and Mavi Jeans, as well as collaborating with local cultural institutions such as the British Council.

So what do they see ahead? "In the next five years," says Ahmet, "our aim is to see Babylon become one of the world's most important live music destinations. There aren't that many clubs which give local groups performing space while at the same time keeping their finger on the pulse of global music trends. Perhaps the most important challenge is creating a lineup each month that is as fulfilling and diverse as a festival lineup. It's both a challenge, and a real pleasure." Long may it continue! Happy 5th birthday, Babylon!



In just five years, Babylon has become a club of international repute.



# RC REACHES OUT

## GROUNDBREAKING SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL FOR KIDS CARRIES ON



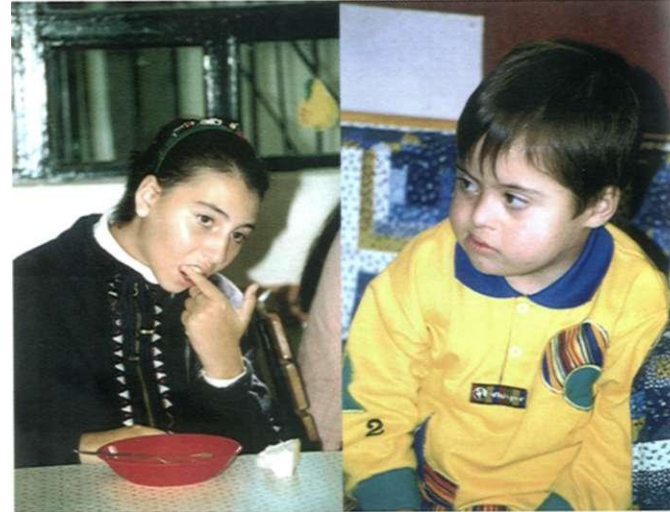
Ester Ruso ACG 67

In 1987, Ester Ruso ACG 67, fresh out of the Boğaziçi University Masters Program in Clinical Psychology, joined with her partner Dr. Nesim Bitran, to establish an institution, which they thought, was much needed in Turkey. Theirs would be the first private institution for mentally challenged kids in the history of Turkey. "It was as if these children didn't exist," says Ruso. "Often, they were confined to a room. Parents wouldn't take them outside because it was considered such a stigma." At best, children with mental disabilities were sent to regular state schools, where they would fall behind their classmates, never finding the special attention through which they could begin learning.

The pair rented a building in Küçükyalı and opened the Küçükbahçe Kindergarten for Mentally Challenged Children, an institution that applied global standards for special

education. When they applied to the Istanbul Social Services to be officially recognized however, the officials were flustered. "This was the first time the authorities had encountered such a request," recalls Ruso, smiling. "At the time, we were given the guidelines for regular kindergartens and asked to draw up our own guide to regulate special education schools." Two years later, their guidelines were incorporated by the ministry into the new official protocol for future schools of their kind.

Ruso and Bitran employed one supervising teacher for every five children - a practice that would in 10 years' time become mandatory for special education schools in Turkey. Teachers at Kucukbahce are required to have a university degree in psychology, special education or child development so that they can offer



specialist expertise and create individualized programs for each child. Placed in groups of five according to their levels, some children at Kucukbahce learn how to take care of their basic daily needs, others may eventually learn how to read and write. "Each child is unique with different abilities, needs and personality," says Ruso. "Some of the kids will never be able to speak, whereas others can begin to add and subtract like a second grader after a couple of years' work."

Ruso and Bitran soon realized however that setting up a school was not enough; parents needed to be persuaded to send their children. "When I look back," says Ruso, "I realize that what Turkey was lacking was not an institution, but the mindset to advocate a better life for these special children. Families needed to be educated about their children's needs; often they didn't see the point."

That is why, shortly after open-

they began giving seminars and awareness workshops on the subject. Together with several state institutions and foundations, they spent most of their time trying to persuade people that special children deserve special education. "I don't know how many families we persuaded at the time, but we were happy to see that our colleagues gradually began to take this field seriously and psychologists began specializing in this area."

When Küçükbahçe was first established, its educational facilities were geared towards children ages 4-12. Only a handful of its graduates however have the skills necessary to go on to complete regular state schools. "For us, as administrators of this institution, there is nothing more demoralizing than to see children grow up and graduate, only to have no other institution to continue on to." The situation is even more depressing for the families, especially because they have no idea what will happen to their children when the parents die.

Eventually, 10 years into Küçükbahçe, Ruso and Bitran, together with some families whose children were attending the school, began a venture to establish a larger institution in which graduates of Küçükbahçe, as well as other older children and adults from across Turkey, could acquire livelihood skills. The institution would offer cooking, carpentry, sewing and pottery ateliers, as well as sports facilities. Perhaps most importantly, the institution was to serve as a home for disabled adults without families. A foundation, ZEREV (Zihinsel Engelliler Rehabilitasyon ve Eğitim Vakfı), was established in 1994, and a piece of land donated to the foundation for construction. For the next eight years, Ruso and Bitran's efforts were concentrated on fundraising.

Unfortunately, the required \$1 million in funding was not met. Construction, which began in 1997, came to a halt and ZEREV had to continue its work at the Kucukbahce premises.

"When we realized that we would not be able to fund the institution we were dreaming of," says Ruso, "we extended our energies to what we could do at Kucukbahce." That included extending the age limit to 21 and expanding the curriculum accordingly.

Today, Kucukbahce continues not as a private school, but as a foundation. In 17 years, it has not strayed from its founding principles - despite great financial difficulties, the student-teacher ratio is still 5-1, and all teachers are highly qualified university graduates. The school continues to actively recruit children from underprivileged families around Istanbul. One in 3 children are on scholarship. Service buses to both sides of Istanbul enable Kucukbahce to cater to many neighborhoods.

"There are many children in need of scholarships who could take advantage of our services," says Ruso. "Our foundation's most urgent aim right now is to find those scholarships to enable more children to take advantage of what we do here."

For more information, or if you would like to help support a student at Kucukbahce, you can contact Ester Ruso ACG 67 at:

Kucukbahce tel: +90 216 366 7081  
Home tel: +90 216 359 1465  
e-mail: [eruso@tnn.net](mailto:eruso@tnn.net)

## KÜÇÜK BAHÇE

### ZİHİNSEL ÖZÜRLÜLER ÖZEL EĞİTİM VE REHABİLİTASYON MERKEZİ

KURULUŞ: 1978

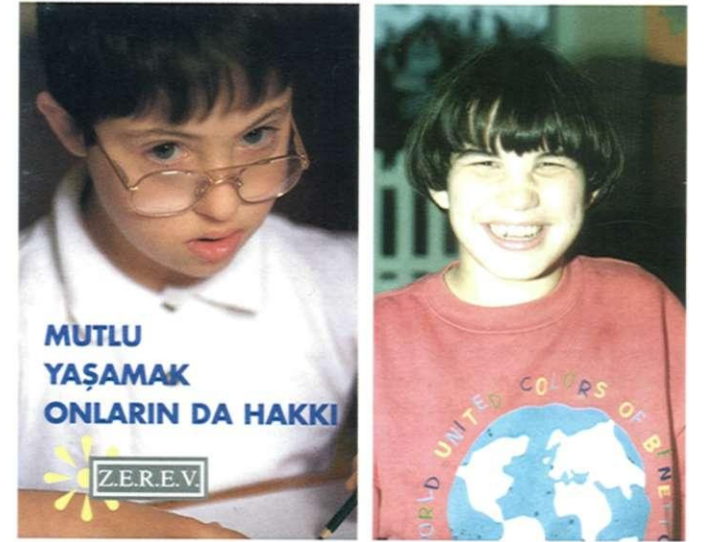
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Uzman kadro

Kayıtlar sürmektedir

SSK ve Emekli Sandığı ile anlaşma  
Asya ve Avrupa yakalarına servis

Tel: 0216- 366 7081 Faks: 0216- 489 4428  
Hafız İsa Sok. 5. Küçükyalı-İstanbul  
[kucukbahce@superonline.com](mailto:kucukbahce@superonline.com)





# FUND RAISING

## RC LAUNCHES 2004-2005 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

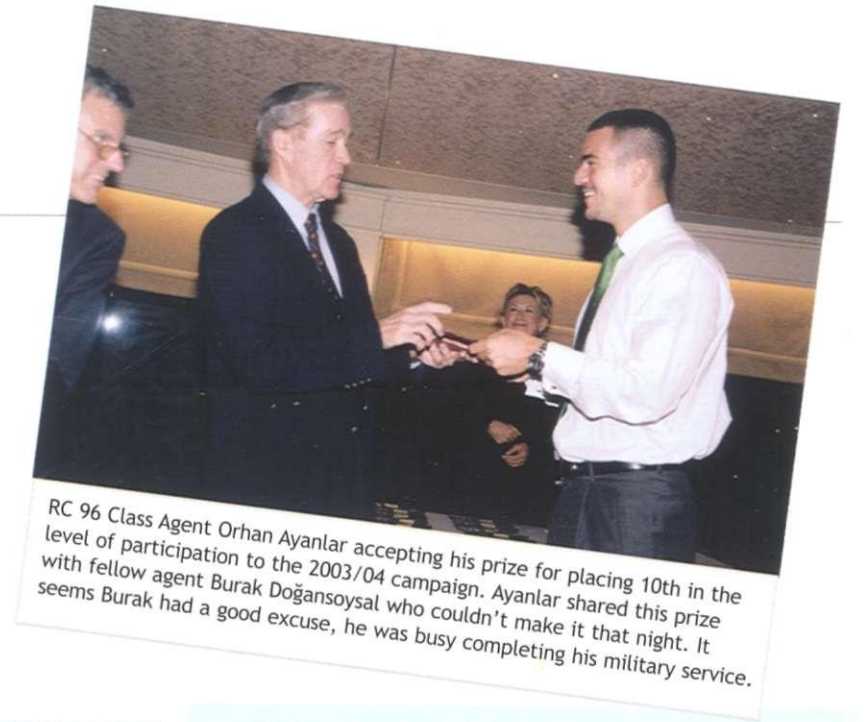
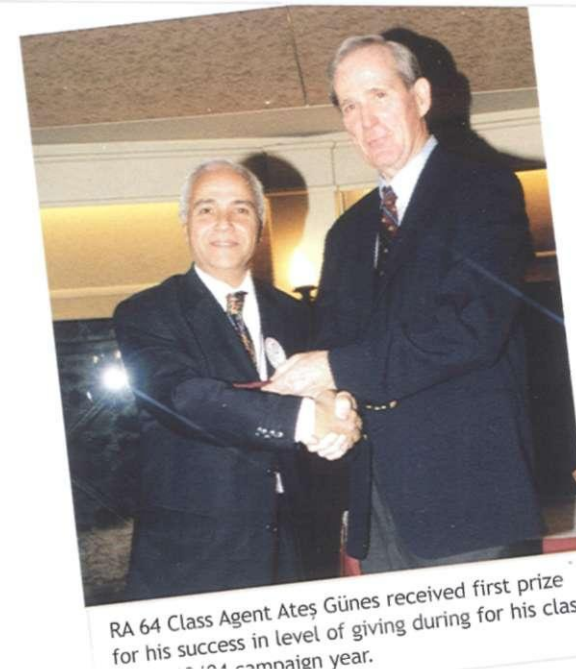
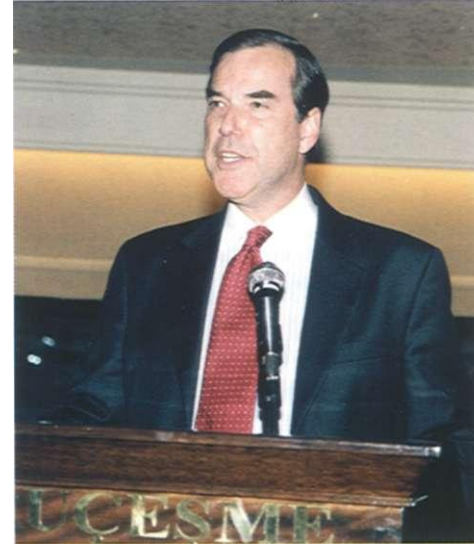
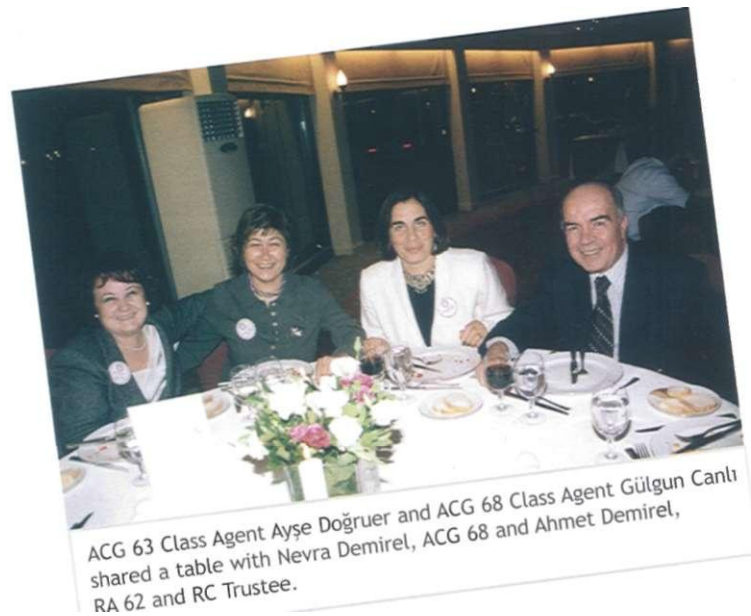
The Robert College Annual Giving Campaign for 2004-2005 was given an official kick-off on October 22nd at a dinner attended by class representatives, RC Trustees, RC administration and High Honor donors, with keynote speaker Andrew Vorking RA 65, head of the World Bank in Turkey. The campaign is crucial to RC's endowment and scholarship program under which currently 1 in 4 students receives financial aid.

In his speech, Vorking spoke about the challenges ahead for Turkey as it begins the long and arduous process of joining the European Union. "After waiting for 40 years in the antechamber of Europe, Turkey appears likely (Insallah) to be legally recognized as a European state and integrated into the European Community of Nations. This journey, however, will not be obstacle free and much hard work lies ahead," he told the audience.

Vorking emphasised that education is one of the key areas that Turkey will need to address in the next decade if it is to produce graduates capable of competing in the European market. He added that Robert College was of particular significance in this process. "While the leaders of today's Turkey have opened the path ahead for EU membership, it is tomorrow's Turkish leaders who must work hard to finish the journey. Robert College has a unique role to play in creating those leaders of tomorrow," he said. "I ask you to give Robert College students of today and tomorrow the chance I was given by this outstanding institution to make a contribution to Turkey's bright future."

RC Headmaster Livingston Merchant and Chairman of the Board Jim Maggart were also present for the ceremony. They gave out awards to successful class agents, congratulating them. Merchant emphasized that the campaign is a crucial source of financial support for the school.

To pledge your support for the 2004-2005 Annual Giving Campaign, visit [www.robcol.net](http://www.robcol.net) or contact Sema Sarpman at the Alumni Office at +90 212 359 24 39 or [alumni@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:alumni@robcol.k12.tr). In the USA, contact Lynne Prevot at +1 212 843 55 50 or [lprevot@robcol.org](mailto:lprevot@robcol.org)



## ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN 2003/2004 OUTSTANDING CLASSES

### Level of Participation

1. RC 76  
Class Agents: Nedim Ölçer, Yasemin Kahya
2. ACG 61  
Class Agents: Sezen Malta, Leyla Pekcan
3. ACG 53  
Class Agent: Semra Uluğ
4. ACG 46  
Class Agents: Olcay Neyzi, Radife Özsoy
5. RC 90  
Class Agents: Okan Atilla, Hüsnü Okvuran, Mete Tuncel
6. ACG 45  
Class Agent: Necla Kavala
7. RA61  
Class Agents: Y. Aydın Bilgin, Hasan Subaşı
8. ACG 64  
Class Agent: Leyla Çizmeci
9. RC 75  
Class Agent: Engin Ölçer
10. RC 96  
Class Agents: Orhan Ayanlar, Burak Doğansoyyal

### Level of Giving

1. RA64  
Class Agent: Ateş Güneş
2. RC 76  
Class Agents: Nedim Ölçer, Yasemin Kahya
3. RC 87  
Class Agent: Burak Pekcan
4. RC 73  
Class Agents: Harika Ahmet, Nevzat Fresko, Fevziye İpekçi, Hasan Teoman
5. RC 75  
Class Agent: Engin Ölçer
6. RA65  
Class Agent: Ahmet Şenkut
7. RC 78  
Class Agents: Semih Aksu, Selma Somer
8. RC 90  
Class Agents: Okan Atilla, Hüsnü Okvuran, Mete Tuncel
9. RA67  
Class Agent: Rint Akyüz
10. RA61  
Class Agents: Y. Aydın Bilgin, Hasan Subaşı



# REUNIONS

## CLASS OF 49 CELEBRATES 55TH ANNIVERSARY

The Class of 49 celebrated their 55th graduation anniversary at a lunch held in Divan Hotel on October 6, 2004. Fifty-one people attended this very special event and friends from Zurich, Athens, İzmir and Bandırma were reunited with classmates in Istanbul. Şakir Eczacıbaşı gave a speech about what the College meant to them all, quoting the words he read on one of the stone benches at RC, "Above all nations, there is humanity".

There was a short video show depicting the 40th and 50th reunions followed by the tenor voice of Lahut Tiregül who sang some well-known songs, accompanied by a piano. Everyone sang the Alma Mater and, some danced a little and all in all, everyone had a great time. Mihal Yelkovanoğlu from Athens said, "Let's not wait until our 60th year, next year we can get together in Athens." So, the Class of 49 now hopes to have their next reunion in Athens.

Another memorable result of this reunion was the raising of \$1500 for the RC scholarship fund. This was donated to the fund in memory of deceased classmate Metin Kiroğlu.



Class of 49 at their celebration lunch.

## CLASS OF 59 CELEBRATES 45TH REUNION

October 8th was a day of incredible rainstorms in Istanbul, during which many parts of the city were flooded and warnings issued to citizens not to leave their homes unless they absolutely had to! However, this didn't stop 80 of the Class of 59 members from attending their 45th reunion at Bizim Tepe.

The reunion was enhanced by the presence of class members who traveled to the event from izmir and the USA as well as Sevim Berker's slide show and Can Kurdoglu's broadcast of the reunion via Internet to classmates in different cities who weren't able to be there physically but

managed to follow the events nonetheless. Festivities continued on Saturday when the Istanbul natives hosted dinner parties for those coming to the event from out of town. Unfortunately, unfavorable weather conditions continued on Sunday so campus tours, and a planned Bosphorus tour had to be cancelled.

Another special outcome of the reunion was the class donation of 1.200.000.000 TL. made to the RC Annual Giving Fund. Class members are grateful for the organization and creative input of Teoman Onol, Sevim Berker and Can Kurdoglu.



## CLASS OF 54 CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

There is a certain quality in the relationship of ACG/RC alumni. No matter how many years have passed from a last encounter, when these old buddies meet again, the friendship picks up as if there was not a single moment of time lapse in between.

This was demonstrated, once again, when old friends, the graduates of the year of 1954 got together in Istanbul and later in Marmaris for a few unforgettable days. Some had seen each other many times since graduation, some others had not at all during the past fifty years

It did not matter, their memories of the past and their friendship was intact. For a few days they re-lived the sweet and sour days of their school years. By now, the different paths they took molded them into theater and TV actors, professors, writers, businessman, horse breeders, architects, engineers and builders, in other words, ladies and gentlemen of all walks of life. But above all they were still friends who shared the most tender early years of their lives under the same umbrella of their college.

This reunion was organized by a hard-working, dedicated group of volunteers: Atilla Çelikiz, Ayla Karacabey, Işık Erginsoy, Engin Asal and headed by the multi-talented master of ceremonies Emin Veral who would put Ed Sullivan of yester years to shame.

Friends came from all parts of Turkey in addition to some who flew in from far-off places like Athens, Norway, Canada, Florida, Louisiana, California, London, New York and others.

The first day of festivities started in Istanbul with a visit to the Robert College Campus including a nostalgic walk to the Plateau. This was followed by lunch at the Kennedy Lodge in Boğaziçi University and a tour of the campus.

Next there was a marvelous boat ride along the Bosphorus. There were drinks and a wonderful dinner. As the night progressed, the city came alive with lights like a Christmas tree and a full moon appeared over this most beautiful city in the world, as if ordained by divine powers (or as planned by the organizers). In short, it was a magical evening.

The journey continued in Marmaris a couple of days later in the lovely setting of the Mares Hotel. The following few days always started with a breakfast fit for kings, continued with beach and pool enjoyment, sightseeing or by just loafing around. There was a boat trip lasting about eight hours along the shores of the Datça Peninsula. Guys and gals frolicked in the crystal-clear waters of the Aegean, where the word "pollution" is not yet heard of. The days



The Class of 54 had an unforgettable reunion in Marmaris.

were followed by evenings that competed with each other in delight. There was singing of our old College songs, re-introductions and personal histories of the past. There were stories of happy school memories shared by all, roasting of old professors as well as sad memories of friends who are no longer among us.

There were evenings of jokes and laughter, poetry reading by Arif Evgin, delivered in the most tantalizing manner, which mesmerized all the listeners and at times brought tears into everybody's eyes. Emin Veral read an enrapturing story prepared for the commencement exercises at Bilkent University with some moral lessons that made us think about the purpose of life.



Emin Veral and Zeynep Kitapçı thoroughly enjoyed re-enacting the tradition of 77 festivities.



## REUNIONS



Beliz and İsmail Germiyanoğlu and Bülent Nart.

dress-up in colorful costumes. There was a pirate (Emin Veral), bee keepers (Bülent Ezal Et Erdoğan Pancaroğlu), a mafia Godfather and his 20s flapper moll (İsmail Germiyanoğlu and his wife Beliz), a muscle man and his girl from the roaring 20's (İlhan Kınacı and his girlfriend Janice) a witch (Joe Krespi), a Carmen in person (Ayla Karacabey), a cook (Taşkın Atıl), Muammer Kitapçı's wife Zeynep as the freckled blond babe with a pacifier, and many others.

Couples danced to the romantic music of their school days (prepared specially for this occasion by Atilla Çelikiz), accompanied by an orches-



RC ENG 54, from L to R, İsmail Germiyanoğlu, Tuncay Aydınalp, Fevzi Özbilen, Muammer Kitapçı, Emin Veral, Necdet Alkan, Arif Evgin and İlhan Kınacı.



All decked out for the 77 Ball, held at Mares Hotel in Marmaris.

The last night the group re-enacted the tradition of the famous 77 festivities. Friends went out of their way to

tra of crickets in nearby trees and the stage was lit by the still-full moon. All in all it was an unforgettable night of fun, laughter, memories and camaraderie. The last morning, at breakfast, cards and addresses were exchanged, friends kissed and embraced, invitations were made to visit across oceans, and promises were made to get together again, soon.

It is this writer's feeling that after such a wonderful sojourn wild horses will not keep this group apart for very long." İsmail Germiyanoğlu, RC ENG 54, participant from California.

"Our trip to Marmaris, for our 50th reunion was one of the highlights of my life; it was great to see my true old friends like Emin, Arif, and İsmail who have been a very important part of my life. This is why I traveled 6,000 miles. It is incredible that after 50 years the old bonds do not only exist but are stronger. A big thank you to Emin for organizing and running the show." Prof. Ara Arman RC ENG 54, participant from Louisiana State University

"Deciding to travel from Miami to attend this reunion is one of the most joyous things I have done for myself. Many thanks to Emin, for his energetic leadership, and to those who helped him in organizing this wonderful event and making it possible for all of us to rejoice in renewed relationships."

Josette (Jo) Krespi Grassie, ACG 54, participant from Florida

"Marge and I enjoyed every minute of this reunion, nobody can imagine what it meant to us. Our heartfelt thanks to all those who spent a great deal of effort to organize this event." Necdet Alkan, RC ENG 54, participant from Seattle, Washington

'This was a 'once in a lifetime' reunion, we extend our thanks and appreciation to Emin Veral and others, Atilla, Ayla and Işık who helped to put this activity together." Ta kın Atü, RC 54, participant from Washington D.C.

## CLASS OF 74 REUNITES IN NEW YORK

Our first real major reunion was arguably the 20th. It seemed as if the Class of 74 had finally reached the point where the children had grown up enough and our lives were settled enough to allow us to attend en masse the 20th reunion. This started the great tradition of having major reunions every five years after that. It must be noted here for historical accuracy that the Class of 74 was the first "mixed" boys and girls class after the move of the high school from the Bebek campus. So its ranks are rather full and memories and experiences are rather unique. Having established one of the first on-line class groups, our 25th reunion was able to reach even a greater percentage of RC 74 and we also kicked off the tradition of dual re-unions. In addition to the one traditionally held and celebrated in Istanbul, usually near 4th of July, we also had a mini 25th reunion held in Philadelphia. This enabled many of those who could not for some reason or another participate in the Istanbul event to make an appearance. We had our "girls" contingency residing in the area; Neslihan, Sebnem and Lale take the lead and organize a wonderful family weekend for all attendees who came from UK, Turkey, Canada and many parts of USA. Pictures of the dinner dance and all related gossip soon after found its way onto our web site. Another important development for RC 74 that year was the decision to establish a

Class of RC 74 Scholarship Fund which reached the established goal in a short few months and has been funding select and deserving RC students since then.

This brings us to our 30th reunion. The online buzz started more than a year before the summer of 2004. While the massive organization and coordination of the Istanbul event spreading over a weekend, from Bizim Tepe to Saklikoy was taking place, those of us on the other side of the Atlantic started to plan and scheme our now traditional, Columbus Day weekend mini-reunion.

Since it is never possible to gather all graduates together in one particular weekend, we expected some overflow from Istanbul in addition to those classmates residing abroad. After much discussion by a small group (always the same instigators for some reason!) who were responsible for the "visionary" stage of this endeavor, the actual "implementation" fell on myself, Murat, and my wife Tijen who has by this time earned an "honorary RC graduate" title. Our plan was to organize a mini-reunion that would maximize the number of attendees. This led us to select the New York area and then inevitably to our neck of the woods in Long Island. Once we sounded out the idea on the web, we realized there was enough interest to make this a worthwhile affair.

After numerous visits and interviews we found a picturesque loca-

tion for a dinner dance overlooking a lake. Trying to reach long lost classmates was the most important and urgent task. I don't mind confessing that I let some guilt loose on those who were wavering and it did have a positive effect. It was interesting and exciting to reach and talk to friends not heard of in 30 years. A nearby Hilton was chosen and group rates were arranged for those needing a place to stay in hopes that having everyone in the same place would maximize socializing into the wee hours of the night, which it did! Our home was the third leg of the triangle in Long Island where we planned an Open House for all of that Sunday. A detailed list of all nearby cultural points of interest was distributed for those interested in making the most out of a NY visit. Roommates were arranged for those traveling alone, pick-ups and transportation

were arranged for those arriving to all of the three area airports. Close to the event the expected and inevitable last minute dropouts took place.

Finally, on Oct. 9th Saturday evening, about 25 RC 74 graduates showed up, plus their spouses and children. Cocktail hour quickly passed as we hugged and kissed old friends, and as it is usually the case in these events, we got transported back into that magical time again. All the jokes, all the stories, mischief and embarrassing details felt fresh all over and as amusing as the first time. After dinner we rocked and danced to 70s music and many memorable Turkish pop songs of the

era. A hard-core group continued on in the Hilton lounge until early hours of the morning. Next day, which turned out to be a bright, warm and sunny day, we had a whole day of Open House. Food and beverages kept flowing, all of the dishes you would find in Istanbul, as well as doner, were served and eaten for hours while children of old class mates mingled out in the back yard.

Friends had come all the way from Istanbul, London, Toronto, Vancouver, Ohio, and all through North East USA. Roni had a CD full of images captured from the main Istanbul reunion and he had the good sense to bring them over which gave us all a chance to view with broad smiles on our faces. The day was so perfect and company so good, many tickets to Broadway shows for that evening and afternoon were cancelled to enjoy the festivities at "Club Eron". It was hard but e-mails were exchanged, phone numbers updated and we said good-bye one by one. We felt replenished and years younger. Before the last goodbye, I had already made up my mind to turn this into a yearly event in NY, maybe in the form of a Sunday brunch on Columbus Day weekend every year, at minimum to be participated by a good many of our classmates who reside within striking distance."

Murat Eron RC 74  
nportlu@yahoo.com



RC 74 graduates came all the way from Istanbul, London, Toronto, Ohio and all through Northeast USA.



## HOMECOMING 2004



Former Turkish teacher Münir Aysu tries never to miss Homecoming. He enjoys catching up with his former students and their family members. Here he is with Mehmet (RC 89) and Pınar (RC 88) Gönen and their son, Yavuz.



The library was the venue for an exhibition of some RC extracurricular clubs. Student club members had the chance to interact with visiting alumni and give out information about their activities. One of these was the RC Space Club, founded during the 2004/2005 school year.



The RC school orchestra, under the direction of music teacher Deniz Baysal, gave a short performance on stage.



From L to R: Şebnem Çorakçı Sarpyener RC 83 and her daughter Lal, retired RC Turkish teacher Nuran Demircioğlu, and RC 49 graduate Alişan Menekşe. Nuran Demircioğlu never misses Homecoming and Şebnem as well as Alişan Menekşe are frequent participants also.



Those were the days... We may have graduated but we still enjoy sitting on the steps of Gould Hall.



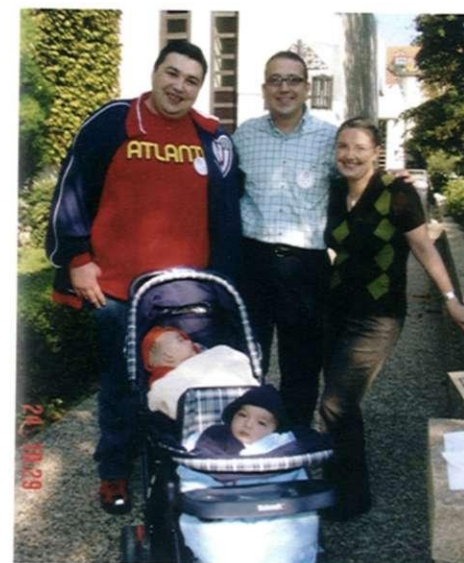
The class of 54, celebrating their 50th reunion year, donned their caps for a mock graduation ceremony. Their reunion on Homecoming was only a small part of a very detailed organization which spanned several days and locations.



Cakes for the Class of 54, decorated with the RC campus logo.



From L to R, Özge Serin RC 92, Duygu Alptekin RC 92, Serra Berkol RC 90, Kerem Epikmen and Didem Sezer Epikmen, RC 90, with Didem and Kerim's twins, İrem and İdil.



Kaan Kural RC 92, Cem İyibozkurt RC 92 and his wife Pınar came to Homecoming with their twins, Berk and Sarp, born on May 1, 2004.



The "Look Who's Here" wall, being signed by Leyla Orak, Burcu Zeydan and Nazlı Özbeke, all RC 04. Homecoming volunteer Nazlı Atalay, Lise 12, looks on, knowing it will be her turn to sign next year.



Three month old Irmak, Doğan Kaşıkçı (RC 92) and Ece's daughter was the youngest Homecoming 2004 guest.



Everyone was there at Homecoming 2004, where were you?



Former chemistry teacher Rahel Çikvaşvili catches up with one of her former students.



# EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

Scenes from the 1995 Annual Giving Campaign Kick-off dinner.  
Seems like only yesterday...



Haksever Suner RA 60 receiving his award from Headmaster Christopher Wadsworth.



Aykut Gürlek RA 65 receiving his award from Headmaster Christopher Wadsworth.



Rint Akyüz RA 67 receiving his award from Headmaster Christopher Wadsworth.



Çınla Ilkorur and İnan Kırac.



Nita Danon ACG 71 Sr Ali fktav RC 64 F.nc



From L to R, Nilgün Yucaoglu RC Yük 73, Mete Sözen RC 51, Ayşe Can Sipahi ACG 65 and Mahmut Tarzi.



From L to R, Özlem Özbek RC 86, Berna Arıoğlu RC 87 and Seyda Fırat Akdurak RC 88.

## SHARING A COMMON GOAL

Co-founders and former Co-chairmen of the Annual Giving Campaign Committee Hasan Subaşı RA 61 and Kutsi Beğdeş RC 38 worked shoulder to shoulder to make the Annual Giving Campaign the success it is today. Sadly Kutsi Beğdeş passed away in August 2002.



## IN THE BEGINNING

15 YEARS AGO (from the Fall 1989 RCQ)



From L to R, Feyyaz Berker, Suna Kırac and Rodney Wagner.

## ANNUAL GIVING OVER 100 MILLION TL IN FIRST YEAR

The Annual Giving Campaign, launched on the 125th Anniversary of Robert College, is here to stay. Encouraged by the results of the first year, in which 100 million TL. has been exceeded already, Headmaster Harry Dawe is looking ahead: "I am very impressed with the loyalty and support of RC, ACG, RA, RC Yuk. alumni out there... This is just the beginning..."



# ALUMMJNIEWS

## BRAND NEW LOOK AND MANAGEMENT FOR BIZIMTEPE

A 'home away from home', RC graduates' favorite haunt Bizimtepe has undergone a complete facelift, courtesy of new management headed by Levent Birdinc RC 60. Owner of the successful Creperie cafe chain, which has four branches in Istanbul, Birdinc's years of marketing experience as the head of major advertising agencies in Istanbul has resulted in the addition of several novelties which are already a big hit with alumni in the know.

The bar has been completely restyled as an English pub, with authentic decor and prints of the school designed to give the space a cosy, at-home feel perfect for chatting and catching up with old friends. In addition, Birdinc has introduced a piano bar, where musicians play live music. Particularly popular are Tuesday nights with "5 Yil Once, 10 Yil Sonra", an orchestra well-loved for its golden oldies repertoire. On weekends, a trio performs popular live music, guaranteed to get everyone moving.

In addition, Birdinc completely tore down and rebuilt the establishment's kitchen, dividing the new facilities into three sections; cold food, hot food, and the new patisserie. "People can now enjoy fresh cakes and pastries at Bizimtepe, which is a new addition," says Birdinc. The Creperie cafe and patisserie is open all day. The cafe also features live harp performances daily from 15.00 to 18.00 pm.

Bizimtepe also now has a fine dining option, which features delicacies and classics such as fresh salmon and steak. Customers can now choose from either the cafe menu or the fine dining menu, depending on their mood and budget that day.

The new Bizimtepe will keep you coming back for more of its cosy ambiance and great food, plus the chance to catch up with old friends, or make new ones!



## 'KESİN" DÖNÜŞ OR RETURNING "FOR GOOD"

*Kaan Okurer RC 92 recently undertook a "kesin dönü" home to Istanbul after 12 years of living in the US where he was first an undergraduate and later a professional in New York and Boston. Below is his take on a discussion that will resonate with many RC alumni abroad - to return "home", or not?*

In technical terms, "Kesin Dönüş" refers to a customs privilege that the Turkish government grants to returning expatriates. There is however also a colloquial usage of the term. When I share with people that I have returned to Turkey, the immediate reaction I get is: "You mean permanently? Is it kesin dönüş?" Frankly, after such a long period of being away, the only way I could bring myself to make this change was by first accepting that this need not be a final move. Ironically, the government appreciates this perspective as well; "Kesin" Dönüş remains a misnomer since the right can be exercised multiple times!

If there is an ex-pat equivalent of the local "memleket kurtarma" (translated literally means, how to save Turkey) discussions, it must be: "is it better to live in Turkey or abroad?" In making the move, I've come to accept that the answer is both. Otherwise, by its very construction, the question sets up an immobilizing dichotomy. Those of us who have created meaningful lives abroad have two homes instead of one. Therefore, perhaps a more productive inquiry is: how can one manage both worlds or incorporate them into one's life to a satisfactory degree?

Clearly, returning to Turkey only solves half the problem. However, it may be a step in the right direction. In order to manage both worlds, one first has to understand them. For those of us who have never lived in Turkey as adults, spending only ten days out of the year in the country does not help that understanding.

Judging by personal experience, arriving at the decision to move back will be met with some strong external and internal resistance. For example, more likely than not, there will be family members and

other trusted affiliates residing in Turkey who will vehemently advise against such a move. Other than their passion for being anti-Turkey, I've found one other common thread in this group: they have never lived abroad! I am discovering that this chorus has romanticized living in the West at least as much as we ex-pats have romanticized returning to Turkey. Their calculators are busy punching in tangible qualities of the West. Yet, I would argue that for most of us, the intangibles may be the main drivers of such a move.

The internal resistance one will encounter is more subtle, but no less powerful. Over time, living abroad starts taking on an identity of its own. What sets one apart from the other Turks becomes the fact that one is not in Turkey. As a friend put it, we become accustomed to being treated as "mini celebrities" when we visit Turkey. "My kid is here from the US," our parents proudly announce. Everybody wants a piece of this guest from the land where all dreams come true. In order not to view being a regular citizen of Turkey as a downgrade of sorts, one has to shed this artificial identity that makes us "special."

That's the "bad" news. The good news is that when one returns to Turkey, one just leaves behind the geography and not the experiences or the independent identity one has built abroad over the years. And

that very perspective that stays with one is the best antidote against the cynicism of the anti-Turkey chorus. It gives one a lens with which to see things anew and to appreciate things that the locals have come to take for granted.

At a minimum, the move back to Turkey completes a repeatable cycle of home, home away from home, home. It acts as a powerful mirror of what we were and what we are now, and gives us a chance to synthesize in the journey towards the self.

Antaeus the son of Mother Earth, Gaia, and Poseidon was a frightful giant who defeated all his adversaries by wrestling them. He drew his strength from the Earth and was invincible as long as he remained in contact with it. Hercules discovered his strength and lifted him up from the ground and strangled him.

A Romanian friend who told me this story seven years ago in a NY cafe was likening being a foreigner to the experience of being lifted off the ground - that somehow our powers are affected by virtue of being away from home.

The soil of home is constantly changing, as is the way we view it, but it sure feels nice to be touching this ground again!

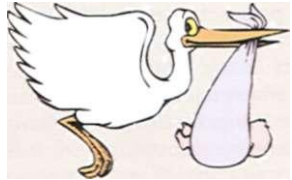
You can contact Kaan Okurer RC 92 at [kaan12@yahoo.com](mailto:kaan12@yahoo.com)



Proof that Kaan has returned "for good". Here he is in the center with Onur Özgen RC 92 (left) and Tolga Güven RC 92 (right) at Homecoming 2004.



## ALUMNI NEWS



### BABY NEWS



• Can Ozbal (RC 88) and his wife Teresa's first child Ayla Grace Ozbal was born on September 27, 2004 in Boston, MA. The proud grandmother is long time RC English teacher Diane Ozbal.

• Ahmet Eker RC 92 is the proud father of a son, Altan born on October 22, 2004. You can see baby Altan at [www.altaneker.com](http://www.altaneker.com).



• Özgür Ercan RC 92 and his wife Ann celebrated the birth of their first child, daughter Zeytin Olivia Ercan, born on September 19, 2004 in the USA.



• Ufuk Kayserilioğlu RC 93 and his wife Emi are the happy parents of daughter Serin, born June 24, 2004.

• Burak Özdaryal RC 92 and his wife Esra are proud parents of a son, Alp, born in Chicago on December 9th.

• Burak Pekcan RC 87 and Esra had their second son on November 5, 2004. Brother Cem is now joined by Emre. The happy grandparents are Leyla ACG 61 and Tunç Pekcan RC Eng. 59.

### NEJLA YARKUT SOLU ACG 49 AND HAMİ KILIÇ ASLAN SOLU RC 49



The Solu family missed their 55th year get-together held at Divan Hotel in Istanbul but they had good reasons. Their granddaughter Kara Mine got married and another granddaughter Canan, gave birth to baby Timur. The Solu's live in Madison, New Jersey where Nejla attends Time Out School five days a week, while Asian attends weekly discussion sessions in Madison Senior Center.

### VAHAN TANAL RA 65

Vahan Tanal wrote to the RCQ from New York. I am an avid reader of RC Quarterly. I congratulate you and your colleagues for a first class publication that keeps us informed of RC news and issues that are dear to our hearts. I have spent eight beautiful years at the Bebek campus, which are unforgettable to me, and perhaps some of the best years of my life.

I graduated from Robert Academy in '65, and Robert College with a BSCE in '69.1 received my MSCE in 1971 from the University of Wyoming, and have been living in New York since that time. I have two children, Lara (22), and Stephen (18). I have been fortunate to get involved in my firm's projects in Turkey, including the Bosphorus Tube Tunnel Crossing, and therefore do get to visit occasionally.

### ALİ FERDA SEVİN RC 52



After graduating from RC ENG, I worked for a year in Ankara at the Turkish Highway Department before going to the Louisiana State University graduate school followed by 11 years with the Louisiana Highway Department. During those years, I had a chance to practice the stagecraft I had learned at RC and acted in three plays in the Baton Rouge Little Theater (All The King's Men, You Can't Take It With You, The Miracle Worker). In 1964, I accepted a job offer from the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, DC and moved to the outskirts of town. I have been retired since 1990. Still living in a Maryland suburb of Washington, I have been active in volunteer work mostly involving the Turkish community in the U.S. In 1992, Emin Veral (RC ENG 54) was also volunteering in the American Turkish Association and had taken the chairmanship of the Theater Committee. Under his leadership, the committee staged Rumuz Goncagul (by playwright Oktay Arayici) in Turkish. Both Emin and I exercised our acting skills once more. While we had a lot of fun doing it at The World Bank Conference Hall stage in Washington, somehow the prestigious location was no substitute for the RC Social Hall stage, or the CC stage for that matter. Through the past half-century, my wife Nancy and I have accumulated two daughters and twin sons (one of whom we lost to cancer at age 37), 9 grandchildren and a great granddaughter.

## WEDDING BELLS

• Osman Kibar RC 88 and Lesli Yenni RC 95 got married in August 2004.

• Emre Balkeser RC 85 got married to Idil Birol on August 15, 2004.

• Deniz Kalafat RC 90 married Ercan Uysal in September 2004.



• Baran Uncu RC 92 and Hande Paker were married in August 2004.

### CAN ÇETINOK RC 91 EX



Can is still struggling with Becker Muscular Dystrophy. The main reason why he had to leave RC at Orta 2, Becker is one of nine types of muscular dystrophy, a group of genetic, degenerative diseases primarily affecting voluntary muscles. It is caused by an insufficient production of dystrophin, a protein that helps keep muscle cells intact.

Can's ability to walk has progressively dete-

riorated since he left RC. For the last few years, it has been almost impossible for him to leave the house without a companion. He lives with his mother, a retired actress, and brother.

Sadly, Istanbul does not allow for people with disabilities to interact with the outside world. Especially because there are no support groups or community programs available, Can spends most of his time at home with his family and some friends. He shows tremendous personal strength in dealing with his condition and life circumstances.

He is in good spirits, and at home, he busies himself with films, the Internet and music. He has now become most knowledgeable in many subjects, especially

regarding music.

Can would love to hear from his former classmates. You can reach him at: [cecinok@ultratv.net](mailto:cecinok@ultratv.net) mobile: +90 542.571.6854

### SERDAR TUNCER RC 92

Dr. Tuncer is an assistant at the Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery department. At the same time he works as a simultaneous translator at various medical conferences. Serdar is interested in getting together with other RC grads who are studying medicine, in order to share his experiences and maybe get a chance to work together in the translating field.

e-mail: [serdarduncer@hotmail.com](mailto:serdarduncer@hotmail.com)

## OBITUARIES

### VECİHE KARAMEHMET ACG 30



It was with much sadness that we learned of the death of Vecihe Hanım, retired English teacher and author, much admired presence at the RC Homecoming nearly every year for the past 10 years. Vecihe Hn. died in September 2004, a month before Homecoming. She was a truly dedicated alumna who always came to Homecoming and won prizes for being the oldest alumna present a few years in a row. Her colorful memories of her student years included the presences of Miss Ashover and Miss Summers, legendary names in ACG history. She is survived by her daughter Inel Ulrich, son-in-law Frank Ulrich and her grandson Ertan Ulrich.

### RECEP SAKİR UĞUREL RC 31

Another beloved and faithful Homecoming guest, Recep Şakir Uğurel passed away on November 21, 2004, at the age of 95. He was an indefatigable **presem** **ai tin-** **M** Homecoming where he would charm the RC student volunteers with his **stone**, and **niton**



win first prize for being the oldest alumnus present during the assembly hour in the theater.

A man of many talents, Recep Sakir Bey's

first job, fresh out of RC, was at the Karabük Demir Çelik Factory (the Karabiik iron & steel factory) which was one of the first factories of the young republic. It was founded in partnership with the British and the general manager was another RC graduate, Zeyyat (last name unknown). Upon the suggestion of RC's headmaster at the time, he and a few other RC 31 graduates went to work there and for a time all the iron leaving the factory did so under the responsibility of Recep Sakir Bey.

Mr. Ugurel was also a lawyer, did translations and taught English at the Turkish Naval Academy. He was always very busy and enjoyed working until he was 80 years old. Recep Sakir Ugurel is survived by his daughter Ayla Esat, his grand-daughter Esra Cenk Arson RC 86 and his great grand-daughter Yasemin Selin Arson.

## SHARE YOUR NEWS

These pages will expand in future issues, as we hear from you. Let us know what you are doing. Pictures are welcome and will be published in the next issues of the RCQ as they are received.

Please submit your news by either:

snail mail to Robert Kolej, Mezunlar Ofisi, 80820 Arnavutköy, Istanbul, or

e-mail: [alumni@robcol.k12.tr](mailto:alumni@robcol.k12.tr) or fax: 0 212 265 6399



## OBITUARIES

**ISIDORE B. GLUCKMAN RC ENG 39**  
Died on June 6, 2003 in California. He is survived by his wife Louise Gluckman

**MARIA ASKİTOĞLU ACG 40**



Died on August 12, 2004 in Switzerland, age 87. After the death of her husband Yordan Askitoğlu in 1995, an electrical engineer graduate of RC Eng 32, she lived with her two daughters in

Lausanne. Thanks to her multicultural background and her knowledge of English and French, she spent an active life there too.

Maria Askitoğlu worked both on the Bebek and Arnavutköy campuses of Robert College from 1964 until retiring in 1992. She worked for many years in the Alumni Office with Herbert Lane, later taking on different responsibilities at RC.

She was always delighted to meet old RC friends everytime she visited Istanbul and was in close contact with former RC teachers now living in other countries.

**AHMET HIFZI GÜNDEM RC ENG 43**

Passed away on December 30, 2003. He is survived by his son Taflan İmre Gündem RA 71

**ORHAN İLGAZ RC ENG 44**

Passed away on July 24, 2004

**OKTAY KAAAN MANÇO RC 46**

Died on December 24, 2004

**PEKA DIACONZADEH RC ENG 51**

Died in New York in October 2004. He was laid to rest in Istanbul.

**ARMAN CANBEDEN RC 55**



### SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWED IN MEMORY OF JACQUELINE MANSUR ACG 43



Passed away on Sept 20, 2004 after a long illness at the age of 81. She was always proud to have been part of the Class of 43. She is survived by her husband RC Trustee Emeritus Ali Mansur, her children Cem Mansur, Metin Necmettin Mansur RC 74 and Serra Mansur Soysal RC 83.

The Mansur family chose to honor the memory of Jacqueline Mansur by establishing an endowment at RC in her name. This most generous act will provide generations of new students a chance to benefit from an RC education, as the name of Jacqueline Mansur lives on at her beloved Alma Mater.

Died in Istanbul in October 2004. He is survived by his daughter Karin Maral Canbeden, RC 86.

"My dearest

It is very difficult for me to accept the fact that you 'my baba' are not around me anymore. Nevertheless what you have taught me and the love and respect you have shown will accompany me for the rest of my life. In my dreams we will always be 'dancing cheek to cheek...'

Babacığım, seni çok seviyorum!  
Kızın Karin."

**FERİDE KÜRKÇÜOĞLU ACG 61**

Died in a traffic accident in Bodrum in July 2004.

**KEMAL HAZIM RA 68**

Died in Cyprus after a long illness in the summer of 2004.

**MARIO RODRIG RC YÜK 69**



Passed away in June 2004, after suffering a heart attack a few months before his 62nd birthday, "Both an intellectual renaissance man and a shrewd bazaar trader, a great friend, and a joyful person, Mario

brought together the best and most passionate of life- for us." commented Esat Edin RC 78, on behalf of Mario's wide circle of friends grieving their sudden loss. " We still believe this to be one of his practical jokes:

He is probably busy preparing for us over on the other side."

Mario Rodrig is survived by his wife Sarah, and two daughters Stella Duek, and Valya Negrin.

**THOMAS ROSELL RA EX**

Melissa Miller, a friend of Rosell when they were in Istanbul informed the RCQ of his death on October 20, 2004 in St. Louis, MO. Rossel attended Robert Academy between 1963-65. He was 55, and is survived by his three daughters and wife, Sandra Rosell.

**İSMET KONUK**

Former geography teacher at RC between 1967-1973, ismet Konuk died on November 4, 2004.

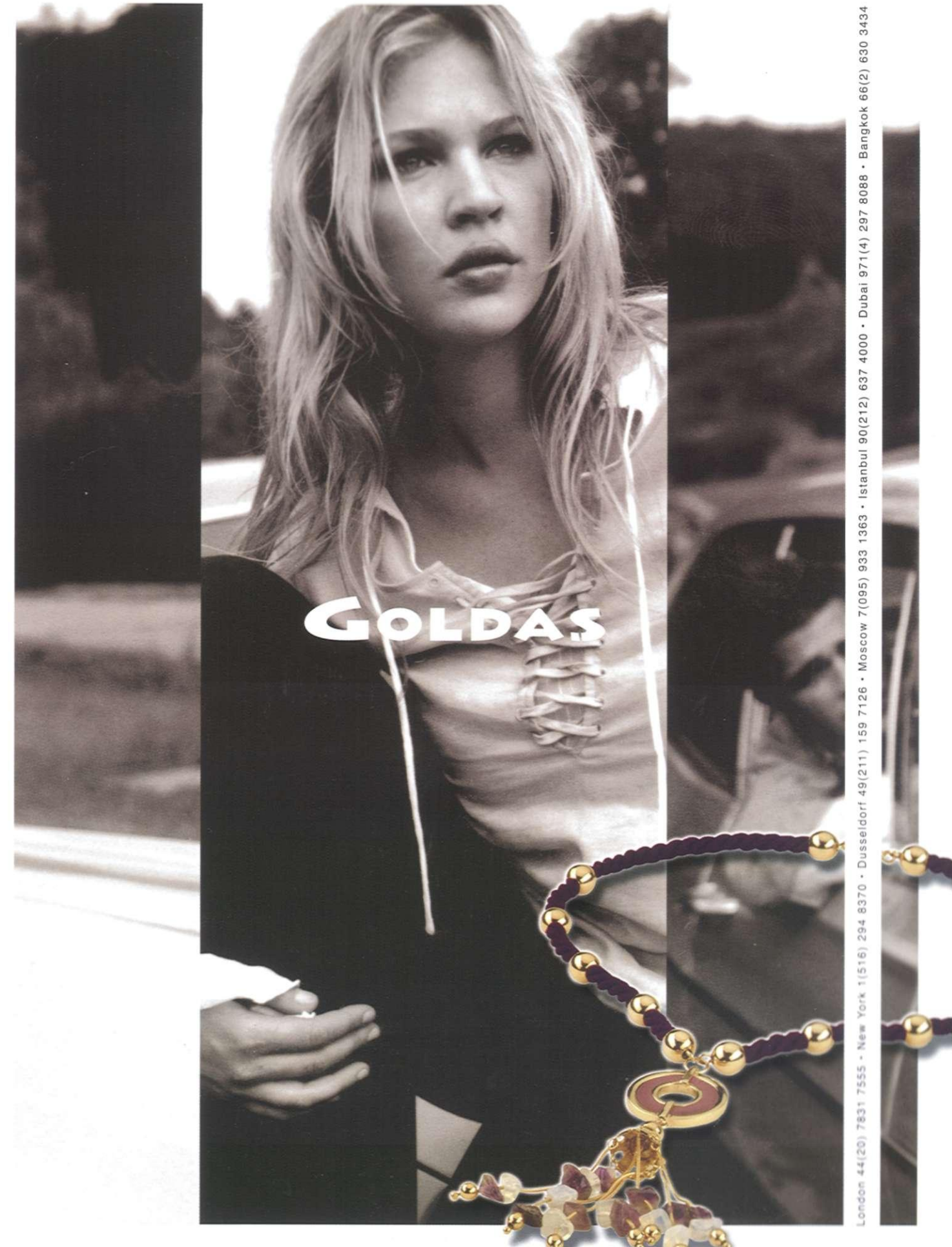
**CLIFFORD ELLISON**



Physics teacher Clifford Ellison (Eli Baba) who taught in Istanbul from 1938 to 1979, first at the English High School for Boys and then at Robert College, died in England on December 5, 2004. He is survived by Eddy, his wife of

close to 60 years, his daughter and son-in-law Molly and Oliver Frankl and two grandchildren, Philippa and Alexander Frankl.

Telephone (Eddy Ellison)  
0044 1603 760772  
oliver.frankl@hoodvoreslaw.co.uk







## Deprem: Türkiye'nin Gerçeği

### Çözüm: Depreme Karşı Amerikan FEMA Standardında Sismik Güçlendirme

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SGM; dünyanın ileri gelen sismik güçlendirme firmalarıyla ortak çözümler üreten ve sismik güçlendirme konusunda uluslararası know-how sahibi bir mühendislik ve yapı firmasıdır.

Sismik güçlendirme projesi hazırlanması konusunda A.B.D.'nin uzman firması ve stratejik ortağımız Degenkolb ile beraber çalışıyoruz. BRB Sismik Güçlendirme Mekanizmaları kullanılması gerektiği durumlarda da, konusunda A.B.D. lideri olan, diğer stratejik ortağımız, Star Seismic firmasıyla işbirliği yapıyoruz.

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İnönü Cad. Sümer Sok. Zitaş D1 Blok No:19/8  
Kozyatagı Kadıköy 34742 İstanbul

